Northern Illinois University
Study Abroad Office

Summer Study Abroad in Laos (SAIL)

June 27- July 31, 2017

This program is coordinated and offered by the Center for Lao Studies (CLS) located in San Francisco, California. The program is sponsored by Northern Illinois University's Study Abroad Office (SAO) and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

CENTER FOR LAO STUDIES

PROGRAM DATES: **Program dates are: June 27 – July 31, 2017.**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: SAIL students will be participating in a Lao language program tailored specifically to the group's needs at one of the country's most acclaimed, and popular, language institutions – the Lao-American College. SAIL participants spend three to four hours a day in classroom training and can pair up with Lao students to further improve their speaking and listening comprehension. Classroom time is split between language lessons and a newly updated, comprehensive Lao History and Culture course taught by foreign and local experts. Weekend tours and excursions to many of Laos' most important sites and destinations are included as part of your cultural immersion experience and are a highlight of the program.

PROGRAM LOCATION: Located in the city's capital, Vientiane, Lao-American College offers a unique instructional and service program and is the cornerstone of the program. Intensive courses, combined with individual language tutorials, diversified field trips, access to local University students, modern facilities, and an experienced on-site staff, make Lao-American an incredible place to study Lao and learn cross-cultural skills.

PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive 10 semester hours of undergraduate credit in the following NIU courses.

LANGUAGE COURSE	**5 semester hours**
Based on the language placement test, SAIL students are enrolled in beginning, intermediate, or advanced/heritage class. The title of the INTL courses is *Study Abroad Programs.* INTL 101 – Beginning INTL 201 – Intermediate INTL 301 – Advanced/Heritage	

HISTORY AND CULTURE COURSE	**5 semester hours**
IDSP 301 – *Study Abroad Programs*	

RETURNING SAIL STUDENTS: Please notify the NIU Study Abroad Office if participating in the SAIL program for a second time as course credit will be different.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES: The program is open to students who meet the NIU general admission requirements

Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic or disciplinary probation are not eligible to participate in study abroad programs. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU undergraduate or graduate admission and course requirements.**

NIU students participating in the program cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Office of Student Conduct, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program**.**

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office (SAO). Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have **not** previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not **currently** enrolled at NIU, should ask the Registrar at their institution to forward an official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the Study Abroad Office.

APPLICATION: Click Study Abroad in Laos or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website https://niu.studioabroad.com (and search for "Study Abroad in Laos" program) to begin the online application process for this program. The webpage provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program.

Please note that at the time of application, Non-NIU applicants will be expected to submit a Signature Verification Form and copy of their state issued ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found at https://niu.studioabroad.com website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or niuabroad@niu.edu.

$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: A $200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The $200 is broken down into $100 for the non-refundable application fee and $100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total

balance of the program cost. The $100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the deadline.

The $200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students' NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of $200 to NIU. More detailed instructions regarding the application fee/deposit can be found on the program application website.

IMPORTANT – All applications will be categorized as "Pending – No Deposit" until the $200 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the $200 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the $200 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days applications without a deposit will be changed to inactive.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 3, 2017.



PASSPORT: --IMPORTANT-- U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas. Information on acquiring a U.S. passport is available at the U.S. State Department's website: https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.



PASSPORT, VISA AND ISIC PHOTOS: You may have your passport photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are $5.00 for two photos. Photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. We accept exact cash, personal check or we can charge it to your bursar account. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD (ISIC): The ISIC card is provided as part of the program cost. The I.D. card can provide discount on international airfare and other travel. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.



The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

NIU PROGRAM COST: $1,035

Students will be required to submit the $200 deposit to NIU and the remaining $835 to the Center for Lao Studies.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM: Applicants withdrawing after application will be held responsible for a $100 application fee. Students withdrawing after April 3, 2017 will be held responsible for an additional $100 deposit.

CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM: The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Laos, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Laos, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!