

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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交換系所 Host Department	英美語文學系		
原學校 Home University	University of Silesia in Katowice		
原系所 Home Department	English Department		
交換交流期間 Exchange Period	自 From 2019__年 year / __2__月 month 至 To 2019__年 year / __6__月 month		

I arrived Taiwan on 15<sup>th</sup> of February as an exchange student. I chose National Dong Hwa University mainly, because in my home county I am studying English philology with Chinese translation. It is very important to me to improve my Chinese, therefore I applied for an exchange program. I knew that Chinese speaking country will be the best place for me to achieve my goal. I have heard really great opinions about Dong Hwa from people from my university, therefore, I decided to apply for an exchange program. I decided to choose Taiwan over China, because Taiwan is known as a country with more freedom, to put it mildly. I have met few Taiwanese people before , so it was also a great opportunity to reunite with some of my old friends.

After arriving university, I had to deal with all the necessary paperwork. However, I did not expect that the whole process will be so smooth. I did not encounter any problem. I was well assisted throughout the entire procedure. People dealing with foreigner students were well organized and helpful. There were few volunteers helping new international students with their paperwork. Prior to my arrival, I have received multiple e-mails informing me about the dead lines and necessary documentation. I was very impressed with the detailed organization. People working in Dong Hwa University are very diligent and patient. They are willing to solve any problem and are very understanding doing that.

●Living on campus.

First thing that struck me the most was the incredible landscape surrounding the campus. In my home country, Poland, we do not really have such beautifully located universities. My own university does not even have a campus; therefore, I was greatly surprised when I arrived Dong Hwa University. Entire campus is surrounded by mountains, additionally, there is a beach within 15 minutes long ride by bicycle. I have been told that Dong Hwa University has the biggest and most beautiful campus in Taiwan, I agree with this statement. The campus is so big that all the students must ride bicycles in order to transfer from location A to location B. Bicycles can be rented from university, it is really cheap around 500 NTD plus 1500NTD deposit, bicycles are in good condition. On the campus there are few shops where students can fix their bikes, if they have encountered any problems. Additionally, there are few convenience stores, post office and really impressive library. During lunch time, 12pm-1pm, students can go to few restaurants also located on campus. I must say that living on campus is really convenient, each dormitory has a small store within walking distance. Each room in dormitory has its

own bathroom and air conditioner, the latter one is really essential during the summer time in Taiwan. Dong Hwa University has many extra curriculum activities, there are trips organized by university, furthermore, there are plentiful of clubs and associations created by student. I was really amazed by the number of those clubs, and how students are devoted to participating in those activities. Furthermore, each building on every floor has at least two drinking machines, so it is really convenient for all the students. It is very common that each student brings his or her own bottle and then fills it with water after arriving a building where he or she attends classes. Additionally, each dormitory has a laundry room and drying room where students can wash their clothes. Furthermore, each student is provided with their own working space. There are also few public study rooms in each dormitory, which is really helpful during exam session when you do not want to annoy your roommates with late night studying. There are two buses departing from Hualian Train Station to Dong Hwa university, time schedule and name of the stations were translated to English, so that foreigners can easily travel in Hualian.

#### •Studying in Dong Hwa

National Dong Hwa University provides a great number of courses, I was truly amazed that I could start to study Japanese or German, or even attend British Literature. As I mentioned courses are very diverse. Within first two weeks students can attend desired courses to check whether they will like those classes or not. During those two weeks students can easily enroll classes of their choice and then sign out if then did not like it, it is without any consequences. That way of organizing schedule is what I liked the most. I could arrange my own timetable, it is something that I cannot do in my own University. Dong Hwa University students are very lucky to have such nice and helpful teachers. Teachers are very understanding and are trying to help students, they are very understanding. Teachers in Dong Hwa not only are very kind and understanding, but also have great knowledge and are very professional. On a first day of semester each teacher provided us with detailed syllabus. Each homework assignment and exams were listed. I was shocked with the level of organization, in my own university sadly it is not a norm. Studying in Dong Hwa was a great experience, I got to experience studying in well organized and student friendly university. I have met many wonderful people, I experienced different cultures not only the Chinese one. With other international students we have exchanged our experience and introduced our cultures to one another. I will truly miss all of my new friends, they truly made my time in Taiwan more interesting.

#### •Travelling in Taiwan

During my stay in Taiwan I have travelled a great deal of places. I have visited Taroko National Park, perhaps the most beautiful place in Taiwan. I visited Taroko twice, first time with organized trip, and second time I travelled by myself. Taroko is relatively close to Hualian City, there are few busses departing from Hualian Train Station. I sternly recommend visiting Taroko to anyone who is planning travelling to Taiwan, it is a must-see position in every itinerary. Taroko is not the only place I have visited, almost every week I have travelled to Taipei, capital city of Taiwan, it is one of my favorite cities in Taiwan. Every street in Taipei is well organized and really clean. Taipei is also where a National Palace Museum (NPM) is located. I had a pleasure of travelling to there, it is an extraordinary building, not to mention the exhibition itself. This year, during summer time Taiwan government have established something called TR-pass. TR- pass is a discount ticket that allows international students to

travel by train. 10 days ticket costs only 1098 NTD, during that time we are allowed to travel by train to any destination we desire without additional fees. Taiwan has few beautiful beaches. I have travelled to the one in Yilan, I had really great time there. I have also managed to travel to Japan, it was one of my dreams to travel to there and now it was finally possible. I have applied for multiple entry visa; therefore, I could leave Taiwan without any problem. That is also one of few reasons why I have decided to study in Taiwan and not in China. In China it will be way more difficult for me to leave the country.

- Living in Taiwan

Taiwan is said to be a very convenient country, I did not really expect that Taiwan is convenient to such a degree. On every corner there is either 7-11 or Family Mart, two most popular convenience stores in Taiwan. You not only can buy food and drinks there but also you can print train or bus tickets, withdraw money or pay your bills. Convenience is not the only important aspect of living in Taiwan. Taiwan has one of the best and most advanced healthcare. I had to go to the doctor twice, I do not have a health insurance here, therefore, I had to pay for a private visit. In Poland private visits are expensive, so I really expected a rather pricey bill. To my surprise, I had paid only around 200 NTD each visit, which is less than a proper meal in a restaurant in Taiwan. Additionally, people in Taiwan are one of the friendliest I have ever met. Whenever they see a lost foreigner they are trying to help them the best way possible. Hualien city is a very popular tourist point of Taiwan, therefore, people can usually speak a little bit of English. Furthermore, public transportation is really foreigner friendly, names of the stations are translated to English, when traveling by train announcements are announced both in Chinese and English. It was really helpful for me as mostly I have travelled on my own.

I fell in love with Taiwan so much that I have decided to prolong my stay here. I will be leaving Taiwan on August and not on July as planned before. I hope I will get a chance to come back to Taiwan in the future, it really is a wonderful country with best people one can possibly imagine. I strongly recommend and student to apply for an exchange program with Taiwan. It was an extraordinary experience.

