GUIDE TO Au BANGNA
The Cathedral of Learning
what
Assumption University, History

Au was initially originated from Assumption Commercial College in 1969 as an autonomous higher education institution under the name of Assumption School of Business. In 1972, with the approval of the Ministry of Education, it was officially established as Assumption Business Administration College or ABAC. In May 1975, it was accredited by the Ministry of University Affairs. In 1990, it was granted new status as Assumption University by the Ministry of University Affairs. The university is a not-for-profit institution administered by the Brothers of St. Gabriel, a worldwide Catholic religious order founded in France in 1705 by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. The congregation has been operating many educational institutions in Thailand since 1901.
"Education is an unending process of completion and learning."
16 The Seat of Wisdom (Sede Sapientiae)
17 The Cathedral of Learning
Cathedral Main Entrance
Hall of Fame
The Great Hall
The Library
Shopping Plaza
18 Sala Thai
19 Boulevard des Nations
20 The Museum

21 The Residential Halls
22 King David
23 King Solomon
24 Queen of Sheba

Assumption University Map

Detailed Map to Au Bangna Campus
01

Thawip Withaya Bridge

This bridge is the first threshold to the university compound, with the Cathedral of Learning as its landmark. Crossing over it, one sees a modern educational institution nestled in a beautiful landscape. A red Thai pavilion, embellished with mirrors and gilded ornaments, dominates the academic loop like a sparkling diamond atop a ring. It signifies Thai identity amid international aspects. This stone bridge with gravel paths on each side is the biggest bridge in the university. The four stone posts on either side are decorated with sculptured lion's heads symbolic of power, because knowledge is power.
"Au" the abbreviation of Assumption University coincides with the chemical term “Aurum”, which means “gold.” Gold has been a symbol of goodness and value for ages. The big golden rock, closest to the Taweepwithaya Bridge, is to remind students every morning when they arrive that when they graduate from Au they are expected to be as good as gold. The chemistry in the golden rock is an element that forms the virtuous composition of the atmosphere. For most students their student life will end after graduation and they will enter a new phase of life. Whatever career or path in life they choose, goodness will be an ingredient of their success.
Makkha Ammarin Bridge

The name of the bridge in Thai means "the path of angels". It is so named to bless people who cross this bridge. The high reliefs on the bridge rails depict the angel of light with radiating rays around an angel's face. They bear a resemblance to Medusa so the bridge is dubbed "Versace Bridge" by the students. It crosses over the sprawling pond and near the entrance, but it serves as the exit is from the university.
Sala Jaturatham

The Pavilion of Four Virtues is so named by virtue of being inscribed on its upper part with the words “Prudence; Justice; Fortitude; Temperance.” These were cardinal virtues of great kings and perfect men in ancient Greek and Roman times. It is intended to edify and infuse into the students these qualities which would mould them to perfection. This imposing stone structure has arched doorways marked on each of its four sides by twin Roman columns. Perched on the corner of the incoming road, it directly overlooks an island of trees in the big pond. It is a nice breezy place to view the water mirroring the “university in a park,” the theme created by Bro. Martin.
St. Louis Marie de Montfort Church

The physical features are a combination of French and Italian architecture, with a dome, stained glass windows and a bell tower, all designed by Bro. Martin. He christened it "St. Louis Marie de Montfort Church," after the founder of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. Together with the adjacent Centenary Monument, it was built to commemorate the centenary celebration of the arrival in Thailand on October 20, 1901 of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, sons of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. They formed an educative mission which has contributed significantly to educational growth in Thailand. The church is used for the university's religious functions.
John Paul II Convention Centre is a two-story building for conventions and receptions. Its modern facilities include language translation capability to and from several languages. On the second floor are seven conference and meeting rooms. The largest room, which can accommodate 300 people, is in the same format as a United Nations conference room. Ideally located near the entry and exit of the university, it is an idyllic place that overlooks natural and architectural beauties. Its name is a tribute to the Head of the Roman Catholic Church. This international convention centre is another venue where different human races can unite and exchange their ideas and ideals for the benefit of future generations.
Wild Horses

