



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Farmaceutische Wetenschappen (Pharmaceutical Sciences) and Psychology
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
Name degree programme:	College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Psychology

Destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Name host institution	National Sun Yat-sen University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	09-02-2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	29-08-2018

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process was not complicated. If you follow the steps mentioned on the uu website and if you check your status in Osiris regularly, then you will be fine. The only thing that bothered me was that I didn't have access to the list of courses that would be provided in English before I was accepted. Therefore, I could not include this part in my motivation letter and was I unable to provide my course list to the Board of Examiners.

Once I was accepted by the National Sun Yat-sen University the real paperwork began. I had to do some medical check-ups and fill out some forms (provided in Chinese..), luckily the exchange coordinator did help me a lot and replied to my emails very fast. You will also receive a handbook where all the information is provided, so I recommend you to wait until you have this book before you start digging around the whole internet to find the information you are looking for.

Regarding the VISA application, decide for yourself if you really find it necessary to apply for a visa at the Taiwan Embassy in the Netherlands (costs: 96 euro's). Because you will get a free 3 month visa upon arrival in Taiwan, and every time you arrive to Taiwan you will get a new 3 month visa. Meaning: you can also decide to save that 96 euro's for a nice weekend trip to somewhere during your first 3 months and come back to Taiwan with a new visa for the last 3 months!

Counselling/support at Utrecht University:

The counselling at Utrecht University was good, but once you are accepted at your exchange university I would suggest you to ask most of your questions to the exchange coordinator of your



exchange university since they know all the ins and outs and are aware of the problems international students encounter.
Academic preparation:
-
Language preparation:
With my duolingo app I tried to learn some of the basics of Mandarin, but it is not necessary since you will be provided with a Chinese course during your exchange.
Finances:
Taiwan is not as cheap as most Asian countries, so it is wise to save some money before your exchange. And try to apply for Scholarships! You will live in a dorm without a kitchen, so you will probably go out for dinner and lunch almost every day and if you want to see more of Taiwan than only Kaoshiung it is really convenient to have a scooter. These were the main two reasons that I spend a lot of money, which was around 900 euro's a month (everything included).
<b>Study abroad period</b>
Study programme (concerning content and organisational issues):
The application system for your courses starts only upon arrival in Taiwan. Before the start of the semester there is a general introduction day where they show you around at the campus and where they will explain the course selection system. Attend this day because the course selection system differs a lot from our selection system. It is an online application system and you can almost pick every course that is taught in English (as a bachelor student you can often also apply for master courses). Mainly master courses and subjects on Business, Economics and Marketing are taught in English. The week after you picked your courses you can attend all the lectures you want to see if you really like the courses. Upon this week you can adjust your course selection and add/remove courses from your list. Most of the courses mainly exist of lectures and courses often include a lot of group work and projects. I had only 1 lecture (of 3 hours) every week for every course, so you will not have that many contact hours.
Academic quality of education:
While still being in the last year of my bachelor, I followed mainly master courses since there were only a few bachelor courses taught in English, but the level of the master courses was comparable to the level of our bachelor courses. Although, I have to say that some of the courses are really specific, so you might need to put more effort if you have not enough background on the topic.
Counselling/support at host institution:
There was a lot of support from the host institution. You will get a buddy who is most of the time more than willing to help you around and since the university is really a community you always have a lot of people around to whom you can ask your questions.
Transfer of credits:
I am still in Taiwan so I did not transfer my credits yet.
<b>Student life</b>
Welcome/orientation programme:



The orientation programme was very well organized, fun and necessary. I did provide us with a lot of information that was not totally clear from the handbook for exchange students. During the orientating programme you also would meet your buddy, my buddy and I had already some email-contact before I arrived in Taiwan, but this was not for everyone the case. It was really nice to have a buddy, because he/she will help you to mingle more with the Taiwanese students (since they are often very shy) and it is just nice to have a hand who can help you with everything.

Accommodation:

You will be provided a room in the international dorm. Most of the international student live here and you will share a room with one roommate. If you want to spend more time with Taiwanese students you can also choose to stay in the local dorms, here you will share your room with 3 other students. Though, I do recommend that if you speak no Chinese yet it would be a better choice to apply for the international dorm since a lot of the Taiwanese students do not speak English that well. The dorms are very basic and do not provide you with a kitchen unfortunately, though the environment is very nice, you see all your fellow students every day and you will have a lot of fun here! And the best of all: you live 5 minutes from the sea and you will have views on the sunset every day!

Leisure/culture:

Taiwan is so small, but it has so much to offer! The nature of Taiwan is super beautiful, there are waterfalls all over the country and if you like mountains or the sea: you choose the right country. Best of this: wildcamping in Taiwan!

And since it was my first time in Asia, I did not really know what to expect culture wise, but now I can say that I am really amazed by the people and the society here. They are so welcoming to foreigners, they will offer help whenever they think you are lost and they are super friendly. Additionally, Taiwan is one of the safest countries of the world. It is no problem to travel her alone as a female and the chances are high that if it might happen that you loose your phone, you will receive a call from the police that they have phone at their office.

Suggestions/tips:

The university advertises with a Taiwanese host family programme which is developed especially for exchange students. They organize some cultural events where you experience the real Taiwanese culture, but you can for a sleepover night at a Taiwanese family. I only knew about this at the end of the semester, but I think it is a really nice opportunity to learn more and have the full Taiwan experience.

Medical tip: ask your doctor for a rabies, because the campus is located next to the 'Monkey Mountain', so you will find yourself surrounded by a lot of monkeys during your stay at the university. Most of the monkeys are friendly and do nothing, but they like food, so if they see you with food they will rob you – so don't bring plastic bags and don't show them your food. Since most of the monkeys are wild monkeys I think it is a wise decision to be vaccinated.

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would highly recommend this organisation and destination to students whose main reason to go abroad is the experience. I think the university and the culture are a very good if you want to



develop your skills more and if – it sounds maybe cliché – you want to learn more about yourself. Additionally, student who study business, marketing or economics will also find a lot of interesting courses. But, if your background is not in these topics and you want to go abroad for better education then I think you can better go to another university.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Be in time with your application so that you can apply for scholarships. And if you want to make most of your time, practice your Chinese! Because the people really appreciate if you try to say something in Chinese. At the university they also have a Chinese language centre (CLC) and they offer 3 month courses in Chinese for which you get a good grant, so if you have time you can decide to apply for this before you start your exchange.

