

Taipei, Taiwan

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Program: National Taiwan University, Spring 2018

Major: Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



Studying at National Taiwan University definitely gave me plenty of opportunities for Language Immersion. Anytime I went to a restaurant, shopping, or went out into the city, I would need to use my Chinese. I joined two language exchange clubs where I got to meet Taiwanese locals and talk with them in both English and Chinese. I also joined the Kendo

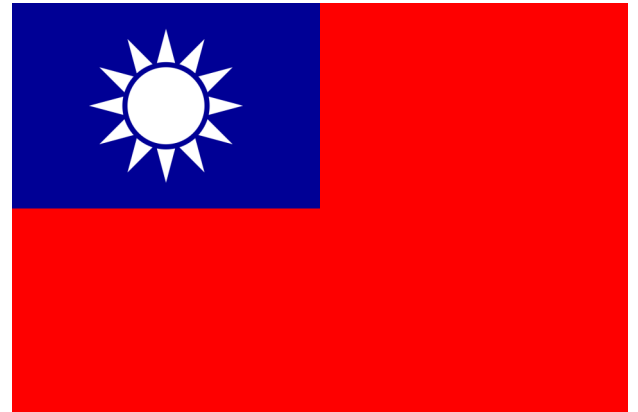
Club which was 98% Taiwanese locals, where meetings were conducted entirely in Chinese. Focusing on language immersion definitely enhanced my experience. The more I immersed myself, the more my Chinese improved, allowing me to make more friends, and have better conversations with my Taiwanese friends. Making friends who can only speak Chinese is a great motivation to improve, because you want to be able to tell them all your stories and also understand everything they tell you. I tried to use Chinese whenever I could, at concerts I would ask people in the line who their favorite artist was, and in restaurants, I would often ask staff for their recommendations. When going to the library, I would also talk to the librarian. If you aren't actively trying to immerse yourself, it can be easy to only speak English, especially since the dorms and classes are filled with other exchange students. I have had many people who heard my Chinese before and after the exchange tell me I have improved greatly, which I am so happy to hear. I really recommend an exchange for those students who want to improve their language skills.

Transferable Skill:



The transferable skills I learned were my communication skills, ability to plan trips, hospitality, risk-taking, and much more. I think that the biggest skill I improved on was my organizing and planning skills. I tried to plan and organize my time to maximize my different experiences. I also went on many day trips, weekend trips, and overnight trips around Taiwan, which all involved

different planning. I am applying my Chinese speaking skills at my job, where I am a Gallery Host at the Hyatt Hotel, and I help guests check in and much more. I've only just started the job, but I've already used Chinese to speak with countless Chinese-speaking guests. It is great to see their warm response when they find out that I can speak Chinese.



“My dream since I started Kendo was to win first place in a competition. During the time I spent with the National Taiwan University Kendo Women's Varsity team, we were able to get first place in two competitions during the semester. In other words, my study abroad gave me a chance to meet amazing people who would help me make my dreams come true.”