

MSc Business Analytics and Digital Transformation



Discovering Life at AIT: A Glimpse Through Nika's Eyes

Since the beginning of August this year, I have had the pleasure of moving into one of Thailand's best university campuses, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). The campus is filled with beautiful green spaces that are perfect for bike rides and peaceful walks. I love spotting local wildlife, such as fish and monitor lizards in the pond and playful squirrels climbing the trees. It's truly a great place to relax or study.

For sports lovers, AIT has it all—there's a swimming pool, a golf course, tennis courts, and a football field, along with plenty of exercise equipment for unwinding after classes. There's always something interesting happening on campus, providing opportunities to have fun, share cultures, and network with fellow students. I recently attended a cultural event where I even had the chance to perform! The diverse community here is amazing; I've met people from all over the world and enjoyed delicious food, ranging from local Thai dishes to international flavors. Life at AIT is exciting, and I can't wait for more adventures in the year ahead!

Contributor: Rothnika Chhunchhom

Nika is currently completing a two-year program in BADT (August 2024 intake). Feel free to connect with her at [st125091@ait.asia] if you also want to explore the Main Campus.

Leadership: Lessons Beyond the Spotlight

"You have the right to perform your duty, but not to the fruits of your actions. Do not let the results of your work be your motive, and do not be attached to inaction." This verse from the Bhagavad Gita highlights the importance of selfless action, encouraging individuals to focus on their responsibilities without being driven by the desire for rewards while also avoiding inaction. This philosophy deeply resonates with my journey in student leadership during my undergraduate studies. Although I wasn't familiar with this verse at the time, I realized later how much it aligned with my mindset. My leadership journey began simply with joy in taking initiative, but over time, I realized its broader significance. Leadership, often perceived as an innate gift, is fundamentally a skill that can be cultivated, making student years an ideal time to develop it. Being selected as the co-chair of the SOM Student Ambassadors (SSA) at AIT is both an honor and a responsibility. This milestone provides an opportunity to represent a vibrant community of future business leaders while contributing to its growth and success.

While the activities we participate in as student leaders are undoubtedly something great to put into our CVs and LinkedIn profiles, their true value lies far deeper. It lies in the experiences that foster essential life skills, develop personality, strengthen character, and prepare individuals for future challenges. Especially in a management school, leadership roles offer a unique blend of practical application, professional networking, and skill development in a structured environment. Student leadership represents a crucial pathway for personal and professional development. The journey of leadership is ongoing, and each step taken with genuine passion and commitment moves us closer to becoming the leaders our future demands: leaders who act with purpose, serve with dedication, and lead with wisdom.



Contributor: Sachhyam Lal Shrestha

Sachhyam is currently completing a two-year program in BADT (August 2024 intake). If you are keen to know more about the activities of SSA, you can reach out to him in his email. [st125094@ait.asia].



Contributor: Kaotip Tantivaravong

Kaotip is currently completing a two-year program in BADT (August 2024 intake). For tips on how to incorporate ChatGPT into academic studies feel free to connect with her at her email: [st124684@ait.asia].

ChatGPT: The Unofficial Study Buddy Transforming Learning



Imagine a study partner who's always available, never gets tired, and ready to brainstorm or refine ideas at a moment's notice. That's exactly what ChatGPT has become for students—a true game-changer in the academic journey.

From breaking down complex concepts in business analytics to exploring innovative strategies or preparing impactful presentations, this AI tool seamlessly blended into daily routines. It's not just about finding answers but about unlocking creativity, enhancing problem-solving skills, and seeing new perspectives that might otherwise be missed.

This tech-driven approach transforms studying from a mundane task into an adventurous exploration of ideas. And let's face it—having a study buddy that never judges repeated questions is a bonus!

ChatGPT isn't just a tool; it's becoming a trusted companion on the path to mastering knowledge and skills. Could this be the future of learning? Absolutely!

Simple yet Unique: The key to Powerful Presentations

Last September, a minor course titled "Storytelling Using Data" by Prof. Mario De Pinto offered a wonderful and insightful experience, introducing specific techniques for impactful presentations. The following tips and tricks are based on valuable experiences and learnings from the course.

Essentials for Powerful Presentations

Be Consistent, Be Simple, Be Clear, Be Specific, and Be Concise.

