



Mahidol University
Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies

Master of Arts in Human Rights – MAHR (International Program)

2018 Prospectus



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About Mahidol University

History

Mahidol University has its origins in the establishment of Siriraj Hospital in 1888 by His Majesty King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), and the hospital's medical school is the oldest institution of higher learning in Thailand, granting its first medical degree in 1893. Later becoming the University of Medical Sciences in 1943, Mahidol University was renamed with great honor in 1969 by H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, after his Royal Father, H.R.H Prince Mahidol of Songkla, who is widely known as the 'Father of Modern Medicine and Public Health in Thailand'.

Mahidol University has since developed into one of the most prestigious universities in Thailand, internationally known and recognized for the high caliber of research and teaching by its faculty, and its outstanding achievements in teaching, research, international academic collaboration and professional services. This diversified institution now offers top quality programs in numerous social and cultural disciplines, including the greatest number of doctoral programs of any institution in Thailand, yet has maintained its traditional excellence in medicine and the sciences.

Location

Located in the cosmopolitan city of Bangkok, Mahidol University is able to draw on a wide range of educational, cultural and social activities to augment and complement its modern academic resources and diverse research activities. The university has three campuses in the Bangkok metropolitan area: the large suburban campus at **Salaya** in nearby Nakhon Pathom province, and two inner city campuses, in **Bangkok Noi** on the Chao Phraya River, and in **Phayathai** near the Victory Monument. In addition, the College of Management has an office tower in central Bangkok. There are also new provincial campuses in **Kanchanaburi** and **Nakorn Sawan**, although they are limited to Thai students at present.

Our modern computer network and the Mahidol University Library and Information Center network provide computing and library services, and electronically link all the campuses. Each campus also has a full range of academic, research, accommodation, cafeteria, sport and recreation facilities, as well as a lively academic calendar, ensuring a well-rounded experience for both staff and students.

About Salaya Campus

Salaya Campus, opened in 1982, is located just a few hundred meters from Bangkok's city limits in Phuttamonthon District, Nakhon Pathom Province, on 520 acres (210 hectares) of natural beauty, landscaped gardens and tropical foliage. The relaxing semi-rural setting, within easy reach of central Bangkok, makes it ideal for studying or working in tranquility without losing out on the myriad opportunities available in the city proper.

Salaya is also home to many foreign staff members, including lecturers and administrative personnel at MUIC and other academic, research and administrative divisions. Salaya Campus houses the largest number and widest variety of Mahidol University's academic and research facilities, including **17 Faculties, 7 Institutes, 9 Centers and 6 Colleges**. Numerous other sub-faculty level Research Centers and Laboratories are also located on campus, along with:



- the **Central Library** and 6 branch libraries of the **Mahidol University Library and Information Center**, as well as some independent faculty libraries;
- the **Student Union**, home to many student services, clubs and activities, and the main cafeteria;
- the **Office of the President**, the University administration building;
- numerous stores, eating establishments, sports facilities, student and staff dormitories and condominiums, and a comprehensive range of facilities for attending to the academic, professional and personal needs of staff and students.

Contact and Visitor Information

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The Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP)

Vision

The Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies plays a leading role in academic inquiry and the evolution of practical wisdom in human rights and peace building.

Mission

Promoting learning excellence in human rights and peace and engaging communities in transformations towards just peace.

History

The Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP) was formed in 2011 through a merger of Mahidol University's Center for Human Rights Studies and Social Development and the Research Center for Peacebuilding.

Founded in 1998, the Center for Human Rights Studies and Social Development (CHRSD) established a record of accomplishment in providing postgraduate education and professional training to students, human rights workers, human rights defenders, members of civil society organizations, and government officials. The MA in Human Rights started by the CHRSD and continuing at the IHRP is the longest running graduate degree program in human rights in Southeast Asia.

The Research Center for Peacebuilding was launched in November 2004 to contribute to the peaceful solution of conflicts in Thailand. The work of the center focused in particular on the conflict in the countries three southernmost provinces (Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat). The Center developed and implemented considerable action and participatory research projects. These projects concentrated on facilitating cooperative efforts to open spaces for dialogue at all levels, to reduce violence, and to identify the needs of communities and society. The projects also provided inputs for new public policies in order to transform conflicts and build a just and peaceful society.

