



Hi, my name is Matt Beynon. I am 22 years old and I came from France to spend one semester in National United University as an exchange student. I came here to study in the department of Materials Science and Engineering, but also to discover a new environment, a new culture. I was always curious about life in Asia, and decided Taiwan as my first experience here. I was absolutely not disappointed. As soon as I arrived in NUU, I was welcomed by the volunteering students of the school. The most striking thing about Taiwan is how welcoming Taiwanese people are. They will always be very nice to you and help you for whatever reason, and you can always trust them. It was really easy to adapt to this new style of life, especially thanks to the volunteer students. At first, it is difficult to communicate if you do not speak Chinese at all, which was my case. But you will always find people, teachers, students who can speak English and help you. Every week, I had a Chinese Language class, which helped me learn the basics. I did not expect how important it would be for my experience here.

2020 was the year of the worldwide pandemic, COVID-19. Obviously, I was worried that my experience in Taiwan would be compromised, or even cancelled. However, I still managed to come to Taiwan and was so lucky to end up in the safest place in the world. It was wonderful to see how well a country could handle this type of crisis, avoid a lockdown, and succeed in keeping its people safe. Of course, the country's borders were closed, so we couldn't travel around Asia to discover other countries. But in the end, I am so happy that I was able to dis-

cover this beautiful country. Whether you go north, south, east or west, this country is different everywhere and full of surprises. I was able to visit many places around Taiwan, go up in the mountains, enjoy the beaches in the south, discover the beautiful east coast, and so on. Taiwan is a small country that I visited during more than four months, but there are still many places I can go. The beautiful landscapes, the food, and especially the people of Taiwan was what I preferred here. The volunteers of NUU were always here to make me discover new things and to have fun! We celebrated my 22nd birthday together, and I am glad to say that I have made some really good friends here, who I will never forget. Teachers, volunteers and other exchange students were all part of this wonderful experience, and I could never thank them enough for all of this.

This was one of the best experiences in my life and I definitely hope that one day I can come back to Taiwan and meet these people again because they are the best! Thank you so much. Taiwan is awesome, Taiwan number one!



姊妹校交流心得



境外生蒞校修讀 能源系碩士學位生 (印度籍)

辛巴 (Narasimha Rao Korrapolu)

My name is Narasimha Rao Korrapolu (辛巴), I am an Indian studying master degree at NUU. Here I want to share my experience at NUU in Taiwan. Before coming to Taiwan, I thought living in Taiwan will be not easy without knowing the Chinese language but after coming here it is not a big issue. Everyone here will help you to reach your destination even they don't know English that is a very admirable thing. When it comes to food, I struggle a lot with starting, however after a two to three weeks, I get used to it. Unfortunately, I fall in love with food, and with people showing kindness, that was an amazing experience for me. When comes to NUU (National United University), it was a nice university with all the facilities and a peaceful environment. Every student in my department becomes close friends with me. I want to share my experience in activities that were conducted for foreign students by NUU OIA (Office of International Affairs).

I attended cultural trips with Taiwanese students and two France exchange students visit popular places in Yilan County. It was a two-

day trip where we enjoyed a lot, we visited Yilan famous hot springs and went to an old street to enjoy the Taiwanese traditional food, in the end of the day we rented a villa for a night to stay, where we all enjoyed a lot by cooking BBQ for dinner, playing music, dancing wow, it was all amazing. On day two we went to visit the Cultural and Arts Center where we discovered a lot of arts by aboriginal people in Yilan and Taiwan, it also made me remember the Indian handmade arts center. At the end of day 2, we visited the Taiwanese whiskey company (Kavalan whiskey), where we saw how it can be produced and even tasted a sample peg also.

Finally, I want to say Taiwan is a great place to explore with very good people.

I want to thank each and every OIA member for conducting these types of activities for foreign students.



世界青年志工團

境外生接待經驗分享

文創系 紀又嘉同學

On November 13, 2019, in National United University, I had my first international reception experience for Japanese guests—the students from the National Institute of Technology (KOSEN) Maizuru College. I've found that "being an inexperienced freshman" was not a big problem regarding the reception and the key point to successfully accept foreigners was that how we wanted to get closer to them with sincerity. I do speak a little Japanese, so I tried my best to talk to them. There was a boy who said "Your Japanese sounds like that you are a Japanese native speaker!" It reminded me of the similar words the other Japanese said to me, "Are you Japanese?" I still keep that in mind that for the first time when I spoke Japanese. We were having a BBQ party with foreigners on October 1st, 2019. Those compliments literally brought me a sense of achievement.

