

國立東華大學  
National Dong Hwa University  
姐妹校國際交換交流學生心得報告  
International Inbound Exchange Student Report

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原學校 Home University	University of Hradec Králové		
原系所 Home Department	Management of tourism ( <i>Faculty of informatics and management</i> )		
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Our university has connections with several taiwanese universities. We can spend one semester in Taiwan and Taiwanese people can spend one semester in Czech, as well. I think it's great, because we can meet absolutely different cultures. I've decided to apply for this exchange program and I must say that it was one of the best decisions in my whole life!

I've chosen National Dong Hwa University, because I live outdoor sports, mountains and beautiful nature. I didn't like to study in overcrowded Taipei or Kaohsiung. When I came to the campus of NDHU for the first time, I was absolutely fascinated. Beautiful campus, green vegetation and mountain all around me – I immediately knew that I'll love it here.

### ***Dormitories and campus***

One of the biggest advantages of NDHU is the fact, that we can't pay for accommodation. I'm very appreciative of this fact, because I have spent a lot of money and I could have travelled more.

I was lodged in old dormitories next to store 7/11. I lived with my Czech friend and with two Taiwanese girls. The Taiwanese roommates were very friendly and they helped us with many things. Unfortunately, we always had to fight with a big enemy – it was mould. We tried to prevent it (*dehumidifying bags...*) but the mould still destroyed us many things.

The NDHU campus is very spacious. In the previous years, the school used to provide bicycles for exchange students, but we didn't have this opportunity anymore. In the first days of my staying at Dong Hwa I've rent a mountain bike from the man who repairs bikes in Giant shop in our campus. He was very kind and he provided me very good bike for quite good price. I've done many kilometres on this bike during this semester – every day I was riding my bike in our campus, I went to Hualien city on bike very often and I even biked to Taitung and to Taroko in some weekends. It was quite exacting, but unforgettable!

The Czech students, who were in Taiwan in previous years, said sometimes, that the NDHU campus lies in the middle of nowhere and we may be bored here. However, I've never been bored during my staying here! Every day, I went jogging outside the campus, sometimes I went swimming, cycling or

hiking. (e.g. to Liyu mountain or to Taroko) I've read a lot of books and I always have many things to do. In my opinion, the people who like sport and beautiful nature won't be bored here.

### **Food**

When I went to Taiwan, I was looking forward to Taiwanese food, because I love tasting of new meals and Czech cuisine is absolutely different from Taiwanese. (*In Czech Republic we don't eat too much rice!*) I really enjoyed Taiwanese food and every day I went to ZhiXue street to eat some delicious lunch with my Czech friends. I had there several favourite restaurants – I liked especially curry with vegetables, fish with steamed rice and vegetables, fried rice with shrimps, dumplings etc. At the beginning, it was unusual to eat rice every day but I've become inured very soon and I loved to eat rice even twice a day.

I also loved Taiwanese nightmarkets – it was like a paradise for me, when I could try some special meals. During my stay in Taiwan, I've tried specialities like stinky tofu, pork brain, duck head, bloody cake (*It was my favourite!*) etc. It was very exciting for me, because we don't eat such things in Czech Republic!

I also liked big choice of local fruit. Every day I went to fruit vendor who had his car in ZhiXue street and I've bought some delicious fruit. I've tried many kind of fruits that we don't have in Czech Republic, like guava, dragon fruit, Buddha's head etc.

### **School**

I've attended 5 classes at Dong Hwa University. The first one was **Basic Chinese**. The teacher was very nice and helpful person. She spoke English very well, so she could explain us subject matter without any problems. However, I was little bit disappointed of this Chinese class. I expected, that we'll learn some everyday phrases – how to order food in restaurant, how to buy a train ticket etc. We always learnt pinyin and tones instead. I know it's necessary to learn tones and pinyin when you want to speak Chinese but for us it was a little bit useless – when we come back to Czech, we won't use Chinese anymore. Nevertheless, in the second half of semester we began to learn characters and some phrases, so it was more interesting and useful.

Another class I've attended, was called **Introduction of Taiwan**, which is taught by enthusiastic Dr. Lu. I attended this class with many international students and I enjoyed a lot of fun – Dr. Lu learnt us drumming, tai-chi and we learnt the other students, how to dance Czech dance "Mazurka". We also made some presentations about our countries, so we learnt many new information about different cultures in this class. At the end of semester, we went to Guangfu Elementary School and we showed the performance (*consisted of drumming, singing, dancing etc.*) to the Taiwanese children.

Then I attended the class called **Language and culture in English movies**. This class was taught by British teacher James Callow. It was very good man who understood his profession very well!

During the semester we watched several movies and then we discussed about them. It was very interesting (*Despite the fact that 2 of 4 movies we've seen seemed me very boring*) and very helpful for my English!

And of course, I attended two sport classes, because I like sport. The first one was **Yogalates**. I really liked this class and I've attended it twice a week, although it was compulsory only once a week. ☺ Yogalates was very beneficial for my body as well as for my mind. I always stretched my muscles and became more limber.

Another sport class I've attended was **Biking**. This class took place in few weekends. To get the credit, we had to take a few short trips on our bikes, make a volunteers at East Coast Marathon and at the end of semester, we went on a two-days trip to Taroko Gorge. It was also very good class!

So, these classes I've attended at National Dong Hwa University. All of them were good and beneficial in some way. However, I study tourism in my home university and I was a little bit disappointed, that there was no english-taught subject connected with tourism at NDHU. All of them were in Chinese ☹

### ***Travelling***

During my stay in Asia, I travelled a lot. Before I came to Taiwan, I had spent two weeks in Thailand. In the middle of semester (*during spring break*), me and my friends went to Malaysia, Cambodia and Singapore for two weeks. And now we're going to spend one week on Bali. Travelling was one of the most interesting parts of our stay in Asia. I'm very thankful that I have such possibility, to meet all of these countries – all of them were really beautiful and unforgettable!

At the weekends I also travelled around Taiwan. It was also great! I've visited Taroko (*even four times – I really liked it!*), Green Island, Kenting, Taitung, Kaohsiung, Taipei and Jiaming lake. And of course many places around Hualien – Ruisui hot springs, Chisingtan (*I took part in Chisingtan marathon*), Guangfu sugar factory etc. Taiwan really captivated me! All the places were absolutely amazing. I really like Taiwan and I hope I'll go back here someday in my life.

### ***Conclusion***

I've spend excellent semester in Taiwan at NDHU. I'm very thankful that I had this possibility. I met many new friends and I've broadened my horizons. I will never forget this! I was there with another three Czech students and we were like family – we encouraged ourselves, we travelled together and we always had a lot of fun.

I would like to thank to University of Hradec Králové and National Dong Hwa University for this opportunity. And I would also like to thank to my parents that they supported me heartily.

