

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	School of Design and Environment / Project and Facilities Management
Host University	National Cheng Kung University
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY15/16 Semester 01

2. Study at Host University

Please provide information on the academics at your host university:

- Studying or learning culture at your host university. How were classes conducted?
- What did you like most or dislike most about the academics at your host University?
- Advice on module registration and module mapping

There are several differences in NCKU studying culture as follows:

1. there are no allocated timeslots for tutorials. Tutorials will be conducted based on the lecturer arrangement and allocate part of lecture time for tutorials. Otherwise, there will only be lectures. Therefore, it is important to clarify with the lecturers on questions and doubts during lectures.
2. There is a fixed timeslot for lunch regardless on the modules or faculty you are in. At this hour, no classes will be conducted, making eateries very crowded.
3. Rarely classes were conducted in lecture theatres, instead it was conducted in traditional classrooms.
4. In general, the passing grade for the modules is 60 points and there is no bell curve grading system.
5. In NCKU, there are no recess week or reading weeks for students to have leisure activities or prepare for test / examinations while attendance were marked in almost every class. Therefore, it is important for students to manage the time well and apply leave to the lecturer if there is a need to miss class.

I like the slower pace in learning for NCKU due to longer semester. In NCKU, the number of weeks per semester is 18 weeks. Therefore, students can learn at a much slower pace and slowly adsorb what were being taught. This will also make learning less stressful. People are friendly towards us, which makes me feel back home.

Advices on module registration and module mapping

1. For module registration, it is important that candidates check on the language medium of the module just prior to registration as some modules do change their teaching medium quite often.
2. There are no minimum workload requirements for exchange students, therefore, students should not be too worried if they receive notices on not meeting workload requirements.
3. Module registration is done at a first come first serve basis through their online registration portal similar to our CORS. In the event when the modules were full, students

can still do manual registration if the lecturer decided to expand the class beyond the preallocated number of slots. Therefore, the students can still attend the class even though he/she was able to register through the portal. In such cases, the students should bring along the manual registration form and approach the lecture to sign and ask for advise especially on the probability of getting the module through manual registration.

Please list the courses that you took during SEP. (Please take note that the list of modules available to exchange students at the host university are subject to change. This table merely serves as reference.)

Host University			NUS Equivalent		
Module code	Course title	ECTS Credit	Module code	Course title	Modular credit
F222700	Planning Analysis Methods	3	PF3102	Facilities Planning and Design	4
A943000	Smart Green Life	2	PF4305	Green Development	4
N774400	Building Information Modelling	3	PF4206	Building Information Modelling	4
E722800	Building Material	2	PF2504	Material Technology	4
H436900	Quality Control	3	PF2203	Quality and Productivity Management	4
R554600	Risk Management	3	PF3204	Project Risk Management	4

2. Accommodation

What kind of accommodation did you stay in during your exchange (eg. on campus / off campus)?

Would you recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students?

Do you have any other suggestions?

There are 2 main dorms that students can select from.

1. Prince hall (private) – There are twin sharing or private room for this dorm. It has more facilities such as kitchen, gym and etc. it is located at a strategic location where all shops and eateries were nearby. However, it is quite costly, approximately double of what was paid for school dorms. Electricity were charged according to usage through an energy card which students need to top up in order to use electricity. It is important for students to check and top up regularly. it is important for students to check the application date in order not to miss it as it is different from the application period for school dorm
2. Ching Yeh Dorm 3 (School Dorm) – this is the dorm where I stayed. All exchange or short term lodging students and graduate students who applied for school dorms will be allocated here. There is only twin sharing room, therefore, it is advisable for students to

email the manager if students wanted to share room with their friend. Otherwise, it will be allocated randomly. There are minimum facilities available, only a laundry room and lounge. The rental cost approximately SGD650 for the entire semester. However, it is important to note that the checking in period is very close to the first day of the semester, approximately 3 days before. Therefore, for students who wished to have more time to settle down, it is important for them to request for early check in but at a fee depending on the duration of stay. It is a recommended place for students as the place is clean, 24 hours security, and most importantly value for money as occupants does not need to pay electrical bills except air conditioning usage.

Regardless on which dorm the students are staying, it is important to bring along a LAN cable as the dorms does not have any Wifi coverage. However, if the student signed up for the unlimited data plan for their mobile phones, using it as a hotspot internet connection is adequate. Most importantly, save the NTD10 coins for washing machines as both dorms uses coin operated machines.

3. Activities during SEP

Were there any activities organized by school/student group/external organizations at your host university which you would like to recommend to other students?

I would recommend the other students to join their CCAs which there are wide range of selections. However, it is important for students to check whether exchange students are able to join as some CCAs does not allowed that. In addition, if there are a chance, students should try to map their general education modules as students can meet and interact with both the local and the foreign students from other faculty . General education modules were similar to our GEM modules which is open to students for all faculties to sign up as an elective modules. Some of the GEM modules like music do have some form of extra curriculum activities.

4. Cost of Living

Please provide an estimation of how much money you spent during your SEP?

Please list travel expenses separately.

My expenditure are as follows:

Accommodation - \$900 (inclusive of air conditioning bills and purchasing of maintenance items)

Food - \$1800

Transport - \$300

Insurance - \$600

Air Tickets - \$500 (Return)

Medical examination and vaccinations - \$200

Others - \$1000

5. Challenges

Did you face any challenging issues during your SEP stint? How did you overcome it/them?

