



UU Report form - Erasmus 2019-2020

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's
name study programme	Pedagogische Wetenschappen

destination city & country	Taipei, Taiwan
how did you travel to your destination?	Flight
name university abroad	National Chengchi University
start date	03/09/2019
end date	08/01/2020

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process can be tricky at times. Make sure you talk to the OIC about your motivation letter for example, that was big help for me.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

academic preparation

Did not really do anything extra. The academic level on NCCU is mostly lower than what I'm used to at UU.

language preparation

Next to my English skills I did not prepare anything to understand Mandarin better. It's also not necessary, almost everyone in Taipei talks English pretty good and they will always help you if you ask them.

finances

I saved some money beforehand and I made sure my student loans were on maximum during my stay. Taiwan is not that expensive but not as cheap as you would think. Next to that I mostly needed more money because of the trips I wanted to take, in Taiwan and to other countries. For instance, I travelled to the Philippines and Indonesia.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Before I went to Taiwan I made a selection of courses I wanted to take, but when you arrive there you'll find out that everything can change in a week. In the beginning (first two weeks if I remember correctly) you can go to the courses you were thinking about. The teacher will explain everything about the course, how the semester is set up and what you have to do to get your credits. This gives you the chance to change courses if they do not fit your expectations. I changed almost all of my courses during this week.

academic quality of education activities

The quality varies a lot between courses. All the teachers are very qualified but some have higher expectations of you than others. In the end this meant that I had very varying courses in difficulty. Fine with me, I must admit that I did not go there to be academically challenged.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling & support is very good. I was assigned two 'buddies' before I arrived and they can help you with anything. Housing, courses but also getting a sim-card and other stuff, your buddies can help you. At least my buddies were excellent, of course some people did not see them at all (because they feel they didn't need them). The first weeks can be very vague, so please use them. It's a very bureaucratic university, for getting some courses you need approve by the teacher on a paper etc. so that can be somewhat challenging. Especially because it's your first weeks, but afterwards everything will figure itself out and you will have an amazing time!

transfer of credits

Still need to get them when I wrote this.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university and students clubs prepare a lot for you, so that's perfect. I arrived alone and must say that I was a bit overwhelmed by everything, but at the first welcome programme it's very easy to make friends and get set up. Very good!

accommodation

I lived in the I-house near campus. This is like a dorm, also from the university, but the quality of everything is way better. It's also very nice that everything who lives there are international students. That makes it very easy to make friends, because most of them have the same expectations of the semester as you. Would recommend it for these reasons. But, if you want to live more in the centre you can try different houses, because the I-house is in Wenshan district near the university, but not in Taipei centre. Still only 25 minutes in the bus to Taipei 101 though.

leisure & culture

Taiwanese people are amazingly friendly. Of course there are big cultural differences but I never felt like an unwanted stranger.

suggestions/tips

Go here

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, totally. Taiwan is still an undiscovered gem in Asia. A mix of Chinese, Western and Japanese culture make this an incredibly nice country to go to. Also, the weather is amazing all year long, the country has nice beaches, natural parks and so on and so on. I had an amazing semester, and I would highly recommend this to everyone.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Let me know if you need any advice, I'd be happy to help



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

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

Destination city & country	Taipei, Taiwan
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	National Chengchi University (NCCU)
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)	05/09/2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15/01/2019

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process was quite chaotic. The international officer of NCCU sent me 20 mails, which was really unclear sometimes. The international officer was super enthusiastic and always responded fast on all the questions I sent her (always within a day). The application process was also combined with a long list of paperwork. It was a lot of work, but not really difficult.

Counselling/support at home university:

The home university could help me a lot with general questions, I also had a lot of contact with a student who had studied at NCCU a year before me.

Academic preparation:

There was not really academic preparation needed.

Language preparation:

Only for one course I need a English Proficiency Form. You can get this form from the International Office. No English test was needed.

Finances:

The expenses in Taiwan were relatively low. Housing was cheaper than housing in Utrecht and in general food was also cheaper, but not as cheap as other Asian countries as Vietnam/Indonesia/Thailand for example.



Study/placement abroad period

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

Submission of courses were super unclear to me. As an international student you had 2 ways to get in courses and the e-mails of the university were also very unclear to me. The course selection period was very stressful, especially because this took place in the Netherlands. In Taiwan it was more clear to me and there was also an information presentation in the orientation week.

