

1 *Before application*

1.1 How to choose a university?

The first necessary step for choosing a university is contacting your home university's international office and asking for a list of all partner universities abroad.

If you have decided in which universities you're interested you could ask which courses you can take there and if you get the required amount of credit/ects points for one semester. This step is quite important because before you take further steps you should ensure that your plans make sense.

Another important aspect is to consider if the location of the university is suitable for you. That means climate, food and living standards could be completely different from your home country and you have to make sure that you are able to deal with it.

If I speak from my experience I've decided to study at NTUB in Taipei because I wanted to experience a completely new culture. For me it was sure that I wanted to study in Asia because I found the culture very interesting. My final decision became Taipei, Taiwan because I wanted to live in a country/city where the living conditions are similar to my home country Germany and the costs of living are acceptable. Furthermore I was interested in learning Mandarin. Therefore Taiwan was the optimal choice for me.

I've decided to study at National Taipei University of Business because for my major International Management I wanted to study at a university which is specialized on Business and I really liked that the classes are small and the university has not too many international students so you can also connect with Taiwanese students.

2 *Application process*

2.1 how to apply

The applying process for NTUB is not complicated. You have to fill out the application sheet that can be found on the website of NTUB. Moreover you need your transcript of records, two passport pictures, a proof about your English skills for instance TOEFL or IELTS and a copy of your passport.

You can make an appointment with your international office and your coordinator can send all your documents to the international office from NTUB and it's necessary that the nomination has been done. It's also important to check the deadline date for applying to NTUB and to send all your documents in time. Your coordinator should ask for a feedback from the international office in Taipei to ensure that they have received all required documents. Afterwards you shouldn't worry if it takes a few weeks until you get your letter of acceptance because the international office has to organize a lot.

2.2 After got an offer

When you receive your letter of acceptance you should make an appointment with your international office again and you should fill out a learning agreement to ensure that your home university will credit your classes at NTUB. You will receive a sheet with all classes you can take for the following semester at NTUB and all information about classes like the amount of credit points.

3 Before go to Taiwan

3.1 Apply for visa

For applying for visa you should inform yourself in which cities in your home country you can apply for a visa. For example in Germany you need to go through the application process:

- two passport pictures
- valid passport
- financial statement
- letter of acceptance
- fees about 43 euros for single entry / 86 euros for multiple entry
- copy of your flight tickets to Taiwan

4 Preparations before departure

4.1 health insurance

Before your departure you should think about a health insurance for Taiwan. I've chosen for instance a health insurance with Würzburger Versicherung which costs for 5 months about 120 euros. But there are many other insurances you can find in the internet.

<https://www.wuerzburger.com/>

4.2 apply for credit card

Applying for a credit card is one of the most important steps. In Germany I would recommend to apply for a credit card at DKB. First of all the application process is simple, there are no fees and here in Taiwan you can get your money at every ATM machine with a visa sign for no charges.

https://www.dkb.de/privatkunden/dkb_cash/

4.3 finding an apartment

You could contact the International office at NTUB and ask them if they can give you the e-mail addresses from the students who studied at NTUB last semester because some of them might have a free room.

The other option is to find an apartment in Facebook groups like:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Taiwanapartmentsandroommates/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RentalApartments/>

4.4 getting your first contact in Taiwan

The international office will send you a list of your student buddies. Your student buddy will be your first contact partner and you can ask all your questions and maybe he or she can pick you up from the airport in Taoyuan and try to help you to find your apartment or show you the city.

5 After arriving at Taiwan

5.1 Arriving at Tayouan airport

The airport is not located in Taipei. You have to take a taxi or bus to the center of Taipei. The bus ride is the cheaper way. You can take a city bus from both terminals to the city hall taipei or to the main station. The ride will cost you 145 NTD. The taxi ride is about 1000 NTD to the center of Taipei and takes about 40 minutes.

5.2 Using the MRT

The MRT system in Taipei is very convenient. It's well structured and cheap. An easy ride will cost you only 20 NTD. The MRT system operates from 6 am to midnight daily. Trains operate at intervals of 1.5 to 15 minutes depending on the line and time of day. You can get an easy card at every MRT station. This card is quite practical because you can add value every time.

