

Exchange Report – From Canada to Taiwan

I am an education student, and I decided to go on exchange to National Taiwan University for the fall term of 2015. There are two semesters each year in NTU, and each semester is five months long. Overall it was an exciting and fun experience; I got to meet a lot of people and travelled to a lot of places in Taiwan. I recommend everyone to take the general Chinese courses offered by NTU, because you will definitely improve in Chinese and have lots fun with your classmates in them.

Preparation for exchange

I would recommend packing light, because you can buy everything you need for cheap in the convenient stores in Taiwan. If you chose to live in the Prince dorms, you

NTU eating utensils, a snack box, a map, and an information booklet. At the end of the tour, you can either go pay for your internet usage fee (this is mandatory) or explore around the campus with your group leaders.

Places to visit

If you like hiking, I would recommend the elephant mountain, because it has one of the best views of the Taipei 101 Tower. If you would like to travel outside of Taipei, you can take the Taiwan high speed rail (Gao Tie). They do have an early bird and student discount, so make sure you do your research early. If you don't know where to visit or don't have anyone to travel with, you can take a look at the bulletin board in the dorm lobby to sign up for free trips.



Experience with courses

I took a total of 5 courses in NTU, in a total of 11 credits. I took 2 exploring Taiwan courses, which are designed for exchange and international students, a general Chinese course, a course about Taiwanese films, and one on teaching young children English. All the courses I took, except for the general Chinese course, are taught in English. Therefore, I did not have any problems with the assignments. I only had four days of school, and most of my classes are early in the morning, so I still had a lot of free time to go explore around Taiwan. Depending on the number of students enrolled in your classes, you would be attending classes in either the big lecture halls or the regular size classrooms. The grading system is different for each professor, so it is best to read over the syllabus of the class on the course selection system online before you select your courses.

Food

There are many restaurants around the NTU campus and near the ShuiYuan dorms, so there is no

some side dishes. Something to keep in mind is that there is a one dollar charge for eating utensils in the campus, so it would be handy to keep a set of reusable utensils with you.



After Exchange

My trip to Taiwan was definitely an experience that I would remember for a life time. As an exchange student, I got to meet a lot of local students and learn about their language and culture. I also became more independent and more willing explore outside my comfort zone to try new things and interact with different people. I did feel lonely sometimes, but that is also what got me to make new friends and travel to new places together. Lastly, a tip that I would like to give is to only buy what you can carry back home. Remember that only two bags of luggage are allowed per passenger on the plane, so make sure you plan beforehand!