One of Au's students, Nakorn Kamolsiri, won a gold medal in equestrian sports at the 13th Asian Games in 1998, the first gold medal achieved by an Au student. Inspired by his success and the natural characteristics of horses, Bro. Martin chose horses to be the mascot of Au. Horses exude physical and mental agility, strength and endurance. The statues of five wild horses in the middle of the huge pond, seemingly running towards the academic buildings, are to invoke enthusiasm in the students to study with gusto. They awaken everyone who looks at them as they are portrayed in postures that demonstrate their stamina and swiftness.
Akin to the Columbus statue pointing to America as the newfound land, a scholar pointing to the Cathedral of Learning guides students to the land of knowledge. On four sides of the stone plinth on which the towering pillar stands are inscribed the motives for its construction; the names of twelve Headmasters of St. Laurent Sur Sevre, from 1716-1842, from where the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel have spread to four corners of the world; Bro. Martin's concept of education and Montfort's last will and testament. This monument, erected in 1999 is to pay tribute to H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his sixth cycle birthday; to mark the third millennium and the centenary celebration of the Brothers of St. Gabriel's arrival in Thailand.
09

The Scholars' Square

The Scholars' Square consists of three main buildings named St. Gabriel, St. Michael and St. Raphael, after Archangels. The four-story buildings are all connected and punctuated by seven gates with domed roofs. The classrooms in the three buildings overlook the Cathedral of Learning surrounded by fountains so the mind of students is enlivened by what they see. This design is to create an atmosphere conducive to learning, reflecting meditating and interiorising. The Office of the President is on the right side, and meeting rooms are on the left.
The Kaleidoscopic Ceilings

The stucco decoration of the ceilings of the ground floor of the three buildings is a kaleidoscope of colours. While the buildings are an impressive display of a mixture of art and academia, the ceilings of different sections, though of the same stucco design, are marked by colour variations. From gates 1-2 of the St. Gabriel Building, the ceiling is dark blue followed by blue ceiling from gates 2-3. The two sections of the St. Michael Building have purple and green ceilings and the last two portions of the St. Raphael Building are in mustard shade and turquoise.
St. Gabriel

On the front external wall of this building is inscribed H.M. The King's message, in which he emphasized that the essence of an academic system is to make students have both erudition and rectitude. Opposite this wall is a white statue of St. Peter - the Head of Jesus' disciples. Walking through the arched corridor through the 3 main buildings, one encounters an artful manipulation of Oriental and Western styles; of modern technology and ancient value. Above the first gate called "Sukhothai Thammathan" is a domed roof under which is a teacher's lounge in the ivory tower, akin to that of the opposite gate.
The big arched doorway in the middle of the St. Gabriel Building is called "Si Ayutthaya Anusorn." Looking up one sees a red ceiling ornamented with gilded flowers. On both sides of the wall are mural paintings, one of them depicts three Ayutthaya pagodas and the other is a dramatic scene of the Loy Krathong festival at Sukhothai's historical park. Sukhothai and Ayutthaya were former capitals of Thailand. The paintings were done by Au's art section. Below this doorway is the exit from the underground parking lot.
On the external wall are two high reliefs. One of them depicts foreign dignitaries having an audience with Siam's King Narai and the other depicts a Siamese diplomatic mission having an audience with France's King Louis XIV. The arched doorway in the middle of the St. Michael Building is called Si Rattanakosin. In the porch is a white statue of Sir Isaac Newton opposite that of Albert Einstein. Both were geniuses whose discoveries and experiments led the world to a new era of high technology.
St. Michael

This building houses the registration, finance, and administration. Standing at Si Rattanakosin gate one sees the Cathedral of Learning to the front with the Au logo above the entrance door, and to the rear is the long boulevard leading to the Martin Rangsan Bridge. The bridge is the gateway to the clock tower and residence halls.
St. Raphael

The St. Michael and St. Raphael buildings are connected at gate 5 - Navamintrmaharaj. At this point is a marble spiral stairway, the highest one in Thailand. The wrought-iron banister that curls up to the fourth floor resembles that of The Louvre Palace in Paris. Each step is wide and shallow. On the way up one sees white winged angels blowing small trumpets overhead.
St. Raphael

The arched doorway in the middle of the St. Raphael Building is the sixth of seven gates in the three main buildings. It is named Prasart Assumption. Looking down from the porch one sees the entry to the underground car park. The walls at this point are also painted in Thai themes. One of the two murals depicts the Temple of the Emerald Buddha with its spectacular spires, tiered roofs and pagodas. The other is a painting of the Royal Barge Suphannahongse floating in the Chao Phraya River, with the Temple of Dawn in the background.
St. Raphael

On the ground floor of the St. Raphael Building are the 13 Grand Salon; a 14 VIP room; 15 the Office of the President; 16 University Archives and 17 President Emeritus. The salon, beautifully adorned with carpets and elegant furniture, is used for the Academic Award Ceremony.
St. Raphael

