

# Rapport d'expérience

Informations de bases	Auteur	If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I can also give you a list with my favorite places in Taipei. pierremaurice.huber at unifr ch pierre.m.huber(at)"mostfamousresearchengin".com
	Type de mobilité	Convention
	Quand	Full year 2018-2019
	Voie d'études	Economics
	Niveau pendant le séjour	Bachelor, 3ème année
	Université choisie	National Chengchi University (NCCU), Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C
Avant le séjour	Inscription	I applied for the « Convention » exchange program from UNIFR, gave all the usual documents (Resume, Cover letter...). NCCU didn't ask for a specific language level.
	Préparation	As soon as I was accepted, I started to gather information about Taipei and Taiwan (the history, the relationship with China, what to do...). Otherwise I did not really prepare specifically. If I would go back, I would take some Chinese lessons before going just to have some basis. If you have the driver license, don't forget to get the international one before going to Taiwan.
	Visa, autres formalités	As I was a one-year exchange student, I had to apply for a visa and then the ARC (Alien Resident Certificate) which is a residency permit. The Visa application is done in Switzerland with the Taiwanese Embassy. The process took me some time. For example, the applicant needs to take a full health check-up and has to go to different offices to validate the authenticity of the health check-up. Nothing too complicate, just some paperwork. Once in Taiwan, the school staff does everything for you to get the ARC. For one semester exchange, it is not needed to apply for a visa. You receive a 90 days-Visa on arrival and most of the students booked a flight to leave the country after 80-90 days and when they came back, they received another 90 days-Visa on arrival. More info here : <a href="https://www.roc-taiwan.org/ch_en/">https://www.roc-taiwan.org/ch_en/</a>
	Arrivée dans le pays d'accueil	I arrived 10 days before the beginning of classes in order to have a look at the city. Exchange students usually get assigned a "Buddy" from NCCU who is here to assist you. Some of my friends even got picked up at the airport. The biggest airport in Taiwan is located about 45 min from the city center and is easy to reach with an express train. Otherwise nothing to declare about my arrival.

Impressions générales du séjour	<p>This year abroad has been a fantastic and sometimes challenging experience. I really enjoyed discovering a totally different culture. Being able to live in a dynamic city like Taipei was really enriching on the personal aspect. It offers countless opportunities; stores and restaurants are always open, there is always an art exhibition or a concert, etc.... Taiwanese people are also beyond welcoming and curious about what foreigners are doing here and why they decided to come to Taiwan</p>
Logement	<p>During the first semester I stayed at the "I-House" which is a housing option for exchange students only. It is managed by the university. It is located next to the campus. They offer single or double room both having a private bathroom. The cost is about CHF 1'900/semester for a single room with all utilities included.</p> <p>Pros : - Really easy to meet people; - mostly bilingual staff (help you make a reservation or buy train ticket... etc); - Hazards free, you arrive and you are sure to have a decent place where to live, - Location (few minutes walking from the campus and its facilities, gym, swimming pool..)</p> <p>Cons : - Location (it takes about 20-30 minutes to go to the city center and more to go to Taipei main station and there are not so many things to do on campus); - No kitchen; - Rules (No guests allowed, for example if you have friends visiting, not possible to host them).</p> <p>Overall, it was nice staying there during the first semester. However, I felt the need to move out and live in the city center for the second semester.</p> <p>Then I lived in the Xiny/Da'an district in a WG with 2 other exchange students. There was a direct bus to university nearby. The price per month was CHF 380 with few CHF more for utilities every month; electricity and water not being expensive. It is possible to find much cheaper if you speak Mandarin and much more expensive if you want Swiss standards/depending on the area.</p> <p>Living in the city center offers you a lot of things to do and is, in my opinion, more convenient. You are closer from the stores and most activities. You have countless restaurants to try. It is easier to catch a train to go to the South of the Island or a plane to a nearby country. You will also feel how dynamic the city is.</p> <p>Few things to have in mind : - a lot of apartments don't have a kitchen and it's normal as most people don't cook; - be careful with the room insulation, some have "paper-walls"; - be sure that your room has a window.</p> <p><a href="https://myroomabroad.com/">https://myroomabroad.com/</a> this website helps you to find a room with a fee.</p>
Coûts	<p>Prices in New Taiwan Dollar \$</p> <p>Food: Disclaimer : about 70% of the meals are eaten out in Taiwan. On campus, I was able to live with TWD \$300/CHF 10/day for food eating Asian food. Most of restaurants around university offer meals for TWD \$100. In the city center, it is also possible to eat for TWD \$100 a meal if you eat Chinese/Asian food. However, the restaurant offering "Western food" are usually more expensive. For example, pasta prepared by an Italian chef in a restaurant in the city center will cost around TWD \$400-500 same for a pizza.</p> <p>Transport: A bus ride cost around TWD \$15/30. The MRT/metro is a little bit more expensive. Long distance buses within Taiwan are really affordable and really comfortable (Wifi, lot of leg space), Taipei-Kaohsiung TWD \$500. Trains more or less the same.</p>

