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PANYATHIP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
The British International School in Laos

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Become the Best that You can Be

Teaching at Panyathip

The British International School

in Laos

A Guide for those thinking of applying to teach at
Panyathip International School in Laos



Teaching at Panyathip - The British International School in Laos

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Panyathip – The British International School in Laos. The information in this handbook is designed to give you a flavour of what to expect both in school and Laos so that you know what you are applying for.



Our Founder Ms Pathana Panyathip with HSH Prince Alfred of Liechtenstein when he visited the Primary Campus in 2018.

ABOUT PANYATHIP : Our History

Panyathip International School educates children from Early Years to Year 13 in five different campuses in Laos.

In 2001, Pathana Panyathip and Damien Lim decided to build a school for Lao nationals. Our founders wanted the students to experience an education with international standards, upholding the Lao values and cultures. In its first year, the school offered Kindergarten to Grade 3 with a total of 38 students and 12 teachers.

From these humble beginnings, the school has undergone a remarkable transformation. Since the number of students (including foreign students) has grown rapidly, the school has moved twice from the first campus in Naxay Village, Saysettha District to the present site in Sapanthong Neua, Sisattanak District. Also, to accommodate the demands for our Kindergarten School, a separate campus in Sapanthong Tai, Sisattanak District was also built.

In 2015 Panyathip opened another new purpose-built campus in Savannakhet in order to assist the development of the province by providing high quality British international education for locals and expats. Since opening the Savannakhet school has grown and in 2018/2019 offers classes up to Year 10.

In 2017 a second Kindergarten was opened in Nonsavanh village and in 2018 will begin its primary classes.

In 2018 a purpose built Primary School close to the Kindergarten was opened making the school unique in Laos by providing purpose-built facilities for all three major phases of learning.

In 2018-2020 We became part of FOBISIA (Federation of British International Schools in Asia) and COBIS (the Council of British International Schools) - both organisations recognising our desire to move forward, develop and be amongst the best.

Although the majority (around 70%) of our students are Lao nationals, as the school's history shows, with all the developments that take place, Panyathip is rightly proud of being the **British International School in Laos** as it seeks to achieve its Vision of *Become the Best that You can Be*.



Secondary School Student Council (2018/2019)

OUR GUIDING STATEMENTS

“BECOME THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE”

- PIS is an international school committed to high standards. We aim to educate and develop future leaders and citizens equipped with global competency.
- PIS aims to create a community of students who achieve academic excellence and develop personal growth through a balance of moral values, social responsibility, gender equality and environmental awareness.
- PIS celebrates its diverse community through the delivery of an International as well as a Lao curriculum.
- PIS recognises that every individual has a strength and is ambitious for all our students, as well as staff, in achieving their potential through creating a community that is happy and caring.

WE AIM TO

- To develop students who can think independently and critically, operate effectively and adapt successfully to a continually changing world.
- To provide a caring and socially responsible learning environment so that students develop mentally into well-rounded adult citizens of the wider societies of both Laos and the world.
- To interact conscientiously and caringly with parents and guardians and at a professional level with relevant government bodies and overseas organizations concerning the welfare, development and education of the students.
- To remain receptive to new developments, methods, techniques and knowledge in education and learning in order to maintain high standards of professionalism in teaching and educational management.
- To provide a quality English medium education for both Lao and foreign nationals that is relevant to the needs of those who will pursue college and university level studies or work abroad.
- To provide a high standard of education in Lao for Lao nationals and others who wish also to study through the medium of the Lao language.

STAFF & STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO

- Value the richness of Lao culture
- Value their or others' cultures by showing respect for each other
- Work as individuals or as part of a team
- Make, and act upon, informed choices concerning moral, ethical and aesthetic issues
- Develop lively and positive inquiring minds
- Strive for excellence at all times
- Take pride in their own achievements and in the success of others
- Lead a balanced and thoughtful life

OUR CAMPUSES

The School campuses comprise purpose-built facilities in age-appropriate designs. There are four campuses in Vientiane (the capital of Laos) and one in the second city, Savannakhet. In addition to light and bright classrooms, typical facilities in our campuses will include specialist rooms for Art, ICT, Music and Chinese, as well as a libraries.

Canteens provide for school lunch and snack times, and two of our campuses have coffee shops either inside the campus or just outside the school gates.



Lunchtime impromptu concert in the Secondary School

Depending on the campus sports facilities include all-weather football pitches, 25 metre swimming pools, covered multi-purpose basketball courts.