We played with many traditional Japanese toys together, like kendama, takekopta, karuta, etc. Also, we experienced the origami! In our conversation, I found some people loved Taiwan very much. There was a person who merely visited Taiwan for one time, but he knew a lot about our culture. That was so cool! While guiding them in the library, a boy called my name and gave me two things. One was a shuriken, and the other was a flower, rose. Both were made by origami from their hands. What a handsome guy! I was so touched!

At the end, we exchanged contact information so that we can talk to each other after they went back to Japan. This reception experience was really fun and helpful. In this time I made lots of Japanese friends from Maizuru. It was really a special experience

to communicate with them. Although we do not live in the same place, we still can use our language ability to exchange some information and something funny. It was the best memory in my study life!



華文系 蔡孟慈同學

C'est la vie

It's like a dream when I saw the Eiffel tower that was really beautiful. I never forget it.

Hi, I'm Mandy Tsai. My major is Chinese Language and Literature. I joined the World Youth Volunteer club when I was a freshman. Now it's my 3rd year in NUU, I met many international students from different countries, also learned about different cultures especially the French and Japanese students. So, I wanted to go abroad, and I was so lucky because my Department has many opportunities to go abroad and to teach the Chinese. Finally, I decided to go to France, I never went to Europe before. To me, it's a challenge and chance to make me grow up. I want to thank the teachers (Li-chi Jiang and Chen-chun Er) who arranged everything for us.

I went to Polytech Annecy-Chambéry to do my internship for one month. I lived in Chambéry. It's in the east of France, a lovely and beautiful town. I loved the people, the food, and the leisurely life in here. I lived in the home family, and it was a really special experience for me. My home mom was a kind woman who had a cute cat. In France, we didn't cook by ourselves every day; sometimes we ate the hamburger restaurant outside. The French fries were really delicious, and I was so missing!

In this one month, we not only did the internship but studied the French. In Chinese class, I was so nervous at the beginning, and I am afraid I can't do it. Fortunately, the teacher and students were really nice though not many "French students" wanted to learn Chinese, but we taught many international students from North Africa, also included my buddy student. I was really excited and appreciated seeing they love the Chinese Culture. For the French class, it was super fun of my life. Before we studied, we needed to do some exam to test our level. And I got A2, when I went to the classroom, I felt embarrassed because I didn't know everything. I told my teacher, finally, I went back to A1 (the basic one). In our class, it's like the small United Kingdom. A lot of people from

different countries came here to learn French together. During the class, I told them about Taiwan, also my hometown- Chiayi, and welcome them to come to Taiwan.

I'm really missing them. In the final class we held a small party, both we needed to prepare the food, we prepared the bubble milks tea and scrambled eggs with tomatoes. I was really sad at that time and didn't want to come back to Taiwan and face everything. My French teacher told me, "C'est la vie", you never know what will happen tomorrow, just cherish every day. Until now, it's still in my mind, and I never forget. When I was in France, I also traveled to Geneva (Swizz), Turin, Milan (Italy), Annecy, and Paris (France). Thank my Partner, Pei-Lin. She is not only the best partner but my family.

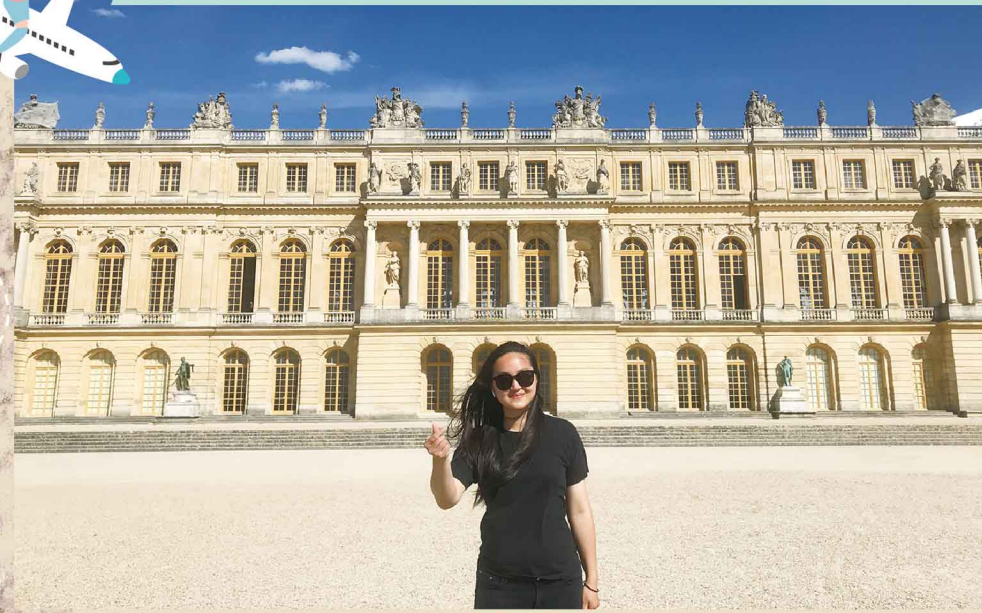
This experience was one of the most enriching of my life. And I want to say if you are really wanting to go there, don't miss any chance. Finally, Thanks for everything, everyone, and myself.



