

STUDY ABROAD REPORT 2010/2011



University: Chang Jung Christian University

Duration of the stay: from 07.02.2011 to 31.06.2011

Studentin studiert Soziologie

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1. Country, city and people

Taiwan is located in south-east Asia. It is a small island; its size is about one third of Austria but it has around 23 Million inhabitants.

The most common religions in Taiwan are Taoism and Buddhism, so this country has plenty of temples which should be explored by visiting-students.

The official language and the most spoken language in Taiwan is Mandarin. Besides Mandarin, also Taiwanese and Hakka are widely spoken. The young generation learned English in school but in a real conversation they are often very shy and don't speak very much.

Taiwan is a tropical island and so the climate, especially in summer, is very humid. Adjusting to Taiwan's climate was not very easy for me; you should be patient with yourself and take enough breaks during work. A Nap in the early afternoon might also help to get more energy and do not forget to drink enough water.

Taiwanese people are very friendly to foreigners. In Taiwan there are not many foreigners and especially non-Asian people are very rare, so while walking in the streets, many people might ask you about your nationality. The lifestyle in Taiwan is more western-orientated than in other Asian countries. After my semester in Taiwan, I also travelled to China and I must say that the mentality there is different than in Taiwan.

Tainan is the former capital and it is the oldest city in Taiwan, with the most interesting historical sights. The history of Taiwan is very young and a two-hundred year old street is old for Taiwan. So don't expect very old buildings. The most interesting district in Tainan for me is Anpin. It has many historical buildings and it has a beach. In general Taiwanese don't go swimming in the sea very often and not many girls are wearing a bikini. They wear shorts and a t-shirt at the beach and also go with them into the water but they don't really swim in the water. I don't know exactly why, maybe they are afraid of the big waves. So I think, if you are a girl and you want to avoid that people are starring at you, also bring shorts and a t-shirt to the beach.

2. Social Integration

Taiwanese people in general are very friendly to foreigners. CJCUC is a small university and so I think it is very easy to get in contact with local students. Almost all local students are curious about foreigners and so people want to get in contact with you. Some of the students are very shy to speak English, especially those who are not studying “Translation”, and so a basic knowledge of Chinese helps to get in contact with locals. I did the Basic Chinese level (Grundkurs 1) at JKU, before I came to Taiwan. Prior knowledge of Chinese is not absolutely necessary but very useful. I had a Taiwanese room-mate and in the beginning she was very shy and I had to try out my Chinese to break the ice between us. The staff at International office at CJCUC is very friendly and they can help with social integration. There are many students of the translations department working as a volunteer at the International office. They like to get in contact with international students. Some people might be only interested in you because you a foreigner and don't really care about your personality. You should look out for others as well if you want to find real friends. In general, I think, finding friends in Taiwan is very easy; you just have to go there with an open mind. Food and going out to eat is very important for Taiwanese students and you will often get lunch or dinner invitations.

3. Accommodation

You can apply on-campus-accommodation; you just have to fill this in at the applications-form.

The exchange students live now at the new dormitory of the master students and Teachers. All rooms there are double-rooms and they have a small bathroom inside. Internet is available in the room; you just need to bring a patch-cable. If you want to use your technical devices from home in Taiwan, you need an adapter. I had to apply for the internet-access and it took a few days, so be aware of no internet in the first days. In Taiwan you can get internet connection at many public places and restaurants. The accommodation in the dormitory is cheap and for me the two bed rooms are very conformable. There are just a few things, which are good to know:

- a. Taiwanese people sleep on very thin mattresses and westerners are not really used to it. You can buy a new mattress or you can ask at the international office if you could have the mattress of former exchange students, they are stored somewhere in University buildings.

- b. At CJCUC all students have to clean their room by themselves.
- c. Normally there is no kitchen in student-dormitories. At the second dormitory, where you are going to live, there is a kitchen on the 4th floor, which is the teacher's floor. Normally students are not allowed to enter the teacher's floor but if you ask it won't be a problem.
- d. Taiwan is a tropical island, so it is necessary to bring out the garbage every day.