You need to sign in for courses during the course selection period. But there is no problem if you did not do it in this period. You can always get a signature from the teacher to follow the course.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality really differed from each other. Some teachers were not really competent to give lectures and sometimes the content of the courses were not really deep. Utrecht University has pretty high standards in comparison to other universities in the world. I could really tell the difference.

The teachers that were more international orientated, gave taught at a higher level.

For 30 ECTS I needed to sign up for 5 courses during the semester. I signed up for the following courses:

- Democracy and Democratization in in East and South Asia
- International Relations
- Organizations and Institutions in China and Indo-Pacific
- Workshop on Sustainability Issues
- Basic Mandarin Course

I had the opportunity to learn basic Mandarin, which was one of my favourite courses!

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The international office of NCCU was super supportive. I lived in the I-house (housing for internationals) and their office was in the same building. Questions over e-mail were answered really fast and coming by at the office was also effective.

Transfer of credits:

Don't know yet.

Student life



Welcome/orientation programme:

This was well organised. We could check in the house 1 or 2 days before orientation week. And within the orientation week there were a lot of activities that gave you information about the university/student associations/ health check/ safety. This week was also really nice to get to know your fellow students.

Accommodation:

During the application phase we got an e-mail of the international office with options of housing. 1. Dorms, 2. I-house 3. Find something yourself (but with suggestions of sites that can help you). I chose for the second option and I don't regret it. I didn't sign up for the dorms because you have to share a room with 3 other people and I thought it was a risk to find something myself. When I checked in, I had to pay for the whole semester, but the prices were not that high, so it was not a big problem. You had the option to choose for a single bedroom or a double with a roommate (these rooms are cheaper). I chose a double bedroom and got a roommate from Hong Kong. I sometimes missed my privacy, but in general it was not that bad to share a room. Your room gets cleaned twice a month.

The house was a lot of fun, I met a lot of my friends here and there are 2 big common areas where you can chill with each other and eat. The only thing that was annoying was that we had to leave the common area at 10 p.m. Further from this, we had no problems and we also had a good connection with the people who worked there.

Leisure/culture:

In my leisure time I saw a lot of Taiwan and we planned a lot of trips. There is really a lot to do in Taipei and in the weekends you can go on trips to other parts of the country. The surface of Taiwan is almost the same as the Netherlands, so traveling to other cities was easy. Busses are super fancy and cheap, but sometimes hard to understand with the Chinese sites. I also travelled to Malaysia, Philippines and Japan. So there is enough time to do fun stuff! (If you need more info about budgets get my information from the IO)

The culture of Taiwan is amazing. It is so different from other Asian countries. The people are really nice and helpful. Food is amazing (especially the food at the night markets)! Taipei as a city is really developed, sometimes even more developed than the Netherlands. The nature in Taiwan is beautiful and there is a lot to see. Within 20 minutes you can be out of the city and hike a mountain or go to the beach. (There are a lot of travel programmes on BNN that give a really good image of the country)

Suggestions/tips:

Conclusions

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



I would definitely recommend a year abroad! Taiwan is an amazing country with a lot to see and learn. But, if you really want to go to a good university (same level as the UU) you maybe have to reconsider. Even though NCCU is the best university in Taiwan, the level of education lacks sometimes.


UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

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

Destination city & country	Taipei, Taiwan
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	National Chengchi University (NCCU)
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	30/08/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	22/01/2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The placement application process was quite straight forward. I did what I had to do and chose for various destinations where I would like to attend a semester. Initially I chose Johannesburg, Berlin and Granada, but due to lack of placement positions for Johannesburg and supposed popularity of Berlin and Granada I didn't get any of those spots. Hence my choice befell on Taipei since that was an interesting destination which was still available. I chose for Taipei and two other destination and luckily, I got placed at Taipei for the semester abroad.

Counselling/support at home university:

My home university gave me all the information that was required to successfully handle any situation required to partake in my semester abroad.

Academic preparation:

My academic preparation was basically picking courses I wanted to attend in my semester abroad at the NCCU. Furthermore, academic preparations weren't made and weren't needed.

