CENTER FOR LAO STUDIES

*Promoting and advancing the field of Lao Studies.*

27 Monte Vista Way | South San Francisco, CA 94080 USA
Tel: +1.415.373.7966 | info@laostudies.org
Web: www.laostudies.org

Dear Applicant:

Sabaydii! Thank you for your interest in the *Summer Study Abroad in Laos* (SAIL) program. The Center for Lao Studies (CLS) is offering this unique opportunity for participants to learn Lao and to experience firsthand one of the most ethnically diverse and fascinating countries in Southeast Asia. Join us as we become immersed in Lao society through intensive Lao language lessons, hands-on cultural trainings, a language partner system with Lao university students, and volunteer work with local institutions.

Enclosed you will find a full application for the program. To be considered, applicants must fill out all the required information. **Applications, along with a $100 application fee must be postmarked by April 9, 2027**. Applications could also be emailed to info@laostudies.org no later than 11.59PM on April 9, 2027. Please note that once you have been accepted, we ask for confirmation of your commitment within one week.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and share our knowledge of this intriguing country. Please do not hesitate to contact CLS with any questions throughout the application process.

Sincerely,

Vinya Sysamouth, Ph.D.
CLS Executive Director

# APPLICATION & PRE-DEPARTURE SCHEDULE 2027

The following is a timetable of deadlines and orientations that will take place from April to July 2027.

| | |
|---|---|
| April 9 | Deadline for applications. Application materials and a $100 fee must be postmarked or emailed by April 1, 2027. Applicants will be notified within two working days that their application has been received. If you do not hear from a CLS representative within that time frame, please contact the office. |
| April 19 | Applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision regarding program acceptance. Applicants who are offered to participate in the program must confirm their acceptance within one week. Students should start to look for their plane tickets to Vientiane, Laos. |
| April 30 | First payment of $2000 due for both first time SAIL applicants and final payment for returning SAIL students. |
| May 14 | Final payment of $2,000 due for first time SAIL applicants. |
| May 24-28 | Phone orientation with CLS staff member regarding pre-departure preparations (i.e. flight and visa arrangements).During this week, CLS will also send a more complete information packet with trip details. |
| June 7-11 | Final preparation check-in with CLS staff. One week prior to departure, a CLS staff member will contact you to answer any last-minute questions you have. |
| June 24-27 | Arrive in Laos. |
| June 28 | SAIL + School Orientation. Language Assessment. First Day of Class. |
| July 30 | Graduation Day. Program Ends. |

# CHECK LIST

Please check to make sure you send the following information as part of your application package:

1) Fill out all required information in the application and answer the questions.
2) Include a current resume or CV.
3) Include your $100 application fee. If accepted into SAIL, this fee will apply toward the program cost.
4) Transcripts of all college and/or university training to date. For returning SAIL students, if nothing has changed since the last application, no need to send transcripts.
5) For first time applicants, please provide copies of any Lao proficiency assessments that the applicant may have completed.

Please send application materials and a $100 fee, **postmarked by April 9, 2027** to:

CENTER FOR LAO STUDIES
27 Monte Vista Way
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Or Email complete application to info@laostudies.org no later than 11:59PM on April 9, 2027.

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# CLS SAIL APPLICATION

**June 28–July 30, 2027**
**Application due on April 9, 2027**

## I. Basic Information

_____Date of Birth: _____
Last Name First Name Middle Initial

_____
*Current* Address

_____
Telephone Personal Email

_____
*Permanent* Address

_____
Country of Citizenship Passport Number

## II. Education

List all college or university training undertaken to date, starting with the most current degree program.

Institution Dept./Major Degree/Date Completed

_____

_____

_____

_____

## III. Transcripts

Please provide transcripts of each institution listed above.

## IV. Resume

Please attach a current resume or CV.

## V. Letters of Recommendation

List two individuals in the U.S. that will provide us with letters of recommendation. One must be work-related or academic and at least one should know you personally and well. NO family members please. Please ask the two references to send their letters of recommendation directly to: info@laostudies.org.

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Name | Occupation | Number of years known

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Relationship | Telephone | Email

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Name | Occupation | Number of years known

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Relationship | Telephone | Email

## VI. Emergency Contact

Please list the name of an individual we can contact in case of an emergency.

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Name | Address

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Relationship | Telephone | Email

If you have family or friends who will be residing in Laos during the time that you will be there, please list their names and contact numbers in case of an emergency.

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Name | Address

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Relationship | Telephone | Email

## VII. Written Responses

Please answer the following questions honestly, and to the best of your ability. Please limit your answers to less than four pages total.

1. Why are you interested in studying in Laos?

2. What are your academic and/or career and personal goals? Indicate how participation in the program will help to achieve those goals.

3. Have you spent an extended amount of time living in another country/culture? If so, briefly describe the location, length of time, and purpose of the trip.

4. Participants have the option of engaging in cultural activities such as learning how to play a Lao musical instrument, like the khene, for 4-10 hours/week. What types of activities would you be interested in and why?

5. Please describe any work experience, volunteer activities, or special talents you would like us to know about as they may apply to this program. What sort of other hobbies and personal interests do you have?

6. What is your ability in speaking, reading, and/or writing Lao? Please list any Lao proficiency assessments that you may have completed to this date.

| | None | Beginner | Intermediate | Advanced (near fluent) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Speaking | | | | |
| Reading | | | | |
| Writing | | | | |

7. Any additional comments? Feel free to share any personal questions or hesitations you have about participating in the program, whether they be financial, academic, ideological, questions of timing, or other.

**VIII. Signature**

By signing below, you are acknowledging that the information you provided are true and best to your knowledge.

_____

Signature Name (print) Date

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