If you don't mind living in a double room, I would recommend on-campus-accommodation because it is more convenient.

4. Costs

If you are going to live on-campus, life in Taiwan won't be very expensive. On campus-accommodation is very cheap and the restaurants in and around the campus are also cheap. Even though going out for eating in Taiwan is cheap; you might need more money for food than in Austria because you cannot cook in the dormitory.

Ausgaben im Rahmen des Auslandsaufenthaltes (in €):

Monatliche Gesamtausgabe (inkl. Quartier):	350€
davon Unterbringung:	60€ pro Monat
davon Verpflegung:	200€ pro Monat
davon Fahrtkosten am Studienort:	0€ pro Monat
davon Kosten für Bücher, Kopien, etc.:	10€ pro Monat
davon erforderliche Auslandsranken- /Unfallversicherung:	€ pro Monat
davon Sonstiges: _____	90 € pro Monat

Nicht monatlich anfallende Kosten:

Impfungen, med. Vorsorge:	100€
Visum:	75€
Reisekosten für einmalige An- u. Abreise:	1000€
Einschreibegebühr(en):	

Sprachkurs (Landessprache) Kursgebühr:	
Orientierungsprogramm:	€
Sonstiges Erwähnenswertes:	
- _____	€
- _____	€
- _____	€
- _____	€

5. Visa and Insurance

You can apply for the visa at “Taipei Kultur und Wirtschaftsbüro” in Vienna (<http://www.taipei.at/deutsch/>). I would recommend the multi-enter visa because Taiwan is a good starting point for an Asian-travel. The multi-enter visa costs 75€.

I have the golden visa-card and the service of the golden-visa card also includes travel-insurance, so I did not need an extra-insurance. I would recommend contacting your bank before you go to Taiwan; I had the problem that the bank blocked my debit-card and I had to get a new one. If you want to withdraw money in Taiwan at the ATM-machine, you often have to select your card-typ. I have a Maestro-card and this card-type don't exist in Taiwan, I always had to select CIRCUS, because this is the most international type. Withdrawal with the credit-card always worked out.

6. The university

The CJCUC is a small university in Tainan County. Going to the city-center takes 20min with the Train (<http://www.cjcu.edu.tw/english/Shalun-Line-Schedule.pdf>). The Train station is directly on the campus, it opened January 2011, so I was the first International student who used it. The new Train-station makes travelling to Tainan more convenient and renting a scooter is not necessary anymore, but if you have more fun in riding by yourself you can rent a scooter. If you want to rent a scooter you need an international driving license. Tainan students can ride for free with Tainan buses; you just have to show your student card.

CJCU is a small university with very friendly people. The small number of international students makes the atmosphere very familiar. In my semester we were 7 exchange students, which is quite a lot for CJCU, because in many semesters they had only one or two. The international office, teacher and student are all trying to make your stay in Tainan conformable. The partnership with JKU is one of the strongest international-relationships from CJCU. So exchange students from Linz are very important for this university and you can see this in the support you will get from them. The CJCU is a good place if you are looking for Taiwanese friends and want to dig in Taiwanese culture. If you want to have a party-semester with a big community of international students, I won't recommend going to CJCU. In general Taiwanese students don't go out so often and you will have to go to Tainan city center or Kaoshiung for Party.

At and around the campus there are many small restaurants and vendors. Going out eating in and around the campus is very cheap, you can find a full meal for 1 or 2 Euro. There are two even-elevens at the campus; one is at the basement of the second dormitory.

CJCU has many student clubs and international students are welcome to join. CJCU is a Christian university and connected with the Pedestrian church. The pastor office also organizes activities, which all students who are interested, can join.

7. Application and applying for courses

For the university application you need a medical report from a doctor, including at HIV-Tests. There was no prefabricated form of a medical report at the homepage of CJCU, so I used the one of NTU. NTU-students also need a lung-X-ray-analysis which CJCU students don't need.

