

Exchange Experience

Taiwan is a country with beautiful outdoor landscapes. There are plenty of public transportation to get you anywhere the country. During the weekend, I packed my backpack and I was ready to explore Taiwan. I stayed one year in Taiwan and still didn't finish to explore the whole country. Taiwanese are very helpful and friendly. As someone who didn't speak mandarin, the whole country was still just as open and welcoming to me as if I could speak it fluently. In addition, it's very safe for a female to walk alone at night. Speaking of food, Taiwan is an excellent place for street food. Tainan has something to eat about every 100 feet and even the cheapest dishes are delicious. Visiting Tainan night market is one of my favorite activity here as they are large and near NCKU. Stayed for one year, I got the chance to celebrate different holidays such as Lunar New Year, Lantern Festival, and winter solstice. Through this, I learned a lot about Taiwanese culture. Flight from Canada to Asia is expensive and long so being in Taiwan was so convenient because I also got the opportunity to travel to other country in Asia because of low prices and short proximity.

National Cheng Kung University has a beautiful campus hosting many student amenities as well as many international students. I met many international students who enriched my experience abroad. I had classes with student from diverse countries and thus with different points of views that expanded my own thinking beyond what I knew in Canada. Firstly, my most memorable experience abroad is the one that involved meeting my buddy who helped me and offered his friendship when I first got to Tainan. He waited for me in front of the train station and helped me check in to the university dorm. I stayed in Ching Yeh Dorm 3, which was both affordable and well-situated. During the whole exchange, my buddy was always there for me and helped me with all the adjustments I had to make, like school, settle down in Tainan and going to a doctor. He took me to restaurants, road trips and party. Secondly, as an exchange student of Polytechnique of Montreal, I had courses that I must select. While some of them only conducted in mandarin, I was obligated to select them. Fortunately, teaching medium and exams are in English. Also, when I didn't understand something, teachers and teaching assistants gladly assisted

me in explaining the content in English. There are differences in studying culture that I'm not used to. The courses at NCKU are much more theoretical with a greater emphasis on mathematics. There are only lectures. While in Polytechnique of Montreal, there are allocated timeslots for tutorials. Thirdly, NCKU has a lot of extracurricular activities for students and I joined the Jet Kun Do club. It's a good occasion to meet both the local and the foreign students from another faculty. Fourthly, I had the chance to extend my exchange for one more semester. As Polytechnique of Montreal is not divided into different colleges so I just realized that I'm not an exchange student of National Cheng Kung University. Actually, I was exchanging with the College of electrical engineering and computer science of National Cheng Kung University. I got problem with my visa because I didn't have an official paper from NCKU. Fortunately, College of electrical engineering and computer science of National Cheng Kung University has very helpful administration and faculty to help with any concerns I may have.

In summary, this study abroad experience was the best decision I made as a young adult to expand my learning and professional development. Through the exchange program I was able to get out of my comfort zone and it made me a much more independent person. I will always hold amazing memories of my time in NCKU and of the friends that I met abroad.