



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	Engineering
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Computer Science and Engineering

destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
name university abroad	National Sun Yat-sen University
start date	12 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Applying for the exchange was quite easy, and it can be a good idea to spend some time on your study plan. My initial choice was a university in South Korea, but I ended up getting my second choice: NSYSU in Taiwan. For NSYSU, I did not need a proof of language proficiency.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

It was good to have a short discussion about the study plan with the study advisor, discussing the options for when and how to follow what courses before and after the exchange.

academic preparation

-

language preparation

I learned some Chinese using the Hello Chinese app, which I definitely recommend!

finances

Taiwan seemed to be quite cheap, especially compared to the Netherlands. You can eat out for about 200 to 400NTD, which is only 10 euro's a day. Other things are relatively cheap as well, as you can rent a scooter (which I recommend) for about 2500NTD (75 euro) per month. I did get a scholarship from NSYSU. It was 60000NTD, and I got paid twice: Once in April (2 months after arriving), and once in May. To keep the scholarship, you will have to follow a Mandarin course at NSYSU, which was a lot of fun for me. The course is also very easy to follow.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

You can register for courses online quite easily, but the system was very outdated. I registered for 4 courses, but only managed to enroll in two. Even if the course ends up full, you can still go there and ask the professor if you can follow the course for about two weeks after the course starts. I followed Leadership & Decision Making and the elementary Chinese Mandarin class. Both of them were really fun, and did not require much time outside of the class. It also seemed like everybody got extremely high grades compared to the UU (even in other courses). I heard a lot of people getting 93, 97, or similar grades out of 100 points.

academic quality of education activities



The Chinese class was interesting, well-taught, and occasionally challenging, although it did seem like the class was focused on making sure everybody understood everything, rather than learning a lot. There was a LOT of repetition. In some aspects like this, it was comparable to elementary school. The Leadership & Decision class was great quality, and very enjoyable, although the focus was more on the philosophical rather than Leadership itself. The teachers have a high degree of control, and therefore the course might not be exactly like you expect it to be. In this case, that turned out great for me.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Hana was the main contact person at NSYSU, and she did an amazing job of showing us around and helping students with anything. Other support was also great.

transfer of credits

Not yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

A little bit long, a lot of focus on scooter safety, and very useful to be shown around the campus.

Accommodation

I was staying in the international dormitory, and it was quite nice as there were a lot of facilities in and around the dormitory. It was also very cheap (17000NTD) for the entire stay (5 months). The dormitory was quite dirty though. Below the dormitory, there is a kitchen, a pool table, and a few table tennis tables (which I used a lot). The airco in the rooms is a luxury. If anything was broken, we could send an email, after which these things got repaired really quickly.

leisure & culture

People are extremely friendly in Taiwan. It's nice to learn about the people and their customs/beliefs. As for leisure: The country has a lot to offer, and I highly recommend you to travel across the country. You can rent a scooter to check out places in Kaohsiung or nearby. The nature is beautiful, and the cities are nice to visit as well. Driving your scooter in the mountains is also a great experience. I also recommend visiting the places further away, especially Jiufen (old street) and Taroko National Park. Taiwanese traditional food is great. It's also nice to visit the islands like green island and turtle island. Watch out for the ferry if you have seasickness though. People usually speak some English, and if not, you can maybe ask your buddy to help you. Watch out for general food in Taiwan, as it can be a bit unhealthy at many places (buffets are a good place for healthier food).

suggestions/tips

- Get a scooter at 555 scooter rental
- Get all the paperwork out of the way and plan future paperwork/course plannings/etc.
- Hot springs
- Wear sunscreen!
- Be open to any experience

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! The courses are fun, the campus is beautiful with mountains & beach, there's a LOT of sport facilities (2 gym's, athletic track, swimming pool, tennis court, table tennis tables, etc.), and the campus is very green and there does not seem to be any smog as opposed to the city. The courses were lots of fun, and the weather



was phenomenal (although sometimes phenomenally hot). Kaohsiung was my new home for 5 months, and I could not have asked for a better place.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
name university abroad	National Sun Yat-Sen University
start date	01 / 09 / 2022
end date	24 / 12 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite easy to follow, but it took some time. This was partly related to the application process itself, but it was also related to the COVID-19 rules at the time in Taiwan. Contact with the exchange coordinator at NSYSU was very clear and they were always open for questions.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Support during the application period was pretty good, however when it came to questions after the exchange period started it was more efficient to ask the exchange coordinator at NSYSU.

