

# SHARE Scholarship Experience

Written by Wyne Ei Htwe

**Min-ga-la-ba.** My name is Wyne Ei Htwe. I am a third year Honours student studying International Relations at University of Yangon. Last semester, to be exact at January 2019, I received a full scholarship to study International Studies at Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) for one semester by SHARE Scholarship Program. Before telling my experience in Cambodia, let me explain about What is SHARE Scholarship?

## Exchange Life in Cambodia

“Khmer people are friendly and nice”. This was the first stereotype people saying when they know that I will go to Cambodia for one semester. It is true. When I first landed in Phnom Penh, I was welcomed by warmth smile. I found Khmer people are really friendly and kind with a beautiful soul.

My first day of the semester began with the course registration at Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL) as International Studies is covered in that institute. Teachers and classmates in Department of International Studies (DIS) help me a lot. So, I could adapt the local life very quickly. The professors who teach at DIS are some of the finest I have met. They are professional and fun to be around. I enjoyed numerous classroom activities, group discussions, policy briefing, debates and weekly article review. The exam style in IFL is different from mine in Myanmar. In University of Yangon, class participation is 35 % of total and the rest 65% is from the final test. In IFL, class participation is 60% and final exam is 40%. Moreover, most of the students take two bachelors at the same department and at the same time: one bachelor in the morning and one bachelor in the afternoon or evening.

What is **SHARE** Scholarship?

SHARE Scholarship is a scholarship program for intra-ASEAN and ASEAN-EU mobility. SHARE offers a fully funded, one semester exchange for undergraduate students in ASEAN countries.

*Reference: SHARE Scholarship Facebook page*



Me at the one of the places of IFL campus

## **Extra activities**

I also volunteered to teach English at a rural school with my international friends in every weekend. In addition to the unique teaching experiences, I also lived a rural life with the authentic Khmer cuisine as the local teachers treat us well.



Me teaching English to students from local school in a rural area

## **Friendship and Travel**

Apart from regular learning, I always interacted with other scholarship awardees from Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan. Moreover, I could build amazing friendship with local people even though I was only there for five months. I was very lucky during my exchange as I got many opportunities to travel with those friends. We went around in Cambodia and even other countries together. One of the highlights of my trip was my 5 nights 6 days trip to Vietnam. Living in a hostel, sharing the room with many strangers, talking about own country's culture is a uniquely experience I got from that trip.

## **What I have learnt for life?**

I really enjoyed my exchange student life and it can't be expressed by words. I have got to learn in and out of the classroom, experienced travel in ways I have never before, and also discovered more about myself.

The most prominent point that I learned is the Independence. I found myself travelling and exploring the city and surrounding areas alone. I went to traditional markets, museums, and other local places. I also trained myself with various life skills such as making friends, communicating without barriers, managing my own time and cooking.

The memories, the experiences, the people I met and the things I learned in Cambodia will stay with me for the rest of my life. So, applying SHARE exchange program was one of the best decisions I made in my university student life and I encourage everyone to take this experience.