

General Information			
Host Country	Taiwan		
Host School	Shih Chien University		
Program start & end dates	February 19, 2024 – June 18, 2024		
Program of Study	Fashion Design		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> UMAP exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
General Evaluation			
In a couple of sentences, summarize and explain your general evaluation of your experience.	Studying abroad was a life altering and eye-opening experience. It showed me what I am capable of, and how strong I truly am. Living in Taiwan helped place me outside of my comfort zone, provided me the opportunity to visit countries which I never thought I would end up in, and helped me network internationally and make friends of a lifetime from numerous places around the world.		
What is your recommendation rating of the University and why from a 1 (bad)– 10 (amazing)?	The experience with my teacher jaded me a bit. Along with Ian not communicating honestly about our credits, which in turn took me away from what I went there to study, I would have to rate them a 4. This is quite unfortunate because Taiwan was incredible, and the fashion program at Shih Chien University is very good, but as an exchange student, I'm not sure that I would highly recommend it to many people.		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	Very easy and straight forward.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	Traveling to and from Taiwan was straightforward and it felt a lot quicker than one would think!		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	No troubles or surprises.		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	The metro system in Taipei was very easy to use. I took the train to my apartment. It took about 1.5 hours and cost maybe \$7 CAD.		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the assistance available to at your host school? Were there people and resources available for you for support?	To be honest, my first day orientation at Shih Chien was full of unexpected surprises. Shih Chien did not provide us with clear information, but rather simply informed us that we must take 5-8 courses, which is a courseload I was not comfortable with. Many things were required by them which was not communicated to us – ie, having to take 2 Chinese courses. It all worked out in the end, but me and all the other exchange students from different schools were very		

	confused and unhappy afterwards.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office?	Ian was very helpful via online communication as well as in person meetings. He helped me with random questions I had about Taiwan and about our school website.
How was new student orientation at the host university? What did they do?	Mentioned above, but it was very confusing.
Housing & Daily Life	
Describe your accommodation in your host country. Were you pleased with this choice or what would you have done differently?	I initially got scammed one month's rent + a month's deposit. The place I first found on Facebook Marketplace was extremely dirty and had multiple broken items around the apartment. Thankfully my mom was with me, so she helped find me a better apartment within 2 days. My new apartment was perfect and everything I needed, especially for the price I was paying.
When could you move into housing and how long were you allowed to stay?	I could move in ASAP, and was able to stay as long as I needed.
What kinds of services and facilities were nearby where you lived (shop, cafe gym, parks, pharmacy, stations...)	So much! Gyms, restaurants, parks, grocery stores, the metro, electronic stores, etc.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	I ate out every meal as I did not have a kitchen in my apartment. This was expected as I did my research, and it is very much a part of their culture in Taiwan to eat out more often than cooking. Food was very delicious and cheap.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	It was about a 30-minute train ride.
Academics & Course Registration	
Describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	It was confusing because there are only a handful of courses that are taught in English, yet we were "required" to take as many classes as possible. The process was very hectic because for our first week, we had to sit through every class which we were interested in taking to see if it's taught in Chinese or English, and if the teacher knows enough English to help summarize afterwards.
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	I would advise them to do what they can to see if the courses they are interested in would be taught in English or Chinese.
What tips do you have for finding the courses and course syllabuses/outlines?	Have patience with the website! All the information is there, but not much else you can do.
Academics & Course Registration (cont'd)	

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	I am unsatisfied with my draping course as we did not do one second of draping. I did learn new information and challenged myself, but I feel as though I now need to go in on my own time and learn how to drape, which sucks.
How did the style of teaching, and workload compare to Canada? Was it more independent or group learning?	The style of teaching is very different. I understand there will always be cultural differences, but the teachers at Shih Chien are very harsh and rude... My teacher would swear at us via text in our classroom group chat! It was independent learning which was awesome, and I love the instructions he gave us, but there was so much hostility that ended up getting in the way of my learning and skewing my perspective on Shih Chien.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad? Are there particular courses would you recommend?	I had 6 courses that I was originally enrolled in for half the semester. I dropped 4 and ended up only with the 2 courses that I needed for my degree. There are a lot of interesting courses offered at Shih Chien compared to KPU.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	It was all nice, cheap, and easy to use / set up.
Cost	
Books and Supplies/per term:	
Flight:	\$2000
Accommodation/per month:	\$650
Meals/per month:	\$700
Local transportation/per month:	\$15
Health insurance/per term:	n/a
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	\$60
Travel documents (Passport, Study permit, visa, etc.)	n/a
Vaccinations:	
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$5000
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	
Extra-Curricular & Social Activities	
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	Biking
Did you travel outside the host	Yes, I went Vietnam, Thailand, and Japan.

location? If so, where do you recommend?	
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	I was able to freelance model and be paid in cash
Health and Safety	
Describe any health/safety concerns or issues you had during your experience.	
What helped you keep safe and healthy? Did you access any health care supports and if so how was the experience?	
What wellness supports did they offer at the University? Were there counselling or medical services?	no
Personal and Cultural Connections	
Were there any cultural differences you had to adjust to? Were there language barrier issues?	Yes
What part(s) of the country and culture did you most appreciate?	Food
How was it traveling alone and making friends?	Good and easy
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	Treated very well. Everyone was so kind and welcoming
How accommodating are they to students with a disability? Were there any accommodations offered?	Good
How is the situation for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	good
How welcoming are they to for those who identify as LGBTQIA+?	good
Overall	



What are 5-10 important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?	
1. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons	
2. Be knowledgeable with China's history with Taiwan	
3. Come prepared knowing some mandarin	
4. You mostly eat out	
5. Big cultural difference in work/ school ethic	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Making friends around the world
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Lonliness
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	I know now that I can do anything
What else do you want to add about your study abroad?	

Below is a space to share any photos