academic preparation

I did not really prepare academically

language preparation

I did not really prepare by learning Mandarin, this was because NSYSU offers Chinese courses to every exchange students. You will be put in a class based on your level.

finances

I was part of the Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship so I got 60.000 NTD (about 2000 euros) from the Taiwanese Government. This helped a lot, but Taiwan is a decently expensive country. The street food is quite cheap and most other things are a little bit cheaper than the Netherlands but it is not cheap like a South East Asia.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The course selection took place after arriving in Taiwan. This made it hard to choose my courses beforehand and getting my courses approved.

academic quality of education activities

I took master courses and they were sufficiently challenging to me. The examinations consisted of writing papers, essays, presentations, and for one course the final examination consisted of gathering a portfolio for a job you wanted to apply to.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The support I received was from the office of international affairs and the contact was the coordinator. She was available to reach through either Facebook or email and was always quick to answer. Even before we were in Taiwan she was almost always available for questions.

transfer of credits

I do not know the exact transfer rate of the credits, but the credits per course are noted when you apply. So looking at the transfer rate file should give indication. Courses run throughout the whole semester.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Student orientation was done through the buddy program. Everyone is assigned a buddy and they can help you with any questions you have. During the orientation day we were put in groups with our buddy and other students and their buddies and we took a campus tour.

Accommodation

I applied for the international dorm, but because of a high number of applicants I got put into a local 2 person room. I still had a Dutch roommate and my part of the floor consisted of international students. Showers and Toilets were shared with the floor. The room was big enough for two people. The rent was around 12.000 NTD, which is around 370 euro for the whole semester. The dorm rooms were up on the hill so sometimes it was tiring to walk up.

leisure & culture

There are a lot of clubs at NSYSU, in the beginning of the semester they had a big market where all clubs, except for the sports clubs, had a stall where they gave out information. I joined the music club and the football club. With the music club we played a small concert towards the end of the semester. With the football team I trained and we played friendly matches. During the fall semester they play a tournament, but exchange students are not permitted to join. In the spring semester there is a football tournament in which exchange students are permitted to join. Joining the football team offered me a good chance to make friends with Taiwanese students. We would get dinner after the training. Since Taiwan is not a really big country it is easy to visit a lot of places. You can take trains, busses, or rent a car or scooter to travel around. I would recommend finding some friends to travel around with. It makes for a great experience.

suggestions/tips

Rent a scooter, it makes it easier to get around Kaohsiung because the Metro only has two lines. I did not rent a scooter but it was sometimes annoying when I wanted to go somewhere and it just makes it easier to explore the surrounding areas of Kaohsiung.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend going to NSYSU and Taiwan in general. The university is in a great location and the people there are lovely. It is an amazing opportunity to be immersed in a different culture and definitely worth it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The university does have wild monkeys walking around so if you go do not take food outside the buildings and don't use plastic bags. When you rent a scooter, make sure that you drive safely.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	UCR
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Science

destination city & country	Kaohsiung, Taiwan
name university abroad	NSYSU
start date	05 / 09 / 2022
end date	06 / 01 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The guidelines about the exchange application process have been very clear and straightforward. The website lists all necessary steps and deadlines.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

UU has always been responsive and helpful during the selection process. Most of the communication went through UCR though, since that is my home university. They have helped in every step of the preparation, as well as after finding out that my top 3 Universities did not accept me. UCR offered me to choose again and made sure I still get the chance to go on exchange.

academic preparation

I did not need to do any academic preparation score going on exchange.

language preparation

Taiwan's Education is mainly in Mandarin but the host university also had a list of courses in English. Since I did not know any Mandarin, I only chose courses in English. I do recommend taking the beginner mandarin course. It will teach you basic words and sentences that can easily be applied in your daily life.

finances

Taiwan is very cheap. Living in the dorms only cost me around 300€ for one whole semester. Food, especially local cuisine, is also very affordable. Meals can be as low as 1-3€. Traveling around can also be cheap, depending on what you chose to get around. Hitching is very safe and local buses and trains will also get you to places for only a couple of euros. Overall, you will probably spend much less than in the Netherlands, but that of course depends on your lifestyle. Partying in Taipei will of course be much more expensive than camping in the mountains or near the beach.