The IHRP combines the experience and perspectives of its two predecessors. The institute remains committed to the advancement of human rights and peace through education and professional training, through outreach programs, and through cutting-edge research on social and political issues at the community, national, and international levels. With its uniquely interdisciplinary environment, IHRP is helping to shape the fields of peace, conflict, justice and human rights studies in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Teaching

Degree Programs

Human rights in Asia face great challenges, but have at the same time an exciting potential for improving lives and for helping to shape the future of the region. The establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights in 2009 and the adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in 2012 illustrate that the central role of human rights receives increasing recognition in Asia. There is an evident need for trained human rights academics and professionals with regional expertise enabling them to contribute to and help implement effective and evidence-based policy. With its location in Bangkok, Mahidol University's IHRP is in a unique position to respond to this demand by



offering graduate programs in human rights and peace studies to international students. All degree programs at the institute focus on Asia and combine a commitment to quality with a progressive and open-minded outlook and a stimulating and supportive academic environment.

In addition to the MA in Human Rights (International Program), the IHRP currently offers the following degree programs:

- MA in Human Rights and Peace Studies (Thai Program),
- MA in Human Rights and Democratisation – APMA (Asia Pacific Regional Program),
- PhD in Human Rights and Peace Studies (International Program).

Professional Development

The IHRP also provides professional training courses for academics, activists and government officers in order to promote human rights, peace and just development in the region. For the past several years, the IHRP has gained a reputation for annual training courses, including the South East Asian Advanced Program on Human Rights and the Annual Thematic Human Rights Training Program.

The IHRP is part of the internationalized community at Mahidol University. Our degree programs and training courses draw students, participants, and lecturers from many countries in Asia and beyond.

Research and Outreach

The activities of the institute are structured loosely into seven clusters, respectively focusing on:

- migration (coordinated by [Dr. Naparat Kranrattanasuit](#)),
- human rights education (coordinated by [Dr. Vachararutai \[Jan\] Boontinand](#)),
- Thailand's Deep South (coordinated by [Aj. Ngamsuk Rattanasatian](#)),
- environmental issues (coordinated by [Dr. Bencharat Sae Chua](#)),
- political rights (coordinated by [Dr. Eakpant Pindavanija](#))
- the ASEAN Human Rights Network (coordinated by [Dr. Sriprapha Petcharamesree](#))
- ethnic minorities (coordinated by [Dr. Suphatmet Yunyasit](#)).

The cluster coordinators are happy to answer inquiries by prospective students.

Contact and Visitor Information

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The Master of Arts in Human Rights – MAHR (International Program)

Launched in 1999, Mahidol's Master of Arts in Human Rights is the pioneer of its field in Southeast Asia. The program takes pride in its twenty-year record of graduating highly qualified human rights professionals, who are now found in non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and government agencies throughout and beyond the region.

The Master of Arts in Human Rights offers a well-rounded and varied set of courses that gives students a solid grounding in human rights studies as an interdisciplinary field. But it is its research-intensive character that distinguishes the program. The curriculum affords students sufficient time to develop an exciting and viable project idea while they are immersing themselves into human rights studies during the coursework of the first two semesters. Students develop their initial concept into a research proposal in the following summer. The second year of the program focuses on thesis research with abundant opportunity for fieldwork and adequate time for data analysis, the discussion and interpretation of results, and the drafting and revising of the thesis. Candidates complete the program with an oral defense of their theses and with a conference presentation or the publication of their research results.

From elaborating their proposals through the completion of their degrees, students test their ideas and share their research with one another and with faculty members. Regular work-in-progress colloquia help to keep projects on track and contribute to the supportive environment at the institute. In their work, students have access to the substantial resources of the library system at Mahidol University and to the excellent professional network of the institute and its members.

The faculty at the IHRP are passionate about their work and committed equally to research, teaching, and advising. Faculty members believe that advising plays a crucial role for success in graduate studies and strive to provide support for thesis research that is second to none. The institute promotes advising

- that is accessible,
- that balances necessary guidance with respect for the candidate's autonomy,
- and that is caring and understanding.

Expected Program Outcomes

The program aims to foster in its graduates

- (1) professional ethos and leadership,
- (2) a thorough theoretical and methodological knowledge and understanding of human rights studies,
- (3) expertise in an area of specialization,
- (4) transferrable research skills,
- (5) autonomous learning,
- (6) advanced information literacy,
- (7) professional communication skills.

[Appendix 1](#) (p. 10) provides more detailed descriptions of these expected learning outcomes.



Degree Structure and Courses

The degree requires successful completion of 36 graduate credits divided into 24 credits for coursework and 12 credits for the mandatory master's thesis. Each course contributes three credits.

