

# EXCHANGE REPORT

## I. YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

In the first semester of 2018-2019 I went to National Taiwan University as an exchange student. Studying law at NTU has been an amazing experience. You will get to know the Taiwanese culture and history while simultaneously meeting professors and students from all over the world. I highly recommend spending one semester in this beautiful country.

### A. PREPARATION AND CONTACTS WITH THE FACULTY BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER YOUR STAY

After you have been selected by RUG to go to Taiwan you have to apply to the National Taiwan University as an exchange student. This is not very complicated; however, I would advise you to apply as soon as possible in order to receive all the documents in time. Depending on where you are from you will have a different contact person. They will answer all your questions regarding the administration and application. However, if you have any questions regarding the courses, I would advise to contact the law department or the teacher's assistants directly. In general, it will be more convenient to show up at the international office in person if you have the chance to do so.

### B. ACADEMICS

Selecting the courses is the hardest part of your exchange at NTU. As the courses conducted in English are mostly offered by guest professors, you cannot always rely on the courses offered in the past years. Additionally, the number of courses offered is limited. In the end I took the following courses: Economic Analysis of Law, Transnational Litigation, International and Comparative Contract Law: key issues, Seminar on Transitional Justice and International Human Rights, U.S. Class Action Law Seminar, Topics in the Contract Laws of Asia, Law of the World Trade Organization, Seminar on International Investment Law and Investment Arbitration and Introduction to East Asian Studies (non-law course). One graduate course NTU credit is 2,5 ECTS and one undergraduate course NTU credit amounts to 2 ECTS (this may change!). As you can see, you will have to take a lot of courses resulting in a heavy work load in order to reach the credits required.

### C. CAMPUS

NTU has one of the most beautiful campuses I have ever seen. The variety of plants and flowers is very impressive. Furthermore, there are a lot of study areas and lunch places. The sport facilities are also quite nice. NTU has many team and clubs students can join and a lot of times free food will be provided after practise.

## II. LANGUAGE

NTU offers free Chinese language courses. It is very convenient to gain some basic knowledge of the Chinese language (e.g. for restaurants, travelling etc.). A lot of Taiwanese do not speak English. However, they are very kind and try to help if you have a question. To conclude, you can get around without knowing Chinese. Nevertheless, it can be very convenient if you acquire some basic skills.

### III. FINANCE AND OTHER CONDITIONS

#### A. GENERAL COSTS

Generally, Taipei is cheaper than Groningen. I spent between 450€ -500€ per month including travel costs. One meal will cost you between 50-150 NTD which is between 1,50 - 4€. The campus cafeterias offer cheap meals and there are also a lot of cheap restaurants near the dorm. Your university student card functions also as an easy card and can be used for public transportation across the whole island.

- Sports membership 750 NTD per semester
- Sim card 13 GB for 6 months 1000 NTD (show your student ID card)
- Bike 600-800 NTD

#### B. HOUSING

NTU provides dormitory rooms. There are three different kind of rooms available. I chose a shared room in order to save money to travel. However, you can also choose a single room for a fair price. The dorms are located near campus and there are a lot of delicious and affordable eateries nearby.

The following lists will provide you an overview of some extra costs:

- Mattress 1080 NTD
- Blanket 780 NTD
- Electricity Card 600 NTD
- Internet 400 NTD
- Router 700 NTD

During the first two weeks the dorms will sell some things from previous students. This will be a lot cheaper than buying new things.

#### C. CULTURE

Taiwan is a fascinating country which culture, history and beautiful nature are very unique. In general people are very kind. Taiwanese love food and consequently you will find restaurants and little food stalls on every corner. Furthermore, they are true tea lovers. You will find all sorts of teas in many different versions. Taipei also offers so-called creative parks, where good food, art and cute little café 's come together.

#### D. FREE TIME AND TRAVELING

I loved traveling in Taiwan. I almost travelled the entire island as it is not very big, and the public transportation is quite convenient. Taiwan is perfect for people who want to dive, surf, snorkel, hike, paraglide etc. I would advise to arrive early or stay longer in order to have enough time to travel. Alternatively, the ICL program provides an opportunity for international students and local students to match with kids from (mostly countryside) schools of all 22 cities in Taiwan, including the islands. The program includes free trips for exchange students.