



ARTS
Chulalongkorn University



*FACULTY
OF ARTS*

CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY

History

The Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, is one of the country's most distinguished institutions in the humanities. It was established in 1916 when the university was first founded by His Majesty King Vajiravudh, in accordance with the royal wishes of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn. Originally combined with the Faculty of Science, it later became an independent faculty in 1954, and in 1957, teacher training programs were separated into the Faculty of Education.

As the first institution in Thailand to offer systematic teaching and research in the humanities at the higher education level, the Faculty of Arts holds a significant role as the pioneer in providing a variety of courses that cover languages, both Western and Eastern, and other disciplines like linguistics, history, philosophy, geography, library science, and dramatic arts. For this reason, it stands as the premier institution in Thailand for producing academics in the humanities.

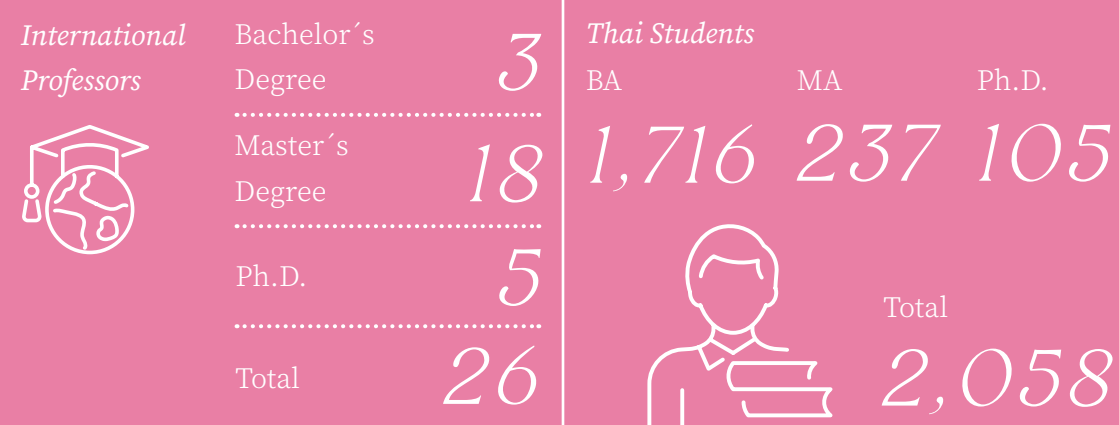
The Faculty of Arts is the first institute in higher education attended by a Thai prince or princess.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn completed a baccalaureate in History, followed by a master's degree in Pali-Sanskrit, and remains a model alumna and Royal Patron of the Faculty.



Facts & Figures 2024

Establishment
107
years



QS University Rankings



Faculty of Arts's program is ranked at

4
in ASEAN

27
in Asia

171
globally

Ranking
by subjects

Number
1
in Thailand

Linguistics

Modern
languages

Geography

English
language &
literature

History

Performing
arts

Theology,
Divinity &
Religious
Studies

Computer
Science &
Information
Systems

7 of the Faculty's degree programs ranked among the top 200 in the world

Top
100
Performing Arts

Top
150
Geography
Modern Languages
Theology, Divinity &
Religious Studies

Top
200
English Language &
Literature
History
Linguistics

Academics

In our faculty, there are 11 departments — Thai, English, Eastern Languages, Western Languages, History, Philosophy, Geography, Library Sciences, Linguistics, Comparative Literature and Dramatic Arts — that offer programs spanning from Bachelor's to Master's and Ph.D. degrees, each designed to harness the expertise and research of our professors.



“I feel so lucky to have studied at the Faculty of Arts and even luckier to have worked there until retirement. I even went back to help out after retiring because Arts is the only place in the world that can fight against obsession with wealth, and power and privilege. A balance between ethics and material progress is of the utmost importance, and this is what Arts gives us.”

Assoc. Prof. Sodsai Pantoomkomol
National Artist (Performing Arts) / BA (1952)

“The Faculty of Arts has given my life meaning. The Faculty of Arts boosted my capabilities, thus enhancing my career competitiveness in an ever-changing environment. Arts has given me the tools and impulse to live happily and responsibly in the family and societal contexts. I am fortunate to be part of the Arts family.”

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somjai Phagaphasvivat
Political and economic analyst / BA (1963)



Thai Programs

Western
languages

Spanish

French

German

English

Russian

Italian

Portuguese

The Faculty of Arts offers 17 diverse undergraduate programs, ranging from Western languages and Eastern languages to various other disciplines, including History, Philosophy, Geography, Information Studies, and Dramatic Arts.