Secondary girls perform traditional Lao Dance



HE The British Ambassador signs PIS Savannakhet's Visitors' Book



Primary School Morning Assembly



Swimming is an integral part of the School Curriculum - here in the Primary School's 25m pool

OUR CURRICULUM

As the British International School in Laos, our curriculum is, therefore, based on the National Curriculum of England. In the Early Years and Primary School we also deliver the IEYC (the International Early Years Curriculum) and the IPC (International Primary Curriculum). In Secondary our students work towards Cambridge checkpoint and IGCSE. Assessment tools include online tests by GL Assessments.

It is our goal to deliver an academic programme to both Lao and International students so that when they have completed their education at Panyathip they should be able to attend other schools or universities anywhere in the world.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our philosophy is that we want to help our teachers to become better teachers. To this end there is a strong focus, within our means, on Professional Development. There are increasing opportunities for external training, the sharing of good practice, online support for our staff, in line with our strategic plan and aims.

OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Our community is truly international in that staff come from all over the world, as do many of our students. There is a strong collegial feel on each campus and we aim to keep classes small so that everyone is seen as an individual. By and large our students are keen to learn and teachers are able to teach and focus on learning rather than have to maintain discipline.

The majority of our students are second language English learners and so it is important that our teachers are able to differentiate according to needs and recognise that English can sometimes be a barrier to learning in the early days of a students' time at the school.



The covered court (which each campus has) provides for sport and much more

LIVING AND WORKING IN LAOS

Laos is not just for the adventurous nature lovers because there are numerous cultural opportunities in what is generally considered to be a safe country. However, it must always be remembered that Laos is a developing country so things you take for granted in more developed locations may not be so easy to come by in Laos. Patience and a good sense of humour are prerequisites - but the professional and personal rewards of working here outweigh any frustrations which may be caused by temporary difficulties such as the internet not working or the power going off.



Vientiane is the capital of Laos which is separated from Thailand by the mighty Mekong River. The border with Thailand is not far over the 'Friendship Bridge' where there are further amenities.

Vientiane itself seems more like a large town rather than the seat of government. It is safe and the people are friendly. There are cafes and restaurants and a range of different cultural opportunities available in the city or nearby.

The airport provides easy access to neighbouring countries and within Laos, for example, the UNESCO World Heritage destination of Luang Prabang is less than an hour away by plane. (The really adventurous can travel there by road or river - though both take a little longer).

Savannakhet - the second city is even quieter. Also separated from Thailand by the Mekong, the Friendship Bridge across the river is only five minutes from our campus. The city contains many restaurants and cafes, and the shops provide all the basic needs.

There are daily direct flights to Vientiane but also regular flights to Pakse and Bangkok from Savannakhet Airport.

Throughout Laos there are buses and minivans which travel just about everywhere, and it is possible to reach our neighbours - Thailand, Vietnam, China and Cambodia - by road in most cases --- though it is always advisable to check on the visa situation since some countries place restrictions on land crossings which do not apply for air arrivals.



TEACHER PROFILE

Panyathip International School - The British International School in Laos - is widely regarded as an ambitious school; ambitious for its students and its staff as it develops and grows. The School's Vision "Become the Best that You can Be" is its guiding principle and recent developments have shown what that means in practical ways.

We are looking for teachers who will 'buy-into' our vision, and so help encourage our students and our community to be amongst the best.

Whilst the ideal candidates will have appropriate experience we also recognise that some excellent practitioners may not yet have obtained that. So, our ideal candidates will be those who have these qualities :

Qualities	Essential	Desirable
Confident and comfortable teaching in the age-range for which you have applied	✓	
Experience of the age-range or subject(s) for which you are applying		✓
Knowledge of the curriculum and/or subjects for which you are applying - OR - a willingness to learn	✓	
An understanding of differentiation and the needs of those for whom English is a second language		✓
Flexible in your approach to students, colleagues and both life and work in Laos	✓	
A passion for teaching - and demonstrable experience of inspiring young people	✓	
An excellent standard of spoken and written English	✓	
Being a team player	✓	
Being creative in your approach to your students - an ability to 'think out of the box'.		✓
Someone who is professional, understands that there is a job to be done and who will put students first	✓	
A willingness to contribute to life outside the classroom by contributing to extra-curricular programmes and who will		✓

seek to provide opportunities to enrich the life of the school		
A good sense of humour and a high degree of patience		✓

For the right candidates, the chance to work at Panyathip is a wonderful opportunity in which to grow professionally, and to enjoy living in a fascinating part of the world.



REMUNERATION

Successful candidates receive a package which includes a tax-paid salary (paid in dollars and kip - the local currency) travel and relocation allowance, daily lunch, housing allowance and hospitalisation insurance. We pay all visa and work permit costs, of course. Our package allows you to live well in Laos and travel or save - depending on your lifestyle.

