

### National Chengchi University

To put into words as to how much of an incredible and life-changing experience this was for me is no easy task, as it is difficult to describe just how much it can change you. Even though I myself am half-Taiwanese and have experienced the country before, I never expected how much living a student life there would be so dramatically different and such a fulfilling experience.



As I lived in my own private accommodation, I was forced to experience a true life of living alone without any support. I did not have the comfort and insurance that can be found if living on campus and you are responsible for everything that goes right and wrong and this definitely helps mature you as a person and I am definitely more than ready to live on my own in the future.

As for studying, I was not expecting the huge amount of exams which included midterms and small quizzes and this was something I had to learn to adapt. Students are more studious in Taiwan in my opinion (due to the culture) and you realise that you're not just here to party and have a good time, but to focus on studying as well. As a native speaker of English and a foreigner, there were many times in the English taught classes (with Taiwanese and other exchange students) in which I was assigned the role to be in charge or act as a leader and this is something I have taken on and now want to further develop this. My Mandarin skills have increased now as everyday life in a foreign country forces you to learn the language in order to get by without an issues or mishaps.

Meeting so many people from across the world also opens your eyes to the fact that there are so many different people and cultures out there, who have had different studying experiences and it made me realise just where I stand in the world as a student and not just the UK, and this has given me a new found motivation. I now know that in the future I will not be competing with just other British students, but from across the world and this is a challenge that I am now looking forward to facing and I would not have realised this had I not spent time abroad. In terms of leisure and free time, I got involved with the football team in a huge way as well as experiencing many things that Taiwan has to offer and these are moments that I will cherish and never forget and this is something that I'm sure many people will want to experience.

I am so sad that my time is over now, but what I have learnt and experienced has definitely changed me for the better and I am now ready to see what the future holds!