

The Thai Cooking Company® Berlin GmbH

Young Thai Professionals Scholarship Program (YTPSP) Project proposal July 11, 2000

The Thai Cooking Company Berlin (TCCB) plans to start a scholarship program that provides young Thai professionals an opportunity to gain international work experience at places of fine cuisine in the German capital Berlin. This post-graduate program should be implemented in co-operation with the *Department of Vocational Education (DOVE)* of the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Background

The Thai Cooking Company Berlin was founded in 1992. The restaurants belonging to the Thai Cooking Company enjoy an extraordinary reputation as places of fine cuisine in Berlin. At the moment four restaurants are operating in Berlin, and in August 2000 another one will be opened at Pariser Platz, which is a prime location in heart of the German capital. The company employs about 50 people. The cooks are all Thais, in the service staff there are mainly Thais and Laotians. The founder, Mr. Frankenstein, manages the TCCB. The chief accountant and a senior advisor (trainer) are Germans.

The restaurants of TCCB are mainly catering for the upper end of the market, they enjoy a first-class reputation for business dining in Berlin and are also regarded as places which represent Thai culture and style of living (see a letter from the Royal Thai Embassy Berlin July 03, 2000).

Objective and target group

The objective of this post-graduate program is to improve the occupational competence of young Thai graduates of Diploma of Vocational Education (PorWorSor) through international work experience. The upgrading of skills and knowledge will happen in a challenging work situation in order to strengthen the ability to master professional tasks. Therefore, the Thai graduates should have a sound vocational basis and a good potential for upgrading. This program is the human resource development in the field of international tourism and will empower the target group to become good professionals.

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Conditions and guidelines

The scholarship is scheduled for a period of 12-months with an optional extension of 6 additional months.

The scholarships of the TCCB shall be granted to young Thai professionals who have just graduated from Diploma of Vocational Education (PorWorSor) in a vocational field relevant for restaurant or hotel business. The DOVE and Mr. Frankenstein will make a common decision on the selection of recipients of the scholarship.

The first group should consist of three cooks and three front service staff.

The Thai Cooking Company provides the following contributions:

- Free air ticket (roundtrip)
- Free accommodation
- Free food
- Free health coverage
- A monthly Berlin Free Pass for public transportation worth DM 120/month
- A German language course and
- A monthly pocket money which starts from 500 DM and will reach 600 to 700 DM according to performance

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Structure of program

The program starts with a special German language course (six weeks, full time). The practical training begins after this course and is accompanied by language training (two half days per week) and theoretical instruction (one day per week), which will include inter-cultural training and visits to other first-class hotels and restaurants. After six months TCCB and DOVE will conduct an evaluation of the program. To this end two representatives of DOVE shall come to Berlin for one week, the costs will be borne by TCCB.

Benefits for the target group

- International work experience
- Language knowledge
- Intercultural knowledge, especially about first-class restaurants guests and potential Thailand tourists
- Improved occupational competence
- Better chances in Thailand's labour market

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Project implementation

TCCB and DOVE will agree upon basic principles and a procedure for the implementation of the scholarship program. According to this agreement DOVE will select a first group of suitable candidates. The final selection of recipients of the scholarship will be carried out in cooperation between DOVE and TCCB. A joint evaluation after six months will provide an orientation for the further development of the program. From April 2001 on two groups of should be selected for the program each year.

Berlin/Bangkok, July 11, 2000