Phone :  
Unlimited data for TWD 700/month

Activities :  
Movie \$210  
Renting a scooter \$300-500/day depending on the location  
All-you-can drink night-club \$200-800 depending on the day/place

Others :  
Dentist check-up/cleaning : \$2000-3000  
Going to see the doctor on campus : \$300-\$500 for basic consultation

Taipei is the most expensive city in Taiwan but is still really cheap compared to Switzerland. If you travel around Taiwan, you will clearly see a difference in the prices with Taipei.

Université  
d'accueil :  
Informations  
générales

NCCU is one of the best universities in Taiwan, especially for communication, political science, diplomacy and languages studies. It has a beautiful campus surrounded by nature located a little outside Taipei. There are about 15'000 students in this university. The university offers a great amount of sports association (from basketball -the most followed sport-, to Kung-Fu) and a lot of student's clubs (from Mixology to Magic club). These clubs are often organizing fairs on campus to recruit members or some activities.

Université  
d'accueil :  
Informations  
académiques

First of all, I only took classes in English. As a Bachelor student in Economics, I was able to find all my mandatory classes for my third year.  
In general, it is really different from Switzerland. The relationship between the teaching staff and students is more relaxed. The classes are usually smaller (30-40 students) and it's common that the teacher calls you by your surname. Teachers are also encouraging students to participate more. Most of teachers studied/did their PhD in U.K or U.S and therefore speak English.  
The university model is like in the U.S with quizzes, group presentations, homework, essays to write and exams during the whole semester. I would say that the workload is not as large as in Fribourg and that this school system encourages you to procrastinate less. It is interesting to see a different way of teaching.  
I found the university system to register to classes a little bit outdated but in the end, it works, don't be discouraged.  
NCCU offers Mandarin classes for free for beginners and advanced. It is possible to pick two different options : normal class 3h/week or intensive classes 3h/day.

Pays d'accueil

Taiwan (R.O.C) has a specific political situation as Mainland China (PRC) is claiming the Island. Therefore, a lot of countries -including Switzerland- are not officially recognizing ROC as a country in order not to lose diplomatic relationship with Mainland China.  
Taiwan is a developed country and most of the exchange students (men and women) including myself felt safer than in their home-country. Taiwan has a really low crime rate.  
Taiwan as a country is incredibly beautiful with a lot of green and nature. Sometimes it feels like being in Jurassic Park. It offers in a lot of diversity in activities (100 mountains above 3000 meters that can be climbed, tropical beaches in the South, smaller islands to explore, scuba diving spots, natural hot springs, river tracing, traditional festivals...). The tourism is still not so developed which keeps the prices low for activities in the country.

It is also ideally located to travel in other South-East Asian countries, within 4-5 hours of flight, you can reach about 10 countries.

Vie sociale,  
loisirs

It is easy to meet other exchange students in Taipei. However, it is more difficult to meet local students as they are sometimes shy. Taipei as a city with 7 millions inhabitants offers so many things to discover.  
The island has a large cultural heritage as it has been occupied by Dutch, Spanish, Japanese and the actual habitants have a Chinese culture. There are festival/celebration held in different cities along the year.



Photos

(vous pouvez télécharger ici des photos si vous le souhaitez)



Informations supplémentaires

Commentaires,  
remarques

Images:

Top-left: Famous sunset view of Taipei with Taipei 101

Top-right: a beach near Taipei.

Bottom-left: the Swiss embassy organized a boat to participate in the dragon boat festival -one of the most important celebration in Taiwan.

Bottom-right: wild hotsprings near Taipei.