Consult [Appendix 2](#) (p. 11) for official course descriptions.

Required Courses

- HPHR 519: Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms
- HPHR 520: Seminar in Human Rights
- HPHR 504: Human Rights in Asia
- HPHR 505: Research Methods in Human Rights
- HPHR 506: Human Rights Theory

Elective Courses

- HPHR 510: Practical Skills for Human Rights Protection
- HPHR 521: Peace, Conflict Management and Human Rights
- HPHR 512: Human Rights in International Relations
- HPHR 518: Applied Research in Human Rights
- HPHR 522: Independent Study
- HPHR 523: Internship

Thesis

- HPHR 698: Thesis
Prerequisites: (1) A successfully presented thesis proposal
(2) Ethics approval by one of Mahidol's Institutional Review Boards, prepared by participation in a research ethics workshop.
Credits are awarded following a successful oral defense of the completed thesis and a conference presentation or publication reporting the research results as approved by Mahidol's Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Internship Option

The program encourages students without prior experience in human rights work to take advantage of the internship elective. The program will facilitate contacts with suitable hosts. As an elective course carrying graduate credit, the internship requires graded academic work under the supervision of a faculty member in addition to the tasks assigned by the internship host.

Please note that almost all internships are unpaid.

Typical Study Plan

The curriculum provides for a two-year program. The following study plan illustrates a realistic schedule that takes students in 21 months from the start of the coursework to the completion of the degree. Highly efficient students with excellent study, research, and language skills may be able to earn their



master's in a somewhat shorter period, but it is safer to base planning on the regular program duration. The estimated overall cost of the program in [Appendix 3](#) (p. 13) therefore assumes a time-to-degree of 21 months.

Regular consultations with the thesis advisor, participation in work-in-progress colloquia, and access to library resources play an essential role for keeping thesis projects on track. The program therefore strongly advises students to maintain residence within commuting distance to the IHRP for the entire duration of the program, from the start of the coursework through the completion of the thesis.

Year 1	Semester 1 Mid-August through mid December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required – HPHR 506: Human Rights Theory ○ Required – HPHR 519: Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms ○ Required – HPHR 504: Human Rights in Asia ○ Required – HPHR 520: Seminar in Human Rights
	Semester 2 Early January through early May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required – HPHR 505: Research Methods in Human Rights ○ Elective – HPHR 510: Practical Skills for Human Rights Protection ○ Elective – HPHR 521: Peace, Conflict Management & Human Rights ○ Elective – HPHR 512: Human Rights in International Relations • Research ethics workshop • Development of thesis topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drafting of a concept note ○ Discussion of concept note with potential thesis advisors ○ Establishment of an understanding with the prospective advisor ○ Drafting of an empirical and legal background note and initial work on extant scholarship in consultation with the prospective advisor
	May-June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing and submission of thesis proposal • Preparation of ethics review
	Late June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal defense* • Submission of project to one of MU's Institutional Review Boards for ethics approval
	July	Reading period — <i>Break</i> —
Year 2	Semester 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis research and writing in consultation with thesis advisor
	Semester 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis defense • Academic conference presentation or academic publication of report on thesis research

* Requires registration of thesis credits and payment of thesis tuition.
 May be postponed to the start of year 2.



Costs of Study

The costs of a graduate degree at Mahidol University are low by international standards. Tuition and fees total THB 175,000 for the MA in Human Rights (International Program). Foreign students have to purchase a mandatory health insurance at the cost of THB 7,000 (THB 3,500 at the start of each academic year). Living expenses will vary considerably with lifestyle and background of students. A realistic estimate, based on data of Mahidol University International College, suggests monthly expenses ranging from THB 17,500 to 23,500.

Please note that foreign nationals staying in Thailand on student visas are not allowed to take up any work outside of their studies.

See [Appendix 3](#) (p. 13) for a detail breakdown and a [timeline of estimated monthly expenses](#).

Admission Requirements and Application Procedure

Applicants should demonstrate above all commitment to human rights, open-mindedness, and tolerance for diverse views.

The program will consider applications by recent college graduates and by professionals with work experience.

Formal admission requirements include:

- a recognized undergraduate with a CumGPA of at least 2.50
and
- demonstrated English language proficiency (TOEFL – paper-based score of 500 or higher; IELTS –score of 5.5 or higher).

In exceptional cases, students not meeting the formal admission requirements may be allowed to enroll.

