

THAI EXCHANGE PROPOSAL

“You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved.” -Ansel Adams

This quote shapes my understanding of photography and how I can grow as a photographer. My photography is my “way of seeing”. My knowledge, experiences, culture and the very essence of me is expressed through my photographs. What I love about this quote is, as each day passes, I can shape my own photography by experiencing life, whether or not it relates to photography. This Exchange trip is something I feel will heighten my experience and broaden my knowledge, allowing me to see the world differently and I hope it will help me to evolve my photography.

I love to travel, exploration and adventure captivates me. I am naturally sociable and I am fascinated by people and their stories, as a result I am interested in documentary/reportage style images and would love to have the chance to explore some of the hidden narratives in Thailand. At this stage my only aim would be to try and soak in as much of Thailand and express it creatively. I plan to take photographs, snippets of sound, moving image, Time-lapses and even write poetry from this experience.

In the past I have struggled with photographing people on the street, it can be daunting but, through constant practise, I feel more confident in my approach. A turning point for me was researching street photographers and even getting advise from Vanley Burke himself. Being in a foreign environment will be even more challenging but I feel it is essential for me to progress.

I really look forward to studying in Thailand and collaborating with Thai students. I hope to be highly inspired through sharing ideas, working together and understanding each other. I am eager to learn in a different way and hope that it will enhance my craft.

Being a mature student I tend to see the course differently and I try to grab every opportunity I can to express my creativity and progress as a visual communicator. In the past I have not always been so driven and I feel my past experiences allow me to appreciate what I have and to understand the importance of being dedicated to my field. I feel that this definitely comes across in my studies as I was voted student Rep for my group, and was given an opportunity in the summer holidays to attend the Vanley Burke

Masterclass (via a grant through the university). I also recently won best student prize at the Frame15 competition/exhibit.

To sum up, the Thai exchange trip would allow me to learn about a different culture and experience the world in a different way. It will be challenging as I will be out of my comfort zone, but ultimately it will help to shape me and progress as a photographer.