Can students contact you for additional info? If so, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Yes! Contact info available at the International Office. I did also write a blog (mainly about my travels in Taiwan) the link is also available at the IO.



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Geowetenschappen/Universiteit Utrecht
Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
Name degree programme:	Innovation sciences

Destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Name host institution	National Sun Yat-Sen University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	06-03-2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	06-07-2018

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Despite that I was a little late with applying for my exchange, both offices in the Netherlands and Taiwan were very supportive to help me to apply. In the beginning one should collect a lot of information and documents. I also had the feeling that the way I got an exchange was a bit different than normal and a few exceptions were made. For this I am very grateful. The information about the Visum could have been better since I didn't need one in the end, because you are most likely to travel when you are on exchange. When you travel to another country and come back, you have 90 more days to stay in Taiwan. So in the end I didn't need one. Furthermore, the medical test for tuberculosis seemed a bit unnecessary.

Counselling/support at Utrecht University:

Perfect.

Academic preparation:

Since my focus was on doing my master thesis individually, I was not really oriented on the classes of the school. However, if I compare the education level of the classes that I attended to the Netherlands than the level was quite low. I took one class for feedback on my thesis. This class was composed by PhD and Master students. However, I think master students of Utrecht are more forced to hand in good quality work in a much shorter period.

Language preparation:

Sometimes it can hinder you that you don't speak Chinese. However, google translate can be used



by talking to your phone which convert it to Chinese. Also a lot of people speak a little English that is sufficient to get around.

Finances:

In common I think Taiwan is very cheap. Rent of the dorms for the whole semester is equal to one month rent in Utrecht. For 10 euro a day you can have a decent meal that you don't have to cook yourself. Tickets to Taiwan and back can be found under 500 euro (360) with decent hours.

**Study abroad period**

Study programme (concerning content and organisational issues):

I took a Chinese class and a research class. My Chinese class was basic but had a nice speed of discussing pronunciation, characters and meaning. My research class intended to discuss your research and help you to develop a better paper.

Academic quality of education:

This was a bit disappointing. That HBO student from the Netherlands have the same classes as university students shows that it is not very hard to pass exams in Taiwan. Also my experience of the classes and also what I heard from others, I don't think there is really a challenge in these classes for university students. This does not mean that you don't learn, because I did learn a great amount in my Chinese and research class.

Counselling/support at host institution:

The counselling and support was also sufficient

Transfer of credits:

I don't know anything about this. I am focused on my master thesis.

**Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

I missed this because I arrived later

Accommodation:

Sufficient. It is not super clean, but it is not dirty. Before I went I thought being in the dormitories with many people was a drawback. After this exchange I think it is a advantage to be in the dormitories to connect with people from all over the world

Leisure/culture:

In Taiwan you have amazing nice people. Corrupt or mean people seem not to exist. They are very helpful with helping you to find your way or to make you feel at home. They will definitely come to you and start talking to you because you are a foreigner. The food is also sufficient and cheap. The scooter culture is also funny, but the smog is a drawback. But the roads are very good and the traffic is regulated very efficient. It feels like a developed country.

Suggestions/tips:

Explain students they don't need a visa, since you can better travel to Japan around May and when you are back, you can stay for 90 more days (which exceeds July).

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

This place is amazing to have an exchange. It is very welcoming to foreigners and I think it attracts



a very nice type of exchange students.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

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Can students contact you for additional info? If so, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Contact info available at IO.



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Geosciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Earth Sciences

Destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	National Sun-Yat sen University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/08/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31/01/2018

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

It all was very straightforward. I applied at UU and then I received (much later than other students! At April 12<sup>th</sup>, while deadline of application is April 30<sup>th</sup>, but it will come, don't worry) a mail from NSYSU with all the instructions for application. The contact person of NSYSU is very helpful and friendly, but I think this was her last year. They require you to do some sort of medical check-up, which I just did in NL (X-ray scan of chest for tuberculosis). They want you to fill in a form, but if you read the side notes, you will see two other health papers will also suffice. From the UU, I needed to fill in the courses I planned to follow, but I couldn't find a list with the courses (only an outdated



one). The link from the UU website also didn't work, this is the right one:  
<http://selcrs.nsysu.edu.tw/menu1/qrycrsfrm.asp?HIS=2&eng=1> . I thought I could do full-time Chinese, but that is not available to UU exchange students, so I suddenly had to pick other courses. So finding the available courses was a bit difficult; I eventually got a list from the contact person.

Counselling/support at home university:

The International Office sometimes also couldn't help me, but they always replied. As said before, it took a long time before I got the actual application mail. I couldn't find the right information before, since the website of NSYSU is quite confusing and the information that UU has about NSYSU is also not up to date. Wait for the mail from Taiwan and it will work out.

Academic preparation:

None. In my study area, only some Master courses were given in English. Bachelor was all in Chinese. But Master level at NSYSU is comparable to Bachelor level 1 / 2 at UU, so it is doable.

Language preparation:

I was interested in Chinese, so I used an app to learn some Chinese before going to Taiwan. Most students will speak English (their accent is easily understandable), but older people like the restaurant owners, hairdresser and local dorm personnel won't. If you download Pleco (useful dictionary that every expat uses) and use Google Translate's live camera translation option, you will easily survive with English.

Finances:

Taiwan is a very cheap country. I stayed in local dorms, which was €222 for the whole semester. Electricity is excluded and will cost around €40 for the whole semester. International Dorms is double the price. Living off campus will cost you about the same as International Dorms if you are lucky with your apartment. Otherwise this will be slightly more expensive. You will eventually find the good restaurants near campus where you can get a decent meal for 70NTD=€2. Breakfast is usually cheaper. On campus hairdresser is really cheap ~€3. I took the bus from Taipei to Kaohsiung, which is amazingly luxurious and €15. (If you have enough time, this is definitely a better option than the train. It only stops once for changing drivers) Partying is usually Western prices, since the only clubs present are owned by Western people. I bought a second-hand bike for just 1000NTD=€30, and scooter rental is also cheap, from a guy called Louis who you will find on campus. Renting a car is cheapest at Easyrent. Dairy products are more expensive than in NL. I didn't get a grant for this exchange because I think harder studies in more expensive countries get priority.

