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Exchange Program Reports from Taiwan & USA

University Life in Taiwan

Hello, this is Nana Yamauchi. As an exchange student, I studied at National Chengchi University (NCCU) from September 2018 to June 2019. This was not the first time for me to leave Japan, but I had never studied Chinese before going to Taiwan. Thus I was anxious and hopeful at the same time. In this letter, I'd like to share some of my experiences.

For the first few weeks, I couldn't communicate in Chinese, so I usually used English. However, when I tried to speak English, I couldn't even say half of what I wanted to say. It really got me down. At that time I thought studying English was very important to make friends. After I was gradually able to speak more and more Chinese, Taiwan life started to become fun. At NCCU, I took the Intensive Mandarin Class (12-15 hours a week) and two academic classes (3 hours a week). In the Mandarin class, we could learn not only Chinese but also Taiwan culture through many learning materials with interesting games. Also, I sometimes took part in a language exchange with my buddy. NCCU has a bud-



Trip to Gaoxiong (高雄)

dy system, so many exchange students practice speaking Chinese with their buddies. Besides studying, I joined the yoga club and went to a swimming pool for my health because I didn't want to refrain from eating delicious foods including bubble tea.



Elephant Mountain (象山)

Through school life, I could make not only friends from around the world but also interesting Japanese friends. Although many people say that while studying abroad, it is better not to speak in Japanese, I think you don't have to push yourself too hard. Speaking Japanese with Japanese friends allows you to relax and gives you energy.



Mango Shaved Ice

Studying abroad taught me many things that I could not learn in Japan. If the people who read this newsletter are planning to study abroad, why don't you consider travelling to Taiwan? I'm really glad I went to Taiwan. I hope you get to experience the beauty of Taiwan!

- by Nana Yamauchi (Faculty of Law and Letters)

4 Things I Miss About Studying Abroad in California

Hello! I'm Satomi Mimura, and I had been studying at California State University, Sacramento as an exchange student. Although it's been only for three months since I came back from Sacramento, I really want to go back. Here are 4 things I miss about studying abroad in California.

No.1 People

I really miss my roomies and friends. I met so many people who are smart and generous, and it meant a lot to me. They helped me write papers as well as took me beautiful places in Sacramento. Also, I spent so much time with my roommates and neighbors in the dorm. I really miss chilling on a couch talking silly things with them. I miss small conversations with strangers as well. People often talked to me like "I like your skirt!" even though we didn't know each other. I really love this culture.



No.2 Women's Studies Classes

I was majoring in Women's Studies, and I met many strong women at the classes. They always had opinions and shared them. I was impressed that they understand the importance of protecting their rights as a human and try to be involved in political issues. It was also a good opportunity to share Japa-

nese culture which remains male privileges. Although it was hard to catch up with regular classes, it was valuable to experience the same campus life as local students do. I think this is the best thing about being an exchange student.

No.3 Cajun Shrimps and Crabs

I didn't expect that much about food in America, but Cajun food stole my heart! I miss a restaurant called "The Boiling Crab" where I got a bag of shrimps with Cajun source. I grabbed shrimps from bags with hands and took off shells, it tasted really good. They also have fried soft shell crabs, and this one was way too delicious as well.



No.4 California Weather and Beautiful Nature

I miss the comfortable weather in Sacramento. It's not too hot in summer and not too cold in winter. It never rains except for winter. Thanks for a bunch of sprinklers, our campus has some huge grass felids and a lot of trees. I miss doing homework outside surrounded by greens and cute squirrels in the perfect weather.

Those are the things I miss about the Campus life in Sacramento. This small space is not enough to write all of my memories, so check the English professional course homepage to see more posts and pictures!

(>>http://web.eec.chime-u.ac.jp/Pro/report_2.html)



- by Satomi Mimura (Faculty of Law and Letters)

Thrill The World - by Adrian Heinel

Have you ever heard of the word “flash mob?” A flash mob is a group of people who get together in a public place and do something crazy or entertaining for people to see. In October, just before Halloween, about 200 people in my hometown of Eugene Oregon get together and participate in a flash mob called “Thrill The World Eugene.” At this event people of all ages and abilities perform a dance routine in the style of Michael Jackson’s Thriller video. To make it even more exciting, people create zombie costumes and put on makeup for the performance. The event itself is organized completely by the community. It takes about one month to practice the dance and prepare for the final performance. In fact, my aunt and uncle volunteer to help teach the choreographed dance, and even my mother has dressed up like a zombie and participated!



My aunt and uncle

like a zombie and participated!

Actually, this yearly event started in 2006 and originated out of Canada, but since then, like a zombie outbreak, it has spread to 6 of the 7 continents on our planet Earth! Now there are thousands of people in countries around the world who

take part in this global event! Wouldn’t you like to be part of an international activity that crosses language and cultural barriers? Everyone loves “Thriller” and an event like this is a fun celebration like a Halloween party. If you have a passion for dance and sharing the joy life with others why don’t you (and some friends or family) try to organize a Thrill The World Matsuyama event! Nothing is impossible! Everything you need from a manual on how to organize the event, YouTube videos on how to learn the dance, to information on how to register your group internationally can all be found at the www.thrilltheworld.com website. Halloween is right around the corner, so what do you say? Are you ready to “get your ghoul on?”



My mother



Practicing “Thriller” dance at a gymnasium

News Flash: More Information about the SEA (Study English Abroad) Program

What is SEA program?

It is an overseas study program open to all Aidai students.

Three types of programs are offered; short-term programs (3-4 weeks), medium-term programs (3 months), and a long-term program (9 months).

Which universities can we study at?

You can choose from 7 universities in English-speaking countries such as Canada, Ireland, UK, and USA.

Canada : University of British Columbia (UBC)

Ireland : Dublin City University (DCU)

UK : Bangor University

USA : University of California, LA (UCLA)

University of California, Irvine (UCI)

University of Hawaii (UH)

University of Washington, Seattle (UW)



Can I request a homestay?

Yes. They arrange home-stays at all the universities except UCLA and UCI.

When is the application deadline?

It varies according to the program. An application for summer program must be submitted during June or July. As for spring programs, deadlines are usually set between late December to late January. See the following list for mid and long-term courses.

Visit SEA Program webpage or EEC office for further information.



2019 Summer report & 2020 Spring information session

When : October 9 (Wed) 12:00 - 4:00

Where : Room M215 (Aidai Muse)

Summer Short-term Programs			
	Starts from:	Lasts:	Apply before:
UBC	early Sep	3 weeks	late July
DCU	early Aug	4 weeks	late June
Bangor Univ.	late Aug	3 weeks	early June
UCLA	late Aug	3 weeks	mid June
UH	early Aug	3 weeks	late June
UW	late Aug	3 weeks	mid July

Spring Short-term Programs			
	Starts from:	Lasts:	Apply before:
UBC	late Feb	4 weeks	mid Jan
DCU	late Feb	4 weeks	mid Jan
UCLA	early Mar	4 weeks	late Dec
UH	early Mar	3 weeks	late Jan
UW	A) early Feb B) early Mar	A) 3.5 weeks B) 3 weeks	A) late Dec B) late Jan

Mid-term & Long-term Programs			
	Starts from:	Lasts:	Apply before:
DCU	early Jan		mid Nov
Bangor Univ.	A) late Aug B) early Jan	3 months	A) early May B) early Sep
UCI	A) mid Sep B) mid Mar	9 months	A) late Apr B) late Sep

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