

# Once in a Lifetime Experience: Exchange at National Taiwan University

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Program: Study Abroad › Exchange  
University: National Taiwan University  
Location: Taipei, Taiwan  
Experience Faculty: Beedie School of Business › Accounting

My exchange at National Taiwan University (NTU) was a truly unforgettable experience filled with adventure, new friendships, and personal growth.

Experience Details  
Semester: Spring  
Year: 2023

Introduction + Preparation  
Financial Preparation

The cost of living in Taiwan is cheaper compared to Canada. However, it is still important to budget your cost in Taiwan. In terms of financial support before going on exchange, SFU provided numerous bursaries and scholarships for students participating in exchange programs. Many of my friends successfully applied for these scholarships, which provided them with extra financial support for their exchange experience. On average, a meal at a restaurant or a local eatery in Taipei can range from around \$100 NTD to \$500 NTD per person, which is about \$4 CAD to \$20 CAD (not including fine dining). While in Taiwan, I always carried around \$3000 NTD in my wallet. This allows me to have sufficient money for food, drinks, shopping and hangouts with friends. Having enough cash is important since Taiwan is predominantly a cash-based society, and certain places like night markets and small street shops only accept cash payments. Fortunately, Taiwan has a lot of ATMs located at all convenience stores, such as 7-Eleven and Family Mart, as well as at each MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) station, making it easy to withdraw cash when needed.

Packing

For preparing an exchange to Taiwan, there are a few important packing tips to keep in mind. Firstly, remember to exchange some Taiwanese dollars before your departure, as you may not have immediate access to creating a bank account. It is recommended to bring around \$20,000 to \$30,000 NTD (excluding dorm costs) to purchase necessities like pillows, bed sheets, blankets, since these items are not included in the dorm, and other items when you first arrive in Taiwan.

If you are going on a spring term exchange, like I did in 2023, keep in mind that February in Taiwan can be a bit cold. Pack some long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and jackets to stay warm. However, as the exchange term covers May and June, which are known for their hot weather in Taiwan (often exceeding 30 degrees Celsius), it's important to include summer clothes in your packing list. However, clothing in Taiwan can be quite affordable, especially at night markets, where you can find a wide variety of items priced between \$100 NTD to \$300 NTD.

Taiwan is a very convenient country, so most items you may need are easily purchasable. For exam

explore Taipei and learn about Taiwanese culture. Business major students have a different orientation date from other major students. On the orientation date, I received my student ID and some small tips on adapting to NTU campus life. I also had the opportunity to connect with fellow exchange students, forming small groups that explored key parts of the campus together, such as the main library, administration building and a wide selection of food courts on campus. For student ID, it acts not only as an EasyCard but also gives NTU students access to the facilities on campus, such as the gym, swimming pool, and library and a 10% discount on nearby convenience stores and restaurants. For the field trip, we got the chance to make traditional pineapple cakes, which was a super exci



night markets, and stunning coastal areas. These trips allowed me to witness the beauty of Taiwan firsthand, creating memories that will last a lifetime. However, the true highlight of my exchange was the connections I formed with the people I met at NTU. We explored together, enjoyed vibrant night markets, tried delicious food, and supported each other. NTU provided the perfect platform for exploration and self-discovery, and I am forever grateful for the experiences, memories, and friendships I created during my time there.

