

## Internship Abroad: Cultural Awareness and Experiences of Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management Students



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Internships are essential in hospitality and tourism management curricula of various institutions around the globe. On the other hand, international internship programs are significant in the development of future hospitality workforce and hoteliers. This study used narrative inquiry to delve into the experiences of hospitality management students having the internship in a foreign country. The interns who were trained for six months in three different establishments in Thailand were made to write their narrative. The rigor of the findings was established using data triangulation for credibility, data audit for dependability, purposive sampling for transferability and stepwise replication for confirmability. Using the method of Anney (2014), seven themes emerged. It highlighted the students' opportunity to acquire practical knowledge, skills, and desirable attitudes; their varied travel experiences; how they experienced acculturation in a foreign country; co-mingling of their emotions; the support they had from their family and friends; the values they have developed, their personal growth, and professionalism; and attributes and benefits of an intern. The findings of this study may be used to strengthen further the international internship program of the institution.

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