Applicants must submit the following documents:

- the completed application form ([available from the IHRP website](#));
- a personal statement detailing
 - academic interests,
 - the purpose and objectives in undertaking this study program,
 - ideas for a thesis project in human rights studies,
 - experience in the field of human rights, including full-time and part-time employment, internships, and volunteer work;
- academic transcript(s) and the degree certificate(s);
- English language test certificate(s) (if any);
- a curriculum vitae;
- two references.

The program will accept applications through 30 June 2018.
Applicants may usually expect to learn whether they have been successful within 2 weeks of the receipt of their applications.



Appendixes

Appendix 1: Expected Learning Outcomes

(1) Professional Ethos and Leadership

Acts in accordance with internationally recognized human rights principles; takes initiative in highlighting and addressing human-rights related deficiencies in existing norms and practices for possible review and amendment. Actively encourages others to apply internationally recognized human rights principles in the work environment and the wider community.

Applies human rights principles in cooperating with others, in exercising formal and informal leadership, and in enhancing the effectiveness of collaborative work as a group member. Accepts responsibility for own work.

(2) Theoretical and Methodological Knowledge and Understanding of Human Rights Studies

Has thorough knowledge and critical understanding of human rights studies as a field of interdisciplinary study and professional practice. Understands how new knowledge on human rights is developed and applied. Is familiar with human rights norms and institutions in international, regional, and selected national contexts.

(3) Expertise in an Area of Specialization

Has detailed understanding of one area of specialization in human rights at the forefront of theory, research or professional practice. Is aware of recent normative and policy developments relevant to human rights in selected area.

(4) Transferrable Research Skills

Consistently applies practical and theoretical knowledge and demonstrates creativity in addressing a wide variety of human rights issues in novel and unpredictable professional contexts. Recognizes gaps or inconsistencies in available information, draws appropriately qualified conclusions, and takes responsible and transparent decisions accounting for uncertainty.

Synthesizes and critiques extant knowledge from disciplines and fields relevant to human rights studies; identifies gaps, inconsistencies, biases, and silences in extant knowledge and recognizes opportunities for gaining new insights. Applies methods of qualitative social research in the creative analysis of complex human rights issues.

Independently plans and executes a major project in basic, applied, evaluation, or action research on human rights; applies practical and theoretical knowledge and research techniques to produce sound conclusions, summative or formative assessments, or feasible action plans that contribute significantly to expanding extant knowledge or to addressing practical challenges.

(5) Autonomous Learning

Shows initiative and is proactive in addressing professional challenges. Acquires skills and knowledge as needed.



(6) Information Literacy

Obtains, critically evaluates, and makes effective use of a wide range of information relevant to human rights, incl. legal norms as well as qualitative and quantitative data. Makes effective use of communications technology in investigating human rights issues, in communicating conclusions and recommendations, and in advocating human rights.

(7) Professional Communication Skills

Communicates effectively and at appropriate levels with academic and professional audiences and the wider community through. Produces a major research report and makes its results available to the public through a conference presentation or professional publications.

Appendix 2: Course Descriptions

Required Courses

HPHR 519: Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms

Development of international and regional human rights treaties and other legal and political documents on human rights. Contents of human rights standards including: civil and political rights; social, economic and cultural rights; and rights to development and self-determination. Interpretation and applicability of rights stated in different human rights standards. International systems for the promotion and protection of human rights. Legal, political, and social mechanisms necessary for the realization of human rights at the international level. Roles of the United Nations, other inter-state bodies and institutions, non-governmental agencies, the media, and civil society with respect to human rights. Critical assessment of the mechanisms studied.

HPHR 520: Seminar in Human Rights

Most relevant and recent issues in the field of human rights and in students' common areas of interests. Current issues may focus on globalization, democratization and good governance, promotion of global free trade, development, poverty eradication, environmental conservation, forced migration, peace and conflict management, different forms of armed conflicts, business and human rights, etc. Impacts of these issues on violations or protection of human rights.

HPHR 504: Human Rights in Asia

Overview of human rights in Asia in their political, economic, social and cultural contexts. Major developments since World War II impacting on and influenced by human rights; in particular, colonial legacies and new forms of domination in Asian societies from the perspectives of human rights theory and practice. Human rights legislation and institutionalization of human rights in Asian countries. Establishment of a regional human rights mechanism.

HPHR 505: Research Methods in Human Rights

Overview of legal and empirical research methods in the field of human rights. Preparation of students for empirical master's theses. In particular, development of the ability to define research objectives, to ask research questions and to design research projects; training in sampling, data collection, and data analysis with a focus on qualitative research; evaluation of research proposals and research reports using common quality standards.



