

Katrina Dilley – Teaching In Thailand Report, August 2014

After my first year of studies at university, I decided to take a year off from school and work so I could save money to travel. I managed to save up enough money to go backpacking around Thailand for two months and it was such an awesome experience that I desperately wanted to go back. I went back home to Canada and finished three more years of university, obtaining my Bachelor of Arts Degree. I wanted to get my Bachelor of Education degree but I couldn't go through the stress of completing another two more years of full-time school while working a part-time job to pay for my tuition and living expenses. Instead, I worked as a full-time nanny and tutor for two years but I was finding it impossible to save any money as it all seemed to go to my living expenses. I decided if I wanted to

see the world, I would need to work while I travelled.



My boyfriend and I completed a 100-hour Oxford Seminars TEFL course, which was a huge commitment at \$995 each. The instructors were excellent and I was excited to begin the Graduate Placement Service they provided but in the end I found the whole Graduate Placement Service to be very misrepresented. Oxford Seminars did not put me in touch with sister schools directly as they claimed they would do. Instead they emailed me a list of six agencies, which could help find me a job in my preferred countries. Luckily, Philip from English For Fun/ThaiJobs, Thailand was one of the people on that list. We decided to do a 4 day Professional Teacher



Development and Thai Cultural Immersion Course in Bangkok with www.ThaiJobs.co.uk Looking back now, I wish I would have skipped over the Oxford Seminars TEFL course I did in Canada and instead have completed the whole TEFL course with English For Fun/ThaiJobs in Thailand. I liked ThaiJobs course because they taught us techniques specifically suited to teaching Thai

students. Philip was not only an expert on how to teach Thai students but he was also very knowledgeable with the Thai culture and etiquette and his course was a great way to get orientated with the culture fast, rather than learn the do's and don'ts of Thailand months on down the road.

English For Fun/ThaiJobs was also extremely accommodating and our instructor, Philip, personally walked our group from the hotel to the course location the day before the course so we wouldn't get lost. Also during the course, Philip lent out his own personal textbooks to our group so we could come up with a lesson plan to practice teaching to the group. It really eased my nerves getting to teach a lesson to our small group and receive feedback. Philip just wanted us to feel comfortable and he



did a great job of orientating us with both teaching and with Thailand. My boyfriend and I also met another teacher in the ThaiJobs Special Projects Programme who was teaching at the same bilingual school as me, and we have become great friends. I have also met tons of people through a Bangkok running group so you really don't need to worry about making friends if you plan to travel here alone.



After the course, ThaiJobs placed me in a bilingual school in Bangkok. I have never lived in a very big city so it was a completely different experience for me but after teaching grade 2 for a few months I was hooked. All of my students greet me enthusiastically as soon as they see me and I often find a crowd of them following me around like little puppy dogs. Some days the students can be a bit talkative but their eagerness makes teaching fun. My students get excited

over the simplest activities and its very rewarding to see their English progressing because they want to be able to speak with me in English.

I know it can be overwhelming to organize all the proper documentation and prepare to move halfway around the world but now that I'm here I'm so glad I did it. I can see now how planning to teach for 1 year can turn into teaching for 10 years (I have a few teachers at my school who have been here that long!) This really is an experience unlike any other and I recommend you try it at least once; you definitely will not be disappointed.

Cheers,

Katrina Dilley

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At the waterfalls with our new friends