Eastern
languages

Thai

Chinese

Korean

Japanese

Malay

Pali-Sanskrit

Hindi

Arabic

Vietnamese

“My time at the Faculty of Arts helped build a solid foundation across diverse disciplines, encompassing languages, history, art and culture, as well as philosophy, among others. These studies equipped me with invaluable tools for understanding people from different cultural backgrounds, fostering a profound and expansive worldview. They helped me see the world from diverse perspectives and deepened my understanding of life's complexities. Though not strictly part of my professional training, these experiences have profoundly influenced my personal development, enabling me to fulfill my duties as a diplomat more effectively and comprehensively.”

Busaya Mathelin

First female Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / BA (1977)





“The knowledge I gained from studying at the Faculty of Arts is a key resource that I apply to the creation of art and design. I derive inspiration from language, culture, literature, history, philosophy, and all branches of knowledge. Studying at the Faculty entails a multi-faceted exploration of the human experience. It taught me how to unite meaning with emotions in my art and design.”

Nakrob Moonmanas
Visual Artist / BA (2009)



“The Faculty of Arts has been a place where I have grown with confidence. In this special place, I’ve found wonderful friendships, genuine care, and the power of mutual support. I am truly proud and filled with joy to have had the opportunity to study and be a part of this place.”

Sarocha Kittisiripan
Editor for blind writers / BA (2011)



The Faculty of Arts extends its educational offerings with comprehensive master’s and doctoral programs, seamlessly building on the content introduced in the bachelor’s degree programs to ensure a progressive and in-depth exploration of the chosen disciplines and to prepare our graduates for leadership roles in academia, research, and professional practice.



Recently, we have introduced interdisciplinary curriculums that align with the demands of the digital age and global citizenship. Our Bachelor of Arts in Language and Information Technology integrates linguistics, information science, and natural language processing, to prepare our graduates for both IT careers and cutting-edge humanities research. Our baccalaureate program in World Literature and Creative Writing takes a holistic approach to the study of literary works from diverse cultures and languages and fosters the practice of creative writing to prepare our students to address global issues and become well-rounded contributors to society.



“ My fond memories of the Faculty of Arts, aside from the course content and friends, are of the caring Arts lecturers we bonded with and relied on for advice. Arts has helped build a strong creative foundation for my work as a video creator and podcaster. Etymology has taught me to see the roots of and connections between all things, while literature has instilled analytical skills. Reasoning and philosophy have enabled me to carry out discussions with logic, and history has acquainted me with the timeline of past events, giving me a sense of what happened in each era. Together, these aspects form the body of knowledge that I draw on everyday for my show.”

Nat Klinmalee (Farose)
Content creator, Podcaster / BA (2005)

International Programs



Bachelor Program

The Bachelor of Arts Program in Language and Culture (BALAC)

The Bachelor of Arts Program in Language and Culture (BALAC) is Chulalongkorn University's flagship global liberal arts program and Thailand's first cultural studies program. Since 2008, it has equipped numerous students with 21st-century humanities skills, knowledge, and experiences to help them succeed in today's world.

BALAC offers three concentrations: "Global Cultures," focused on the cultural impacts of globalization, "Media Cultures", focused on the relationship between various forms of media and culture, and "Foreign Languages," focused on a third language along with the relevant cultural contexts.



"The Cultural Studies and literature classes in BALAC cultivated in students the tendency to investigate the world, facts, and news as they are presented, as well as prompted us to interrogate ourselves, our identities, and our place in the world. In hindsight, studying at BALAC was deeply personal in this sense, and has given me a nuanced perspective on how to consider power and history in relation to culture and politics, particularly as I work in international relations and governance."

Kamolwan Panyasevanamit
Programme Manager and Foreign Policy Instruments,
European Commission / BALAC (2012)

"The BALAC program equipped me with a wide range of knowledge in cultural studies and analytical skills, enabling me to dissect contemporary cultural phenomena. The classes opened my mind to various ways of thinking, particularly in postcolonial thought. I used this knowledge as a springboard to pursue a career in journalism at Khaosod English for five years... Today, I use my combined expertise from my degree and journalistic experience in my work as a freelance writer."

