

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

姓名 Name	Tomasz Brejdak	國籍 Nationality	Polish
學號 School No	W10602405		
交換系所 Host Department	English		
原學校 Home University	Univeristy of Silesia, Poland		
原系所 Home Department	English		
交換交流期間 Exchange Period	自 From 2018 年 year / 3 月 month 至 To 2018 年 year / 7 月 month		

To begin with, I came to Taiwan because I study Mandarin language at my university in Poland and I really wanted to learn the language in the country that uses it. I could have also gone to China but some factors caused me to choose Taiwan and I am really glad that happened. Overall, Taiwan made a positive impression on me from the very beginning. But I could never imagine how big of an impact coming here would have on me and my life. The culture, the people, nature and the cities, all that made my stay here an unforgettable experience and I wish I could stay here longer than one semester.

DongHwa University is a really beautiful place. I didn't expect that at all. The campus is really huge with a lot of green space all around and even a small lake in the middle of it. All the buildings are quite modern and there are two Family Marts on campus. I will really miss being able to ride my bike to classes or to Zhixue town everyday, I don't have a campus like this back in Poland. I am grateful to the University for lending me a bike for the period of my stay here, it definitely made my days easier. Although I bought another bike some weeks later, the bike I got first stayed with me the whole semester and it never failed me, except for some minor incidents like getting a flat tyre. I am also grateful to my friend from the Czech Republic, whom I met here, for helping me in the repairs when needed. He really is a handyman. I also enjoyed going to the swimming pool on campus. Many of my friends were going to the gym everyday so I could meet them when I was swimming. What really impressed me was the low price I had to pay for using the gym and the swimming pool for the whole semester. The only disadvantage was the opening hours. The gym and the pool are only open from Tuesday till Saturday, they are closed on Sunday and Monday. I understand that as it is said the swimming pool needs a cleaning day every week and that the staff working there probably needs a day off but it would be much better for the students if the gym was open all the week or at least 6 days instead of 5. For some people gym or swimming is a really serious passion and losing two days a week of training can have a bad influence on their performance in a long time. I also wish that the outdoor swimming pool was open more hours in the afternoon than just from 4 to 6pm but I somehow got used to it. Despite that, I really appreciate that I had a swimming pool so close to my dorm and that I could swim almost every day, I made a great progress in my swimming performance during my stay in DongHwa.

What is more, my stay in the new dorms was really pleasant. The room is modern, has its own bathroom with a shower and also has air conditioning. I shared my room with two more people in a 4 persons room cause one of the roommates moved out early on. To be honest, I would prefer living alone than sharing the room, but I got used to having roommates. I only wish they would clean the room more. What was strange for me was the lack of a kitchen in the dorm. There is a room called 'kitchen' but there is nothing there except for a fridge and a water dispenser. I like to cook a lot back in my country but in here I ate out every day cause I didn't have a place to cook. That was disappointing at first but then I learnt how convenient it is to eat in Zhixue restaurants and how I can explore Taiwanese foods by doing that.

I only attended 4 classes during my stay in DongHwa so I cannot tell much about them. My university doesn't recognise the courses I take here, I have to pass the exams I missed back in Poland so I didn't want to take too many courses in here. It is quite inconvenient to me but I know it is not the fault of DongHwa but my University's. Despite this, the classes I took very really pleasant and illuminating. Teachers were really helpful and understanding, so I had no problems in passing the classes. The best experience for me where the chinese classes, I learnt much more everyday chinese than I had in Poland. Also, I could meet a lot of international students just in those classes.

In addition to the classes, I also met many more international and Taiwanese students on campus. When I came here at the end of March I almost didn't know anybody. I came with one person from my university and I met our volunteers the first day in here. They were so kind to pick us up from Taoyuan airport and visit Taipei for two days and then take us to DongHwa by train. Unfortunately I lost contact with them a few weeks after because they were graduating this year and had a lot of work to do. Nevertheless, they helped me get accustomed with the university and the campus and I am really grateful for that. From the first day in DongHwa I gradually met many new people. First I knew 2 or 3 but during the period of the semester we gathered a group of over 20 people and we became a family. We took many trips to the rivers, rode scooters to Hualien to play darts or go to the cinema, we played cards in the evenings, we even took some trips to Kenting and Kaohsiung together but most of all we had a lot of fun and made a lot of unforgettable memories. I would never imagine how many different people I would meet here, from so many different countries. Now I can say I have friends almost all over the world just because of the 4 months I spent here. In addition to all the fun we had together, we also learnt much from each other. We got familiar with our culture differences and also got to know other languages, especially chinese but also spanish or japanese. I will never forget the moments I had with my friends here and I hope I can meet all of them again in the future.

What is more, coming to Taiwan gave me a great opportunity to travel and get to know Asian culture. Back in Europe I really love travelling to other countries. I have already been to so many but here in Asia it is a different thing. Many things differ from what I have seen in Europe, people differ, food differs, scenery and cities also differ. In Taiwan I managed to visit Xiaoliuqiu island where I could see beautiful nature and I could swim with turtles in the sea. I also visited Kaohsiung for one day and went

to Kenting which is a beautiful place too. I have been to Taroko National Park and saw amazing mountains, valleys and rivers. Near our campus I went to Liyu Lake and rivers nearby where I swam and even jumped from the waterfalls with my friends. I have also been to Taipei many times and I have made some friends there too. I am a big fan of modern cities and Taipei will stay in my heart as one of my favourites. Maybe I will study there one day. I have also managed to visit Hongkong, Macao and the Philippines just because they are not far away from Taiwan. I could never do that from Poland as the flights are long and expensive. Coming to Taiwan made me love travelling even more and opened my mind to many different cultures.

To sum up, studying in DongHwa was an unforgettable experience. The campus is one of a kind and I've never seen any other university like it. I had the opportunity to practise my swimming skills and I could have also try many other sports if I wanted to. The dorm I stayed in was very pleasant and I had no major issues while living here. I'm really glad that there are so many restaurants in Zhixue that made me experience different local foods every day. The classes I took were very illuminating and especially improved my Chinese. The travelling I have done in Taiwan opened my mind to a culture different than the European and made me make a lot of friends from all over the world. I think that is the most important thing I experienced here. All the people I met, all the friendships I established, all the memories I made with them. That's the best thing that happened to me in Taiwan. I will miss this place and I will miss the people. I hope I can come back one day.