Language preparation:

Linguistic preparation on my end was minimal. I wished to learn Mandarin and become more skilled with this widely spoken language, however since I didn't get into the class for Mandarin for beginners I was already behind on my personal goal. It also didn't help that the language isn't related at all with any language I already knew. What is more, the language is tonal and thus extremely difficult. Although I didn't want to, I quite quickly gave up on the language and just stuck to English and only learned a few words. One of my few disappointments in my semester in Taiwan.



Finances:

For financial matters I had savings and a 'maximum student-loan' from the government to sustain my life in Taipei and to travel to other countries. This all together was sufficient to keep my lifestyle afloat the whole semester in Taiwan but also in the other countries I travelled to.

Study/placement abroad period

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

Since it wasn't required of me to partake in certain obligatory courses, I just chose to partake in courses which I found interesting. These were courses which concerned the contemporary Arab world, international relations (general and also in Northeast Asia), sustainability issues and human capital. Trying to get this sorted was not the easiest thing in the world since the programmes and software the NCCU was using weren't the most straight forward and thus were confusing. It took me a few hours to get a hang of it. Initially this resulted in a stressful situation, however it all worked out in the end.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The quality of the education varied. Some courses were of a high level, while others were severely lacking and of a low level. This incentive was shared among all other students who were also following the same courses.

The placement activities were sufficient, basic enough to learn everything that was needed about the university that was required. Not too little and not too much.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The support from the NCCU was also sufficient. When we had questions, they answered them and sent us in the right direction if needed. However how the university communicated with its international students was a bit overwhelming though, since they sent the international students numerous and many emails explaining basically everything with the caption for every email as follows: "IMPORTANT!!!!" Even though it wasn't important, it was still framed as such.

Transfer of credits:

Since the transfer of credits hasn't been completed yet I can not give you a concrete answer on this subject. However, I received my credits from the NCCU and thus must wait for the UU. According to the UU my credits (ECTS) will be attributed to me shortly.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme was different for every exchange student. For me personally it already started different than from other international students. This was regarding the fact that the local students who were supposed to pick me up at the airport weren't there and I didn't have any contact with them whatsoever. For the rest the organisation in regards of a welcome programme



was an enjoyable experience. From the welcome committee we heard some wonderful things about Taipei and they showed us around in the neighbourhood and they helped us to locate an Ikea where we could purchase some necessities.

Accommodation:

I lived in an accommodation supplied by NCCU which was called I-Housing. I paid €200 a month to stay there. The room was average dorm size, mostly clean and contains all the basic necessities. It was a shared room which I shared with a roommate.

Leisure/culture:

The culture where I lived was a pleasant mix of Asian, Chinese-based and Western. This way the local culture felt estranged, but also familiar. Moreover, this sometimes resulted in a culture which I identified as not very unique while I did find a more unique culture in South Korea and Japan. Of course, this is my opinion which formed after only 5 months. It's very likely that other people do not agree with me.

Suggestions/tips:

Try and get in touch with the locals, hang out with the other internationals and start exploring Taiwan and other countries as soon as possible. A motorbike is a wonderful way of transport to get around. It's quite easy to get to other countries from Taipei since the flights to other countries like South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, China and others are quite cheap.

Conclusions

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

I would wholeheartedly recommend going to Taipei and experience a semester there. It's an experience which is quite distinct from anything you would experience back in Europe and thus, in my opinion, has a greater impact on you as a person. Even though the culture shock for me was quite minute, since I've been in Asia several times in the last few years, it was still apparent. Living somewhere in contrast to travelling or visiting is quite different as you can imagine.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

No.


UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

Faculty/college:	Sociale wetenschappen
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Cultural anthropology

Destination city & country	Taipei, Taiwan
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	National Chenchi 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)	06/02/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	23/06/2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The university gives enough information for your application for courses and application for accommodation

Counselling/support at home university:

Did not help that much but when you ask they help you

Academic preparation:

Courses are easier than in the Netherlands, but you must make tests and essays.

Language preparation:

Good the level of English is the same as home university

Finances:

Taiwan is cheap, a lot cheaper than the Netherlands so should not be a problem.

Study/placement abroad period

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

Fine

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Good professors who know where they talking about.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:



Good there is one person where you can go with all your questions

Transfer of credits:

Good, faster than I thought. Only another system than at home university. There are two kind of courses 2 or 3 credits and back home this will be multiple so 4 or 6.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

First week is for orientation everything will be explained and there is a day they will show you in groups the city.

