

Destination: National Taiwan University
Exchange period: VT 2016

Choice of the destination and courses:

Umeå University's exchange program and info regarding different places to go to within Umeå University.

Describe shortly the preparation process before the departure:

I got a multiple entry visa that was valid for 180 days that was very useful since I traveled to other countries during the semester. I had to go to Stockholm to get the visa. Booked plane tickets in november and went in february and got them very cheap.

Contact with receiving institution:

It was quite informative emails from them but during the semester it was not any contact from them.

Support from Umea University:

Yes, but only after I contacted them first with questions like: Where is our confirmation letter? Where is my insurance proof? etc.

Arrival information:

Yes there was an introduction day where we got info.

Accommodation arrangements:

Yes in form of dormitories, but nothing else.

Transportation:

I lived across the road from the university so i walked. Otherwise MRT - very good and cheap! During night time: taxi, also cheap.

Budget:

Lower compared to Umeå! Payed 1800 kr per month for my apartment shared with four others and everything else was cheaper than Sweden, so I could save money every month.

Social activities:

Before we arrived we thought that there were going to be a lot of activities for exchange students since we have that back in Sweden, where they meet every week for different activities. This was not the case which was a bit disappointing I must say. Therefore, we had to make contact with other exchange students on our own. This was not that hard though since we had a lot of classes with a lot of exchange students, but it would have helped people who are a bit shy than me to interact with other people if there were these kind of activities.

The night markets in Taiwan are very good and offer a great variety of clothes and food. Perfect for a

dinner or as an evening activity.

The night clubs in Taipei are quite good. If you go out certain days to different clubs you can have an entry fee and then free bar which is a very good deal for us European exchange students at least. Also, you meet a lot of both exchange students and local Taiwanese people which is fun.

The campus is very good with tennis, badminton, basketball and volleyball courts. Also cheap lunch restaurants can be found as well as places to study.

Recommendation :

I truly recommend going to NTU and Taiwan, both for exploring and feel in Taiwan as a country and as a place to meet a lot of great people. Also, the culture is very different from the European culture which is a great experience to have with you for the future. As long as you are prepared to be open and social with other students you will have a great time at NTU.

Practical things to think about:

There are quite many people who do not understand English here so learning Chinese gives you a great advantage!

General information about academia:

At NTU most courses are smaller than Umeå's courses, and you read a lot more different subjects. The biggest difference from the Swedish system is that they take attendance during the lectures so if you aren't there you lose points for the final grades. Otherwise a lot of things are quite similar.

Courses attended

Course 1:

General Chinese: 3 credits. A lot of homework and quizzes. Also, attendance taken.

Course 2:

Enhanced Chinese: 1 cr. Same as above.

Course 3:

Green Economy: 2 cr. Homework report about green subjects 15-30 pages, two quizzes and 10 min presentation with a five-ten pages report. A lot to do for two credits.

Course 4:

Southeast Asian History and Archaeology: 3 cr. Written report 1-2 pages and attendance. Not a lot of work to pass.

Course 5:

General Ecology: 3 cr. Two quizzes, powerpoint presentation and final exam. No attendance but a lot of information to learn.

Additional Courses:

Exploring Taiwan: 2 cr. Written report, quizzes and final exam. Not so hard to pass.

Badminton 1 cr: Two hours a week, easy to pass and fun.

Did the university provide language courses? Could you receive ECTS points for them? What was your experience of such course?

See above.