### **Study/placement abroad period**

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

I only found out about the exact courses when I arrived at the university. The course selection process will be explained there as well. You can scroll through the courses and you can apply for courses from all studies. There will be one week where you have the chance to try your courses of choice, which is very useful. Some courses turned out to be in Chinese or of a very low level, so I changed some courses after this week. Later on, you will have more chances to quit a course. You need some stamps before you can start, but everything will be explained. As an Earth Scientist, I had a hard time to find enough courses of interest (which were also in English and of sufficient



level), but for Economy and Management there are plenty. This is also where you find most exchange students. There is no Geoscience department, so I chose courses from Materials and Chemistry.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

For me, all Bachelor courses were in Chinese. Only some Master courses were in English. This differs per department; for Economy and Management also Bachelor courses are in English. Quality of teachers also differs greatly. Some courses I didn't choose because the teacher didn't speak English (contradicting the course description). Other teachers lacked didactic quality. But I found some very good teachers with sufficient English. Also some teachers have the tendency to help the students and explain it in Chinese for them. I didn't take any sport classes, but I heard some students recommend joining the university team rather than taking sport classes. Way of teaching also differs per course, but it was quite similar to the Netherlands. Usually 3 hours of lecture a week per course and no practicals. Some courses had weekly homework, some courses had reports and presentations. Even if you don't really care to study Chinese, I recommend to follow the Mandarin course. It is 3 credits and you will learn the language by fun games from nice teachers and it is a very good way to get to know other exchange students. Also, you can use your basic skills to partly understand the menu (all in Chinese) and greet people.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

I can't remember having troubles with paying the dorm fee or selecting courses. You will be informed about most of the things. Local dorm personnel has one English speaking member. Contact person (Leila Chang) was very friendly and helped you with everything, but that year was her last year. You can ask the contact person anything if something is unclear.

Transfer of credits:

I took four courses, each of 3 credits (Taiwanese), which were converted to 6ECTS each (so doubled). Courses run one whole semester and have 1-3 credits.

### **Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

Welcome activity was a bit disappointing. There was one meeting with free food where someone gave a presentation and that was it. No tour around the university, meeting with fellow exchange students or games. You will be assigned a buddy, which you of course have to meet by arranging a meeting yourself. In the course selection week there will also be a fair with all the student clubs. This was not announced! You have to find out yourself. There are many clubs, from hiking to calligraphy to cocktail mixing. There is a useful Facebook page for exchange students where activities are announced. Definitely go to some of these events.

Accommodation:

There are two options on campus: local dorm or International Dorm. I stayed in local dorms, which are 4-person rooms with four desks and a bed above it. You have some cabinets, but everything is in one room. Bathroom is outside and shared with your floor (6 rooms). There is air-conditioning, a fan and a sink and you have to setup your own wifi-network from a LAN-port. Local dorm can be at two locations: Cui Heng or Wu Ling. First one is close to the university, second one is near the ID. The locations are a 5-10min walk apart. There are multiple buildings at each location with



separated boys and girls dormitories (they are however experimenting mixed dorms now), and your key can only access your own dorm. Dorms also have their own hot water dispenser and laundry room (cheap!). You are not allowed to enter other dorms than your own. ID is more like an apartment, with multiple rooms sharing a living room, bathroom and kitchen. A big advantage of ID is that there is a fridge; in local dorms you cannot store dairy or fruits for a long time. The rooms are 2-person rooms with two normal beds and desks opposite to it. The room has no sink. Boys and girls have separate floors, but no one will notice if you visit other floors. All buildings allow access to the roof for viewing sunsets. Wu Ling (ID) has a sea view (with sunset) and Cui Heng has a campus view and (limited) city view. Wu Ling is 15min walk from the campus, Cui Heng is 5min. Both locations have their own very affordable restaurants, with good breakfast at Cui Heng and good dinner at Wu Ling. Bedding is not provided, cheapest is to go to IKEA for pillows, mattresses and blankets/sleeping bags. Mattresses are generally thin (5cm), for sure if you buy them on campus. Taiwanese boys tend to game until 4AM, but I never heard them. When I entered my room for the first time, it was a big mess (both local dorm and ID). There were many items from the previous owner (some useful) and a lot of dust. I just asked the staff twice to clean it and they did. Some local dorm rooms still had mattresses (just buy a cover and you are good to go). Some ID rooms had mold. ID has table tennis and pool on the ground floor. I stayed in Cui Heng local dorm, and after one month I got the choice to move to ID. However, I was lucky enough to only have 1 roommate (foreign) in a 4-person room, and local dorm is half the price, so I stayed. Some of my friends even had a 4-person room for themselves. Otherwise, I would have moved to ID. Both locations have scooter parking lots (overpacked with scooters). In ID of course you have more contact with exchange students, but in local dorm I could choose myself when to meet exchange students. I regularly visited ID to hang out, but I could retreat in local dorm when I wanted some rest. In ID, there are always people chatting on the other side of your bedroom door. Changing from local dorm to ID is easier than the other way around (because of the price), so choose wisely.

#### Leisure/culture:

Taiwan is a very cheap and small country, so go for it and see everything! If with a group, rent a car and make a roadtrip (very affordable, especially when combined with camping). During the first semester, there is only one week off and no more holidays (not even Christmas or New Year), so do your big trip in this week and do smaller trips in the regular weekends. Many students planned their courses thus that they had Friday (and Monday) off for long weekends. Definitely go on a hiking trip to see the sunrise from a mountain top! Taiwanese mountains always have the magic scenery of mountain peaks rising above the clouds, with a sunrise above the clouds. A wonderful experience. The hiking club or other students will always organise such a trip and anyone can join. I tried to make many local friends (which is harder than making foreign friends), to experience the real Taiwanese culture. All my courses had many Taiwanese students, so I made some friends there and even got invited to stay at someone's family in Taichung for a weekend! Also join a university sport club to meet people! They might be hard to find, but just ask around until you find someone that has friends in this club. These sport clubs are not announced, but you have to find out about their existence yourself. Also, many Taiwanese speak poor English and are too nervous to meet up with you. Since eating in restaurants is so cheap here, this is a good way to get to know people! Just



invite people for a dinner and have a chat. In the first semester, you will experience the Moon festival, the Dragon Boat race, Dongzhi (Winter solstice) and sometimes the Ghost month. Christmas and New Year are not widely celebrated, only with exchange students. Try to celebrate these festivals with locals, as they can show you what the traditions are.

