

## Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS				
Your Name	[REDACTED]			
Your Program of Study/Year	Fashion Design and Technology 2011			
Host Country	Taiwan			
Host School/Agency	Shih Chien			
Participation Dates	February 17 –June 27			
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)			8.5	
In a couple of sentences, explain why you rated your experience the way you did.	The experience its self was very educational I was able to travel around the entire country. Although I attended every class, I did not learn very much, mainly because it was in Mandarin.			
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*	Was easy after we received the acceptance letter.			
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	Parents dropped me off at the airport, flew to Taipei, and were picked up by car service arranged by Shih Chien, arrived at our dorm. Waited in the living room for about 3 hours till one of our roommates woke up and gave us the key to our room. I would have the coordinator meet us at the dorm to receive our key instead of waiting.			
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	Easy, had to fill out a simple form that I was not aware of but we got through fine.			
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	A car service arranged from the school picked us up, took about an hour to arrive at our dorm, cost was about \$25.00 Canadian.			
Section 3				

ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE	
How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	It was great, they have students available to help you and show you around everywhere.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	They tried their best but had difficulty discussing issues with the fashion design department. They got us our student ID and assisted with our dorms.
What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	We did a tour of the school, met the student helpers and received a booklet with general information. We also picked our courses.
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?	We could discuss with our other roommates how we felt since everyone was going through the same thing. I felt like it was really easy with minor language barriers.
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	They may not all speak English but they can understand and were very keen on helping even if I did not ask.
Section 4	
HOUSING	
Describe your accommodation arrangements.	We lived in a house of 13 people. I shared a small room with one other person.
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	You can move in a week or two before. You can stay a few weeks after the semester ends.
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	Would have liked my own room but everything worked out fine with some compromising.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	There are ton of restaurants walking distance from the dorm, a food court is 15 minutes bus ride away and you can take the mrt or bus to many night markets. I ate out for almost all meals since it was cheaper. The food was great and cheap if you ate locally..
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	10 minute walk to school
Section 5	
COURSE REGISTRATION	
Please describe the registration process at your	We sat down with the fashion coordinator and chose our classes. We had some assigned ones and one elective one. Would have Be

host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	Be nice to have classes offered in English.
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 that we completed it easily. There is not really much advice they show you how to do it.
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?	We took 4 courses, take more if you can they are not difficult and only 2-3 hours a day.

### Section 6

#### ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Disappointed, I had high expectations that were not met.
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	Workload is about a ¼ of what it is in Canada. Teaching is backwards to how we design at Kwantlen.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	4
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	Difficult, I was able to complete the projects but I did not understand any of the lectures.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	Not enough sewing machines for the amount of students. Library was huge with a good amount of English content. Internet access was normal. They had a very impressive knitting machine.

### Section 7

#### COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	\$10 for text books, \$200 for supplies
Flight	\$1 300
Accommodation – per month	\$187.00
Meals – per month	\$300

Local transportation – per month	\$15.00
Health insurance – per term	\$150.00
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	\$200.00
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	\$200.00
Vaccinations	\$50.00
Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$1 500
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	Anything American or imported is about triple what it is in Canada (cheese, milk, etc.) Taiwanese food is incredibly cheap, meals can be \$1-\$2.

### Section 8

#### EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?	Satisfied, I tried to go on factory tours through the school but they refused to help. So I found friends that could help.
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?	I was able to visit a temple with one of the teachers. That was a great experience. I would recommend that and the fashion competition held by the school.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer. Did you require special permits to do this?	I volunteered in the fashion competition as a model, No permit required. Volunteered with a “world village” presentation for the school, no permit either.
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	Travel, Kenting is beautiful but so is the rest of the country.

### Section 9

#### SAFETY AND HEALTH

Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	Felt very safe where I lived. There are a lot of mosquitos, and food safety In the city is to be questioned but I did not really have a problem with either.
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### Section 10

#### PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

What was it like making	The people in Taiwan are incredibly friendly and there are a lot of
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friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) people?	students willing to help you. Make friends with them, I was able to travel all over Taiwan with my Taiwanese friends, visiting their local villages and friends.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?	I have always loved Asian culture so besides the language barrier it was pretty easy.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	Language!!! The only other one is you must always "cheers" before you take a drink or it's rude.
What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?	How helpful and polite they were.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	The local people were amazing, so friendly and so helpful. The coordinator for the school was very good the other staff were not great. Only some spoke English, they were not helpful with outside activities and they were hard to get ahold of.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	Difficult, to get around, there are some elevators at the school but they are hard to find in the city. The side walk is incredibly uneven and difficult to walk if you aren't watching.
For students who are visible minorities in your host country?	I was a visible minority and I had a fantastic time.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	There are quite a few people with different sexual orientations, they would have no difficult time with the school or the city.

### 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 Bug spray

2 Passport

3 Rain jacket

4 Cash

5 Laptop

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

1 Learn basic mandarin before you leave

2 Make friends with the locals

3 Get along well with your roommate

4 Say yes to any opportunities

5 Travel around the country, its cheap

6 Eat all the local foods	
7 Check out the night markets, often	
8 Bring bug spray, there are a lot of mosquitos and bug spray is difficult to find	
9 Do extra projects, you'll have spare time	
10 Get a MRT card for their skytrain	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Being able to be independent living in a foreign country.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Taking classes in mandarin when I spoke very little mandarin.
As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?	I always liked Asia but after living there I am seriously considering a career based in Asia.
What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?	School is easy, go for the experiences and learn as much as you can.