Specific details of the package on offer will be outlined to the short-listed candidates during interview, along with more information about the cost of living and the life-style you can expect .



CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

Panyathip is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and other third parties to share this commitment. Safer recruitment practices and pre-employment background checks will be undertaken before any appointment is confirmed. All teachers appointed to Panyathip - The British International School in Laos, are required to provide criminal records checks and the names and contact details of at least two professional referees, one of whom will normally be the applicants' current or most recent employer.

Further details will be provided during interview.



WHAT OUR NEW TEACHERS TELL US

In September 2018, in an online anonymous survey, we asked our new recruits what they thought about our recruitment practices. Here are some of their responses in some key areas :

Why did you apply to Panyathip ?

- ... It is clear that the school cares for my well-being and they appreciate my time and dedication, and any employer that expresses gratitude for your hard work is one worth working for...
- I have a good feeling about the opportunity.
- One thing why I accepted the job is because the school vision is anchored in my philosophy, be the best version of myself or making the students the best person they can be
- Exciting teaching experience, travelling abroad and experiencing a variety of cultures.
- I wanted to move to Asia and the interview process was easy and fast. I don't like waiting for weeks to know if I've been selected or not

Did you feel that the interview process, including the description of your job, benefits and other matters (as well as any answers to your questions) fairly reflected what you found to be the case ? If no, please comment

Yes	No
100%	0

Were you satisfied with your arrival experience – did you feel welcomed and supported? If not please suggest how we could improve the process.

Yes	No
100%	0

Now that you are at school do you feel that you know who you can go to if there are any matters/issues that you need assistance with ? NB If you answer 'No' - we recommend you speak to one of the Senior Leaders in confidence.

Yes	No
100%	0



COST OF LIVING

<https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Vientiane>

The cost of living index by Numbeo is a useful benchmark though not always as accurate as we would like. For example, McDonalds, KFC and other such restaurants do not exist in Laos and prices are nearly always negotiable. Furthermore, depending

on your accommodation choice it is possible to get inclusive rents which includes just about everything with the exception of electricity included.

This information from **NUMBEO** is based on **December 2019**.

Restaurants

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	3.00 \$
Meal for 2 People, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	18.04 \$
McMeal at McDonalds (or Equivalent Combo Meal)	5.00 \$
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)	1.10 \$
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	2.50 \$
Cappuccino (regular)	2.44 \$
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	0.90 \$
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	0.85 \$

Markets

[\[Edit \]](#)

Milk (regular), (1 liter)	2.88 \$
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	2.01 \$
Rice (white), (1kg)	1.41 \$
Eggs (regular) (12)	1.45 \$
Local Cheese (1kg)	35.99 \$
Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)	3.20 \$
Beef Round (1kg) (or Equivalent Back Leg Red Meat)	12.35 \$
Apples (1kg)	5.00 \$
Banana (1kg)	1.00 \$
Oranges (1kg)	2.00 \$
Tomato (1kg)	1.00 \$
Potato (1kg)	1.50 \$
Onion (1kg)	1.20 \$
Lettuce (1 head)	0.50 \$
Water (1.5 liter bottle)	0.60 \$
Bottle of Wine (Mid-Range)	13.50 \$
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter bottle)	0.99 \$

Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	2.90 \$
Cigarettes 20 Pack (Marlboro)	3.23 \$
Transportation	
One-way Ticket (Local Transport)	0.68 \$
Monthly Pass (Regular Price)	4.50 \$
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	2.16 \$
Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff)	3.65 \$
Taxi 1hour Waiting (Normal Tariff)	4.75 \$
Gasoline (1 liter)	1.03 \$
Volkswagen Golf 1.4 90 KW Trendline (Or Equivalent New Car)	28,000.00 \$
Toyota Corolla 1.6l 97kW Comfort (Or Equivalent New Car)	32,000.00 \$
Utilities (Monthly)	[Edit]
Basic (Electricity, Heating, Cooling, Water, Garbage) for 85m2 Apartment	80.55 \$
1 min. of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local (No Discounts or Plans)	0.13 \$

FURTHER INFORMATION

Accompanying this Handbook is a 'Teaching Applicants' Pack' - which includes some further information about our appointment process and copies of forms which you will need to complete before any appointment is confirmed.

You can find out more about the schools on our website : www.pislao.com

Have a look at our latest video so you can get an idea of what Panyathip is all about at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ctOxIlanmU>.

Also see us on Facebook :

PISVTE (Primary School)

PISsecondary (Secondary School)

Panyathipkindergarten (Early Years)

PISVTENonsavanh (our campus in the suburbs)

pissavannakhet (our campus in Savannakhet, in the south)