On campus, you can do all kinds of sports for free! And they are also close to your dorm. So if you ever wanted to try a certain sport, here you can do it for free. Basketball is the most famous sport here. For food, danbing (pancake with egg and more) or congyoubing (onion pancake) will be your regular breakfast. Cheap and delicious. Noodles or rice (boiled/fried) with meat are standard lunch and dinner. Hot pot is a must-try with friends. You share a big pot of broth and you get many fresh vegetables and meat to cook. It is basically fondueing. As a dessert, try the babaobing (street near the ferry), a mixture of jelly, ice cream, sweet beans and taro.

#### Suggestions/tips:

If you stay longer than half a year, buying a scooter is cheaper than renting one. If you plan to do longer hikes or roundtrips in Taiwan, consider buying a sleeping bag rather than a blanket for your dorm, so you can take it on your trips. Also, buy a cheap tent and share the costs with multiple persons. This tent can be borrowed every weekend by different persons to make a more special trip. IKEA and Carrefour are the main stores for house items, but IKEA is generally cheaper.

Decorate your room with simple items like garlands and posters to make your room feel like a comfortable place.

I first thought that fruit was quite expensive here, but you just have to find the right place. It took me a while, but this is definitely the cheapest market in Kaohsiung: Richang Road. I once bought three oranges here for 5NTD=€0.14.

If you don't consider buying a scooter, buy a bicycle. (You can always borrow your friend's scooter or sit on the back). I bought one and I saw the whole city. It is fun to see new neighbourhoods and cycle in the small alleys, and everywhere you go something is going on: from temple festivals/opera to parades and markets. You will always find something interesting. I recommend cycling along the Love River, all the way North. You will enjoy the ride. You can also bike to Tainan. If you buy the iPass, you will get discount on all public transport in Taiwan and you can use a public bike for free in Kaohsiung (for 30min). You can also use the public bike with your credit card; for the bike, your iPass should be registered with a local's ID card. Other cities have different public bike systems with different rules. For some you have to register first.

Go to the 85 Skytower viewing deck (Kaohsiung). It is really cheap (~€4,-) and it gives a beautiful city view. Go during sunset. Martyr's shrine also has a beautiful city view and is near the Cui Heng dorms. Also hike the Monkey mountain (Shoushan) behind the university. It is a nice climb with hidden canyons and caves (hard to find, but there is a path) and sometimes you can see the city. Part of the mountain is a military zone, so don't enter this. Some students got caught there. Also visit Lotus Pond during sunset, it can be beautiful. Cijin island is so-so. Foguangshan is a huge Buddhist temple complex near Kaohsiung, also worth a visit. And look on the internet for Taiwan off the beaten track to find some hidden hot springs. You can climb rivers upstream (which is really fun to do) and find hidden warm pools at the end with a waterfall. Climbing Yushan (3952m, highest mountain) is a bucket list thing, but it is not the most stunning hike. When in Taipei, also visit



Jiufen, a touristy wooden village on a seaside hill, and hike Keelung mountain. I also recommend hitchhiking in Taiwan. It is very easy with foreign friends and people treat you very well (we got treated a 5-star dinner). In one day, you can easily make it from Kaohsiung to Taipei.

PX Mart is a much cheaper and bigger supermarket than 7-eleven or FamilyMart. Do your groceries there. There is a FamilyMart on campus and a local supermarket at both dorms (cheap) for basic items.

### **Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes! The campus is perfect and everything is affordable. There is a campus beach and free sports and the campus is very near the city, but still in the hilly forests. Great location with many trees. Taiwanese people treat you very well once they know you and they especially want to help foreigners. You will feel at ease very soon. There is no culture shock since everyone will accept and embrace you. I felt very comfortable in this country. The climate is nice in Taiwan, especially in Kaohsiung; it is still 18 degrees in winter. And because the country is cheap, you will travel a lot with your exchange friends and share a great experience together. Don't come here for a higher level of education, but go for the experience (and the language).

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Don't let the preparations scare you, everything will work out. Also in Taiwan, everything will go smoothly. Don't worry and enjoy. Try to spend your free time as efficient as possible and explore many places.

### **Contact details Student Services / International Office**

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

[exchange@qdesk.uu.nl](mailto:exchange@qdesk.uu.nl) (information) / [verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl](mailto:verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl) (report)

[www.uu.nl/students/exchange](http://www.uu.nl/students/exchange)



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Psychology

Destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	National Sun Yat-sen University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31/08/2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	19/01/2017

### Preparation

#### Exchange/placement application process:

There's quite a lot you have to prepare, so don't leave this until last minute. This will help you write a convincing Motivation Letter, you can update your resume and write realistic financial and study plans. There are also documents your host university will expect from you to send them before a certain deadline, so do not wait too long with this, some documents take longer to get than others. With good communication this can be done without any problems.

#### Counselling/support at home university:

There is one main person at the International Office whom you can contact when you are having troubles. There is also a buddy system, which means that there will be a local student that is assigned to help you during your first days in Kaohsiung. I was lucky to have a really nice buddy that helped me a lot and was very proficient in English, but there have also been cases of people that had never heard anything of their buddies (the locals are sometimes scared to speak English, because most do not speak it well).

#### Academic preparation:

Studying at this university is fairly easy for a Dutch student, because you can choose your own courses (as long as your Board of Examiners agrees with them) and most have very little homework and degree of difficulty. The English courses also don't require perfect English writing and speech skills, since there's also Taiwanese students that take these courses and their English isn't that strong either. Most tests are also presentations or papers, instead of written exams.

#### Language preparation:

At the university it is important to speak English, since this will be your main means of communication with others. If your English isn't that well either, it will be harder for you to



communicate with Taiwanese teachers and students, since theirs usually isn't that good either. If you can speak Mandarin, that will be a huge asset in this university and country in general (when you go out, pretty much no one is able to speak English).