Above the seventh gate, called Thewan Raksa, is also a domed roof painted ivory, known as the ivory tower, under which is a teacher’s lounge that can only be reached by a spiral stairway from the fourth floor. The murals in the ivory tower depict scenes from the famous Ramakien. The history of Au is inscribed on the external wall of the ground floor and opposite it is a white statue of St. Paul, one of Jesus’ disciples. St. Paul was a writer of great wisdom whose writing helped spread Christianity. One of his great literary works is “What is love?”
The Seat of Wisdom (Sedes Sapientiae)

The golden statue is an original interpretation of “Assumption.” Christians venerate the mother of Christ as the seat of wisdom and as taught by St. Louis Marie de Montfort, Christ is the wisdom seated on the throne. The mother of Christ is the dwelling place of the supreme wisdom of all science. The university is the Alma Mater or our mother who is also the dwelling place of knowledge. In this context “Assumption,” besides its religious connotation in the glorification of the mother of Christ, has yet another meaning in Thai language, “The Abode of Abiding Knowledge.” Rightly, Assumption is the seat of wisdom.
The Cathedral of Learning

Bro. Martin derived inspiration from Roman columns and Gothic churches and created an innovative concept of a structure that would inspire students to set lofty goals in life and maintain a lofty principle. He wants AU to be a university that not only gives knowledge, but also its architecture should give inspiration to students. The 39-storey edifice, with 88 columns around its exterior, rose windows, ceiling paintings, magnificent stairway, though unconventional, echoes loftiness and grandeur of ancient and modern civilization. It is surrounded on all sides by ten fountains. It houses the hall of fame, the library, a computer centre and lab, the shopping plaza, etc.
Cathedral Main Entrance

The romanticized flight of steps dominated by the Seat of Wisdom makes all who walk up feel high in spirit. On the foreground of the entrance is a mosaic flooring gloriously reflecting the rose window. On the glass door is Bro. Hilaire’s short Thai rhyme to teach children. Written in his handwriting, the rhyme tells children to seek knowledge and heed the words of the Lord and teachers that will bring them wealth, but always remember that Heaven is better. Bro. Hilaire was a distinguished scholar of Assumption College.
17

Hall of Fame

The grand marble hall encompasses reception rooms for The King and The Queen and six conference rooms. The marble wall provides a suitable backdrop for big paintings and photographs – the treasures of this hall. There are 20 paintings of The King, The Queen, The Crown Prince and HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. 21 In Apirak Nawamin Room, one of the conference rooms, is a photograph of King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola of Belgium. 22 A ceiling painting depicts the mother of Christ ascending to Heaven surrounded by Angels, Saints and Brothers of St. Gabriel. On the high marble walls will be inscribed the names of model students and alumni; outstanding sportsmen and researchers.
17

The Coat of Arms

The coat of arms of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, which is Au's logo, is shown and engraved on many places but the biggest and noticeable one is on the wall at a stairway in the Hall of Fame. It depicts four signs with meaningful content: the ship in the sea symbolizing the sea of life with difficulties that we have to struggle through; the DS Cross which represents Divinity and Science; A.M. and the white lilies to remind students to love their institution as their Alma Mater (Dear Mother) and be as pure in their thoughts, words and mind as the white lilies; and the star and the boat which symbolizes spiritual hope. The four symbols are framed by a shield under which is Au's motto “LABOR OMNIA VINCIT”, which means: We can overcome all difficulties through working hard.
The Library

Occupying the second-eight floors of the Cathedral of Learning, the library has a seating capacity of 1,600 with study areas designated by a sign “Quiet study”. Its resources consist of over 500,000 volumes; approx. 2,000 current periodical subscriptions, plus theses, dissertations, audio-visual materials, CD-ROM databases, etc. Most materials are arranged according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Its services include computerized literature search, microfiche and interlibrary loan services. Every floor has a great view and on the third floor is a hanging rock garden with Dan-kwian sculptures on the wall and plants along the walkway.
Shopping Plaza

The ground floor of the Cathedral of Learning is a delightful place for students. A microcosm of ubiquitous shopping centres in Bangkok, the plaza caters to their age, with food and ice cream shops; gift shops; a drug store; a bookstore and a photo shop; and even a bank and a post office. The small shops line along four sides and in the middle, juxtaposed with stone benches where students can sit and chat. There are also two dining rooms, called “Le Coq D’or” and “Café de Paris.” The overall interior is simple and tidy yet coloured by shop signs.
Sala Thai