## Reflection & Tips

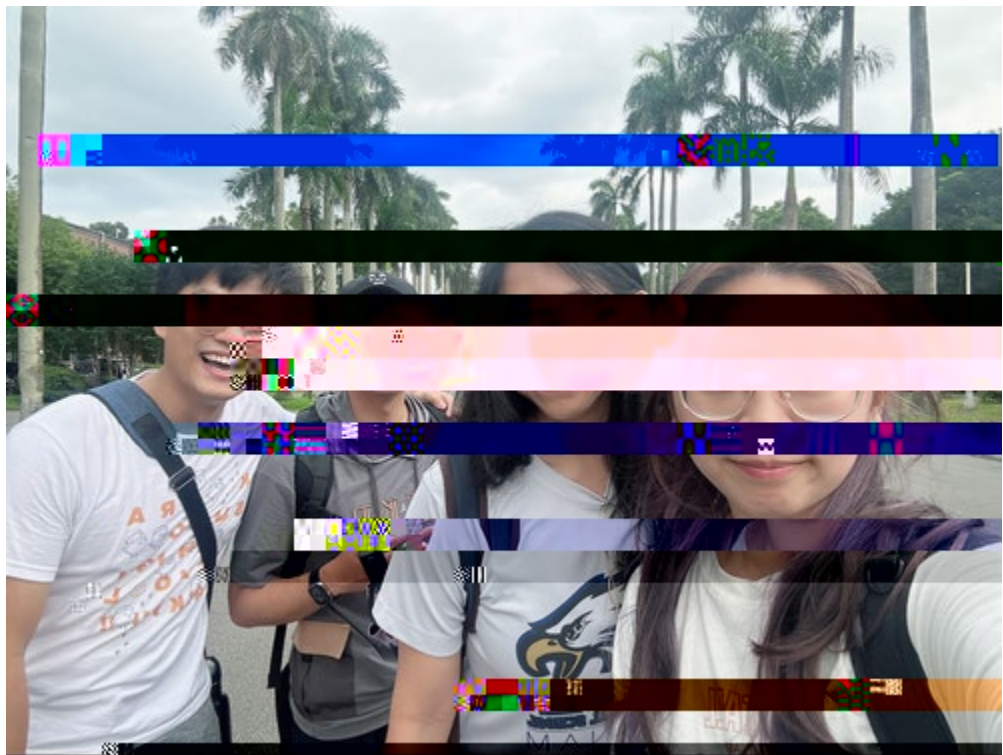
### Reflection

As my time at NTU draws to a close, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the countless moments of laughter, excitement, and personal development I experienced during my exchange semester. The friendships forged, the cultural immersion, the academic challenges overcome—each component has contributed to my growth as an individual and has left an indelible mark on my undergraduate journey. National Taiwan University and the exchange experience it offers will forever hold a special place in my heart, reminding me of the incredible

- Taiwan is prone to typhoons during certain months. Stay informed about weather conditions and be prepared for any potential disruptions, especially in the summer time.
- Always bring an umbrella due to unpredictable weather patterns and frequent rain showers.
- FamilyMart Ice-cream flavour change every month! They are all very good so make sure to check it out.



