

Destination: National Taiwan University
Exchange period: Spring 2019

Choice of the destination and courses:

Was looking for a decent university in a tropical and relatively cheap country in Asia, so Taiwan was the perfect fit. It was easy to find courses.

Describe shortly the preparation process before the departure:

Apply for the university -> apply for the dormitory accommodation -> take vaccines -> booking flights -> applying for visa

Contact with receiving institution:

They had a good "before arrival"-pamphlet. Had a contact person at the university.

Support from Umea University:

It was okay. More help with the process of how it works with visa application would have been nice.

Arrival information:

Had a campus tour one day. Some parts about the registration and health exam was unclear upon arrival.

Accommodation arrangements:

Yes, I lived in university dormitory. Applied before arrival upon registration to the university. One room and a bathroom.

Transportation:

Walked a lot. If you wanted to get around Taipei/Taiwan: metro, train, uBike and uber. It was cheap to travel.

Budget:

The rent for dormitory was kind of the same as a student dorm in Umeå. Food cost was the same since you eat out every meal in Taipei/Taiwan.

Social activities:

Don't know about organised, but all of the exchange students hanged out a lot.

Recommendation :

Would recommend. Good school, wonderful country and easy to travel to other countries.

Practical things to think about:

Travel a lot in Taiwan.

General information about academia:

The courses was over the whole semester, almost all courses had a participation grade, more active lectures, they had sport classes at university.

Courses attended*Course 1:*

Judgment and Managerial Decision Making - Social science about different biases. Lectures and reading at home/heavy workload/textbook and articles/group presentation, active participation, Kahoot games, attendance and group members rating of you(!)

Course 2:

Social Media and Social Network Analysis - Downloading Twitter data and analyzing it in R. Lectures and home projects/ moderately / no literature /presentation, project.

Course 3:

Introduction to Field Geology (II) - Weekend trip to south of Taiwan to study rocks and geology. We had a Swedish teacher! Field trips and reading/ light to moderately/ textbook / Attendance, homework and exam.

Course 4:

Exploring Taiwan: natural environment and resources - Guest lectures about the nature in Taiwan. Lectures and field trips / light / no literature / Quiz and exam.

Course 5:

Tennis and swimming (different courses). Practice tennis and swimming / light / no literature / final and midterm exam. They only speak Chinese in these courses!

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

Did not take any language courses, but they had Chinese for exchange students.

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Possibility of future contact: Yes