Whether using Canva, Google Slides, or Microsoft PowerPoint, the following tips can elevate any presentation:

- **Font Type, Size, and Color:** Don't play around different types of Fonts & the sizes on your slides. Avoid using various font styles and sizes on your slides. Ensure consistency in the title, subtitle, and main content design.
- **Mood and Tone of the Slide:** Is the presentation for Tiffany & Co.? Ensure the background colors and visual elements are consistent with the brand's identity. Avoid using bold red or funky fonts for a brand like Tiffany & Co.
- **Simplicity:** A simple design helps the audience retain information more effectively. Aim for a clean and unique look that makes the presentation memorable.
- **Clarity:** Be clear about the message of each slide. Think about your audience. What are you explaining? Ask yourself first!
- **Try to be Specific & Precise.** One Impactful statement on the slide provides both clarity & detailed direction. Adding a compelling visual or even a relevant meme can reinforce the message and engage the audience.
- **Be Concise:** Don't be wordy, visual-overhaul. On a slide, you can just type "I love you", NOT "I am deeply falling in love with you because you are the apple of my eye". audience will not remember long long explanations.



Contributor: Yamin Thet Wai

Yamin is completing her degree with Minor in Marketing. If you need more tips in creating a powerful presentations, you can connect with her email: [st124195@ait.asia].

Welcome to the International Finance Program at the Asian Institute of Technology. Whether you are beginning your studies or building on your expertise, you've chosen a field that plays a critical role in driving economic development and fostering progress. Finance drives innovation, supports infrastructure growth, and enables sustainable development. It creates opportunities to uplift communities, reduce inequality, and transform economies.

Effective business decisions require more than instinct—they depend on a clear grasp of financial principles and the ability to evaluate and manage risks and opportunities. Our program is designed to provide you with these critical tools, along with practical insights to address real-world challenges. I look forward to working with you as you develop the skills and knowledge to tackle global challenges and shape the future.

Dr. Joseph Jerome French

Faculty Director, International Finance

MSc International Finance

ABOUT THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Joseph J. French (Joe) is an Associate Professor at the AIT School of Management. Before joining AIT, Joe held the position of Full Professor of Finance at the Monfort College of Business at the University of Northern Colorado. Throughout his 16-year tenure in Colorado, he assumed various roles, including the Department Chair of Finance and the Tointon Chair of Research. Joe holds a PhD in financial economics from the University of New Orleans and an MBA from Clemson University. His research interests are in the areas of international finance, corporate finance, and developmental economics, with publications in leading academic journals such as the Journal of Empirical Finance, Journal of Financial Services Research, Emerging Markets Review, and International Review of Financial Analysis, among others. Joe has had the opportunity to conduct research and teach worldwide. He is currently an Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and has been a visiting professor at universities throughout the world including: Hitotsubashi University, Copenhagen Business School, Shanghai International Studies, University of Trieste, among several others.



INSIGHTFUL PUBLICATIONS

French, J.J., Shin., S., Gurdgiev, G. & Naka., A. (2024), Uncertainty and international fund flows: A cross-country analysis, International Journal of Financial Analysis, Vol. 94 (ABDC=A, ABS=3, Q1)
<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=GslcdYMAAAAJ&hl=en>

Fintechs: A new paradigm of growth

<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/financial-services/our-insights/fintechs-a-new-paradigm-of-growth>

Are you ready? Four major Fintech trends

<https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/blog/4-major-fintech-trends-for-2025/>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Gearing Up for Success: My RMA SV Internship Experience

My internship at RMA Special Vehicles (RMA SV) offered invaluable insights into the automotive industry. I focused on market research, supporting the special vehicles team, and learning professional business practices, including ethical conduct and teamwork.

One key lesson was the importance of collaboration and communication in ensuring smooth business operations. Observing how different divisions work together provided a holistic understanding of the industry and its dynamic nature.

For future interns, I advise finding opportunities that match your strengths and interests. Build connections and be prepared to seize the right moment. This experience has been a pivotal step in my career journey.



Anunaya Prabhav Shahi (AP)
January 2023 intake, MSc BADT

Next term preview:

- Holiday Break – December 24 , 2024 – January 1, 2025
- Registration for January 2025 term:
 - Starts – Monday, January 6
 - Ends – Friday, January 17
- Classes Begin
 - Monday, January 7



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**



If you'd like to be part of our next bulletin, we're welcoming contributions!

For BADT, please email Ms. Inah at inah@ait.asia.

and for IF, email Ms. Marianne at marianmontecillo@ait.asia.

We look forward to your insights!