The most challenging part of my SEP is the regular use of Chinese language. I learnt simplified Chinese but Taiwan uses traditional Chinese, which I find it hard to read and understand. In addition, most of my reading materials were written in Chinese, therefore, I would need to use a longer period of time or translate using google translate into order to read and understand the contents. Since I am so used to English as a learning medium, switching to Chinese makes it very hard to understand school contents. Translation tools like google translate played a big part in helping me overcome this problem. In some cases, google translate may not give accurate translation, therefore, I will seek local classmates to assist in explaining the contents which they gladly assisted me. Secondly, it is the lack of public transport system. Within Tainan and campus area, the public transport system is not very well developed. Unlike Singapore where public transport can bring you to almost every corner of the country, the public transport in Tainan does not. The coverage for public transport in tainan is low, the frequency of buses is low, and the timing of the last bus is very early for most bus services. This is due to the fact that most residents own scooters which are relatively cheap at Tainan. Therefore, in order to travel with ease, I bought a bicycle and cycle around tainan area. Thirdly, the diet in Tainan. Undoubtly, Taiwan is an excellent place for street food and snacks, but the diet of regular meals in Tainan does not really suit me. The servings of the meals are huge, the taste are slightly saltier and consumption of vegetables and seafood are relatively low compared to meat and carbohydrates. Therefore, it is important to consume multivitamins to fill the gap of nutrients and minerals needs.

6. Overall SEP Experience

Please write one paragraph about your exchange experience and attach some photos that represent your exchange experience.

The exchange program to NCKU is a fruitful one as it provide me the opportunity to experience independent living where everything I had to source and do it by myself. This really build and train my character and makes me appreciate the things I took for granted back home. In addition, I am able to meet, interact and work with foreign friends. This is an important experience as the globalizing trend shrinks the world. The future workplace that we worked in will definitely have a diversified workforce which consist of people from different nationalities. Therefore, regardless on the industry that one went to, being able to communicate and understand different people from different nationalities becomes an important knowledge to have and this SEP provided me such knowledge. Most importantly, this exchange program also makes me appreciate how good Singapore is. From the safety, to natural disaster free environment, to the well developed public transportation services and etc. It changed how I viewed Singapore and be more appreciative of what was provided for me and complain less of what I was not provided with.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Top 15 essential items SEP students should consider buying/not buying before/after going to Tainan

1. Chili sauce. Taiwanese does not really eat spicy food so it's hard to find any form of chili sauce be it sweet chili, lemon chili and stuff like that. So stock some up.
2. Bicycle. The public transport is not very developed. A bicycle is a must. A second hand one will cost around NTD1200 and new one around NTD2000. Just buy a new one the budget allowed as there are frequent repairs for some second hand bikes which ultimately cost around the same as new one. Students can sell it back to the shop or their Facebook page before going back. A functional bike should be able to fetch around NTD600 to NTD 800.
3. Hand sanitizer. If students got the habit of using hand sanitizer. Please buy more before going

over to Taina ! Tainan pharmacies rarely sell sanitizer.

4. Food items. Bring instant food that do not require much cooking as there are no kitchen school dorms and eating out is much cheaper and convenient than going to the supermarket.

5. Mattress. Prince dorm and school dorm does not provide any mattress or beds. It's a must to buy it during the first day there. They usually use those Japanese futon type beds which cost around NTD500 to 600 each. Pillow cost around NTD150. The regular mattress that we used to sleep in Singapore cost around NTD3000.

6. Fan. Make a trip to Carrefour and buy a stand fan. It's critical haha. Tainan weather is same as Singapore and sometimes more humid and hot. Fan can be a life saver. One will cost around NTD600.

7. Sleeping bag. This might sound weird but we use it as blanket while staying in dorm which is better than the blanket provided in bedding package.

8. Keep the NTD10 coins! It's essential item as the washing machines are coin operated. \$10 per wash . Dryer is around NTD10 per 30 mins

9. Buy the unlimited 3G prepaid SIM card at the airport! There is this student discount exclusive at airports only. It's around SGD\$100 for 150 days unlimited 3G. The telco we bought from is "Taiwan mobile"

10. Bookshop member card. There is this bookshop named "9x9 bookstore" it's like our popular bookstore. The membership only cost NTD\$10 but can get a lot of items at discounted price! It's a must to get!

11. Medication. Pharmacies in Taiwan does not sell Panadol brand paracetamol which we were so used to. Instead, the painkillers were marketed as acetaminophen and as another brand. Therefore, if the student is used to Panadol brand painkillers, it is advisable to get a pack or two with them. Most importantly, get cold/flu medication, as the weather can change quite drastically.

12. Wind Breaker. Tainan may not experience dramatic dropped in temperature during winter period but the wind is very strong (much stronger than Singapore) and chilling. This can be felt when travelling in the evening/night with the bicycle. Therefore, it is important to have a wind breaker.

13. Insect repellent. During my trip over to Tainan, the place was experiencing a serious outbreak of dengue fever. Although the pharmacies did sell insect repellent at a reasonable price but the choices were limited. Therefore, it is advisable to bring a bottle of preferred insect repellent if you were particular about the scent of it.

14. Foolscap paper. The bookshop in Taiwan does not sell any foolscap paper neither does the students there have the culture of using it. Therefore, if you were used to using it for note taking or studying, please bring a couple of booklets.

15. Ready to eat food. If the students wanted to bring along some Singapore food items, do consider bringing only ready to eat items instead of items that require some processing/cooking like chicken rice paste, laksa paste and etc. This is because, the school dorms does not have any kitchen for cooking and cooking within dorm rooms were not allowed. In addition, these items can be found in their larger supermarkets but at a slightly higher price. In most cases, eating out is actually much cheaper as compared to cooking your own meals.

