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**Degree Program at TAU: Undergraduate**

**Host University: National Chengchi University - NCCU**

**Exchange term (including the duration): Fall semester 19'**

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### Exchange Experience

Taiwan, or the Republic of China is a beautiful island in East Asia. The small country offers scenic nature with numerous national parks, rich culture and history and amazing cities.

Taipei, the capital is a very modern city with western influence but still keeps a lot of the traditional Chinese approach to the day to day life. In the city you can explore the vibrant night markets, old temples, traditional restaurants, and also stylish modern areas with well-known companies that established their offices in the city center.

### **Transportation:**

Taiwan and especially Taipei have an amazing public transportation system, MRT the city metro is the cleanest metro in the world, the best option to navigate through the city. In addition, there are great busses and bicycle rental service in every corner which makes it even easier to stroll around the streets.

### **The University and School:**

In Taipei itself, there are 18 different universities and colleges. TAU's partner school is the National Chengchi University, which is located on the southern part of the city between the small mountains and the famous Taipei-Zoo. The campus itself is well organized with lots of common areas, small parks and sports facilities. The campus offers the students a cheap membership for a brand-new gym and also tennis courts, basketball, swimming pool and fitness centers all available for use for a very small fee.

The different schools and departments usually arrange special events and after school hours activities, such as students' clubs for sports, arts or educational activities and also organize events for special occasions like holidays, semester breaks etc.

### **Classes and professors:**

In terms of classes and professors, the style of teaching and courses curriculum is different than what students used to in Israel. Here the focus is more about presentations and assignments and less about exams. The level is much lower than the faculty or style in TAU. Most of the professors speak OK English and deliver the course material in efficient way.

### **Accommodation:**

The university offers 2 options for accommodation:

- In campus dorms – shared rooms with other students in the campus area.
- I-House – The international House, is an exclusive offer for exchange students with two different options: private rooms, shared double room. Located very close to campus. I-House is more expensive than in-campus dorms but more comfortable (I stayed in a private room in I-House and would recommend it).

The third option is to find an apartment in the city, which is quite easy due to the fact that there are several companies and services that offer solutions and help in finding those properties especially for students. Prices can vary, but for a room in a shared apartment you can spend the same as for I-House.

### **Visa:**

Taiwan require a visa to enter the country. Israelis can get Visa on arrival for free which is good for 90 days, this means that after 90 you have to leave the country and come back, in order to get a visa extension for extra 90 days. Taiwan is a great hub for all Asia in terms of traveling, which makes it very convenient to travel a lot. In terms of Visa, if you plan to leave Taiwan and then come back at least once every 90 days, there is no need to pay for a Visa, you'll get 90 days extension upon arrival.

If you don't know your plans yet, and not sure if you want to travel out of Taiwan every 90 days there is an alternative, which is to pay for an official multiple entry Visa. This needs to be done before leaving Israel in the Taiwan (ROC) console in Tel-Aviv, it takes about a week, and cost around 100 euros. I personally did this, but it wasn't necessary because I traveled a lot and could get the Visa on arrival for free.

### **Health services:**

Health services are widely available. There are several hospitals in the city that offer services for students for very low fee. **Please pay attention that those services are not an alternative for your travel insurance which is mandatory by all costs!**

**"If you can't afford a travel insurance, you can't afford to travel at all".**

## **Costs:**

Taiwan is relatively very cheap country.

### Transportation:

- MRT/Bus ride: 1-3 NIS
- Bike rental 15min for free, then 1-5 NIS per 15 min~.

### Food & Drink

- Local food for lunch: 10-20 NIS,
- Western Food for lunch: 20-infinity NIS.
- Fancy coffee 7-15 NIS
- Cheap 7/11 coffee 4 NIS

Local food is way cheaper, but if you fancy for western food it is still very affordable. In general, there are plenty of options for all budget needs.

Drinks can vary in prices, in convenient stores the prices are low, in bars and clubs, the prices are much higher (see nightlife section).

### Mobile

- Sim card for 150 days, unlimited data: 5000 NTD (approx. 590 NIS), there are cheaper options as well.

### Groceries and other needs

- There are small pharmacies which are not cheap, but they have good selection usually.
- For better prices and better selection: food supply, pharmacy needs and home décor: Carrefour, Ikea.

### Night life

In Taipei the nightlife is amazing. Tons of clubs, bars and great restaurants.

Usually, most of the clubs have students' nights which is way cheaper and cool.

In addition, clubs usually work with the concept of pay at the entrance and then drinks are free.

Bars are great alternative for the nightclubs but are usually more expensive. A beer in a bar can easily cost 20-30 NIS.

### Tips:

- Pay attention which club is better and cheaper each day (party is on every day except Mondays)

- Make a color copy of your passport and keep it in your wallet. Usually a copy is enough, some clubs will ask for the real passport to get in. You shouldn't be worry about that, Taiwan is the safest country in the world, and there are lockers in every club.
- Don't forget student ID for discounts.

I would say that with a lot of travels and going out every week you can look at cost of 3000 NIS per month.

**Summary:**

This exchange was beyond amazing for me, I travelled every single week to different country or area in Taiwan. I met great people and had very international experience. Taiwan is an amazing country with a lot to offer and I personally fell in love with the place. I would 100% recommend this destination for your exchange semester. I encourage everyone to go out and meet new people, different cultures, and new food.









