



## Thai Student Perceptions of Working or Studying in America?

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### Abstract

The researchers want to find out how working or studying in America affects their academic lives when they return to university. Second, the paper will explore what benefits being immersed in English have on a Thai university student in terms of language. Finally, the researchers want to find out how this cultural experience influences social learning. Semi-structured interviews will provide useful and direct feedback from students who have worked or studied in America. Purposeful sampling will be used at Naresuan University to get participants. Bandura's Social Learning Theory will be utilized to guide this paper for the social aspect, and the concept of immersive English will be explored as well in terms of academic progress. This paper will elucidate upon perceptions and truths in such a way that future students can make an informed decision on whether or not at least 3 months in America would provide the right experience. This study is significant to Thai high school and university students specifically, but also may provide insight to any student that wishes to work or study in America. There are a plethora of options for students to study abroad, and America has become a popular destination. There are social and academic ramifications to making the choice to study or work in America, and this paper will provide background information and salient student feedback for others to consider when making a decision to leave Thailand to gain experience in America. Working and studying are different than just traveling, and this study points out the potential opportunities that an American experience can provide a Thai university student.

**Keywords:** *Study in America, Work and travel, University students, English immersion*

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