



PAYAP UNIVERSITY MA IN LINGUISTICS PROGRAM - SCHOLARSHIPS Thailand

SUMMER 2024 UPDATE

Thank you for helping scholarship students pursue linguistics studies at Payap University through your gifts. Payap students smile during a field trip to a Lahu language school, where literacy programming is helping children learn to read in their mother tongue.

Sensitive information: Please do not copy, post or distribute. * Pseudonyms used.



STORIES OF IMPACT

Language, identity and calling

Payap University's linguistics program offers crucial training in the fields of Bible translation, language development and literacy work. Courses also create a space for students to discern God's calling for their lives. This has been true for IngRaw, a young woman and current student.

Thanks to your support, IngRaw received a scholarship that enabled her to pursue graduate studies at Payap University over the past two years. To IngRaw, Payap has played a key role in her vocational discernment and spiritual journey. Since starting her studies, IngRaw has discovered her passion for language development. She came to realize the spiritual significance of this field. She shares:

"I have learned that language development is a bridge to proclaiming the gospel to local people, which is effective and gentle. Language is one of the clearest ways of communicating what God has given to humankind.

"As I studied for my Master's degree at Payap, I started to appreciate the beauty of language groups and the identity markers of different ethnic groups. I also have learned [that] language development will help minority language groups recognize God's love and care for them.

"The mission I intend to do after I graduate is to help these people recognize their identity, and see their true worth [in] Jesus Christ. As Isaiah 42:1 says: 'Here is the servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.'"

What a gift to witness IngRaw discover the eternal impact of language development, and her growing desire to serve God through language work. Hers is but one testimony of Payap University students getting equipped to join the Bible translation movement in Southeast Asia—and around the world.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Past students are doing amazing things for God's Kingdom! Saro, a Payap graduate and past scholarship student, was commissioned by her church and sent to serve in a neighbouring sensitive location. She is currently focusing on learning the local language before Bible translation work can begin!
- 28 students were enrolled in the MA in Linguistics program. Join us in celebrating that an increasing number of nationals from Thailand, the Kinsha* Region, and three other restricted-access Southeast Asian countries are represented. Nearly all of these students are hoping to advance language development and Bible translation in their home countries.
- 11 students participated in the linguistic certificate courses.
- Two students defend their Independent Study (IS) project. This capstone project is the final requirement before graduation. Students Aila* and Ky* successfully defended their projects.
- Offered 9 courses last semester and 8 this semester. It is encouraging to see such high demand for classes.
- Organized a class field trip to the Lahu language school. The idea was to expose Payap students to literacy programming in a mother-tongue-based school.
- Mobilized individuals from three different language groups to pursue language development. The last three Payap Linguistics MA program graduates have decided to pursue language development work in their respective language groups.
- Held a Christmas outreach event. Students went caroling in the community, and were able to share the good news of Christmas with many non-believers.
- Continued to support scholarship students:
- All five scholarship applicants took the International English Language Testing System test. A certain level of English language proficiency can be helpful for work in missions, Bible translation and language work.
- Nora*, Martha*, and Karis* all successfully completed and passed last semester's classes.
- Maia* and IngRaw both completed their final third-semester classes. Both are beginning their final IS projects.



UPCOMING GOALS

- Support scholarship students in their studies, and walk alongside them as they discern where God is leading them.
 - Maia* will take an academic writing course and begin her IS project.
 - Nora*, Martha* and Karis* will continue to fulfill their different course requirements in different subjects.
 - Theo* will continue English training in preparation for the MA Linguistics program.
 - IngRaw will finalize her choice of topic for her IS project and begin work on the project. At this stage, she is leaning towards pre-literacy activities to increase awareness of phonology in minority language communities.
- Welcome incoming summer students and offer a new course in the summer session.
- Review scholarship applications for the next school year.
- Resource students approaching the end of their studies as they determine next steps following their studies.



PRAY WITH US

- For the perseverance, diligence and success of Payap University scholarship students. May God grant them physical and mental health as they move forward.
- For peace in the neighbouring Kinsha* region. Many Payap University students, including Martha*, come from this area, and are deeply concerned about the welfare and safety of their families. We pray for the end of political instability in the name of Jesus.
- That God would raise up more leaders in Southeast Asia for Bible translation and language work. May He lead the right students to Payap University and scholarship opportunities.
- For motivation and peace for students like Karis* and IngRaw who are beginning or completing their IS projects.