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# A STUDY ABROAD FAIR IN BANGKOK

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In April 2018, the Jagiellonian University signed an MoU with Chulalongkorn University (CU) in Bangkok, Thailand. It envisages scientific co-operation, exchanging information and experience regarding educational exchange programmes, short and long-term exchange of faculty members and non-academic staff as well as student exchange. At present, both institutions are working out a specific agreement concerning collaboration with the JU Institute of European Studies.

On 29-30 August 2018, the CU Office of International Affairs and Global Network hosted the 2nd CU Study Abroad Fair and invited top universities from all over the world to provide information for CU students about studying abroad.

The fair provided a perfect occasion for CU students to see various possibilities of going abroad and for scientists to get acquainted with research projects conducted in different institutions. Most students wanted to explore possibilities of studying abroad. During the fair, they could talk to representatives

from CU's overseas partner universities to find out about a good programme or scholarship that would make their dreams come true.

There were exhibition booths featuring many international universities and institutions from Taiwan, Australia, France, Hungary, Sweden, Germany, Malaysia, Japan, the United Kingdom, the USA and Poland. The Jagiellonian University was among the prestigious world-class universities and institutes invited to set up a booth at the fair.

At the booth, I met numerous enthusiastic students and scientists who were interested in getting to know the JU education offer. There were also a few Thai students who had already been to Poland and Kraków. Most of those who visited the JU stand were interested in programmes in political science, business, management and chemistry. They were glad to know that studying at JU meant being immersed in Polish culture and receiving quality education at an affordable price.

It is worth noting that the Polish Embassy in Thailand had its own booth, and its representative was the cultural attaché Ms Katarzyna Bralczyk.



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B. Chmielowska at the JU booth



Graduation at Chulalongkorn University

On the third day of the fair, its participants were invited to visit the campus of Chulalongkorn University, including its magnificent auditorium and university museum. We could also see a model of a traditional Thai wooden house. In the evening, there was a meeting combined with a performance of traditional Thai dances and tasting national Thai dishes: *tom yam* (soup), *som tam* salad and coconut ice-cream. What impressed me on the campus was the large botanical garden and the fact that the university was very ecology-oriented. They use only electrical vehicles and shuttle buses.



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*CU campus*

Chulalongkorn University (CU) is the oldest and one of the best universities in Thailand. It has 19 faculties, 23 colleges and research institutes with over 37,000 students and more than 2,800 academic staff members. As I learnt, previously Thai universities had been focused on Asia, Australia and North America. Currently, they are interested in European universities.

**Finally, in the 2017/18 academic year, there have been four students from Thailand studying at the Jagiellonian University: one PhD student at the Faculty of Chemistry, one at the Faculty of Medicine, one at the Centre of Polish Language and Culture in the World, and one graduate student in the Institute of European Studies.**



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*A traditional Thai wooden house*

## Teaching Excellence Summit in Glasgow: translating research into education

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On 10-12 July 2018, I had a great opportunity to be part of the first Teaching Excellence Summit organised by “Times Higher Education” and hosted by the University of Glasgow. Thanks to the fact that the Jagiellonian University is one of the founding members of an international alliance of institutions of higher education – The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities – I was invited to the ‘teaching excellence breakfast.’ The event was an occasion to share our (i.e. The Guild’s) vision how to combine top class research and teaching or how to translate research results into outstanding programmes of studies.

*Times Higher Education* (THE), the most widely circulating magazine on higher education in the world, has great achievements supporting universities and colleges. Every year, it publishes various university rankings, reflecting on the research output and general prestige of institutions of higher education. However, the THE team has come to the conclusion that teaching activities of colleges and universities have been neglected. As the chief editor of THE stated during the summit, ‘Even the top universities are responsible for the sin of neglecting the quality of teaching.’

THE decided to change the situation and appreciate the educational activities of institutions of higher education. Therefore, in July 2018, they launched the European Teaching Ranking – a pilot ranking focusing mainly on teaching outcomes and the quality of teaching – for the very first time. This pilot version embraced only European universities from eight countries. Only 242 universities met the entrance requirement, which was at least 50 surveys be completed and returned by



R. Rybkowski

*The meeting in the aula of the University of Glasgow*