

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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原系所 Home Department	Management of Tourism		
交換交流期間 Exchange Period	自 From __2014__年 year / __02__月 month 至 To __2014__年 year / _06____月 month		

I am very grateful that I could have spent five wonderful months in Taiwan. I chose to study here, near Hualien, because I prefer nature and countryside more than city. Now at the end of my stay here, I can say with certainty that it was a good choice and that this life experience has taught me a lot.

At the beginning of our stay here, after arriving to Hualien, me and my Czech friends, we really appreciated the Buddy system that Dong Hwa University provides. Two Taiwanese students were waiting for us at the train station and showed us the way to the university campus. They were also helping us a lot during our first days here, when we had to organize and buy many things. Then, whenever I needed, I could ask my buddy (a Taiwanese student who is a volunteer and help a foreign student during his exchange program) and he was always very helpful and nothing was a problem for him.

I felt in love with the campus and its surrounding countryside very quickly. The campus is quite large so I decided to buy a bike, which was a very good decision. There are many different sport fields, two swimming pools, climbing wall and so on where we could have spent our free time. I also enjoyed running inside or around the campus because there are many routes and roads that are great for it. Except the dormitories and university buildings, there are also several restaurants, cafés, two convenience stores, bike shop, library, piano rooms, dancing rooms and so on.

The dormitories for girls and boys were separated. This was one of the things that we were not used to. However, it was not a big problem at the end. I shared room with one of my Czech friends and also with two Taiwanese girls. They were both very friendly and always helpful. Each room has its own bathroom which was good. On the other hand, there was no kitchen or even microwave in our dorms, but with all the cheap and very tasty food from the street, I haven't even needed it. Even though I had to share my room with three other people, I felt like I had enough privacy there. I think it was because all the beds were over our desks, which is quite a good idea, I think. Unfortunately, I had also some a little bit upsetting experiences in our room that I would like to mention. Because the humidity is very high here in Taiwan in general and even higher around the East Coast and Taroko National Park, and because our room was in the basement we had some problems with it. Even though our fan was often on and our windows were open, the humidity in our room was enormous. My wet clothes after running would had never become dry until I used a dryer. Consequently, thanks to the humidity, a mould appeared in our room. I consider myself a cleanly person but I couldn't do anything with it. So I just had to throw out several things that were cover with mould. However, when I consider that our accommodation was offered us for free, I can't say a word against it.

As the rules of our home university say, I had to pick up at least three subjects here in Taiwan. Finally, I picked five of them:

Introduction to Taiwan - This subject was more like a game to me. During the semester, I have met some other international students here who were from different places, such us Mongolia, Nicaragua, China and so on. Our teacher, Dr. Lu, is a great and very friendly person. He has taught us some particular traditional Taiwanese skills such as drumming, exercising Tai Chi, singing traditional songs, etc. Each student had to have a presentation of his country or of his life experience. The subject was ended by a performance in front of a primary school where we showed what we had learnt in this class during this semester.

Online English Learning (Level 3) - At the beginning of the semester, I was trying to find a course of English that would be fun and useful to me. Finally, I found this one and was very happy that I picked

it. The teacher showed us many interesting web pages and online resources that we can use while learning English. At the beginning of the semester, each student had to develop his own plan of his studies. Then, every other week, I had to come to the class to have a discussion with the professor about following my plan. We also did some very interesting activities, watched and commented many different videos, used different online dictionaries and so on. I liked this class very much because it has taught me how to learn English more effectively.

Individual Studies - This course was little bit different than usual. I had to find an advisor, who helped me with my individual project. I didn't have to attend any class because I was working from my room. I had to write a paper that would serve as a tourist guide for a visitor of my home country.

Physical Education of Yogalates - A great class with a great teacher. I had never tried yoga before but from now I hope it will become a part of my life.

Physical Education of Biking - This was more like course than a class. We went on two biking trips. The first one was just a few kilometres near the campus and the second trip led us to Taroko national park, where we spent two days. I really liked especially this second trip as we also did some hiking in Taroko.

To sum up, I had to come to the classes just once in a week, do one project, prepare for my English class and participate in the cycling trip. I believe it was a perfect plan, because I could use other days for travelling and many different activities. However, I believe studying in Dong Hwa University enriched me in many different aspects.

I think, choosing Dong Hwa University is a perfect choice for everyone who likes sports. As mentioned before, you can go jogging, cycling, rock climbing, swimming, dancing, try tennis, table tennis, badminton, basketball, volleyball, baseball, yoga, kayaking, sailing, golf and etc. Honestly, there are not many sports that you would not find here in Dong Hwa University! ☺ However, you can also try other activities, as there are many different school clubs. You can for example play a musical instrument, improve your English with your friends, become a member of Tea tasting club, Meditation

club and so on. However, this is not a place for the students who enjoy parties, city life and shopping. Yes, of course, you can make parties on your own, you can go shopping and so on, but there are probably better places in Taiwan for these activities.

As I love trying different types of food, I really enjoyed Taiwanese cuisine. I love the rice here in Taiwan, as it is totally different rice than that which we eat in Europe. I would eat it every day and will not be fed up with it. I also like all the seafood, fish, very tasty meat and vegetable, fresh and super tasty fruit and so on. Sushi is also one of my favourites and you can find many of it here, even it is a Japanese speciality.

Because my schedule was quite good I had a lot of free time for traveling. I visited many places in Taiwan and also some places in Southeast Asia. Concerning Taiwan, I have spent a few days in Taipei, Kaoshiung, Taitung, ... I went to Kenting National Park on my bike which was a very nice trip. I also visited Long Dong which is the most famous climbing spot in Taiwan. One of my most favorite places was Green Island where I enjoyed biking, hiking and diving. I have also made several trips to Taroko National Park. The nature there is just wonderful. Liu Lake is another a must see for every Dong Hwa student. Except Taiwan, I have visited countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore and Bali.

I will never regret that I have decided to spend a part of my life here in Taiwan. This is a wonderful place with gorgeous nature all around, helpful and super friendly people wherever you go, extremely tasty and healthy food and many other wonders that worth discovering.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Dong Hwa University, my great buddy Paoan Su, my home university, Taiwanese and Czech friends, my family and all who help me to make my dream come true. THANK YOU!