法國里昂第一大學 學期交換

(獲108年教育部學海飛颺補助)

經管系 侯彥君同學



I am appreciated for this opportunity to exchange in France. It is a special experience in my life. Studying abroad is not for fun, but to broaden my horizons. The campus life in France is not much different from that in Taiwan, but there are also so many differences. Students spent a lot of time for classes, discussions, and reports. The whole atmosphere was a feeling of independence, confidence, and freedom, and I really enjoyed it. In the beginning, I needed some time to get used to it because I was in a completely unfamiliar environment, but soon I learned a lot. Only the schoolwork needed more time to adapt because the classes were taught in English, and the thinking mode of French people is a little different from me. These got used to it in about two to three weeks, and it is not too difficult. I am very fortunate that my teachers and classmates are very nice, they are very willing to help me and make my school life go smoothly. I am very grateful to them.

Life in France has made me grow up a lot because everything had to be done by myself. For example, I must go to the supermarket frequently to buy something I needed, so I knew a reasonable price for many things in France. Maybe this is a trivial thing, but many little things add up to one big thing. Most of the things were explored and tried by

myself. I enjoyed these processes and allowed me to feel that I was constantly improving. Maybe I suffered many difficulties in the processes, but as long as I believed that I can get through it smoothly. I also like the feeling of challenging myself, and I like the freshness in life. These were the biggest reasons why I want to live abroad.

In addition, languages also made me feel that I have learned a lot. The first is French. I had never studied French before I went to France, but I was able to learn some simple words or a few sentences when I was in France. Maybe I still can't communicate with people in French, but I was able to understand quickly what people want to express and became more sensitive and familiar with French. The second is English. I mainly used English to communicate with people. When I speak more and listen more, I naturally improve a lot. I used to be afraid of making mistakes in speaking English, and worried that they don't understand what I would like to express. But actually, I thought too much. People usually tried to understand my expression as long as I dared to speak. I found that most people in France do that. I found that many French people dare to speak English even if they are not good at speaking it. Not only English, but any language is the same. Most of the people in France I met who will try to speak English to me and let me know what they want to say.

Because of the situation of Coronavirus, there are a lot of limitations for travel, I couldn't travel randomly in Europe. In the beginning, it is unfortunate for me, but I had plan B. I went to a lot of cities in France, and I think that it is a special memory, too. To sum up, I am very satisfied with this exchange, which has benefited me a lot. It is an awesome experience for me this time.



2019 ISTS 國際研討會經驗分享 >>> 能源系 程奎清同學

When I was a senior high school student, and I got a chance to make an exchange for a year in South America. During my exchange year, I encountered people from different countries, and everyone has a different story. But at that time, we were doing the same things and shared delight with each other. I learned some abilities from this trip and penetrated deeply into my mind. On this exchange, it not only broadened my horizons but also started to study abroad. It makes me step into society and connects with the world.

The event which I joined is Japan Seminar on Technology for Sustainability and International Seminar on Technology for Sustainability in 2019. This seminar was about communicating with people who came from different places. In my opinion, this was a very meaningful activity, based on student-student communication. It was different from ordinary seminars, and it let students try to lead this activity. In addition, during the discussion, you could mix people who grew up in different environments with different ideas. We could combine these opinions and develop a new idea. However, this time, a few students went from our school, what a pity. I felt that students could be encouraged more to participate in seminar-type activities. In this way, they can learn more from others to expand their horizons.

