

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	Public university of Navarre		
原系所 Home Department	School of Agricultural Engineering		
交換交流期間 Exchange Period	自 From 2018_年 year / 9 月 month 至 To 2019 年 year / 2 月 month		

I have been in Taiwan since 1st September 2018. From the beginning, as it might be expected, I was completely lost in every single environment. Locals in general are pretty kind and helped every time they see a foreigner in trouble... That helped a lot.

My first day in the National Dong Hwa University was a waste of time, since nobody was working at that time. Obviously, I was concerned about all the documentation that I was supposed to bring with me and wanted to manage it as soon as possible. It was during these days when I noticed that there was a lack of information for foreigner.

Despite a read all the info published in NDHU website, I there were a lot of matters that were not explained nor even considered (As for example that an exchange might be for only 6 months). The info in the website said that you must acquire an ARC permit which actually is not necessary if you are staying less than 6 months. Every time I sent an email before coming, no clear explanation of the whole procedure was provided. In fact, the NDHU and exchange students are completely dependent of volunteer students for accomplish the procedure. However, the aid was merely linguistic (Chinese-english) and the knowing where the building are.

Once passed that brief period, to know the university and its facilities is the next step. Once again, I find no info for foreigners. To know that there some facilities for student use is one matter but knowing how to use them is another. I realized that every single student activity within the campus is a challenge as all public info is in Chinese and most of the people working in the administrations hardly speak any English. In my case this issue was not so important for my life on campus as I started to spend most of my time working on my thesis or in the hospital...

Hopefully, there were trips organized by the OIA that allowed in my case (and probably for most of the other exchange students) to have fun and enjoyable social activity.

With regards to on campus food, I have heard many students that complain about the lack of information of what ingredients are used in the meals. I believe that this is a major concern for a large

part of the exchange students as they are restricted for religious reasons, personal preference or a matter of life or death (as in my case). I have noticed that it is a general tendency in Asia to not provide information of the compounds of meals, but it is no argument for to ignore this issue.

As many on the university already know, I have spent a lot of time and money going to emergencies because of my allergy to sesame. Most restaurant or food stands do not know what they are using, or they just do not care about it. This issue limited strongly my daily life, as I was not able to trust nobody about food, not even the food provided by my own university. Fortunately, I had decided to rent a flat with a kitchen which literally saved me from continuous anaphylactic shocks. I have been told that this kind of situations have been common for years for incoming exchange students.

I objective of this manuscript is to point out what have been important problems for a foreigner during a 6-month exchange. Problems that are not so difficult to solve for a university.

Recently, I have heard that in another university in the West coast, there is a “survival day” in which exchange students are shown how to use basic tools and services in a common student routine (i.e. how to recharge with money the student card and use it for different purposes).

Despite of these matters, I truly learned a lot regarding research working with my advisor and all my colleagues in the lab. It has been an opportunity which I would never have had at my home university. I believe that the overall results are quite positive in my case, as it required a lot of mental and physical effort to overcome every single as aspect during my stay. All the situations described above yielded a more competent and flexible professional.