The Thai Pavilion is for Thai ceremonies and cultural activities. This is the biggest four-patio Thai pavilion in the world and is indicative of the location of the university in Thailand. It has been named "Sala Jaturamookpaichitr" by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Being in the middle of all structures in the front part of the campus, it suggests that Au is the centre of many nations. It is close to the pond and is therefore the most delightful place to watch the gentle breeze ripple the surface of the water.
Boulevard des Nations

The boulevard connects the front part of the campus to the residential halls. It is a baseline that marks the straight positioning from the King David hall; the bell tower, to the Cathedral of Learning and the Thai Pavilion in the front. In the middle of the long boulevard is the highest flagpole with the Thai national flag, and along both sides are displayed flags of some 50 countries from which their nationals have come to study at Au. At the end of the boulevard is the Martin Rangsan Bridge which leads to the bell-cum-clock tower. The tower is also an observatory and houses a museum. The reverberations of the bell can be heard from a distance, but the thrust of the university's policy will reverberate beyond Thailand.
The Museum

The first-third floors of the bell-cum-clock tower house a museum. One of the university's valuables kept there is a golden crown used in the Crowning Ceremony of the mother of Christ at the Seat of Wisdom every 15 August, which is Assumption Day. The clock ticks every fifteen minutes and every hour the bell rings a song. It is so designed to ring more than 200 songs. The base of the tower is an enormous flight of steps redolent of the Victor Emmanuel Monument in Rome.
AU Residence Halls -
King David, King Solomon
and Queen of Sheba

The three 13-storey halls almost form a
U-shape embracing the basketball grounds
and the middle pyramid. The centre area,
with rows of seats all round it, is called the
King's Court. Named after characters in the
Old Testament, the salubrious halls have all
modern facilities and an underground car
park. The safety measures to protect against
fire include smoke detectors, sprinklers, fire
escapes and emergency lighting. The halls
are located in a breezy area with plenty of
sun and fresh air. They are on the western
side of the campus so in the evening one
sees sunset rays suffuse the colorful flags on
the boulevard.
King David

Long before Jesus Christ was born, King David ruled Israel. He was a valiant soldier. But King David here is a residence for visitors with 266 rooms in the same style as the other two halls. The back terrace of every room overlooks a wide green field. It is quiet at daytime and in the night. Only at the King David Hall are a store, a laundry shop and an ATM. The convenience store named U-Mate, was created by an ABAC Dummy Company Perpetual Fund and a Student Affairs Fund to give financial support for needy students in rural areas and Au's student development program. The total surplus generated by the store will be contributed to the Funds.
King Solomon

In the Old Testament, King Solomon, noted for his great wisdom, inherited the kingdom from his father, King David. He built a temple dedicated to God which transformed Jerusalem into an important centre during his time. The King Solomon Hall is a residence for male students. It has 505 rooms with an interior and facilities akin to a standard hotel, designed for quiet rest and study. Each room has a TV set; cable TV; direct-line telephone and a pair of line-ups for computer and Internet access. It faces the Queen of Sheba Hall.
The Queen of Sheba was charming and clever. The legendary love of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba not only had a deep influence on Jerusalem but also on numerous cultures. The Queen of Sheba Hall is akin to that of the King Solomon Hall in the number of rooms and its exterior, but it is for female students. There is an infirmary and a study room on the second floor. Behind both halls are outdoor sports grounds. Together, the inspiring named twin buildings, which stand testimony to their faith, should infuse their qualities into young students who are bound for a bright future.
how
24

Sports There are indoor and outdoor sports facilities for students to engage in their leisure. In the St. Gabriel Building is a large games room for table tennis and other indoor games. On the second floor of the King Solomon Hall are fully-equipped fitness, aerobics and table tennis rooms. Behind the King Solomon Hall are tennis courts and grounds for football, beach volleyball and petanque. And behind the Queen of Sheba Hall are an athletics field, a swimming pool and a gymnasium for badminton, squash, volleyball etc. In the King's Court are basketball and takraw.

Entertainment/Food/Shopping At free time students can enjoy strolling along the garden areas, play sports or go shopping in the plaza. There is a big cafeteria, which opens during the day, and other food and snack shops in the plaza. The huge ABAC bookstore in the plaza sells many things apart from books, such as attractive knick-knacks and various souvenirs. Students can indulge in reading or daydreaming at many nice quiet corners. There are beautiful spots to take pictures and a photo shop in the plaza for those whose passion is photography.