Asaree Thaitrakulpanich
Freelance journalist / BALAC (2012)



International Graduate Programs

Graduate Programs in Thai Studies

Since 1991, the Thai Studies Center at the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, has received students and visiting scholars from various countries all over the world. The Center offers master's and doctorate programs in Thai Studies aimed at fostering multidisciplinary research on Thai Studies and bringing traditional knowledge to a wider audience. As the only institution in Thailand that offers international graduate programs in Thai Studies, the Center holds a vision of Thainess that transcends both geographical and disciplinary boundaries. This vision is reflected in the courses provided by the Center and in graduate theses that adopt multidisciplinary approaches or explore Thai subject matters in global and regional contexts. The Center places equal emphasis on vigorous scholarship and immersive first-hand experience of Thai society and culture. Our Thai Studies educational activities exceed the confinement of the classroom and library. Excursions and field trips are provided on a regular basis to enrich students' actual experience of Thailand.



“Doing my Ph.D. in Thai Studies at the Faculty of Arts at Chulalongkorn University not only taught me how to understand Thailand and its culture, it also gave me the opportunity to learn from some of the best academics in the field. My time as a student at the Faculty of Arts gave me the training and rigor I needed to become an expert in my field. It has shaped the way I do research and teach to this day, and I try to share my interest in Thailand to my students in Mexico with the same passion that my teachers passed on to me.”

Dr. Pablo Ramírez

Research Associate Professor, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México / Ph.D. in Thai Studies (2012)

“I am forever grateful to the MA Thai Studies Program and especially to my MA thesis advisor, the late Prof. Dr. Amara Prasithrathsint, who supported and encouraged me all the way through and who thus paved my way back to Germany where I now teach Thai language at Humboldt University’s Institute for Asian and African Studies.”

Martin Schalbruch

Lecturer, Humboldt University (Germany) / MA in Thai Studies (1992)



Master of Arts in Thai as a Foreign Language (TFL)

The Master of Arts in Thai as a Foreign Language is crafted specifically for individuals seeking to attain a higher level of proficiency and understanding in the Thai language. This program delves into advanced language skills while also exploring various aspects of Thai culture, history, tourism, entertainment, and business settings. Students have the flexibility to tailor their academic path according to their interests, enabling them to explore specialized areas of research aligned with their passions.

Graduate Programs in Information Studies (GPIS)

The Graduate Programs in Information Studies (GPIS) offer master's and Ph.D. programs focusing on the intersection of information, technology, and human interaction. This unique program stands as the sole accredited program in South East Asia by CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals). Our instructors possess diverse expertise and maintain rigorous academic standards, while our programs foster a vibrant atmosphere of collaboration and cultural exchange among learners, particularly from South East Asian countries, enhancing the overall learning experience.

Lifelong Learning Courses and the Academic Services Center

The Academic Service Center offers, for the interested public community, language training courses from beginner to advanced levels covering 14 languages (English, Italian, Spanish, French, Russian, German, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Hindi, Pali-Sanskrit, and Burmese). Apart from courses on essential language skills necessary for communication, there are also specialized language training courses tailored for specific purposes, such as exam preparation, work-related language skills, legal and literary translation, selected topics on the culture, history, folklore of different countries, and more.

The center also provides lifelong learning courses focusing on the development of various soft skills, including creative thinking, mindfulness, self-awareness, critical thinking, cultural awareness, and digital literacy. The courses are offered by different departments within the Faculty of Arts and can be transferred as credits towards degree programs. These soft skills are hallmark traits of graduates from the Faculty of Arts, distinguishing them in various professional and academic fields. In today's rapidly changing world, these skills are not only valuable but essential for success and adaptability.



"Being a part of the esteemed Faculty of Arts at Chulalongkorn University was indeed a privilege. Renowned as one of CU's oldest faculties, it is distinguished by its exceptional academic offerings, warm hospitality, and esteemed reputation. The Faculty of Arts fosters a vibrant community characterized by dynamic engagement, inclusivity, respect, and a commitment to advancing innovation and knowledge. It stands proud as a beacon of producing progressive and open-minded individuals dedicated to effecting positive societal change locally and globally."

Vince Ervin V. Palcullo

Archives / Special Collections Librarian, Henry Luce III Library, Central Philippine University / MA in Information Studies (2021)



สวัสดี / Sawasdee

Hello!

Buongiorno!

¡Hola!

Bonjour!

Здравствуйте!

Hallo!

Olá!

你好!

안녕하세요.

नमस्ते

नमस्ते / नमस्ते

မင်္ဂလာပါ

こんにちは。

The word "Sawasdee," a commonly used greeting in Thai society today, was coined at the Faculty of Arts in 1933 by Phraya Upakit Silapasan, a Thai language Master who is recognized as an important figurehead of Thailand.