**Finances:**

If you do not have too much to spend, try to be careful of how much you spend. Taiwan is not a very expensive country, but since you are not allowed to cook in the dorms, you usually will have to go out for lunch and dinner (or accept eating instant noodles). Since it isn't that expensive, it is also easier to spend a lot, "oh, this is just one euro!" has been something I usually said, but I said it quite often so that builds up to much more eventually. If you are careful with this, you will be fine in Taiwan.

**Study/placement abroad period**

**Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):**

You can choose your own courses and they give quite a lot of freedom in this, but there are some deadlines that you have to meet. If you don't, then you might be stuck with a course you don't like or an F on your list if you decide not to go. These deadlines are strict.

**Academic quality of education/placement activities:**

It is better to choose Master courses, because my Faculty told me those serve as third year courses in our university. These courses are also a bit harder and you need to do more work for it, which is nice for someone who actually wants to learn something in this university. There are courses taught by English/American teachers, I prefer those over courses taught by Taiwanese teachers. Not only because of the language proficiency, but also because the latter sometimes explains things in Mandarin to the Taiwanese students and I could not understand that.

**Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:**

I already answered this in the "Preparation" section.

**Transfer of credits:**

This depends on your Faculty I think.

**Student life**

**Welcome/orientation programme:**

There's a special day to welcome the exchange students, you get to see a video about Taiwan and the university and you get a tour through the school, so you know the buildings a bit better.

**Accommodation:**

I stayed in the International Dormitory, which is only minutes walking away from the University. This is a good choice if you want to get to know the other internationals quickly. You have one roommate and 6 others on your floor, with whom you share a kitchen, bathroom and living room. Men and women are divided in floors, but live in the same building. Prepare for uninvited lizards, cockroaches, ants and monkeys though. I lived on the fourth floor (there are no elevators...) but the upside of this was limited animals, compared to the first floor of the men (they also got rats, mice, crabs, more monkeys and even a snake once). It's fun living in this dorm though, because you will always find someone to hang out with and you know about all the parties and when everyone is going out.

If this doesn't sound that good for you (sorry if I scared you with all the animals, but you will kind



of get used to them after a week), you can also choose to live in the local dorms (less expensive, but also less clean and you have three roommates who usually cannot speak English that well) or you can live outside the university dorms and find your own apartment. The latter choice is usually quite cheap, you will have more space, less animals and more privacy, but the downside of this is that you will have little contact with the other internationals. If you want to study Chinese, the local dorms or an own apartment are recommendable, but I think for a normal student living in the International Dorms is the best choice (it is really about what you value most).

**Leisure/culture:**

Taiwan is not that big of a country and it is quite modern compared to other Asian countries, so traveling is pretty easy. There are beautiful islands where you can go snorkelling for the weekend or even just a day, you have many temples you can visit (Fo Guang Shan Buddha is only an hour away from the university if you go by scooter, they have a really nice event on 25<sup>th</sup> of December), you can go to Maolin District (gorgeous nature and bridges, two hours away by scooter). There is a beach 5 minutes away from the university and many places to eat in town, or you can go to one of the many night markets (the one at Central Park is quite nearby and the bigger one at Kaohsiung Arena is a bit further away). You can also visit other countries, since plane tickets aren't that expensive. Vietnam, the Philippines, Hong Kong, China and Bali were quite popular when I was there.

**Suggestions/tips:**

Get a scooter, it is really easy to get one from a guy that comes to the dorms in the beginning of every semester, his name is Louis. Watch out for traffic and accidents though, don't think you are cool if you go very fast and drive recklessly (there have been students with very nasty accidents because of that), Taiwanese people also don't always listen to the lights, so some drive through red lights too, watch out for that. A scooter is a necessity there though, it's very hard to get somewhere otherwise, the gas prices are as cheap as it can get (3 euros for a whole week of gas) and most people drive scooters there. It is fun and easy to drive in Kaohsiung, since the traffic isn't as crazy as for example Tainan or Taipei.

Furthermore, try to become friends with the locals, because they know what the best places are to eat and communication outside the university will also be easier with them by your side. They are also just delightful, very kind and shy and they will show you the "real Taiwan" instead of the way tourists perceive it.

Travel a lot, many things in Taiwan can be done in weekend trips, so you don't even have to skip classes for it. It is cheap and there are so many beautiful places to see, it will give you a lifetime of amazing experiences and memories.

**Conclusions**

**Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:**

Absolutely yes. I had a wonderful time there, Kaohsiung felt just like home to me. There are some things that could have been better handled by the university and dormitory, but these are just minor things compared to what you gain.

**Do you have any additional advice or comments?:**

If you have any questions whatsoever, you can always send me an email if you want, I love to talk about Kaohsiung and the university there: Contact info available at IO.



**Universiteit Utrecht**

### **Contact details Student Services / International Office**

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[www.uu.nl/students/exchange](http://www.uu.nl/students/exchange)



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Social Science
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Sociologie

Destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	National Sun Yat-sen University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	29/07/2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	23/01/2017

### Preparation

#### Exchange/placement application process:

Taiwan was my second choice (first choice: Santiago, Chile). The application process was really easy. I used to hear a lot of things about that an exchange is fun, but that the process is so complicated but I think that is not true. It was very easy, you just had to fill in a few forms. Taiwan requested an X-ray and health form, which was a bit confusing at first but then we heard that it was also possible to do it on arrival (which I did and which was no problem, actually kind of fun, and around 30 euros). Some students did it in the Netherlands, but I guess it would be more expensive here.

#### Counselling/support at home university:

I thought the support was good, although the contact with the contactperson for Asia was a bit vague and responded slowly. For me it was not a problem, but I know for others it was quite stressful because they wanted to feel secure about their place abroad. However, studying in Asia brings some insecurities with it but you just have to relax because it will turn out fine.

#### Academic preparation:

I almost finished my bachelor and was planning on taking some additional courses in Taiwan.

