

## Year 1 in Thailand

By Jenna Devine

When I first applied for a job in Thailand, I honestly did not look that far into it; I did not even know if I would hear anything back. I was still in my last year of university contemplating if the right choice was to pick up and move to Thailand once I graduate. After sending out an e-mail to only one company, that being Super English and receiving a response the very next day, it was only smooth sailing from there. A Skype interview was immediately arranged and by the end I had accepted a teaching job and within 6 months I would be moving across the world. Based on how simple and straight forward the interview and hiring process was, I knew I was setting out for the best experience of my life. Working for Super English and moving to Thailand was no doubt initially intimidating however it is the best decision I have ever made for myself. Working for Super English I was grown as a teacher and an individual. Peter and the rest of the staff and teachers at Super English have helped paved the way for my past year experience in Thailand to be extremely fulfilling, which has also made it easy for me to stay for another full school year.

From the moment you're hired, you receive all the information you need for important things like your visa and work permit. Super English is no doubt on top of this. The amount of paper work you have to deal with is essentially nothing. The only thing required from you is to bring your passport and diploma. I graduated from University in April 2014 and I also came to Thailand in April 2014. Therefore I did not have my diploma when I first arrived but I had nothing to worry about because Super English told me exactly what type of visa I needed upon arrival. Once my diploma arrived I had to make a visa run to Malaysia and this was surprisingly very easy. Before I left, the staff of Super English prepared a folder for me with all the proper paper work required and filled out. I went to the office in Malaysia and the very next morning everything was settled and I had my work permit. Visa runs can often take a turn for the worse; however I had nothing to worry about because I knew everything was fully prepared for me. Super English made sure everything was put together. It is a really nice feeling because you feel a sense of protection from the company and develop a great sense of trust.

One of the perks of Super English is the training you receive. Even if you have experience teaching in the classroom back home (like myself) it is completely different teaching in Thailand to a bunch of young Thai children. The training we went through really helps prepare you for what is to come. You receive the basic idea of how a Thai classroom normally flows. With that comes presenting topics in a way the students will properly understand and games that are appealing, easy and educational. I can honestly say that if I had not gone through the training process I would have been completely lost and would not have enjoyed myself. Most companies essentially feed you to the wolves; you are thrown in there without having an idea of what you are supposed to do. Super English ensures that you are fully prepared as teacher and are there to support you every step of the way.

Tida is truly a magnificent school to teach at. Your day will no doubt consist of happy kids running around demanding high 5's and hugs, it really does not get any better than that. The atmosphere is always extremely positive which makes the work environment laid back and enjoyable. The classroom

time is always great because the students here show you the utmost respect. Furthermore, they are all very eager to learn English. The students know that when you walk in it will be guaranteed an hour of fun. This really helps boost your energy within the classroom because there are positive vibes flowing around, therefore it makes it easy to have fun with the kids while teaching them. There is no doubt that one of the main reasons why I've enjoyed teaching here as much as I do is because I have had the opportunity and pleasure to work at Thida.

Teaching at Thida is without a question great, another prime factor is the amount of holidays you receive from the school and Super English. There is a long weekend in June, July and August which involves days off from school and these are all paid. Yes, paid. These long weekends are great for exploring all the islands that are not far from Surat. The main pier to all the islands is located right in Surat which makes it easy to pick up and go on the long weekends. In October you receive nearly the entire month off. This is great for exploring outside of Thailand. I was able to travel to Dubai and Indonesia, which are incredible countries. I was never rushed with these travels because I was given a solid amount of time to do everything I wanted there. In December you receive 2 weeks fully paid. This is great for whether you want to stay within Thailand or travel outside of it. Traveling has been a major factor of my experience here and I have seen amazing beaches and landmarks thanks to the solid amount of time off you receive.

Teaching in Thailand has been the most rewarding experience. I have learnt so much about myself and what I am truly capable of. I have met amazing people and have made lifelong friends. The memories I have created are something I deeply cherish. None of this would have been possible without the help of Super English. It is such a reliable company to work for because you are taken care of and the support system you receive is great. I have signed on to stay another year because I know I am not ready to leave this beautiful country, Thida, the students and my friends.