

Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS			
Your Name	[REDACTED]		
Your Program of Study/Year	Fashion Design and Technology 4 th year		
Host Country	Taipei, Taiwan		
Host School/Agency	Shih Chien University		
Participation Dates	Feb 17 – July 1 2011		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Practicum	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Section 1			
GENERAL EVALUATION			
Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 10 (one being poor and 10 being exceptional)			9
In a couple of sentences, explain why you rated your experience the way you did.	The educational aspect was not as challenging as my program here in Kwantlen. Although this may be, the cultural experience gave me confidence and immense personal growth. That in turn is extremely conducive to my education.		
Section 2			
ARRIVAL			
How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)? *Always verify immigration regulations with the consulate or embassy of your host country*	Obtaining the documents was not difficult but it was a process. It's important to find out what you need and organize yourself to have all those components ready before you apply for your visa etc.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	I took a direct flight to Taipei and requested a pick-up service to the dormitory. I feel that an indirect flight would also be appropriate if you wanted something less expensive. I recommend the pick-up service due to the fact that it is affordable and helpful as you are unaware of the transportation services in the area		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	No		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how	Pick-up service, approx. 1 hour by car		

much did it cost? \$800NT	
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Section 3	
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ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE	
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How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	Semi-satisfied, with the language barriers it was very difficult at first. The international exchange department was also very busy most of the time. It was better to get information from other local students who have been on an exchange.
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What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	They tried to help us as much as possible with selecting courses and explaining processes of transferring credit. My impression of the international office was that they need more people to keep up organization.
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What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	The orientation was helpful. Other students showed us around campus. We got an opportunity to interact with local students.
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What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people you could talk to about what you were experiencing?	Adjusting came naturally. The environment was comforting because we roomed with other exchange students. Making new friends made it easier to learn about the culture. Yes, there were many people to talk to about anything during the entire experience.
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How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	Very receptive, especially other students
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Section 4	
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HOUSING	
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Describe your accommodation arrangements.	We lived in a co-ed dormitory with a public living room and kitchen, 2 bathrooms, and several bedrooms upstairs
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How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	We were allowed to move in one week before the semester began. We could stay until the end of near the end of July when exams are finished
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How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	Comfortable in terms of the amount of people I lived with, which is a lot and took adjusting. The accommodation needed improvements
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Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied	I ate out everyday, there are many affordable places around campus. Other options would be grocery shopping but I suggest that it's only done for snacks and fruits because it's more expensive.
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were you with the food? Very satisfied	
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	10 min walk

Section 5

COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	We were given required courses and recommended courses. We had student helpers assist us in signing up for classes. I was semi-satisfied because I was confused.
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How successful were you in registering for classes? What advice would you offer to another exchange student about how to register at your host institution?	I was successful in signing up for the appropriate courses. I recommend finding someone who speaks English.
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How many courses did you take per semester? What course load would you recommend for future students? What particular courses would you recommend to other students?	I took 4 courses. I would recommend that type of course load if you're not required to take more. It gives you more time and opportunity to explore the industry outside of school, but you would have to get the sources from school first.
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Section 6

ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	I'm satisfied with the social and languages skills that I've obtained
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How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	The teaching style there is very lecture dominated. The course load cannot compare with university here, the expectations there seem lower and the standard of work is also the same.
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How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	4
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What impact did the	
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language barrier have on your learning? It pushed me to really learn the language, but it helped a lot that I spoke Cantonese.	
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What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	Library has a lot of good resources and computers available with internet access. Equipment for the fashion program was limited.
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Section 7	
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COSTS	
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Books and Supplies – per term	\$500NT
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Flight	\$1200 round trip direct
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Accommodation – per month	30,000NT including deposit
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Meals – per month	\$3000NT
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Local transportation – per month	\$1000NT
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Health insurance – per term	\$158 for entire months
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Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	Dorm included phone and wifi
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Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	\$100CDN
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Vaccinations	\$100CDN
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Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$5000NT
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What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	Fabric and materials are much less expensive than expected.
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Section 8	
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EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	
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How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host	Extremely satisfied
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site?	
What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to you while in your host country? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	On-campus sports activities like gym, tennis, basketball, table tennis etc. There was also organization of a cultural education event called global village where students come together and interact with other students about specific countries.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer. Did you require special permits to do this?	Volunteering for fashion shows was prominent. No special permits
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	Kenting, green island, hot springs, Hua lien, fabric market, electronic market etc.
Section 9	
SAFETY AND HEALTH	
Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	Crossing the street
Section 10	
PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS	
What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) people?	Meeting people and making new friends was one of the most rewarding things with my exchange. I was successful in making both international and local friends because I went out a lot and talked to many people.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?	It was new and exciting. A positive attitude and an open mind towards things help adaptation.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	Taking many pictures of everything you did, ate, saw, everywhere you went, but you get used to it.
What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?	Hospitality, a lot of people are willing to help with directions
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	We were well accommodated and felt extremely welcome
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for	It would be a little difficult because transportation and foot traffic.

students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	
For students who are visible minorities in your host country?	Easy, local people take big interest in them
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	Easy, especially in the fashion program.

Section 11

TAKING STOCK

What are the 5 most important things one should take with them when going to your host country or region?

- 1 Laptop
- 2 Warm clothing options
- 3 Cash
- 4 Camera
- 5 Comfortable shoes

What are the 10 most important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency:

- 1 Always have cash
- 2 Let people know where you're going
- 3 Have availability for communication
- 4 Keep your space clean
- 5 Acknowledge any damages that are already in your space to ensure getting you deposit back
- 6 Make sure you have all the documents to transfer credit when you go back to school
- 7 Establish boundaries with your roommate
- 8 Ask questions
- 9 Explore the city by yourself with a map
- 10 Keep an open mind and don't be afraid to try new things

What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	The relationships with people that I've developed
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Being homesick and needy
As a result of your study abroad experience, how	I'm more open to new ideas, have more than one way to find information. I listen more carefully and is bale to analysis from more

has your perspective changed?	than one perspective
What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?	It's completely worth the time and money. There's so much to learn culturally and about yourself. I highly recommend it to everyone who has the opportunity to experience it.