Facilities/Services Au is a founding organization of the Internet Society. At Au, students enjoy the privilege of an educational system employing the latest information technology and an electronic library. They experience life in an international community that encourages them to participate in globalization. The university has all the modern conveniences for daily needs including transportation. Shuttles run all day between various points in Bangkok and the Bangna Campus. It takes forty-five minutes from Hua Mak to Bangna Campus. There are centres which provide student advice and counseling on all aspects of classroom and out-of-classroom learning, career, physical and mental health, and welfare.
Faculty Assumption University began as a business administration college and consequently maintains a strong focus on both undergraduate and postgraduate business degree programs. Its Faculty of Business Administration and its Post Graduate Management Programs are well known and respected. With globalization and an increased demand for multi-lingual communications experts, the University's Faculty of Arts provides much sought-after specialization in Business English, Chinese and Japanese language programs while the Faculties of Law and Risk Management have further contributed to the overall education of the business student.

In keeping with the growing demand for information technology, Au has developed and fostered the expansion of its highly respected Faculty of Science & Technology and Engineering Faculty. It has been a leader in the use and introduction of Internet technology and is regarded as the most technologically advanced University in Thailand. Au currently offers 25 Masters and Doctoral degree programs in information technology fields such as Computer Information Systems, Computer & Engineering Management, Internet & Multimedia Engineering, Telecommunication & Computer Network Engineering, Broadband Telecommunications, Computer Science, Telecommunications Management, Technology Management, and Information Technology to name a few.

Graduate Today Au is considered the leading private university in Thailand in the fields of Business, Management and Information Technology, as demonstrated by the placement of many of its graduates in key management and technological positions in industry, government, banking and multi-national conglomerates. Many of them have become prominent entrepreneurs.

Diversity A range of additional undergraduate degree programs serve to round out the University's appeal in the fields of Nursing Science, Communication Arts, Biotechnology, and Architecture. In the area of postgraduate studies, advanced studies are also offered in the fields of Counseling Psychology, Philosophy, Education, Tourism Management and English Language Teaching.

Global Assumption University is known as the first International University of Thailand, having both a large international student body as well as an international faculty. Students from more than 50 nations around the world have come to Au because of its academic excellence and the fact that English is the medium of instruction. It is the only University in Thailand where all courses (except law) are taught in English by a faculty that is 52% non-Thai. Its international instructors bring with them a wealth of multi-cultural experience and training from more than 30 different countries.
Admissions Students may apply for admission by contacting the Office of the Registrar or by completing an on-line application via the Internet. Full details are provided on its website at www.au.ac.th and questions may be answered via e-mail by writing to abac@au.ac.th. Applications are accepted continuously for admittance to its semester-based undergraduate degree programs beginning 1 June and 1 November, and trimester based graduate degree programs beginning in January, May and September. Additional admittance times are available to international students or to Thai students returning from overseas.
when
why
Cathedral of Learning

It has always been my dream to build a Cathedral of Learning and to create in and around it an atmosphere that is healthy and refreshing to the active mind, intellectually stimulating and spiritually fostering and enriching; in other words, an atmosphere conducive to learning and becoming... a complete man/woman, a new man/woman for a new millennium—someone imbued with a new humanism.

To this end, the idea of the "University in a park" has become a prominent concept of the campus where, thousands of trees are grown, to bring nature back to young men and women so that they will be able to walk and to sit in the great silence of the landscape... with tranquility of mind, contemplating law, in peaceful splendour, the sun rises and sets while radiating warmth that gives life to all things. In this environment, the inquisitive and enquiring minds will have their play and their fulfilment. All learners will steadily grow in knowledge and wisdom.

Bro. Martin
Acknowledgements
Rev. Bro. Prathip M. Komolmas
Rev. Bro. Bancha Saengthiran
Chalit Limpanavech
Kamol Kitsawad
Krisana Kitcharoen
Dr. Richard G. Johnson
ABACA Committee

Committee
Montian Thananart
Bancha Skuldee
Sumrit Chooklin
Thepin Asawabodee

Writer
Puangroj Sakurai
Photographer
Angela Srisomwongwathana
Editor
John Hoskin
Secretary
La-ongdao Jamwijkak
Design
Kelvin Wong
Printed by
Sirivatana Interprint Public Company Limited

This book is printed on the occasion of
the opening of ABAC's Bangna Campus in
2002 and to commemorate the centenary
celebration of the Brothers of St. Gabriel in
Thailand (1901-2001)

First Edition : January 2002
Second Edition : January 2003
ISBN 9-7461-5071-1
200 Baht