

1. Background of applying Exchange Student

When I first applied for an exchange student, I came here thinking with 'at least one Korean student would be there.'

But my prediction was completely wrong. And I became the only Korean student at Dong hwa University. I studied Chinese for about a year in the navy on myself, and my English was far short compare with my friends. Although I wanted to prepare more, I did not have enough time because it was already the second semester of third grade.

2. The feeling when I first came to Taiwan

When I first landed in Taiwan alone, I felt I was alone and I did. My girlfriend and I had a big fight the night before departure, and the school was not able to make easy decisions of open dormitory date because of the typhoon. But the people I met in Taipei were very kind, and I could go straight to Hualien without falling off. Everyone in Taiwan was kind enough to show me the way, and I was fortunatly to meet my volunteers. The volunteers were very kind and came to greet me in spite of the hot weather. I was able to meet people in the accommodation where the typhoon had forced me to. I talked with them all night and played the guitar. It was one of the special experiences in Taiwan. Though I have never spoken English in a foreign country, we talked in sign language.

3. My first foreign friends

At first, there were only nine Japanese friends who met with volunteers. It was my roommate Takuma and 10 Japanese female friends. At first, it was very awkward and different language among Japanese friends, but as we hung out often, and Takuma helped me well, so we can get more closer. I met Paul and Shan at church for the first time, and now after a year of exchange, I am with them. Shan, who was come from Hongkong and curious about Koreans, often invited me and quickly became close with Paul and Shan. And after that, we met exchange students and played games and chat together every evening. Donghwa University had more and more foreigners than I thought. I was able to talk about each culture with friends from so many different countries, and countries with only a vague feeling actually started to come in touch. I was able to talk with friends from many different countries, including the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Japan, Tuvalu, the United States, Nepal, Hong Kong, Macau, Mongolia, Spain, Poland, etc. While playing together, we were able to see the power of alcohol to overcome cultural and age differences.

4. Application for classes

When I first applied for classes, I was too busy. My school had a system that the names of courses should be similar to each other to recognize them as credits. So it was hard to find a subject whose English name was similar to the name of my major. Since the results of the courses fail or not were decided by school years and point in my school, not first come, I was nervous and anxiety on the first day. The first 100 percent of English classes taken in foreign countries for the first time were not used to be until the end of the first semester. I often did not

understand my homework or a special date notice, and when I studied for an exam, I just studied the whole class a new. There was no time to lose confidence or shrink. I was desperate to speak English to survive and deliver my message regardless my grammar or use of words. As I become more confident, I use English and my skills have improved a lot. At the end of the first semester, I was overwhelmed with groundless confidence. However, I met my American friends and European friends who are majoring in English in the second semester and thought that I should study English again. I will talk about English again later.

One day, he applied for a lecture in Chinese. It was the company law that I heard because I was related to my major, but I wanted to give up so often, but I was able to take it through thanks to the professor help me and he rewarded me with a high grade. First, I gave a presentation in English and took a class. There was also a native teacher from the United States. Physical education classes at Donghua University were also very good. I took a swimming class in the first semester because I like swimming. There were many amazing activities such as rock climbing, kayaking and diving, but I failed to enroll because the classes were so popular. It was interesting that you could not graduate without swimming, and I thought that Taiwanese friends like sports despite the hot weather, watching you play volleyball and basketball every day.

5. Club activities

I joined the guitar club because I liked playing guitar. The friends I met there were very good, too. I often borrowed a guitar from the guitar club and played with my friends at night. Once, I performed with my friend from Hong Kong who liked Korean songs. Not only was she good at Korean, she sang too well.

Though separate from club activities, I participated in foreign Chinese singing competition organized by language center and won prize and money. At that time, I learned Taiwan language for the first time and it was harder to pronounce than I thought, but it was fun. I sang the 魚子 of 盧廣仲. I loved his guitar songs. Then he sang 不好意思，我的中文不好 with Tuvalu friends, who both won third place in the individual and group categories, winning prizes. It is also a very good memory. I was often interested in events held at school, mostly for foreigners or other clubs. If I have a chance next time, I would like to join the dance club. It looked nice to see them practice hard every time.

6. Loneliness

I never thought I would live this way alone in a foreign country. It was so amazing and lonely to be the only Korean in school. It was very difficult for me to live without meet a Korean person for about two months and talk to him or her. Later, foreigners who spoke Korean became irrelevant, and the long phone conversations with their girlfriend in Korea made it a long time to stay alone in their room. It made me sad that after going out late at night with my friends four times a week, suddenly no one understands what I was saying. I was tired of speaking in English, so I did not go out even though my friends called me in part.

After breaking up with a Korean girl friend in the second semester, I met a Chinese girl friend at school, and I think I made the wrong decision because of loneliness. For a year I had to learn to be lonely and used to. We needed busy things to forget about loneliness such as final exams, midterm exams, events, trips, and parties. However, many friends care and stay with each other, so I think happiness is better than loneliness when I look back over the past year. As it is my first time living abroad, I sometimes get homesick also. I thought it would be okay to spend two years in the army, but living in a completely different culture seemed to be a different matter. There were so many things that I couldn't do on my own, and I felt as if I had lost my ability. It would be a good idea to try more foreign life. Friends who live here 4 years or more were relatively less homesick.

7. Taiwanese Love Koreans

I felt it from the first time, I think Taiwanese people especially like Korean dramas and TV programs. At the lodging where I first arrived, the Taiwanese were watching a Korean TV program, and they asked me if anyone was Korean and asked about a K-pop or a Korean drama. I didn't know how much Hallyu was in Korea, but when I came abroad, I could tell for sure. Korean songs came from all over the store, and there were Korean snacks from each store. I don't know why, but everywhere they went, they knew I was Korean. But it was so nice to find out everywhere. The conclusion of my one-year life is that the Taiwanese seem to be in favor of Korea.

8. Study Chinese

Last semester, I met my foreign friends and talked mainly in English, so I did not speak Chinese enough. So I used to find students who wanted to learn Korean and study it in the form of language exchange.

I was so happy to study at Donghwa University for a year and it was such a good memory.