

國立臺南大學  
National University of Tainan  
姐妹校交換學生心得報告  
Inbound Exchange Student Report

姓名 Name	Kareen Troussard	國籍 Nationality	French
學號 School No.			
交換系所 Host Department	Computer Science and Information Engineering		
原學校 Home University	ISEP – Instutu Superieur d'Electronique de Paris		
原系所 Home Department			
交換期間 Exchange Period	自 From __2017__年 year / __09__月 month 至 To __2018__年 year / __01__月 month		

My exchange at NUTN was the experience of a lifetime.

When I first arrived, I was a little scared, lost, confused by the culture shock. The language barrier was tiring. The food was extremely different. I knew nothing about Taiwanese history, traditions. The hustle-bustle in the streets was a bit exhausting. But the people were wonderfully kind. And that's what really stuck with me.

I was greeted by a volunteer student who went out of his way to make me feel at ease right away (he even made a Website page with all the useful NUTN links I needed access to!). He arranged everything for me, from the class registration, to getting my bare necessities to showing my around, which was so helpful. I basically had a personal assistant who became a good friend the first couple of weeks!

I chose to stay in the dormitories to experience life on taiwanese campus. At times it was hard sharing a room with 3 other girls. But I learned a lot whilst living in dorm, and I couldn't have picked better roommates myself. The kindness, respect and overall empathy they vehiculed were out of this world. They respected my privacy like no other, kept to themselves and quiet at all times, and tried to make me feel comfortable as best they could. We had meals together, exchanged Christmas presents and shared wonderful memories I will forever remember. They taught me about Taiwanese history and culture, foods and religions. They showed me around and always expressed small acts of kindness. It was great, and I will for sure stay in touch with my new friends.

My classroom experience was very similar. My RF circuit design teacher was a joy to learn from, so were my classmates. Always very accommodating to my english-speaking needs.

The university was very facilitating to me, lending me a bicycle. Making presentations in French. I joined for a few sessions the tennis club and the department volleyball teams which was fun. I

unfortunately had to stop for other commitments had come up.

I enjoyed the library quite a bit in the beginning, however the noise of renovation made it hard for me to concentrate and I decided to study in my room instead.

Maybe something that would be useful for future exchanges is to have a list of courses in English (not Chinese) available for foreign students as soon as they arrive. It stressed me quite a bit to not know if I would have to attend classes in Chinese when I first arrived.

The food in Tainan was delicious. I did however have a hard time eating Asian food all the time for 5 months. I must say it was convenient to splurge in the Western McDonalds from time to time.

Funnily enough, food was the biggest hurdle I came across this semester. When I first arrived here, I could not read menus, and could only rely on the pictures I saw. I am leaving Taiwan with pretty much the same skills, but I can read a few words on the menu that give me no surprise if I want to eat fish and see beef coming up! And I have mastered my chopsticks skills!

There is one little downside to the university accommodation kitchen though. I wasn't able to make good use of the kitchen, to my biggest regret. The fridge was often full and kind of dirty, which did not prone me to cook food.

One thing that stood out to me during this experience is how convenient the convenient stores actually are. I would've never guessed you can pay for the school and dormitory fees, or train tickets there! Also that we can put money on the student card for the buses, etc.

About visits, I visited a lot of temples and got to learn so much about Taiwanese and Chinese history which was so very interesting. I went to Anping, and walked around quite a bit. It is beautiful. I unfortunately didn't visit Taipei, but that will be for another time I'm sure!

As for my general experience in Taiwan, it changed me in some ways. I feel I have adopted a new Asian way of life, which seems so serene to foreigners. Westerners are often very loud and loquacious, and I very much enjoyed the calmness and quietness of the taiwanese. This serenity I will definitely keep. The Taiwanese were always so welcoming, generous and a helpful hand, even when I couldn't understand them. Always smiling. I never once felt like I was unwanted. I cannot express how much I enjoyed their kindness, and that I will miss for sure.

Below are 3 pictures of my stay in Taiwan.

Here is a picture of friends and I going to the night market, eating yummy foods.



Here is a picture of me at the Confucius Temple.



Here is a picture of my roommate and I on Christmas Eve.

