

Exchange, Fall Semester 2014, National Sun Yat-sen University

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My exchange experience at National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) has indubitably been one of the most memorable and exciting semesters I have had during my school term. Not only did I get the chance to understand how the locals in Taiwan live and study, I also got multiple opportunities to travel and see the beauty that different parts of Taiwan has to offer. It is an experience that should not be missed, and one which I will recommend to all my friends!



旗津 Cijin Beach

In NSYSU, learning and having fun definitely comes together. Studying in NSYSU was extremely enriching as the university offers a huge range of relevant courses to select from, including finance, sports (even diving!), accounting and social sciences. Despite having very manageable workloads, the course syllabi were still rigorous enough to be matched back to my home university's modules. Frequent discussions and presentations we had during class also made lessons a lot more interactive, fun, and engaging!



大碗公 30 倍大挑戰 30x Ice Challenge

Furthermore, as Singapore's school term clashes with the school term in Taiwan, I really appreciated how understanding the NSYSU professors were as they tried to keep lesson plans flexible in order to accommodate to the exchange students' schedules.



台中新社花海節

Taichung Xinshe Sea of Flowers

To orientate us to life in Taiwan, NSYSU also assigned a Taiwanese buddy to all exchange students and regularly organized cultural trips and events during our stay here. By the end of exchange, my buddy and I have become such good friends that I have been bugging her to come visit me in Singapore! While the idea of living abroad for a few months might sound a little intimidating at first, the friendliness of the Taiwanese people and familiarity of the Asian culture made life in Taiwan very easy to adapt to. Whether it is food, history, scenery, culture, shopping or entertainment, Taiwan boasts an

abundance of options to fill our time, and never left us bored. Getting used to life in Kaohsiung did not take much time, and within a few days of arriving in Kaohsiung, my

friends and I were already comfortably settled down and starting to explore this amazing city. In the blink of an eye, 4 months have passed, and it was time to pack up and return back to Singapore.

Living abroad has encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and instilled greater independence in me. Throughout these 4 months, I have achieved and learnt so much beyond the walls of the classroom, and come to understand the differences between the cultures of Taiwan and Singapore on a much deeper level. The fact that navigation across and within most cities of Taiwan is really easy further enriched my time here as I managed to travel to many areas, such as Taipei, Hualien, Taichung, Tainan, Alishan and Miaoli, within a mere few months. Every part of Taiwan exudes a different charm and never failed to make me love Taiwan a little more. My stay in Taiwan has allowed me to create beautiful memories that I will remember fondly and forge friendships which can last a lifetime. Words cannot suitably express how fruitful this exchange has been and I will definitely encourage everyone to come and experience it for themselves if they can.



花蓮; Hualien



西門町, 台北; Ximending, Taipei