Research

Research at the Faculty of Arts encompasses a broad spectrum of topics, aligning with the specializations of our professors. Supported by funding from the Faculty's Research Division and national and international organizations, our projects and publications, which include articles, book chapters, and books, make significant contributions on both national and international fronts. Furthermore, Faculty staff actively oversee the publication of four journals, recognized nationally by the Thai Journal Citation Index (TCI) and internationally by SCOPUS, namely *Journal of Letters (TCI 1)*, *Thoughts (TCI 1)*, *Thai Language and Literature (TCI 2)*, *New Voices in Translation Studies (Scopus Q1)* and *Manusya (Scopus Q2)*.

The Faculty hosts various Centers of Excellence (CE) and Research Units (RU), where interdisciplinary research is developed by professors from different departments. Examples include

- *Center of Excellence in Southeast Asian Linguistics*
- *Center of Excellence in Translation, Interpreting, and Intercultural Communication*
- *Center of Excellence for Science, Technology, and Society*
- *Center of Excellence in Geography and Geoinformatics*
- *Applied Linguistics for Language Education Research Unit*
- *Arc of Memory Research Unit*
- *Corpus Linguistics for Digital Humanities Research Unit*
- *Dramatic Arts and Innovation Research Unit*



Notable research projects from these Centers of Excellence (CE) and Research Units (RU) align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and international cooperation, engaging local communities and striving to achieve heritage conservation.



- *The Moklen Project* is undertaken in collaboration with Moklen communities along the Andaman coast, with the goal of documenting and archiving their endangered language and culture. This effort includes proposing an orthography for the Moklen language, creating a Moklen-Thai-English dictionary, and developing an online archive dedicated to the language and culture of Moklen communities.
- *Nan's Digital Manuscript Repository for Safeguarding our Cultural Heritage and Enhancement of Local Economy* focuses on the preservation of centuries-old palm-leaf manuscripts scattered across temples in Nan Province. This project involves experts in geography, information studies, and fine arts working on preservation, digitization, and social innovation using technology to unlock the secrets of Buddhist doctrine, traditional knowledge, and folklore.
- *The Arc of Memory Research Unit* researches and curates cultural memory and heritage. In collaboration with the Digital Archive of Modernized Siam and its international network for mobile archival digitization and platinum printing, it preserves endangered archives of historical documents, photographs, negatives, and architectural designs with museum-quality digitization. In 2025, it plans to open a Digital Archive of back to the late 1800s, to the public.



International Affiliations

The Faculty of Arts has formed alliances with countries and universities across the globe. With the multifaceted interests and expertise of our students and staff, these international partnerships have fostered diverse and productive collaborations in the form of exhibitions, events, festivals, workshops, seminars, and conferences as well as our highly active student and scholar exchange programs.



Exchange & Visiting Students

Through MOUs with various universities worldwide, we proudly host international exchange and visiting students interested in spending a semester or a year in Thailand. Our academic programs offer a wide variety of courses, including Thai language courses for international students, while our convenient location in the city center offers vibrant, enriching experiences.



Visiting Scholars

We welcome academic contributions of our visiting scholars through collaborative research, instruction, and projects, among other opportunities. Chulalongkorn University also offers grants covering travel, accommodation, and monthly expenses for qualified visiting scholars with over three ISI or Scopus publications within the past five years.



Thai Language Teaching

The Faculty of Arts serves as a central hub for teaching Thai to international students and those who express an interest in the language. Additionally, it fosters robust connections with prominent universities offering Thai language programs in Asia, Europe, and America. As part of mobility programs, our professors engage in teaching the Thai language at partner universities. Moreover, the Faculty facilitates international students to learn our language here with us.

Department of Thai

The Department of Thai is one of the oldest departments in the Faculty of Arts, dedicated to the mission of cultivating teachers and researchers in Thai language and literature with profound knowledge across the country. Presently, it offers courses to exchange students majoring in Thai from diverse countries, covering language skills, culture, and literature, all taught in Thai.



The Center for Thai as a Foreign Language (CTFL)

For more than three decades, the Faculty of Arts at Chulalongkorn University has been providing an extensive array of Thai language and culture courses tailored for foreigners with diverse objectives, be it academic enhancement, business endeavors, or personal enrichment.



Our Center offers a multitude of programs catering to the requirements of individuals seeking to learn the Thai language. These include the Intensive Thai Program, Communicative Thai for Beginners, Reading and Writing Thai, Academic Thai for Advanced Learners, Thai for Mandarin Chinese Speakers, as well as private classes tailored to both individuals and groups. Moreover, the Center also provides a variety of courses at different levels to international and exchange students who are keen on learning basic to advanced level Thai.