5.3 First places to visit

- Taipei 101
- Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall
- Shilin nightmarket
- Taipei Zoo
- Taipei Maokong
- Elephant Mountain
- Longshan Temple
- Peace Park

Final résumé about living in Taiwan

When I'm thinking about my stay here in Taiwan only positive thoughts are coming to my mind. I have to say that I really appreciated my time here and if I had to choose again where to do my exchange semester Taiwan would be always my first choice.

Especially what I like about Taiwan is that the people here are so kind and helpful. I've never experienced a similar behaviour somewhere else. When I couldn't find my way back to my apartment at my first day I was asking a Taiwanese couple if they could tell me which direction I need to take and I was totally surprised when they suggested to me to just follow them because they would bring me to my apartment although the walk was about 20 minutes.

I definitely would recommend to every exchange student that they should get in touch with as many locals as possible because when you are only staying with other Europeans you will never experience so much culture and the locals can also bring you to secret places or restaurants you would never have found by yourself.

In my second week I got the invitation of a Taiwanese family to stay at their home for celebrating moon festival. It was such a great experience and they introduced typical kind of foods you have while celebrating the festival like moon cake or having barbecue in the evening. They also told me interesting stories about the moon festival and explained me why they celebrate it.

Moreover I'm very happy that I took the chance to travel as much as possible. So after I arrived in Taipei only few days later I did a road trip with some other European exchange students. We rented a car and drove all way from the north of Taiwan to the South for discovering the awesome beaches Taiwan has to offer. In advance we booked an accommodation through Airbnb and so we stayed in a house of a Taiwanese family. We had luck because the owner of that house is a surf teacher so he has not only shown us the best beaches in Kenting, he also taught us how to do paddle surfing and that was a pretty awesome experience. Before we headed back to Taipei we visited the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Memorial Centre. I would definitely recommend this place to everyone because you can see there a giant Buddha and the whole atmosphere is just incredible and so peaceful. I didn't expect that it would be so silent and the people there are so friendly and explain you everything about the religion.

I also would recommend to travel through Asia during your stay in Taiwan because Taiwan is perfectly located in Asia. You can reach Hong Kong only in 1,5 hours by plane or Singapore in just 4 hours. I visited Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo and before I came to Taipei I did a long stop over in Dubai. I can also recommend if you are coming from Europe to choose Emirates as airline because the flight is cheap but the service is incredible and you can do a long stop over in Dubai. Travelling through Asia is also awesome because you can find a lot of cheap airlines like Jetstar, Tigerair etc.

Other students also went to the Philippines, Thailand or Vietnam and would definitely recommend trips to these countries.

What I also really liked about living in Taiwan is the great food choices. You can eat one day Korean, the next day Vietnamese and the other day Taiwanese. Also the food is very cheap although the quality is good and you can afford to go every day to restaurants that would be in Europe impossible as a student.

And not forgot about the great night markets here in Taiwan. Especially the Shilin night market is great and always a visit worth. I guess there is something for everyone to eat.

Of course I will also miss to study at NTUB. First of all I have to say that I was very suprised that the professors are so interested in each student. They always asked us how are we doing in Taipei, which places we have visited and if we have any problems we shouln't hesitate to ask for help. I also appreciated that they are very willing to compromise. And moreover they allowed us to travel also during lecture time.

Furthermore I really like that you have a lot of presentions and group projects at NTUB. Before I came to Taiwan I had not much knowlege about business in Asia but my classes here taught me a lot and now I could imagine to work in the future in Asia.

In our Human resource class we also could study with Taiwanese students and that was a great opportunity to experience the culture differences in education system and to work with Taiwanese students in groups for our final presentaions and projects. We had so much fun and also celebrated Christmas together in class and had business trips together.

I also enjoyed our field trips with Taiwanese students which were organized by the International office. We had for example a clog workshop, visited Tayouan and learned how to do by ourself the dessert Asparagus sugar.

A highlight for the end of 2015 was also to see the amazing firework on 101. And I was totally suprised how well organized this whole spectacle was although the streets were quite crowded and I didn't expect that after midnight all shops would be open and you could find a lot of food stands in front of 101 buildiung.

So in general I would defintely recommend to everyone to study in Taipei and to discover a completly new culture. I'll defintely come back and stay in touch with all these wonderful persons I have met here.