Our group made a plan to set up a university and solve environmental problems to achieve the SDGs goals set by the United Nations. For the university, we designed the auto BaliBali train for students to go to the campus in order to reduce traffic accidents. Furthermore, students will worry about emotional management and the university has set up a machine to detect facial expressions to realize the mood of students. After that, the report went very smoothly, and then the seminar successfully completed.

After the seminar ended, we went to experience the traditional Thai costumes and the ancient city of Ayutthaya. Ayutthaya is a very special place; it was a large city in the tenth century, but it faced by the invasion of neighboring country Liao. The destruction of the country can be seen as a civilization from the new prosperity to the decline. The former is glory, and lease ruins now. But they keep in history. The next stop of the cultural journey is Thai elephants which are part of Thai culture.

Thanks to the teacher who let me participate in this program. In this program, I made a lot of friends and learned a lot. I believed that my life is more substantial and more adventurous in these two weeks. And the end, I am grateful for who helped me at that time although I did an excessive funny thing.



境外生蒞校交流

文觀系 安娜 (Ana Guerra)

哥倫比亞 馬格達萊納大學 (University of Magdalena)

My name is Ana Guerra (安娜). I am 23 years old, and I am a Colombian. This is my report about my experience or part of my life in Taiwan, more exactly in NUU.

NUU has been like my house or in that way I have felt since day one I'm in Taiwan. Before coming, I and my friends were so excited and afraid about what would happen in a new and different place like this, but I am so glad to say it's been one of the best experiences in my life. From my teachers to students, from people in Taiwan to foreigners, they all have left good memories to me as an NUU exchange student.

Teachers from Hakka Studies Department (Cultural Tourism Program) were so welcoming and nice to me, also I learned a lot from them and the culture of Taiwan. Classrooms were well adequate with the necessary equipment.

Teachers from Business and Information Management were really attentive, professionals, caring. Classes were awesome, and I definitely got a lot of knowledge from this department. After that, everything is awesome, Taiwan is a really welcoming country. People are nice, always willing to help. Places, culture, language, food are incredible, and bubble milk tea is one of the best drinks I have tried here in Taiwan and in my life! Because of the good life, I was having to decide to stay one more semester studying as an exchange student. A really huge decision-taking in count all that it takes. My family out there and my friends in my country didn't stop me to stay and enjoy more of its people, its culture, its food, its language. Every single people have taught me many amazing particular things and develop my thinking about anything in my life. A new cycle of my life has begun in Taiwan, and I am very happy about it. Never regret! NUU has given me the opportunity to know new people every day as much as in classrooms, on the fields with the volleyball team, at every event, to play Mahjong with my Taiwanese friends, and to travel. I have had a great time to tell my people in Colombia, to my family, to my friends that NUU has treated me as I am part of this land, and I have felt like that in many ways.

NUU has also invited us to attend many events but one of my favorites was going to National Miaoli Senior High School to have discus-

sions with the students there. It feels so good to know people who want to know foreigners and exchange student's life. It was awesome.

To have the chance to get integrated into a sports group in this university, it's one of the best things I can save into my heart because it gives me the chance to meet such great people on the volleyball team and to share time with them was awesome. Besides, I got the chance to meet a really good friend who has been there for anything I would need. Now, she's a captain of the female volleyball team. Well deserved. The coach was also great. I could say easily I learned a lot of stuff from him to improve my volleyball skills. Thank you!

In my second semester, before starting classes, I got to say that NUU gained all my respect after helping me in such a great management for caring about my time in quarantine after being in South Korea for extending my visa to study in Taiwan. Taiwanese people are a great example to the world about this worldwide issue (COVID-19). They managed in a great way. It's just admirable. THANKS A LOT!

After my quarantine period in NUU, I had the chance to take amazing classes in my Department of Cultural Tourism where my classmates and teachers were the ones who let me feel like I fit in with them. I enjoyed a lot with them, learning from them, practicing my skills in the Chinese language, communicating, doing reports and project by groups, sharing time, and all the good stuff that will remind in all my life because of my experience in National United University in Taiwan.

The Volunteer Group was awesomely nice (they taught me how to play Mahjong) plus together with people from France and India, and they gave us the opportunity to show them a little bit of our cuisine skills. So great moments that get the chance to us to see even more how great are people in Taiwan, making us feel like we are at home even knowing we are so far away from home. That's really important. I will never ever forget my time in National United University.

To have the chance of just being here has changed my life. I am always thankful, and I will always recommend National United University as a great institution to do your scholarship exchange student program!