Accommodation:

Was okay very cheap 365 euro for the whole semester in a dorm. You share a room with three others and the bathroom with other rooms as well. There are also other options you can take, but I took this one. Not really clean it is old.

Leisure/culture:

Different from the western culture. It is an Asian country. Around the campus they speak a little bit English and have English menus but also in other areas. Most of the time you need to buy by forehand and to pick your chopsticks and drinks by yourself. They eat with chopsticks and spoons so no knives or forks.

Suggestions/tips:

Best way to travel in Taipei is by buss or mrt get a card by 7-eleven is only 3 euros and works the same as the ov chipcard. A tip is connect it to your studentcard for discount. To travel to other cities use the buss or train.

Conclusions

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

Yes, they are very helpful and had a beautiful time there.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

no


UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

Faculty/college:	FSW
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Culturele Antropologie en Ontwikkelingssociologie

Destination city & country	Taipei, Taiwan (ROC)
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	National Chengchi University
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	02/02/2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	29/08/2016

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

I had trouble with my application from the beginning. Not only did I get rejected to another university due to a problem with my grades in Osiris; the International Office of Utrecht University failed to forward important emails from National Chengchi University, causing me to almost miss the final deadline for application at National Chengchi University.

Counselling/support at home university:

When I arrived in Taipei and walked into my first class at National Chengchi University, it turned out all of my classes were in Chinese instead of English. I panicked and sent an email to Utrecht University. An automatic response email told me I had to wait for a couple of days until someone could answer me, or, in case of emergency I could call. I really needed a response right away, since at that time I was thinking I flew across the world for nothing. However, international calling with your cell phone is very expensive, so it resulted in a confusing construction, including me and my parents on Skype, and my parents on the phone with the International Office of Utrecht. Eventually, the International Office of Utrecht was very helpful and the problems were solved. However, I think it can be very fruitful if Utrecht University would consider an alternative way of communication (for instance Skype).

Academic preparation:

I did not prepare anything before going to Taiwan, and also did not need to.

Language preparation:

In general, everyone at National Chengchi University speaks English very well. Not all Taiwanese



students are very comfortable in English, so they may appear very shy. The beginners course Mandarin Chinese is very helpful in communication with locals in day to day life.

Finances:

Taiwan is not as cheap as I expected. Life is cheaper than it is in the Netherlands, but I still spend around €800,- each month.

Study/placement abroad period

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

The courses were not very difficult. They were well organised, but in an alternative manner I am used to; There is no official online learning environment, and most communication with teachers and fellow-students goes through Facebook.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The level of education in Taiwan is not as high as we are used to in the Netherlands. Studying abroad at National Chengchi University is more valuable as a life experience than as academic growth.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

My time studying abroad was not all problem-free (on the contrary). However, the host university was always very helpful and quick in response. Most problems were solved within hours.

Transfer of credits:

A problem occurred with the transfer of credits for my beginners course Mandarin. Exchange students on National Sun Yat-sen University in Kaohsiung (South of Taiwan) would receive credits for this course, I would not. However, after some discussions with both universities (NCCU and UU), I did receive my credits.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The many orientations were very helpful, but very boring. There were multiple programmes, all explaining the same matters. Also, as a way of meeting new people, many students found these days just uncomfortable.

Accommodation:

I lived in the International House near campus. Especially in the beginning it was very hard to meet new people in this building; It looks like a hotel and is not a home-like (social) environment.

Leisure/culture:

Travelling in Taiwan is very easy. It is a small country with a rich culture and you keep being surprised by all the things going on around you.

Suggestions/tips:

Don't be shy. At the beginning I needed some time to adjust to the fact I was going to live here for



a while. I found myself thinking there is plenty of time to meet new people. But when I was getting used to life in Taiwan, everyone around me started to form strong friendships. I should have been brave from the beginning.

Conclusions

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

Yes. Taiwan is an amazing country and, to be honest, I was heartbroken when I had to leave. However, when keeping educative growth and development in mind, National Chengchi University (or any university in Taiwan) is not the best choice.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Taiwan is a beautiful country to explore and the people are very, very nice. It feels very safe and I think it is a very good place to go to if you have never travelled by yourself.