HPHR 506: Human Rights Theory

Introduction to major disciplinary approaches to human rights, in particular philosophical, social scientific and legal approaches. Discussion of the development of theories and concepts of human rights from western and non-western perspectives. Critical analysis of contemporary debates on human rights.

Elective Courses

HPHR 510: Practical Skills for Human Rights Protection

Introduction to and training in practical skills for the protection of human rights, including human rights monitoring, fact-finding, report writing, campaigning, and advocacy. Engagement with human rights bodies and platforms. Other skills relevant to human rights activities, negotiating, and lobbying. Introduction to peace and conflict management skills. Pragmatic skills in human rights project development, management and evaluation.

HPHR 521: Peace, Conflict Management, and Human Rights

Concepts of peace and conflict studies with emphases on conflicts in regional, national, and sub-national context, between state and non-state actors, between conservative and emancipatory political movements, over social development, over resources for public use at community and national level. International and domestic dimensions of conflicts. Understanding and applicability of conflict prevention, transformation, and resolution. Implications of conflict management for human rights protection.

HPHR 512: Human Rights in International Relations

Emergence and significance of human rights in international relations. Importance of international human rights norms in relation to state sovereignty. Ethical traditions in international relation based on morality, law and politics. Exploration of the interrelationship between human rights, international principles, and foreign policy. The use of human rights for economic and political purposes.

HPHR 522: Independent Study

Individual study of specific topics in human rights according to student's interests under the supervision of a faculty member. Research conduct of human rights from international, regional and national sources.

HPHR 523: Internship

Negotiation. Recommendation; development of attitude on human rights; finding the best solution to resolve human rights issues.

HPHR 518: Applied Research in Human Rights

Research of relevance to current understanding of human rights promotion and protection. Research through cooperation with human rights organizations. Practical and immediate concerns in human rights promotion and protection. Applying researching to address immediate human rights concerns. Human rights analysis of national policy and/or practice, and evaluation of programs and activities in human rights



Thesis

HPHR 698: Thesis

Requires prior development and successful defense of a research proposal. Conduct of a research project including literature review, data collection, data analysis, and the interpretation of results in the context of the extant scholarship. Submission and oral defense of a thesis reporting research results. Publication of research results in a scholarly journal article or in another academic format; alternatively, presentation at an academic conference. Implementation of the principles of research ethics, including monitoring for and response to ethical problems, throughout the course of the project, from the preparation of the research proposal through the conduct of the research and the dissemination of the research results.

Appendix 3: Tuition and Fees, Estimated Living Expenses, and Total Costs

Tuition and Fees

		Year 1			Year 2		Total
		Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer	Semester 1	Semester 2	
Tuition Fee*	THB	50,400	50,400	50,400	-	-	151,200
Education Services Fee	THB	5,000	4,300	-	5,000	4,300	18,600
Graduate Studies Fee	THB	750	750	-	750	750	3,000
Student Activities Fee	THB	250	250	-	250	250	1,000
Internet Fee	THB	300	300	-	300	300	1,200
Total	THB	56,700	56,000	50,400	6,300	5,600	175,000

* Tuition: Year 1, Semester 1 = 12 credits (coursework)
 Semester 2 = 12 credits (coursework)
 Summer = 12 credits (thesis) THB 4,200 per credit
 (Defense of thesis proposal and registration of thesis credits may be postponed to Year 2, Semester 1.)

Mandatory Health Insurance (Foreign Students Only)

		Year 1		Year 2		Total
		Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2	
Health Insurance	THB	3,500	THB -	THB 3,500	THB -	THB 7,000



Estimated Living Expenses

Item	Estimated Costs				
Accommodation	THB	5,000	to	8,000	per month
Utilities	THB			1,500	per month
Food/Meals	THB	6,000	to	9,000	per month
Books, Copies, Materials	THB			3,000	per month
Local Transportation	THB			2,000	per month
Total*	THB	17,500		23,500	per month
		(THB 38.25 / EUR)	= ca. EUR	460	to 615
		(THB 31.50 / USD)	= ca. USD	560	750

* Based on [figures published by Mahidol University International College](#).