#### Language preparation:

I took Chinese classes at CCN, which is a cheap (280 euros for 6 months of Chinese), fun and good place to learn some basic Chinese! I did this for 6 months. I found it very useful, also because Chinese don't speak English very well and really appreciated if you speak some Chinese. I was also less confused than others on my first days. I really recommend it.

#### Finances:

I saved up some money, tried to apply for scholarships but my average was too low. Received the money from my OV card.



**Study/placement abroad period**

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

I took four courses:

- Chinese. This is not obligatory but almost everybody does it because it is fun. Besides that, I think it is good if you learn, or at least try to learn, the language of the country you are living in.
- Gender and social justice. This political science class was interesting in the beginning, but the teacher really had some issues. Got really angry if you were laughing in class, if you made a 'silly' mistake or just without reason. Talked mean things about the students who were not present. We started with 25 students and ended with 8. You had to read a lot of articles each week and sometimes give a presentation, and in the end hand in a paper. I usually did not read the articles, did give presentations and wrote the paper. Class would have been more interesting if I would have read the articles more often, but the course schedule changed every week so most of the times I was confused. Recommend if you are extremely interested in this subject.
- Jane Austen: Romance and Realism. This course is actually taught by Dutch professor, prof Teeuwen. The classes were extremely interesting, and the students engaging. We read 4 Austen books during the course and watched the movies. This was my favourite class, always fun, learned some new things. Also I was the only exchange student in this class. Absolutely take this class if you are interested in this kind of thing.
- Windsurfing. This was fun. The teacher did not speak English. Of the 20 classes I attended, we were only windsurfing in one of them, because the weather was usually not good (not enough wind, waves too high). Nevertheless really enjoyed this course, we were always doing something in the sea, bodyboarding, stand up paddle, sea kayak etc. Recommend!

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Low. Both of the classes I took (Jane Austen and Social Justice) were graduate ('master') courses. I would say Social justice is a undergraduate course, and the Jane Austen maybe a of highschool level.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Never needed it.

Transfer of credits:

Still in progress (just started transferring)

**Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

There was some kind of programme, although everything was extremely confusing at the beginner. They hosted a welcome dinner and a tour around the campus. However, about the tour, the weather was SO humid and it was so hot that a lot of people did not want to participate. I did it and it was sort of useful. Afterwards, there was a dinner, which was like every Taiwanese thing, very interesting, strange and as fun as you make it yourself. It was hilarious.

Accommodation:



Dormitory (international villa). Shared my room with one other girl. The rooms are assigned randomly but not completely random as I shared mine with another dutchy. We were on the fourth floor which was a bit unlucky because there was no elevator. We all kept in extremely good shape because of it, haha. We were, however, close to the rooftop which was a place we were hanging out regularly, drinking a beer, watching sunset. I heard that the Dutch students who are currently in Kaohsiung choose to stay off-campus, supposedly (I am not sure) because of rumours that the dorms are dirty. I though the dorms were fine, compared to my student house in Utrecht also quite clean. The dorms are 400 euros for the complete semester, and you have to pay electricitybills. Mine were 40 euros for the semester.

In my semester, people who choose to stay off-campus ended up regretting it. You miss a lot of things (social encounters, birthdays, parties) and you can not enter the dorm building without your personal key, which you don't have when you don't live there. I really recommend the campus.

Leisure/culture:

Leisure: Because I did not have to gain a lot of credits in Taiwan, I had a lot of free time. There is a lot of stuff to do around Kaohsiung, but most of the things require at least a day trip. In the beginning, I went a lot to the beach, joined the Dragon Boat team (rowing competition) and a project were you teach at Taiwanese highschools. I did lot of exploring outside of the city aswell. There are like 50 waterfalls around Kaoshiung which you can visit and look like postcards, so beautiful. You can visit a few other cities nearby, Kenting (beach area). I went on a camping trip organized by a Taiwanese boy, exploring the nature, hot springs and camping. I snorkeled with sea turtles and a lot of coral fish.

Culture: I did not have a culture shock, but the culture is quite different. Taiwanese people are really friendly. If you are assigned a buddy, really try to become friends. My buddy took me to her hometown and family which was soo fun and interesting. Most of the people do not really speak English though. And everybody thinks you are interesting and pretty because you are white, which is fun in the beginning but gets a bit weird in the end (people taking pictures without asking, adding you on facebook, want to be as white as possible because they don't like their skin-color).

Suggestions/tips:

Must-visit: Lisong hotspring. You have to rent a car/scooter to get there but it is absolutely the most beautiful thing ever. Day-trip, or you can go camping there.

### Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes, if you are looking for an extremely fun time and less looking for an intellectual exchange. I rented a scooter for the entire time I was there (280 for the semester) which gave me a lot of freedom. The food is interesting and it is also fun to travel to other Asian countries on your way there, while you are staying in Taiwan or on your way back to Holland. There were about 60 exchange students when I went there, which was supernice!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

You do not need a visum. You can enter with a visitor visum, leave after 3 months and re-enter. Instead of paying for a visum, I paid for a return ticket to a beautiful Japanese Island (Okinawa).

Unforgettable experience.



**Universiteit Utrecht**

### **Contact details Student Services / International Office**

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[www.uu.nl/students/exchange](http://www.uu.nl/students/exchange)



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Faculty of Geosciences: Human Geography & Planning
Level:	Bachelor
Name degree programme:	Human Geography & Planning

Destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	National Sun Yat Sen University (NSYSU)
Purpose of exchange	Study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	18/07/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	14/02/2016

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Applications were sent out for universities in Malaysia and Sweden, but both programs were too full. A list of 'leftover' universities in Asia was published and from a lot of choices I decided to go to Kaohsiung in Taiwan. It was centrally located (easy travel), had low living expenses, allowed for learning Mandarin, the university had good reviews and the university was located next to the sea.

Counselling/support at home university:

At the home university there was a meeting with students whom already studied abroad. Their advice really helped to make my life abroad easier.

Academic preparation:

My academic preparation was nihil.

Language preparation:

My language preparation was almost nihil. I have only studied some basic words in Chinese (maybe 20 words), which were not useful there any way.

