

## *Two Year Testimonial*

*by Evan DuPree*

A brief word on my Pre-Super history: I studied at the University of Florida and soon after graduating, took a job with Bank of America. I wasn't terribly titillated with my job at BoA and was seeking something new, challenging and adventurous. I had been looking mostly at schools in China. After sending out rounds of emails to a great number of job openings, my inbox became flooded with Chinese schools requesting Skype interviews. It was in the process of sorting out decent looking jobs when a friend of mine, a former teacher here, referred me to Peter and Super English. Although the semester was already under way at the time, luck would have it there was a position available.

Super immediately appealed to me given its location and the fact I was speaking with a fellow English speaker. My only other contacts at this point were with Chinese speakers from Chinese schools, which was a bit daunting. Peter, on the other hand, is a seasoned ESL teacher himself, one who is always willing to share his knowledge and experience with you. Coming from little to no teaching background, I liked knowing that I wasn't going to be thrown into a class with no idea what I was doing. The school has been a great venue for learning how to teach effectively. At this point I have to mention my fellow Super teachers. For the entirety of my tenure here, Super has been staffed by an amazing crew. Both veteran ESL teachers and newcomers like myself have been a great source of classroom ideas, extra red pens and maybe even some materials for a lesson. Not only have they been great colleagues but great friends as well.

Though I began with essentially no background, I now possess a wealth of experience across many age levels and class formats. Teaching at Super English itself has provided me with an opportunity to really get to know the students, do more inclusive activities, make constant noticeable progress with students and even test out ideas for lessons at Thida. Class sizes at Thida require a slightly different approach, but it has been great to take lessons learned from one school to apply them to the other. I've had a well-rounded experience that has made me prepared to enter any teaching environment and rock out good lessons.

Being my first job in ESL, Super English has been all I could have hoped for and much more. I've amassed a lot of wonderful classroom experience, made some great friends and had the ability to easily explore the gem that is Southern Thailand. It's without a doubt one of the best jobs I've ever had and will set the bar pretty high for all future endeavors. After nearly 2 years with the school, I may be ready for a new adventure, but this has been a very impactful, completely unforgettable time. I will miss working here but the lessons I've learned in the classrooms and lessons learned on just living abroad will live on with me as I continue my ESL career in uncharted waters.