

Final Testimonial

Well, it's almost that time. Soon the never ending screams of “Teacher Ryan” and “Hello Pharang” will end. To say I'm not going to miss it is a lie. I'll miss it terribly. This is the first time in my life where my white skin was a treasured commodity that only the few lucky had. I've been down the darkest jungle paths with only a knife by my side, and into the brightest neon lights of several drunken dance floors. The nostalgia of it hasn't even begun to hit me. No more thirty baht meals at corner guy, pier beers, that god awful stuff they call chang. However, the winds are calling, and it's time to move on.

Surat itself is a wonderful city. This town was the perfect way for Thai culture to meet the western forces that I brought from America. The streets, the people, and the lifestyle of this area graciously accepted me for who I was and what I wanted. Sure, there were many bumps. Being a 6'2” redhead in a country that is used to seeing someone a quarter less my size walk into a 7-11 and buy something. I'll always remember the small Thai woman I terrified just because I walked into her restaurant and she wasn't ready for me. She fell on the floor, dropping all the food she had in her hands when she turned around not expecting me. Things like this won't happen again for me. I go back to the world that wants tanned bodies, and tall statures. An area where I am mediocre at best. The town is in a perfect location for what you probably came here to do, which is travel. This past semester especially, every weekend you drive down to the bus station, hop on a mini bus and take off to some new uncharted destination. It's also enough out of the way that you don't have to hang out with many full moon parties. After your 7th time of that, it can be just about enough. I love that here, you need to learn how to speak Thai, and it goes so far in helping you get discounts, free things, and exactly what you want. I have friends I've met in Phuket who have been here for 2 or more years, and have yet to learn to speak even a few phrases. It's a great city, and can offer a lot of things, you just need to have the patience to look around for a bit.

The one thing that I'm happy for about coming to Thailand is Super English. It has made the transition one of the easiest things I could've ever hoped for. Being the first time packing up my bags and heading to a foreign land, I had a very soft landing. Things were a bit bumpy getting here, but all these unavoidable bumps were minimized given what Peter and Super English have set up over here. After that, the continued support given throughout the year and a half I've been here makes me happy I chose this school to work for. When problems teaching came up, Peter was only a phone call away to help me through difficult classes, hard lessons, and misbehaved students. If I wanted to continue my teacher learning, classes were readily available to set up down at Super as well. One thing I'll always be able to say for where ever I go next is that Super English, and Peter, always had my back through thick and thin.

Another amazing thing Super English does well is instill a sense of family. We have monthly Super English only parties, that bring us all together to do something usually unrelated to teaching or work so we can just become better friends, and are able to carry these non-working relationships back into the work place, and use them for our advantage. With the feeling of being surrounded by friends, the work days became much more tolerable if you were having a bad day, because you could just kick it with your buddies. There were times where it was just a horrid day at work, it happens to the best of us, and I would have my good friends right there to just joke around, or get me out of the funk. It was a great way to get unity throughout the work force. Though these parties and working at Super, I now have friends in all corners of the world that I will always be able to call on, no matter the time and place, and they'll be there for me. It's a great way to get out in the world, and it's nice that I always have a family on the other side of the world with Super.

Finally, one last great thing that made this experience for me is the time allotted to travel. When talking to other companies, I was surprised how little time they had during their holidays, or even the conventional weekends that most people had. Peter's statement held true for sure. “I like to let people

get the travel out of their system, so when they come back, they're ready to work.” It was a great mentality, and it helped me put all I had into my work when I was here. I also was allowed huge breaks in order to see a wide variety of places all over Thailand, and even surrounding countries. During these times, I was able to enjoy my travels, without fretting about getting everything I wanted in during a short break. There was time to kick up my feet, enjoy a place for more than I anticipated because I had time. I was always ready to come back to my home in Surat by the time my traveling was finished. It's a great place, and each time I'm welcomed back with the family atmosphere that Super English is known for. All in all, this is why I came here. To find myself a home away from home, and that for me is Super English.

Things have been crazy and hectic this last semester, but it wouldn't be Thailand if you weren't kept on your toes about things. This is a place I'm glad I came to, I'll miss when I'm gone, and always will be in my heart. Thanks for all the help I've gotten and all the places you've helped me too, both in traveling and in my personal life. I've learned a lot, and my eyes have been opened to a whole new realm of possibility. Super English, Peter, and friends, it's been real. Thanks for it all.

Ryan