Finances:

The rental cost of the international dorm is very cheap compared to Dutch rents (about 500 euros for 4 months). This allowed my finances to be very manageable. Living costs are about 200 euros per month including some minor activities. Travelling to other countries is more expensive and less convenient, because Kaohsiung Airport is not a big airport hub. Travelling in Taiwan was easy, cheap and fun too. It is smart to keep a financial backup and to have a backup creditcard. If still some financial transaction problems arise, you can use Western Union to transfer money instantly.

### Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

The study programme differed from my original plan, because I wasn't accepted in Malaysia. This



university did not have any courses from my specific department. So I took 5 courses in various departments and one course in Mandarin.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Academic quality was ok. It was not too difficult. They don't make it too hard, because they consider non-native English users, the fact that exchange students travel/go back early and that students do studies in subjects not related to their previous studies. My English was already decent, but if your English is not decent it could be more difficult.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

NSYSU holds several events to allow for contacts and counselling by the exchange program organizers. It also arranges a local Taiwanese buddy that can help you with practical issues and a local contact person.

Transfer of credits:

Not yet completed (still have to go through process with examination board) 16 credits from Taiwan should be 32 ECTS.

### **Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

Study abroad program organized a warm welcome, tour around campus and orientation presentation to guide all new exchange students.

Accommodation:

Accommodation was nice. Two people share one room. I was lucky to have a nice roommate. You have to buy mattress and sheets yourself. There is a desk and a lot of cabinets to put your stuff.

Leisure/culture:

Taiwanese are really friendly towards foreigners (positive discrimination). The food culture is to eat outside in small restaurants, which is very convenient and cheap. Eat more Asian dishes though. Western dishes are often not well made and too expensive.

Suggestions/tips:

From a student perspective: don't take too many courses, enjoy travelling about, meet up with locals and internationals and have a great time.

### **Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes, it is a good place to learn Mandarin, people are very friendly, it is cheap, it is located next to the sea, the organization and clubs are really active in organizing events.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Eat all the specialities (snake, intestines, rotten tofu, ears, brains, dumplings)!



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Humanities/History
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
name degree programme	History
destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
name host institution and/or company/organization	National Sun Yat-Sen University
purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13 / 02 / 2012
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	20 / 07 / 2012

### preparation

#### exchange/placement application process

First of all you need to get permission from your department or college to go abroad, once you have that you just have to fill in the forms which you can find on the website of the UU. You have to fill in at least two locations where you want to go. And then you have to wait if you are selected for one of the universities. After being selected you have to fill in forms for the host university and submit them at the international office.

#### counselling/support at home university

If I had any questions I would send an email to the international office and usually they would provide an answer on my questions.

#### academic preparation

I did not have any academic preparation. I went to Taiwan to follow some courses for my free part.

#### language preparation

There is no need for any language preparation. You does not have to be very good to go study here. When I arrived here I noticed that most of the Taiwanese students do not speak English very well. With the international students it depends mostly on from which country they are. Even some teachers do not speak English that well.

#### finances

Finances were not really a problem. Taiwan is a cheap country, so you can live there for around 300 or 400 euro a month. I had around 800 euro to spend there every month and that was more than enough.

### study/placement abroad period

#### study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

A big advantage is that you can choose every English course you want. I was enrolled in the college of Political Sciences, but I followed some master courses in International Relations. At the beginning of the semester you get a syllabus where you can see what you are going to do every class. At least that was the case with the courses I followed. It is also much recommended to follow the Chinese course at the Chinese Language Centre. Almost every exchange student follows that course.

#### academic quality of education/placement activities

The level of education here is la little bit lower than in Holland. You will have no problem to follow master and PHD courses. Not in every department there is a lot of choice in English courses. You also get a few weeks before the semester starts to follow any course you want to see if you like it.

#### counselling/support at host institution/organisation



If you have any questions or need any help you can always ask your teacher or send your teacher a mail. But the best place to go is usually the international office. During my stay here it was the most useful place to go. They are always a very big help.
transfer of credits
At the end of the semester you have to give the address of your institution. NSYSU will send two copies of your transcript to the UU.
<b>student life</b>
welcome/orientation programme
The NSYSU works with a buddy system. Your buddy will help at the beginning of the semester if you have any questions. The semester starts usually a few weeks after you arrive. Before the semester starts there is an orientation day where almost everything is explained.
accommodation
Living accommodation is oke. You share a room with another student. You share a kitchen, bathroom and living room with nine other students (if all the rooms are full). You also have air conditioning in the room which is very useful with the temperature and humidity here. You pay around 14000 NTS for a semester. That is around 400 euro. But you have to pay for electricity, but that is not very expensive. Always keep your room clean and do not leave food open in your room or else you get ants and cockroaches in your room. And lock the window when you leave, because else there is a chance that monkeys come in and pretty much make a very big mess.
leisure/culture
You will have a lot of free time to spend. You only have about 15 hours class in a week. There are a lot of sport facilities on campus. You can also go to the beach, is only a 5 minute walk from the dorms, mostly stairs. Taiwan is very diverse country. You can travel to Taipei or to the mountains or south to Kenting national park. You can also go outside Taiwan during your stay here. The food here is also very diverse. People mostly eat rice and noodles but you can get almost every type of food.
suggestions/tips
Take your time to see the country and travel around because Taiwan is a beautiful country.
<b>conclusions</b>
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Yes, because Taiwan is a beautiful country. The location of the university is very nice. Taiwan is also a cheap country. You also have a lot of free time outside the study, because the courses are not very difficult and it is also fun to learn a little bit Chinese.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Just enjoy your time abroad.

Contact details:

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- [verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl](mailto:verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl) (report)
- I: [www.uu.nl/students/exchange](http://www.uu.nl/students/exchange)

## 6 Maanden in Taiwan

Een international semester is altijd een fantastische ervaring waar je ook naartoe gaat. 6 maanden hier in Taiwan verblijven was voor mij een erg goede keuze. Het land is niet erg groot, ongeveer zo groot als Nederland en je kunt dus makkelijk het hele land gezien hebben als je weer naar huis gaat. Reizen in Taiwan gaat erg goed en vanuit Taiwan kun je ook goed naar andere landen reizen. De werkloosheid is erg laag en de criminaliteit ook, het is een erg veilig land. De Taiwanese bevolking is ontzettend vriendelijk, mensen proberen je altijd te helpen of ze willen gewoon een praatje met je maken. Als je in Taiwan bent heb je altijd een prettig en veilig gevoel.

