Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  They definitely have their own opinion, and their own way of teaching.

- Could you call them by their first names?
  Usually, we called them teacher/laoshi in Chinese

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  A bit, they expect respect from students, but some of the teachers do take you on field trips to learn about Taiwan! 😊

- Were they available for help during office hours?
  No office hours really, but the classes are pretty small, 4-8 people, and they usually have time after class.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  Since it was all in Chinese, yes, but it was more busy work (like high school) than lots of reading.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  No. In Taiwan, most students just need to pass (no GPA). Also, the teachers usually do not give out above 90’s, so apparently 80’s are good; however, the UC system does transfer our grade on a different system, so B’s will be A’s.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  Lots of homework everyday, regular tests, with a midterm and final.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  Yes. Mostly written.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  Since they know we are international students, they’re really nice about it. If you do have problem with a professor, our UC advisor is super helpful.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  We could talk to an advisor about the classes we wanted to take (like in high school) so even though I was confused, there was someone to help me.

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  Yes. I was in a different environment and didn’t know anyone, so the first few days, I explored and did errands a lot by myself.

- Was classroom participation expected?
  Yes, the classes were small. If you didn’t talk, the teacher would ask you questions.

- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
Similar, but they didn’t have my major (global), so it just depends.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
  If you take classes with NTU students, it’s only once a week for about 3 hours. If you take classes with ICLP, it’s everyday for about 3 hrs.

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  Since classes were small, the teacher will notice if you are late. I had some teachers that let us eat, and some that didn’t.

### Language

- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
  Chinese and English

- **What language did you take your courses in?**
  Both

- **If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.**
  It was an intensive Chinese program, so pretty much all Chinese, no English allowed. In one of my NTU classes, the exam was to memorize a block of passage and re-write it. People in Taiwan have amazing memories, but I don’t, so I really had problem with this. There’s a placement exam at the beginning of the year to put you in a level. It’s a lot of work, but I got used to it.

### Host University

- **How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?**
  It’s in an urban setting, but does have its own campus, about the size of UCSB. The university is a good split of grad and undergrad students.

- **Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?**
  Various.

- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  Yes! There’s a club day at the beginning of the year and they’re pretty nice.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  There are lots of bookstores around the area, but not on campus. Professors usually tell you where to go.

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  Yes, but it’s usually full. I used it mostly for printing, but had my own laptop.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  Anything you can think of you can probably find. It’s in the city.
Housing

- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
  Dorms.

- How close are they to campus?
  About 10 minute walk to the front of campus.

- How did you find your housing?
  UC helped us, we had to sign up.

- Where did you live and with whom?
  I lived with some other international students in the Shui-yuan dorm.

- Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?
  Most dorms on campus are very small, but the dorms they gave to international students are new and super nice. I had my own bathroom.

- Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?
  Much less. I paid about $300 a month.

- How/who did you pay for housing?
  Had to transfer money to their bank account.

Food

- What was the food like?
  Oily and not exactly healthy, but super yummy! 😊 I miss the food so much!

- Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?
  Outside, I almost never cooked. I love the night markets and the street vendors.

- How much was an average meal?
  Lunch is usually about $1 and dinner maybe $2. You could also be really fancy and eat American priced meals. You really get your money worth

- What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?
  Same as in America

- Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?
  There are some vegetarian restaurants around, but not too much. My friend was a vegetarian and it was manageable.

Travel/Safety

- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?
  I usually took the MRT and the bus. Other than that I had a bike. Taxi too for those late nights out! ;)

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
Yes. I felt so safe! I would go out for food by myself at 11PM and there were still lots of people walking around. I’d say don’t take the taxi by yourself late at night, but even if you do, just be aware of your surroundings.

- **Describe the public transportation in your host country?**
Apart from above, when we went on trips around Taiwan, there were trains and high speed rails (it’s amazing! It gets you to the other side of the island in 1hr 30 min). There are also boats to go to other islands.

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
Pretty convenient. Lots of flights!

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**Host City/Country**

- **What was the weather like?**
Rains a lot! And very humid! Something I never got used to.

- **Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?**
Taipei is a very urban area, so probably similar to NYC. It was always lively with people waking around. I really liked it! 😊 but I did miss my trees!

- **What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?**
Just biking around and finding new places to eat and going to night markets!

- **How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?**
Even though not many people spoke English well, the signs and directions all have English on them, so you won’t get too lost taking the MRT or anything. The Taiwanese really welcome foreigners. 😊

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**Culture**

- **Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.**
  - **Time & punctuality**
    I think this really depends on who you’re going out with, so similar to America.

  - **Eye contact & staring**
    Eye contact is fine, probably shouldn’t be staring too much…

  - **Relationships**
    When you introduce yourself to locals, don’t shake hands. They will stare at it and it will be awkward. Taiwanese also aren’t very big into hugging, so make sure you know them well before doing it.

  - **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
    I would say it is a bit more formal, I felt out of place sometimes in my t-shirt and shorts. They do dress up to go to school (even though I did go in sweats a few times)

  - **Alcohol consumption**
    Legal age is 18 and drinking’s very causal. They don’t really drink to get drunk, just to socialize.
What culture shock did you go through?
The not shaking hands part was awkward for me, but I got used to it. Also, they tend to be more clicky, but I really did meet some really nice people! 😊

Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  At department stores yes, but for everyday food/vendors/shopping on the streets, use cash.

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  No, but a lot of my friends did and it wasn’t hard.

- If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM? Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?
  You could only take out a certain amount of money at a time.

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  Yes, there’s a bank on campus with an ATM