For the financial report, my parents wrote a conformation, in which they declared their financial responsibility, during my stay in Taiwan

Applying for the courses is very easy; you will get a list of all courses offered in English from the international office and you just have to choose which ones you are going to take and the office will do the rest for you. You can find the list of English courses at <http://www.cjcu.edu.tw/~intl/web/exchange-courses.php>.

8. University schedule

Chang Jung Christian University 2011-2012 Academic Year Calendar Semester I

Mo.	Wk.	Day							Dates	Calendar Items
		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S		
Aug. 2011	Summer Vacation		1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2011-12 Academic Year begins
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8-12	Returning students can begin course selection
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	27	Maintenance of campus electrical systems (power shut down)
		28	29	30	31				31	Deadline for graduate students to complete procedures for graduation in Semester II, Academic Year 2010-11.
September	Wk 1					1	2	3	3	Dorms open for students
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	Parent-faculty meetings
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	5	New student orientation and fire drills
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	8	Orientation for international exchange students, Semester I
Wk 2	25	26	27	28	29	30		9	Faculty-Staff Holiday (Make-up for Parent-Faculty Meetings on Sept. 4)	
								12	MID-AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL (Holiday)	
								13	Faculty-Staff Holiday (Exchange with work day on Sept. 17)	
Wk 3								14	Registration and first day of classes; students can begin to add/drop classes, apply for minors or double majors.	
								20	Final day to add/drop classes, apply for minors or double majors.	
October	Wk 4							1		
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	DOUBLE-TEN DAY (Holiday)
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	12	New Student Sports Competition
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	15	TOEG (Test of English for Graduation)
Wk 8	30	31						30-11/5	Mid-semester student evaluation of instructors	
			1	2	3	4	5	4	Deadline for application for early graduation	
November	Wk 9	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	7-13	MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	14-18	School anniversary athletic competitions
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	16	School Anniversary; Thanksgiving Service
		27	28	29	30				24	Thanksgiving Day; lighting of the Christmas tree
December	Wk 12					1	2	3	3	Stage I graduate entrance exams for Academic Year 2012-13 (early admissions)
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	Inter-departmental badminton championship
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	5-9	Library Week
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	9	Last day to withdraw from classes
Wk 13	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	17	TOEG (Test of English for Graduation); Stage II graduate entrance exams for Academic Year 2012-13 (early admissions)	
								18-24	Semester-end student evaluation of instructors	
								20	Community Christmas caroling	
Wk 14	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	Christmas Praise Service and on-campus Christmas caroling	
	29	30	31					24	Campus Fair	
Jan 2012	Wk 15								25	Christmas (Holiday)
									30	Holiday (Make-up for school anniversary)
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	National Remembrance Day (Holiday)
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2-6	Course selection for second semester
Wk 16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	6	Deadline for applying for academic leave/ withdrawal for Semester I	
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	9-15	FINAL EXAMINATIONS	
	29	30	31					18	Winter transfer student examinations	
Wk 17	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	Deadline for graduate student defenses/ degree exams	
	29	30	31					20-31	CHINESE NEW YEAR VACATION	
Wk 18								21	Maintenance of campus electrical systems (power shut down)	
								22	Chinese New Year's Eve	
								31	End of Semester I	

- ※ This calendar is based on Ministry of Education decree Tai San Tzu.
- ※ Indicates weekends and other days off.
- ※ Reassignment of holidays shall follow the latest MOE decrees and the announcements of the Human Resources Dept.
- ※ Rescheduling of other activities shall follow MOE decrees and the announcements of relevant units of the University/
- ※ Holidays based on indigenous ceremonies shall be determined by the announcements of the Council of Indigenous Peoples, Executive Yuan.

