

Richard Work: English Camps Thailand Program Report – September 2014

My story,

I had just finished my service as a member of the United States Navy and after reviewing the many options a former military service member (continuing education on the G.I. Bill, gainful government employment...etc.) I decided I still wanted some adventure in my life, I still



wanted to feel like I was making a difference. I came to the decision that teaching in a foreign country was the best way to make that difference and have unique experiences.

Though my time in the military gave me the unique opportunity to see many places all over Southeast Asia the one country that consistently amazed me was Thailand. I knew that's where I wanted to go. After visiting Thailand during my tour in the U.S. Navy my heart was pretty much set on where I wanted to teach, the only thing I needed was the certification to teach English as a foreign language. I signed up with a course offered by Oxford Seminars, mostly because they made the promise of putting me in contact with institutions or places that offered employment for their graduates.

My course was very well done and after completion and receiving my certificate I was put in contact with Philip at English Camps Thailand. Once I had decided that I wanted to teach in Bangkok Philip helped me to secure an interview with one of the most prestigious bilingual schools in Bangkok. After the school had formally offered me a position and we completed the hiring process Philip helped answer any last minute questions I had about Bangkok and living in Thailand.

In retrospect, the only thing I would have done differently was go directly through English Camps Thailand for their certification course. While Oxford Seminars offered a 100 hour certification course in most schools they require a minimum of 120 hours. Luckily, English Camps Thailand and Philip provided me with a comprehensive course that supplemented my 100 hour certificate and made it a full 120 hours. The course covered the basics of Thai culture and we even had time to review helpful teaching skills that we could



use in our classrooms. Even today after finishing the course Philip and the people at English Camps Thailand still check in regularly to make sure I am getting on well in my school and living in Bangkok.

Now that I have been teaching here in Bangkok for a couple months I can say my experience has been nothing but pleasant. Teaching at the SarasasEktra Bilingual School is rewarding and you do often feel like you're making a big difference in bringing your native English speech to the classroom. Classroom management here is a bit different than what you would expect in a U.S. school but English Camps Thailand prepared me for the cultural differences and I was not surprised by anything that's been put in front of me so far.

I love the city of Bangkok and the country of Thailand itself is beautiful in both its people and natural beauty. Thai schools have a lot of holidays and those are perfect for taking trips to visit any of the many unique and amazing places in Thailand.



Teaching English here is immensely rewarding every day and I have to thank English Camps Thailand for helping me to find a place where I can still make a difference.

-Richard Work, 29. September 1st, 2014