

My 1 Year Testimonial

By Kristin Brown

Sometimes you just know something is a really good fit. In fact, when I started working at Super English, it didn't take me long to realize that was an understatement. Here's why:

Super English has supported me in every way needed.

From my first contact with Peter over 1.5 years ago, I have always felt supported by SE. Moving to a foreign country, especially for a SE Asia newbie, can be exciting and overwhelming at the same time. When I finally arrived in Surat 6 months after being hired, I was so relieved to find that SE was really what it made itself out to be. All the things I read about on the website were legit – I wasn't just left to my own devices or thrown to the wolves hoping I'd make it in this different, new land. Actually, it was the exact opposite of that. Peter was detailed and informative in everything leading up to our move – setting up our positions, providing visa information, and pointing us to answers for our questions. When I got to Surat, it got even better - I was picked up at the airport, I was given the grand tour of Surat from veteran teachers, and I was trained on teaching in Thailand. Some of these things might seem pretty ordinary, but another thing it didn't take me long to realize in Thailand is that there are a LOT of companies and agencies that provide little to no support for their teachers.

Working for SE has given me the freedom, space, and support to really grow as a teacher.

Let's clear this up now – working at SE you won't become really good at teaching out of a bunch of textbooks. You won't get really good at following a boring, rigid curriculum. Here, you won't become amazing at turning in 1,000 pages of lesson plans, typed, and perfectly formatted (thank goodness). Instead, you are given support, space, and time. And this is what I really, really love about working for SE. Let me explain:

This semester (my 2nd semester at SE), I made the decision to teach all Anuban 3, the equivalent of Kindergarten. Back home in the U.S., I had taught 4th grade for 4 years, so I knew I was in for a very different school year. The first few weeks of this semester I was a little nervous and didn't have much confidence in my abilities to manage 35-45 super energetic 5 year olds. My first few 2 weeks teaching Anuban were pretty difficult, and I found myself frustrated and really questioning whether I had made the right choice to teach this age group. Enter Peter and SE. When I needed help, my head teachers and Peter stepped in, offering guidance and ideas. Then, I was given space to figure it out. I was given time to adjust to my classes. Nobody was peering in my classroom door after the first few weeks to make sure my classes were going perfectly. This is because Peter trusts his teachers. He expects us to do a great job. He gives us plenty of support and guidance, and then gets out of the way to let us get out there and actually experience teaching, which is really empowering. Since teaching with SE, especially this past semester, I feel like my confidence as a teacher has skyrocketed. I can really say that I enjoy my classes and have grown as a teacher in so many ways. I am certain this wouldn't have happened if I hadn't been given the space and freedom to develop my teaching skills, fail at times, experiment with new ideas, and even have a few really tough days.



Me, with my Anuban 3 MEP class, midway through the school year. They're the cutest.

SE has provided me with an awesome community of friends and co-workers.

Working for Super English means you become part of an awesome community of teachers. Peter is really great at hiring fun, adventurous people who work hard and play hard. Being so far from friends and family back home, it is great to have such a close group of friends to do anything with from meeting up for dinner, grabbing a beer, just hanging out, exploring Surat, or taking trips to the nearby islands. I always really look forward to our Super English monthly parties, because my co-workers aren't just my co-workers, they are my friends and family on this side of the world.

I feel really lucky that I found a school like Super English so easily. It's been an awesome, memorable year. In fact, I like it so much that I've already decided to stay for another year. A good fit isn't always easy to find, but I sure am glad I found this one.