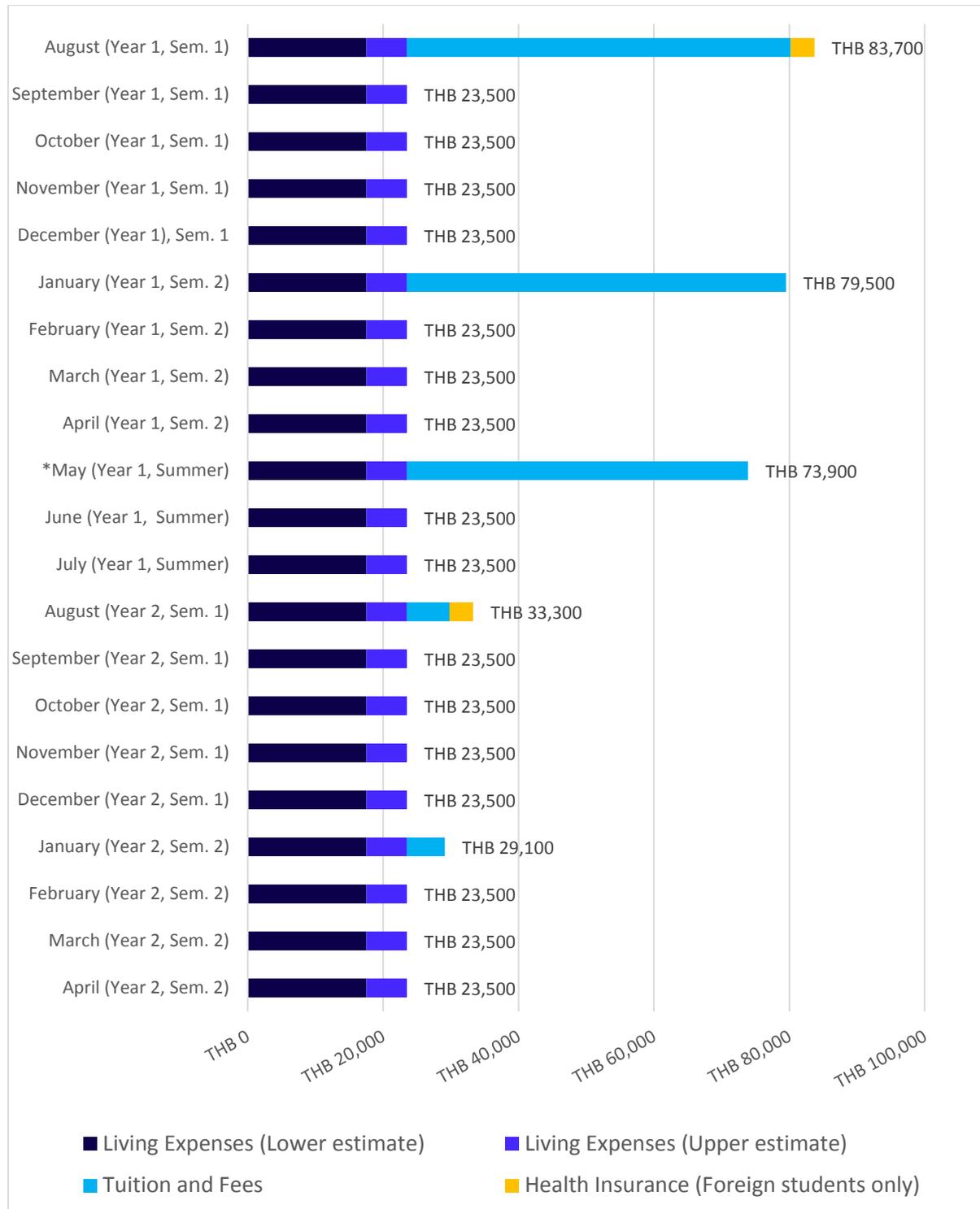
Estimated Total Costs of the Degree Incl. Health Insurance and Living Expenses (1 year, 9 months)

Item	Estimated Costs				
Tuition and Fees	THB			175,000	
Mandatory Health Insurance (Foreign students only)	THB			7,000	
Estimated Living Expenses (21 months)	THB	367,500	to	493,500	
Total*	THB	549,500		675,500	
		(THB 38.25 / EUR)	= ca. EUR	14,400	to 17,700
		(THB 31.50 / USD)	= ca. USD	17,400	21,400

* Approximate exchange rates as of 1 May 2018.



Timeline of Estimated Monthly Expenses



* Defense of thesis proposal and registration of thesis credits may be postponed to Year 2, Semester 1. Tuition for thesis then needs to be paid in August (Year 2, Semester 1) only.