Kaohsiung is de 2<sup>e</sup> stad van het land. Je zou het kunnen vergelijken met Amsterdam en Rotterdam. Taipei is de culturele hoofdstad en Kaohsiung de industriële havenstad. De laatste jaren is het gemeentebestuur erg hard bezig de stad een nieuwe impuls te geven. De stad heeft nu mooie parken, brede lanen met palmbomen, een leuke eilandje met een mooi strand en de universiteit is ontzettend mooi. Over enkele jaren is het metrostelsel klaar wat ze nu aan het aanleggen zijn.

De Sun-Yat sen Universiteit ligt aan de rand van de stad aan de zee en is tegen de bergen aangebouwd. Het is niet een erg groot complex maar wel ruim en overzichtelijk opgezet. Een busje rijdt over de campus en brengt je gratis naar de verschillende locaties. Het programma is erg goed geregeld, je wordt goed opgevangen en er is een buddiesysteem. Je krijgt een buddy toegewezen die je de eerste weken een beetje wegwijs maakt. Als je geen Chinees spreekt is dat zeker erg makkelijk. De meeste studenten spreken erg goed Engels, maar in de stad spreekt bijna niemand Engels. Je buddy zal je ook helpen met inschrijven voor je vakken en je rondleiden op de campus.

De meeste studenten wonen op de campus, je deelt dan een kleine kamer met 4 personen. Ik had het geluk dat het bedrijf waar mijn vriend hier in dezelfde periode zijn afstudeerproject doet een groot en mooi appartement voor ons had geregeld. In de stad wonen is erg leuk. Uit eten gaan is goedkoper dan zelf koken dus dat deden we dan ook bijna iedere dag. De stad bestaat grotendeels uit huizenblokken waarvan de onderste verdieping altijd een winkel of een restaurantje is. Waar je ook bent in de stad je vermaakt je altijd wel. Er zijn grote warenhuizen van 12 verdiepingen waar je goed kunt shoppen, er is een grote bioscoop waar ze films in het Engels draaien, er zijn erg veel pooltenten en leuke koffietentjes en kroegjes en natuurlijk de nightmarkets. Zeker 's avonds hoef je je nooit te vervelen. Als je opvalt hier op straat zoals ik met blond haar en blauwe ogen moet je ook niet verbaasd zijn als mensen met je op de foto willen. Het gebeurt mij hier bijna 1x per week.

Het openbaar vervoer hier in Kaohsiung is prima geregeld. De meeste bussen rijden om de 20 minuten en op de hoofdwegen overlappen de buslijnen. Het gaat erg makkelijk, als je instapt moet je 12 dollar in een bakje stoppen en dan mag je uitstappen waar je wilt. In de meeste steden gaat het hetzelfde.

De trein is ook een handig vervoermiddel als je wilt reizen in Taiwan. Je hebt vier soorten treinen. Van langzaam tot snel, dat is inherent aan goedkoop tot duur en minder comfortabel tot comfortabel. Daarnaast rijden er grote busorganisaties tussen de grote steden. Deze zijn uitermate comfortabel. Je krijgt

dan een relaxfauteuil met een eigen LCD-scherm waar je films op kunt kijken of computerspelletjes kunt spelen. Sommige hebben zelfs massagestoelen. Een ritje naar Taipei duurt 5h en kost ongeveer 15 euro.

Het belangrijkste vervoersmiddel in Taiwan is toch wel bij uitstek de scooter. Ik heb bijna heel Taiwan met de scooter gezien, behalve het noorden, dat is wel erg ver rijden. Een scooter huren gaat vrij gemakkelijk en kost ongeveer 10 euro per dag, benzine is bijna verwaarloosbaar. Je kunt ervoor kiezen een scooter te kopen voor een paar maanden, veel studenten doen dat. Het is erg handig en je kunt vaak best een goede deal maken. Wij hebben besloten geen scooter te kopen. Voor lange reizen is het vaak een stuk fijner om een 125 cc scooter te hebben en die zijn een stuk duurder, daarnaast wilden we de scooter doordeweeks helemaal niet gebruiken. In de stad rijden gaat best goed, toch gebeuren er regelmatig ongelukken met scooters. Maar buiten de stad is het helemaal niet druk op de weg, de wegen zijn goed en het is echt fantastisch om op de scooter langs de kustlijn van Taiwan te rijden.

Ik heb hier een fantastische tijd gehad. Je leert veel mensen kennen van verschillende nationaliteiten. De groep internationale studenten is hier vaak niet erg groot, maar dan leer je wel iedereen goed kennen. De universiteit biedt vele mogelijkheden om van je verblijf te genieten. Er zijn erg goede sportfaciliteiten en veel dingen zijn erg goedkoop of zelfs gratis. Je hebt veel mogelijkheden om te reizen en daar heb ik volop gebruik van gemaakt. Alleen dan kun je het echte Taiwan ontdekken. Het is geen land met veel toerisme, dat wil niet zeggen dat erg geen mooie plekken zijn. Op veel mooie plekken is het dus ook lekker rustig. Van de politieke onrust tussen China en Taiwan merk je helemaal niks hier. Ook de Taiwanese maken zich hier erg weinig zorgen om.

Rest mij nog om enkele tips te geven die nuttig kunnen zijn als je hier wilt gaan studeren.

- Als je wilt reizen buiten Taiwan zorg dan meteen al voor een multiple-entry visum.
- Neem een internationaal rijbewijs mee of zelfs je brommerrijbewijs als je dat hebt. Als je een scooter koopt heb je je internationaal rijbewijs nodig om een parkeerstickertje voor de universiteit te krijgen, ook voor huren is het wel makkelijk.
- Als je geen Chinees spreekt kun je op de universiteit een erg goede cursus volgen. De basis cursus Mandarijn. Je leert in een snel tempo erg veel en het is leuk en handig. We hadden les in een kleine groep, 3 dagen per week 2h.
- Als je met een goede vriend of vriendin gaat is het wel erg leuk om een appartement in de stad te zoeken. Dat is dan wel wat duurder.

Student Kunstgeschiedenis  
Faculteit de Letteren  
Universiteit Utrecht