Sun Moon Lake



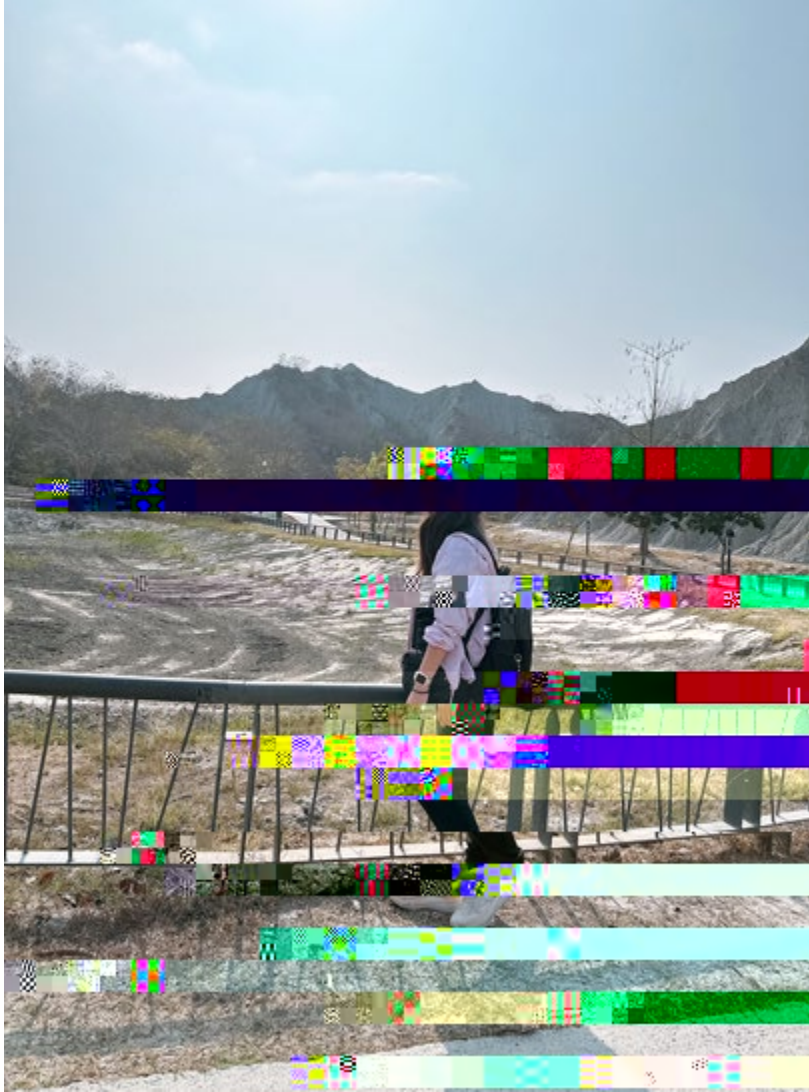


Snorkelling in Xiao Liuqiu



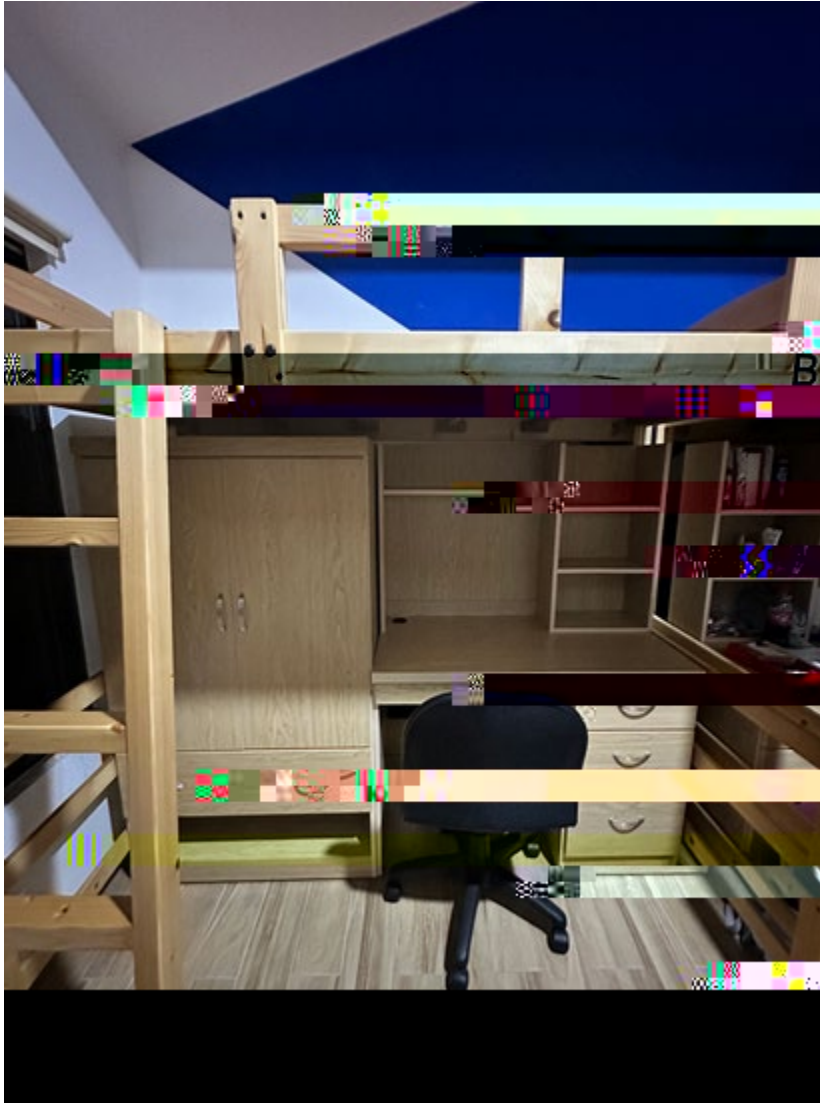


Houtong Cat Village



Field Geology Class: Moon World



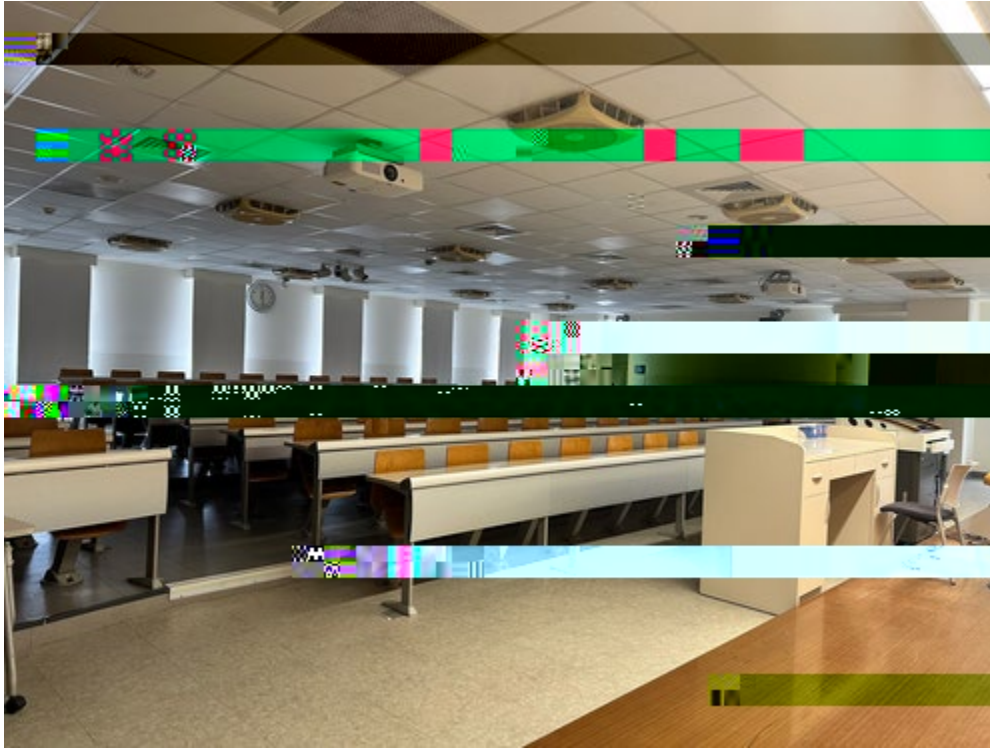


Yuantong Dorm



Bubble Tea everywhere around campus





Classroom