



BERICHTSFORMULAR

Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2018/2019

BewerbungsID 472

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 033/676 Studienrichtung Bachelorstudium Physik

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: National Taiwan University - (Taiwan)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: Winter- und Sommersemester 2018/2019

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 01.09.2018 Aufenthaltsende: 30.06.2019

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ 4.000,00
Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe):	Weitere Stipendien: Nein <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stipendium des Gastlandes:• Bundesländerstipendium: nein• Studienbeihilfe: nein• Sonstiges Stipendium:
Summe weiterer Stipendien	€
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien	€ 4.000,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 3.000,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Privatunterkunft
Reisekosten:	€ 700,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 3.000,00
Studienkosten:	€ 0,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 400,00
Visakosten:	€ 57,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	€ 7.157,00

Bericht veröffentlichen:



PERSÖNLICHER BERICHT

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Verfassen Sie bitte einen persönlichen Bericht über den Studienaufenthalt

- **Mindestumfang:** Fließtext 1 Seite DinA4
- **Inhalt:** Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft, etwaige Schwierigkeiten etc.

BERICHT ÜBER DEN STUDIENAUFENTHALT

Studying at NTU

Courses at NTU can be challenging but are definitely not impossible to pass, if you are willing to invest time and effort. The standard at NTU is very high, about the same as at the University of Vienna, I'd say. The (Taiwanese) classmates are smart and the professors are competent. If you encounter any problems, the professors are almost always happy to help.

Unlike most Physics courses in Vienna, courses at NTU are not split between lectures and exercise classes. Instead you get mostly lectures, where you have to hand in homework every week or every two weeks, which is then corrected and graded by teaching assistants. Apart from homework sheets, grades usually also depend on a midterm and a final exam. Note that you cannot retake the exams or do the exams on a later date. If you fail the exams, you fail the course. Some classes also require presentations or term projects instead of or in addition to the exams.

Since I can speak Chinese, I could take both, courses taught in English and courses taught in Chinese. If you can only speak English, the choice of courses maybe a little bit limited. So if you need specific classes, it might be a good idea to check beforehand if the desired course is available in English. Furthermore, I've heard from a classmate, that many professors are willing to hold a course normally taught in Chinese in English, if there are people in the class who can't understand Chinese, so it might be a good idea to just ask. Moreover, courses taught in Chinese are also using English language course material, so even if you can't understand what the professor is saying, you can understand his lecture notes and the textbook.

Apart from studying Physics, I also took Advanced Chinese classes. The standard of these classes is also very high, yet the teacher still makes sure to not give you too much homework, so that you can concentrate on your major's classes.



Course selection process

The course selection process is split into 3 phases, where in the first two phases you can register online for the desired courses. If you don't get a spot in the desired course in the first two phases, you still may be able to register in the third phase. For this you need to ask the professor directly to give you a registration code. If there are no free spots and the faculty doesn't have the resources to allocate a bigger classroom or another teacher, then you're out of luck.

The reason I am specifically mentioning this course selection process is, that regular NTU students are prioritized during the first and second phase. That means if you as an exchange student and a regular NTU student are competing for a spot, the regular student will get the spot with a 100 percent probability. What does this mean in practice? This means that for popular courses you have no chance to register for the course via the online system. In my case, I only managed to register for less than half of my courses via the online system. I was lucky though, because the physics department has enough resources to allocate bigger class rooms and more teaching assistants, if there is demand, and I thus managed to get a spot in all the courses I wanted. Exchange students in other departments were not so lucky, though. A colleague studying Business told me, that she didn't manage to enroll in any of the courses she originally wanted to take. Another colleague studying politics only got a spot in about half of the courses.

Campus life

The campus of NTU is incredibly beautiful and green. Many of the buildings were built during the Japanese occupation of Taiwan, and thus have a very distinct architectural design. There are plenty of facilities on campus, such as post offices, convenience stores and a huge amount of dining options, including many affordable (but delicious) student canteens. Taiwanese NTU students are nearly always happy to help when you have any questions or problems. There is also a huge amount of student clubs, which all students (including exchange students) can join. Basically, if you can think of it, then there is a student club for it.

Living in Taipei

Since the rules in the school's dormitories are very strict, I chose to live in a shared flat off campus close to NTU. A single room in a recently renovated apartment shared with two Taiwanese flatmates set me back 9500 NTD (\approx 280 €) a month. Rooms or apartments in Taipei can be found at 591.com.tw (Chinese) or the Facebook groups "PO" (Chinese) as well as "Looking for Roommates or Apartments in Taipei and Taiwan" (English). Note that rent prices in the English Facebook group tend to be a little bit higher.

Living in Taipei itself is very convenient and public transport is very developed. Intervals between MRT (subway) trains are very short – not so much for some buses though. So if you consider renting an apartment where you have to take a bus to the university, it might be wise to check the bus intervals beforehand, otherwise you might end up waiting 15-20 minutes for the bus every day. There is also a public bike system called "Youbike" which I can highly recommend. The first 30 minutes only cost 5 NTD and the Youbike stations are spread all over the city, with 3 different stations at different gates of NTU.

Conclusion



The year at NTU was without a doubt one of the most interesting and exciting years of my life. I liked almost everything about NTU, Taipei and Taiwan. It's a great place with incredibly nice people, an amazing landscape and a unique culture. Yet because of the unequal treatment of exchange students in the online course selection system, it is hard for me to recommend NTU without restrictions.

If not getting into your desired courses is a big problem for you, it might be wise to do some more research on this topic and perhaps even get in touch with the student office of NTU. If it is no problem, however, then go and register for NTU. You won't regret it!