Chang Jung Christian University
2011-2012 Academic Year Calendar
Semester II

Mo.	Wk	Day							Dates	Calendar Items
		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S		
February 2012					1	2	3	4	1	Semester II of the 2011-12 Academic Year begins; students can apply for academic leave/ withdrawal from university for Semester II. Application period for international student admissions and international student scholarships begins. 17 Orientation for international exchange students, Semester II. Deadline for graduate students to complete procedures for graduation in Semester I, Academic Year 2011-12. 20 Registration and first day of classes: students can begin to add/drop classes, apply for minors or double majors 27 Final day to add/drop classes, apply for minors or double majors. 28 Peace Memorial Day (holiday)
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	17	
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20	
	Wk 1		20	21	22	23	24	25	27	
	Wk 2	26	27	28	29				28	
						1	2	3		
March	Wk 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5-9 10	Application period for transferring departments Screening for athletic admissions, 2012-13. 12 Slow-pitch softball competition 14 Examinations for transferring departments 24 Stage I graduate entrance exams for Academic Year 2012-13; TOEG (Test of English for Graduation)
	Wk 4	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12 14	
	Wk 5	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	
	Wk 6	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
April	Wk 7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1-7 3 4	Passion Week Passion Week Worship Concert Children's Day; Tomb Sweeping Day (holiday) 4-7 Annual cleaning of the library (library closed) 5 Self-Learning Day (holiday) 6 Day off (Switched with work day on Graduation Day, June 2) 8-14 Mid-semester student evaluation of instructors 13 Selection for early (non-exam) admissions to 2012-13 bachelor's programs 16-22 MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS 18 Off-campus housing fair 19 Stage II graduate entrance exams, Academic Year 2012-13 20 Deadline for graduating students to withdraw from classes
	Wk 8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5 6	
	Wk 9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	8-14 13	
	Wk 10	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	16-22 18	
		29	30						19 20	
May	Wk 11			1	2	3	4	5	9	Coming-of-age worship service for students 12 Screening for admissions to on-the-job programs 13-19 Evaluation of instructors/ class advisors (graduating classes) 18 Last day to withdraw from courses (non-graduating classes); last day to apply for academic leave or withdraw from the university (graduating classes) 21-27 Final examinations for graduating classes 26 TOEG (Test of English for Graduation)
	Wk 12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	9	
	Wk 13	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13-19 18	
	Wk 14	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	21-27 26	
	Wk 15	27	28	29	30	31				
June	Wk 16	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	1 Stage One entrance examinations for 2012 Ph.D. programs 2 Commencement Ceremony 3-9 Semester-end evaluation of instructors/ class advisors (non-graduating classes) 15 Last day to apply for academic leave or withdraw from the university (graduating classes); screening of applicants to Dept. of Theology; Stage Two entrance examinations for 2012 Ph.D. programs 18-24 FINAL EXAMINATIONS 23 Dragon Boat Festival (holiday) 30 Deadline for applications for international student admissions and international student scholarships
	Wk 17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	1	
	Wk 18	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	18-24 23	
									30	
July		1	2	3	4	5	6	7		19 Summer Transfer Student Examinations 31 Deadline for graduate student degree exams; end of Semester II
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28		

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- ※ Holidays based on indigenous ceremonies shall be determined by the announcements of the Council of Indigenous Peoples.

9. Introduction week or Introduction day

I came in the winter-semester and I had no Introduction week. Two days before the university started there was a welcome-party and an introduction day organized by the international office. It is recommended coming a week before university starts, but inform the international office about your arrival time before you book your flight. When I arrived no people were at campus, because I came in a holiday for the whole university. The staff at the international office is very friendly, so feel free to contact them if you have any questions before the arrival.

10. Offered courses and courses I visited

CJCU offers only around twenty courses in English. The English courses are mainly Economic, Religions and Sociology courses. It is also possible to take a course offered in Chinese and write a term-paper in English but you need to talk with the teacher first. Exchange students can take all courses they want; they are in no fix-department during their stay. As a technical student, you should be aware of the lack of courses and think about writing a thesis there. Supporting exchange students is very important for the university and many teachers are fluent in English, so you will get enough support while writing your thesis. The course selection might change because CJCU tries to invite more courses in English especially in the field of economics.