I would recommend saving up some money to travel to other countries around Taiwan before or after the semester.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



study programme (content and organisational issues)
My host university in Kaohsiung has impressed me with their amazing support from the international office. They have organized numerous events for all exchange students to really give us the best experience possible. The communication has been fast and clear throughout the whole semester and I felt very welcomed from the moment I arrived.
academic quality of education activities
NSYSU has a variety of departments with hundreds of course options. I was part of the oceanography department. We had weekly lunch talks, a couple of excursions and I also took part in the cruise course. There, you get to go on a research vessel for one day and experience what the job as an oceanography researcher would be like. Overall, all professors have been very kind and understanding and really tried to give me the best experience possible.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
As mentioned before, the international office was very helpful. If any questions arose - whether it's about courses or any private issues - the exchange coordinator was always there to help. I am really impressed by the great support us exchange students received.
transfer of credits
My transfer of credits has not yet happened, therefore I cannot provide any information about this yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The host university offered an introduction day for all new exchange students. Unfortunately, I was still in quarantine that day. Besides that, every exchange student also gets a buddy that is there for you to answer any of your questions, also before arriving. The buddy offers to take you around campus and together with a whole buddy group, we also went on different day trips or other activities together. It is a great way to meet Taiwanese students and receive a more local introduction to Taiwan.
accommodation
NSYSU has student housing on campus. There is an international dorm where you live with one other international student and also the local from where you share a room with three other students. The international dorm has nicer (shared) bathrooms and a kitchen. The other dorm does not have a kitchen and the toilets and showers are shared with the whole floor. I was space in the local dorm and my experience there was fine. I probably would not want to stay there more than one semester but since it was so cheap, it was really worth it.
leisure & culture
Taiwan has plenty to offer. My university was right next to the 2nd biggest city of Taiwan: Kaohsiung. The university campus is placed on a mountain, overlooking the ocean - honestly the most beautiful campus I have ever seen. At the same time, it is only a 10-15 min walk away from the city. So from chilling on the to hiking on „monkey mountain“ to shopping, partying and eating out in town. Kaohsiung has everything your heart desires.



Kaohsiung is also rich in culture with museums art centers, music centers and a pier near the harbor.

Only a 10 minute ferry ride away is Cijin Island - the place to go for playing volleyball, watching the sunset and enjoying a good beach party at Sunset Bar.

Besides spending time in Kaohsiung itself, I highly recommend traveling to places around as well: you can visit Kenting, the south of Taiwan with a beautiful beaches and a national park, within 2-3 hour driving. With the high speed rail you can be in Taipei in 90min or take the mountain rail through the mountains to get to Taitung on the East Coast for a full nature experience (surfing, diving, hiking and so much more). Taiwan has so much to offer, you will not run out of things to do or places to go, I promise.

suggestions/tips

I highly recommend renting a scooter and driving around the island. Especially driving along the east coast will provide you with non-stop views of the amazing landscape where mountains meet the ocean.

You don't want to miss a trip to the East coast and take a ferry to Green Island or Orchid Island for some diving, hiking and exploring the beautiful nature, as well as meeting some friendly locals.

Hualien is also worth visiting to explore the incredible Taroko Gorge, natural hot springs and amazing hiking routes.

If you feel up for the challenge, you can also request a permit to hike the tallest mountain of Taiwan in Yu Shan National Park.

Besides all the amazing nature that Taiwan has to offer, make sure to check out Tainan - Taiwan's oldest city - to learn about some history.

All over Taiwan, you will be seeing loads of temples but the biggest one (with the biggest Buddha statue) is located in the outskirts of Kaohsiung - definitely worth it to visit.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend Taiwan as your exchange destination. The country is one of the safest, most welcoming and most beautiful place I have been to. You will be amazed by the nature, friendly people and amazing local fruits. NSYSU has a great campus right on the beach. Who would want to say no to that?

All in all, I am really grateful for my experience in Taiwan and will cherish all the beautiful memories forever.



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).
Study abroad period
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.
Student life
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.



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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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 12th, while deadline of application is April 30th, 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



<p>one). The link from the UU website also didn't work, this is the right one: http://selcra.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.</p> <p>Counselling/support at home university:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Academic preparation:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Language preparation:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Finances:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Study / placement abroad period</p> <p>Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):</p> <p>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</p>



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.



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 25th 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?:



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 highschoools. 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 hot spring. 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.