

SEP Report

1. Student Information

Faculty/Major	FASS/ CHINESE STUDIES
Host University	NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY
NUS Semester and Year of Exchange (eg. AY14/15 Semester 1)	AY 15/16 SEMESTER 2

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

Most of my classes were conducted in seminar-style except for Exploring Taiwan (a module for exchange students) which is lecture style. I feel that the seminar classes provided more opportunities for students to express their opinions and ideas. Also, the local students does not seem to be as caught up about their grades as compared to students in Singapore, which resulted in a less competitive learning culture in National Taiwan University (NTU). They were more willing to help one another when needed.

Professors in NTU are mostly friendly and emphasise a lot on effort and the learning process. Even though I might not understand some parts of the content, they are more than willing to offer consultations after class and answer my queries through emails as well.

As for module registration and module mapping, I would advise future students going on exchange to start looking out for new information on the partner university's website early and also start to contact the relevant departments in NUS in advance to ensure that most of the administrative matters are settled before departure.

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
Anth3017	Ethnography of Chinese Ethnic Minorities	3	SC3XXX	Exchange Module	4
Geog4024	Introduction to Geopolitics	3	GE3XXX	Exchange Module	4
Forest5035	Exploring Taiwan: Natural Environment and resources	2	GE3XXX	Exchange Module	3/4
CHIN4029	Prose of Su Shi	3	CH3881	Exchange Module	4
CHIN2151	Ci Poetry of Xin Qi-Ji	3	CH3XXX	Exchange Module	4
Hist2203	Urban History of Taiwan	3	CH3XXX	Exchange Module	4

SEP Report

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?

I stayed in on-campus hostel near the main campus, BOT Prince Dormitory. It is the cheapest and nearest accommodation for international students, as most of the other on-campus accommodations are for local students who are not living in Taipei.

I would definitely recommend this accommodation to future outgoing students, because there is a 24/7 7-11 right outside the dormitory, making it even more convenient than it already is. Also, there are a lot of international exchange students staying in this dormitory, encouraging interaction and cultural exchange.

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?

There were many clubs and societies that we can join, and there was even an Azalea Festival (as the host university had a lot of azalea flowers during spring) to showcase these clubs. There are also a lot of interesting student-initiated clubs to look out for, so I am sure that most people will find something suitable for them. As for me, I joined the Chinese Calligraphy Club with no background and realized that calligraphy is something that requires a lot of patience and practice in order to write well. I learnt that as long as one is willing to step out of their comfort zone, there is bound to be something for them to try.

4. Cost of Living

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

Please list travel expenses separately.

I spent around \$4000-\$4500 for living expenses during SEP.

As for my travel expenses, I spent around \$2000 travelling to Taichung, Hualien Taroko Gorge, Kaohsiung, Changhua and Alishan.

SEP Report

5. Challenges

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

I think the most challenging thing for me was to study for tests and plan my weekend trips at the same time. Juggling both leisure activities and studies was not as easy as I thought. In the end, I overcame these difficulties by setting specific periods of time out for me to complete most of my work before planning the trips or took turns to plan trips with the exchange friends that I made in Taiwan.

Another challenge would be hosting my family while studying for my examinations. My family came one week before my examinations and I had to bring them around Taipei and share my experiences with them. I fell sick while bringing them around and had to revise for my exams at the same time. Eventually, I had to cram my studying during the weekend while I was sick and go for a 50% exam the following Monday. Fortunately, I still managed to pass this module.

6. Overall SEP Experience

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

Exchange in Taipei has been nothing short of amazing with the new friendships forged and unforgettable experiences. Exchange might not be as easy as I thought, but looking back on this journey, everything is worth it eventually - going on trips before exams and putting fun before work for spontaneous nights out. It was filled with surprises and challenges, but definitely enriching. I learnt a lot about myself during the four months of living abroad. I became more daring to try new adventures, stepping out of my comfort zone to experience new things. I also became more adaptable to new environments. Despite unforeseen circumstances, I was able to stay rather positive as well. The greatest takeaway would be the international friends I made during exchange. I still keep in contact with them after exchange ended, and even went to Korea to look for one of them while travelling.

7. Suggestions for future outgoing students

Please share any other suggestions for future outgoing students.

Be brave, have fun and enjoy the journey of self-discovery!

SEP Report