I am a Student of Sociology so I took courses in the field of Sociology, Religion and Chinese conversation. I did seven courses including a Table Tennis course.

10.1. Islam

Teacher: Prof. Augustine Musopole

Hours: 2

The introduction about Islam, is a course for students of the religions and philosophy department, so it only recommended if you have a special interest in this topic. The course covers the topics: spread of Islam, main groups and their practices and believes, role of women in Islam. The teacher speaks English, but there is also simulate-translation into Chinese, so almost half of the course time is used for translation. The grades are based on exams; we had a mid-term and a final exam.

10.2. Globalization and Multicultural Education

Teacher: MP Joseph

Hours: 2

This course will probably not be held anymore, because of the lack of people who participated at the course. I can recommend courses from MP Joseph but in opinion his background and his principles sometimes affect too much his teaching. MP Joseph is a teacher of Theology Department, with a religious background.

10.3. Taiwanese History

Teacher: Prof. Yoshihisa Amai

Hours: 2

This course gives a good introduction about the history of Taiwan. The teacher tries to make the course interesting by using video material and organizing field trips. This course is required for exchange students. There was no exam in the end but we had to write a term paper of 7-8 pages.

10.4. Conflict Studies

Teacher: Prof. Steven Chen

Hours: 3

This course covers the topic Conflict Mediation and being a third party Neutral. I think this course might be interesting for students of all departments. The teacher gives a good overview about Conflict Solution. The grades are mainly based on the course participation, because the teacher thinks this topic needs student participation. We also had to write a short book review and an exam in the end. If you attend at every class the exam won't be a problem. All in all I think this course is pretty easy and interesting.

10.4. Chinese Conversation 1 and 2

Teacher: Dr. Liu

Hours: 2 per course

I had to take courses of Chinese conversation every week. At the course Conversation 2 we were only two students and so the teacher had enough time to support for every student.

11. Description of Taiwanese credits

Taiwanese credits are equal with course hours per work. So a course with two hours per week count for two Taiwanese credits. A semester with 7-10 courses is a full study workload in Taiwan.

12. Marking system

In Taiwan you need to have 60 Percent to pass a course. Depending on the course you need to write a term-paper or to write a exam to pass. In Taiwan students usually have more mid-term exams than in Austria. In my opinion, passing courses at CJCUC is a little bit easier than in JKU.

13. Support from the university

CJCUC is a small university and there are only around 20 Students on average in a course, so the support of student from university staff is better than at Austria.

14. Conclusion

All in all the time in Taiwan, was the best semester in my life. I really learned a lot during this time and became a more independent person. CJCUC was a great place for me to study because of the good support; I got from the international office. Dr. Lan, the head of international office, also gave me the chance to make a presentation about Austria in front of the 80 people and invite me to her German class. This kind of possibilities increased my skills and my self-confidence. I made many friends in Taiwan and so Taiwan and its people will always have a place in my heart.

15. Tips and would else you should know

Before going to Taiwan I would recommend to do at least one Chinese course at JKU, it is not absolutely necessary but very helpful.

If you have problems it getting in used to your life in Taiwan don't be discourage, everybody has them and Taiwanese people are very helpful, you will always get help if you ask for it. I also had some problems and so I developed a friendship with the ladies of the international office because they really helped me a lot.

Studying in Taiwan also should include travelling in Taiwan, for that reason the book: "Lonely Planet Taiwan" might be very useful.

Every year around 10 students from CJCUC are coming to JKU and they would like to know more Austrians, so feel free to contact them if you have any questions about Taiwan. You can find the list of the current exchange students at the JKU-Homepage.

Consideration concerning loss of study time and lack of course that count for your study program might seem to be very important before but they are not important afterwards because you gain some much from a semester abroad.

From a semester abroad you will gain knowledge and experience in many different ways, so if you read my report and you are curious about it, apply for a semester at CJCUC.