



College of commerce
National Chengchi University

Exchange Report

TAIWAN, 2018-2019 FALL

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Year 3

Major: Operations Management & Information Systems

Part 1 - Monthly Activity Log

September 2018

I arrived Taipei on 5 September. My buddy picked up me in the airport and brought me to my hotel. I bought my mobile communication plan with my buddy as well. The check-in date of i-House is on 7 September but the compulsory orientation of NCCU was held on 6 September. Besides, there are regular cut of electricity in Taiwan for electricity project. Although it happened on 6 September. It only affected the midnights in the hotel.

In the compulsory orientation, there were ice-breaking activity and introduction of school and Taiwan by the local students. A lot of useful materials were distributed but if you lose them, Cherry, the coordinator, would still email them to you. The fire drill and health check were also the compulsory events.

Before the semester began, I planned a few days trip to Tainan and Kaohsiung with the exchange students I have met. The historical attractions were very attractive and the local food was nice!

October 2018



I joined a cultural trip to Taichung and Nantou with other Mainland exchange students. The sunrise in Sun Moon Lake and the sunset in Gaomei Wetland were splendid! The wind was very strong in Gaomei Wetland so you should hold your belongings firmly such as your cap. Overall, it was an unforgettable experience.

There was the Partner School Fair on 30 October. It provided a platform for the promotion of their host universities to the local NCCU students and answering their questions.

November 2018

The midterms and presentations in this month were not very demanding if you get prepared. During weekdays, I often spent some time to explore Taiwan with my friends. Our common choice was usually going to the night markets, including Shida Night Market, Linjiang Street Night Market and Raohe Night Market. The night

markets in Taiwan offered different kinds of Taiwanese street food with lower cost. You can also find the trendy items in boutiques and play the games inside the night markets. Although I love most of the local food in night markets, I did not try the stinky tofu.

Besides, I went to Taipei Fine Arts Museum for Taipei Biennial with a friend living in I-house as well. The title of the exhibition is Post-Nature – A Museum as an Ecosystem. The exhibition explored how systematic theory can be reflected and relied to survive in artistic and institutional practice. It was a special opportunity to appreciate the artworks under this topic.



December 2018

I attended the Simple Life Festival in Huashan 1914 Creative Park. The event invited many musicians and bands to perform. It also provided a platform for the local farmers and designers to sell snacks and their products in the creative markets. The atmosphere in the festival is very relaxing. Everyone here just simply enjoyed the music performances. I loved the polished performance by Sunset Rollercoaster and I Mean Us particularly.

Moreover, I spent three days for a trip to Taichung and Nantou again as the cultural trip before only involved part of the attractions there. Hehuan Mountain and Cingjin farm is our main goal of the trip. It was cold when we climbed up Hehuan Mountain and stood at the highest position of the mountain. There were many adorable sheep in Cingjin farm. You can even have the chance to come closer and touch them.

It was also my first time to celebrate Christmas in Taiwan. I went to Christmasland in New Taipei City with my roommate and the Christmas lights here were brilliant! There were music performances by the singers in the weekends but we came there on Wednesday. However, it was not very crowded in the weekdays.



January 2019

After the countdown event for the New Year's Eve, the final exams and presentations started. The date for exams is very different among the courses as some of my friends

finished all the exams in December so they left Taiwan in the beginning of January. After the last exam of psychology, I got four days to visit the places in my to-do list. I went to Taipei Zoo which was near NCCU. Although it was near NCCU, I did not visit the zoo in the past few months. It was because the weather in Taipei was very rainy, especially Wenshan District. When the weather was nice, my friends and I were busy in doing my assignments and revisions. Despite the smelly environment, we can see the animals that were not able to be seen in Hong Kong such as giraffe. I went to another spot that is near NCCU as well. It was a café and it was one of the places for the movie shooting of Café Waiting Love. In fact, NCCU was also a place for shooting of this movie.

