

**STUDENT EXCHANGE REPORT**  
**SPRING SEMESTER PROGRAM 2016**

**By : Jennifer Farihatul Bait**

My name is Jennifer Farihatul Bait, I am an student of international program of management in Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Indonesia. I came to National Dong Hwa University as an exchange student in this Spring Exchange Student program. I came here with two of my friends in the same major and from the same class. It is very pleasure to come and study in National Dong Hwa University. It is a good place in a very peaceful country.

Before I begin, I would like to say thank you very much to God for giving me health and opportunity to come and study in National Dong Hwa University for The Exchnage Student Program this Spring. Secondly, I would like to thanks to the International Office's staffs of Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta and the Office of International Affair's staffs of National Dong Hwa University for engaging an exchange program agreement, so that by the agreement, I have gotten the opportunity to study in Dong Hwa University for a full semester long.

Living and studying in National Dong Hwa University is the greatest story in my life. Because it is my first time experience in studying abroad in the country that I did not have any ability to speak or even understand its language. It was such a big challenge for me. I was not preparing Mandarin language before, even the basic Mandarin in how to say "Hello, how are you?" or "My name is Jennifer". Actually it is the worse thing that I faced in the first day coming in Taiwan. I could not understand what the taxi driver asked us about when we were took a taxi frim Taoyuan International Airport to Taipei Main Station. I just guessed that he asked us where do we want to go. It was a little funny story that I have in Taiwan. Until I study Mandarin Chinese in Dong Hwa University in the Fundamental Chinese class.

Well, I would like to share my experience along the way I studying in National Dong Hwa University. I felt very happy and comfortable to have a chance for studying and living here, because National Dong Hwa University is very good place with a good weather and beautiful views around the campus. Even though I felt nervous in my first time arrival, National Dong Hwa University provided volunteers to help the exchange students for

applying any documents and registrations in the beginning. And they also helped us to adapt with the Taiwanese cultures by explaining every single new thing we met. However, National Dong Hwa University gave us the best first impression in the beginning, and I do really like it.

Honestly, I was the only girl who wear “hijab/veil” in my flight from Indonesia to Taiwan and I realized that everyone stared at me, It was make me more nervous than before. Some questions came into my head. “Do the students of National Dong Hwa University will accept me well?”, “Are they want to be my friend?”, “Will I be okay for the next days I spend in this campus?”. I was very afraid of several things that might be happened, given that my friends from Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta are boys. In fact, after arriving National Dong hwa University, I felt very comfortable and people are very welcome and very nice to foreigners. I befriended by some Taiwanese and some foreigners, and I also met some Indonesians who study Master program and PHD program. This friendship help me so much in adapting my self for living in National Dong Hwa University. I just wanna say that National Dong Hwa University is very welcome for foreigners, for the International students who want to study in Taiwan, it is a good choice to choose National Dong Hwa University as your study destination.

An addition for the Muslims, the first time I arrived here, it is very hard for me to survive, especially for the first week. Because I felt very difficult in finding halal foods, and also the ingredients of foods or drinks are written in Chinese characters and as I told before that I did not understand any of the Chinese characters. But don't worry for that, there are many alternatives here, National Dong Hwa University's canteen provide the vegetarian corner that serve vegetarian food. National Dong Hwa University also provide the praying room for the Muslims, so we can pray jama'ah and for the boys, they also have the place for Jum'ah prayer.

National Dong Hwa University is not only famous as the students destination to study, it is also famous as the tourism destination in the east part of Taiwan. It has very large campus and dormitory area and the beautiful buildings that attract tourists to come. It is also very convenient place to stay, and very supporting to study. The teachers, staffs, supervisors, librarians, students and everyone in the campus are very nice, very kind and very helpful. Supported by the professional lecturers and teachers, and also the complete facilities,

National Dong Hwa University is a very comfortable place for study. It has been my best study experience ever, even I only spend 5 months here.

Given that National Dong Hwa University is the biggest campus in the east part of Taiwan, it has a lot of activities in its own campus, internally for students of National Dong Hwa University and externally for the society, such as voluntary activities and some social activities. For me, I like to join some student activities to gain new experiences. I joined some International events held by the National Dong Hwa University's Office of International Affairs, and also some events held by student clubs or student organizations.

Another thing that I like from National Dong Hwa University is the lecture's schedule. Because I am a Muslim, I need to pray in certain times in the day. I like that the campus give us a short break every single hour of lectures, so I can pray in those break times. That's why I love almost everything in National Dong Hwa University.

Besides, given that National Dong Hwa University is a very good and beautiful university, it is located in Taiwan. Which is included in the nomination of The 5 Safest country in the world. I want to share my experience here, in the first day, my friend was forgot where is he left his mobile phone, and he looked back to the places he went on that day and after hours spent, he went to 7-eleven that he visited for the breakfast and the cashier saved his mobile phone which founded on the table, and we were very happy to know that all the people are honest and friendly. Actually, if the same thing happens in my country, only a few number of people who did the same. Even though those few number of people are save it for give it back to the owners, some others will influence them to keep it by themselves. It not a good culture actually, but still, the good people are always do good thing.

I made a good friendship with several taiwanese here, Taiwanese are very nice and very welcome with poeple from another country. Even though sometimes I also met some Taiwanese who did not care with another person, but most of them are very nice and kind. I feel very happy and comfortable living, studying and also traveling in Taiwan. It such a good experience for me.

Everything are run perfectly in my study in this university, except the expired visa problem. Me and my friends who came from the same university as mine, we did not realize the end date of our visa till we went to the National Taiwan Immigration Office in Hualien City. We had to paid for some fines and we had to go back to our country to apply the new visa. Sadly, we flied back to our country because there was no other way to do. It is our bad,

our visa is the the single entry visa and we should apply for the new one to come back an enter Taiwan. Luckily we have to do that a week after the midterm examination, so we did not miss any of the examinations. But we missed some lecturers in two weeks after. It is horrible, funny and tiring experience for me and my friends.

However, I feel very thankful for the kindness of the, lecturers, staffs and students of National Dong Hwa University. Thank you for taking care of us these whole days. It is very pleassure to know you. And I will keep all these greatest memories and experiences deeply in my mind and in my heart. I hope that I can visit Taiwan and National Dong Hwa University in the other time, may be only for vacation or even for study. I love National Dong Hwa University and I love Taiwan for sure.

Once more, I would like to say thanks a lot for National Dong Hwa University.

Taiwan, 2016.06.24

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