Last but not least, our Center also offers a summer program for international participants who wish to learn more about Thailand and its rich history and cultural heritage. The program is designed around 4 lecture series on Thai history, Thai society, Thai language and literature, and Thai culture (festivals, food, and music). The classes in survival Thai introduce the participants to the enjoyment of communicating in the colorful Thai language. For hands-on experience, workshops on popular Thai cuisine, art, and recreation are provided. The program also includes trips to famous landmarks in the city of Bangkok and an overnight stay at a seaside or historical province. The summer program in Thai language and culture will enrich your experience and make your visit to this vibrant tropical country a memorable one.



"I was part of the first group of exchange students from China. The Chula campus was beautiful, my peers were supportive and caring, and I was very impressed by the faculty members. Here, I read many books and gained research experience, which instilled a deep understanding of language, culture, literature, and history. This has given me confidence in my teaching. I wrote the first Thai conversation book published in China as well as a book on the history of Thai-Chinese cultural exchange. All faculty members of the Thai Department at Peking University have studied or completed an exchange program at the Thai Department, Chulalongkorn University. This has made important contributions to Thai studies in China."

Prof. Fu Zengyou

Professor of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, Peking University and Senior Consultant of the Confucius Institute of Chulalongkorn University / MA in Thai Language (1980)



Student Life

The Faculty of Arts is committed to cultivating well-rounded students who excel not only academically but also possess practical skills and experience. Our dynamic student life is enhanced by a diverse array of intercultural academic activities, extracurricular activities, interest clubs, camps, and internships. These internships may take place in esteemed organizations such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, renowned companies, and international organizations both within Thailand and abroad. This multifaceted approach ensures that our students are not only well-prepared academically but also gain exposure to real-world scenarios, preparing them for success in various professional and cultural contexts.

Campus and Facilities

Academic Resources and Co-working Spaces

International and exchange students in the Faculty of Arts can take advantage of extensive libraries and co-working spaces designed to support their academic endeavors. These facilities are available in every building of the Faculty: the Humanities Information Center in Mahavajiravudh Building, the Learning Commons in Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building, and the Digital Humanities Center in Borom Rajakumari Building. Additionally, students can access similar resources in University buildings, such as the Central Library, the self-study area in Chamchuri 9 Building, and the Chula Plearn Space in Prem Purachatrat Building.





Effortless Access to CU in the Heart of Bangkok

Chulalongkorn University is strategically situated in the heart of Bangkok, ensuring seamless connectivity from every corner of the city, thanks to the Skytrain (BTS) and the metro (MRT). Both BTS's Siam Station and MRT's Samyan Station stand in close proximity to the university. To navigate the campus, Chulalongkorn University provides eco-friendly transportation options like the CU pop bus free shuttle service, Anywheel B bike sharing and MuvMi electric tuktuk.



On-Campus Dining: A Culinary Exploration



The Faculty of Arts Canteen at Chulalongkorn University stands out as a popular destination, renowned for its diverse and budget-friendly Thai cuisine. This culinary hotspot is a testament to the university's commitment to providing students and staff with an array of delicious and affordable food options. Notably, the nearby Bantadthong-Samyan neighborhood is also one of the most vibrant street food hubs of Bangkok. The area has seamlessly blended popularity and trendiness, offering visitors a culinary journey through legendary restaurants, Michelin-rated establishments, and trendy delicacies, catered to a wide range of tastes and preferences.

Recreational Facilities

Chulalongkorn University is committed to fostering the well-being of its community by providing abundant green spaces and recreational facilities for physical activities. The Chula Sports Complex, for instance, is equipped with a 50-meter swimming pool, a fitness center, and areas for various sports, including badminton, boxing, and yoga. In addition, the Chula Centenary Park, commemorating Chulalongkorn University's 100th anniversary, serves as an "urban forest". Creating a lush haven for our students and surrounding communities, this park not only offers a tranquil escape but also serves as a venue for organized public activities.

CU-iHouse: Your On-Campus Accommodation



Chulalongkorn University International House (CU-iHouse) is a purpose-built, 26-story residence designed to accommodate international students and visiting faculty. CU-iHouse offers 846 fully furnished units equipped with air conditioning, modern amenities, and a robust 24-hour security system. Additionally, residents benefit from the convenience of easy access to the University's main campus through the shuttle bus service. Furthermore, this university residence boasts a strategic location in close proximity to the vibrant street food zones of Samyan and Bantadthong, allowing residents to enjoy diverse culinary experiences.



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