Part 2 - General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

For Hong Kong citizens, students can apply for the permit online by visiting the website <https://coa.immigration.gov.tw/coa-frontend/overseas-honk-macao>. As the permit will expire after three months, students need to extend the permit in Immigration Agency in Taipei.

Orientation Activities

NCCU will organize a compulsory orientation event for all exchange students before the semester begins. During the orientation, you can receive a lot of information which is helpful for your study and living in Taiwan. The local students and teachers are very friendly. It is also a great chance for you to meet other exchange students.

International Services and Activities

Most of the international events can be found inside I-house. I-House will organize different activities for international students, including movie watching and Halloween Party. The staff in exchange office and I-house are always welcome to give assistance.

Accommodations

There are two kinds of housing provided by NCCU, dormitory and i-House. I-house is a bit expensive but the living environment is generally better than the dorm because regular cleaning will be given on a monthly basis. Also, NCCU will provide you some links for finding the off-campus housing.

Courses Registration

The course list will not be available until July but you can review the one in previous year as their similarity is quite high. The course registration has two rounds. You can select the courses as much as you want and put them into the shopping cart. Some of the classes are allowed for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. For classes you cannot enroll online by yourselves, you can attend the first lesson and ask for the professor's signature on the RM form.

Teaching and Assessment Methods

The teaching and assessment methods in NCCU is quite similar with that in HKUST. The lessons in NCCU are usually 3 hours per week. There will be some break time during class. Most of the teachers will use Mandarin as the teaching language but some PPT slides are prepared in English. The class size is relatively smaller than that in HKUST. The courses usually have about 30 to 100 students. The assessment methods mainly include participation, projects, assignments and exams. If you are hard-working, the grades that you receive will be satisfied.

Sports and Recreation Activities

There are many facilities available in NCCU. For sports fans, you can find the swimming pool, the gyms, the stadium and the tennis courts. Fee is required in using sports facilities. The main library also provides the service of renting the DVDs.

Finance and Banking

I did not open a bank account in Taiwan and I withdrew money from ATM using my UnionPay card. Each transaction cost you HKD\$15 so you better took more money in each withdrawal. I think ATM withdrawal is the most convenient way to take money as ATM can be easily found in the convenience stores. The living expenses in Taiwan is relatively lower.

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

There are different sports teams and social clubs, ranging from academic types to interest types. For me, I originally decided to join the cooking club. However, the schedule of the club activities did not match my timetable so I did not join that club eventually.

Health and Safety

Hospitals and dental clinics can be easily found around NCCU. The crime rate is very low in Taipei. Still, you have to take care of your personal belongings. Besides, earthquakes may occur in Taipei but the magnitude is very low. Therefore, being calm is important when you

Food

Cooking is not allowed in dormitory and I-house. The restaurants and school canteens offer different kinds of dishes, including Asian and Western cuisines. However, some restaurants may be closed after the lunch hours and reopen at night so you better check the opening hours first. Plus, the food in Taiwan is much cheaper than the food in Hong Kong. You may gain weight easily with the delicious food here.

Transportation

Transportation is quite convenient in Taipei such as bus and MRT. Although there are many bus stations near NCCU, the nearest MRT station is quite far from NCCU. It is about 30 minutes to walk from the campus to the Taipei Zoo Station. Another way to get to the MRT station is to take bus. The common payment method is Easy Card in Taipei. You can apply for a student Easy Card with cheaper transportation fee.

Climate

The climate in Taipei is quite hot and humid in September and October. When it comes to Winter, the weather is quite cool but some days in winter this year was quite hot. However, Taipei is rainy throughout the year. It may sudden rain for a while so remember to bring your umbrella.

Communication

There are five companies that sell mobile plans. I chose the plan offered by Chunghwa Telecom and the data service is quite satisfied. It is suggested to compare the price of the plans before purchasing.

Part 3 - Items to Bring

- Adaptors
- Laptop
- Umbrella
- Mosquito repellent
- Calculator
- Suit
- Passport, visa, student ID card, acceptance letter