

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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Report About 1500 words			

### Introduction

My experience in Taiwan has been very enriching and all was very positive to grow as a person. I am Andrea, a senior marketing exchange student from Spain, and I spent a fall semester in NDHU. I chose Dong Hwa because I was looking forward to living an abroad experience which involved nature, campus life and great education.

### The Campus: National Dong Hwa University

The campus is huge - I've never been in another similar- and very beautiful. With plenty of green zones with nature where to walk. The university provides many commodities to students, to make their stay the best possible. Almost every department has an own building where you have to go to attend classes and some has it own canteen or little bar for breaks between lessons. On campus, you also can find a library, information center, auditorium, canteen with amazing views to lake; also you have sport zones to practice volleyball, baseball, basketball, football or a gym, little and with basic equipment but enough for a maintenance routine. There are several clubs where you can share experience and activities to do, you can ask your volunteers or classmates, because.

## Courses

Most of them were pretty good, I really feel I learned new things. Teachers help you in every thing you need and they try to make the classes as easy to understand as they can. But there was not a wide range of courses adapted to your course. Personally I think, some of them don't have the require level for students (in order to put so easy and not to think about it). There are many methods and path of teaching a subjects, and I enjoyed a lot the team works we had to do. I learnt a lot about cross cultural working with them as I had to make the effort to understand everyone's point of view in a broad. I think this will be important for my profesional future, as nowadays your work team members can be from anywhere across the world and now I have learnt powerful tools to manage with cross-cultural teams. The university has helped me develop my knowledge by changing the way I conceived learning. Most of the subjects I chose empowered students to participate in case discussions, to work in groups and be critical, while exams and grades were secondary.

## The township: Zhixue

About zhixue, as in the township there's a unique street with a assortment of restaurants, two big supermarkets and especially a 7 eleven opened 24 hours for anything you need whenever you need, you have also a bike workshop and other little stores like stationer's shop. Despite, for first sight you can think that there's nothing to do, by the time you will discover places that you never think it could be there. Zhixue as a university township has it own train station which connect with other important cities as Hualien.

## The city: Hualien

Hualien is 20 minutes away from Zhixue by train. There you can find theatre, bowling, shopping center and other activities to take advantage to do in my free time. When there's anything to do and finishing classes at weekend you will find a different plan to enjoy with friends.

## Transport

As I mentioned before Zhixue has it own train station. The timetable is middling but it does not have a wide range of times during the day. And if there's a important date or holidays you will have to have anticipation on buy tickets because is easily to sold out. Also, inside the campus you have a direct bus line to go to downtown, Hualien or to south connecting with other townships. Depend of what bus you get, it can take more

than 25 minutes.

### The weather

The landscape surrounding the campus is really stunning, I loved waking up to the mountains every day and breathe fresh air with all the nature which is difficult to get in the city. Despite the disadvantage of the exchange was the weather and other natural phenomenon like earthquakes or typhoons. It was a inconvenient for me because I love to do things outside and few times it was no possible.

### People

Taiwanese people are the most kind culture that I've never met. Locals are very generous and are willing to help every foreigner that they find with problems. Also the volunteers that assign the university, helped us in all the questions and also to get a studio outside the campus. When I first arrived because of the language, be in a new place, etc I was lost, but they could guide me. In this experience, I had the chance to meet people from every different culture and countries and also this people with the time they turned into my family.

### Things to improve

The first thing to do when you arrive is to check in to get all the documents needed for the University, but this process is quite long and you need much effort to understand and finish it because there is lack of information for foreigner. Maybe they could enable all this in one building and try to managing looking for the convenience of the students and share more information in english, having into account that international students could get lost in all the process. In addition, some zones should be renewed like the gym or the run field.

### Conclusion

After all this time the the most valuable outcome I have got of this experience was the great friends and the memories I made. I recommend this exchange for sure. Because once you lived this, you have a different point of view in every matter. Which allows you to extend your mind and understand more people and culture different than you and more important, understand how the world runs with a different way to do and think and act through correct and efficient and being more open-minded. I have definitely found what I was looking for.