

Welcome!

Hello! My name is Maggie Hinshaw and I am currently an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Shidler College of Business. With the support of the Freeman Foundation, I am currently studying abroad for the remainder of Spring 2017 at National Taiwan University!

Useful Tips for Students

01/10/2017

Today I just received the official admission letter from National Taiwan University! With the letter, I can now apply for my student visa. In order to apply for the student visa, I need to bring these documents to the Taiwanese Consulate in Honolulu:

1. Official Acceptance letter to local Taiwan University
2. Passport
3. 2 photos of myself
4. Proof of purchase of a round trip ticket to Taiwan
5. Copy of the bank statement of flight ticket

Once I submit these documents its estimated to take about 5-7 days for me to receive the visa!

I want to thank Mr. Graeme Freeman for selecting me as a recipient of the **Freeman Scholarship program**. It is through their financial support that will allow me the opportunity to study at National Taiwan University.

I feel that by studying in Taiwan it will allow me to be more independent and obtain a new level of growth. I would very much like to meet new people, learn their language and culture, as well as become an active member in the community. Being able to participate and become an active member of an international community will only enhance my undergraduate experience. I want to truly push myself to meet new people and build lifelong relationships with the local students there.

Another reason why I chose to study in Taiwan specifically is because my mother is originally from there. I am unable to speak Chinese fluently and have no real connection to any of my relatives there. I chose Taiwan so that I may connect with my mother's culture. This is important to me because I feel that I may be able to learn something about myself by developing a link to my heritage.

This will be a new experience for me. I am anxious to start my new journey.



Picture from the Freeman Scholars Luncheon

02/07/2017

If you're an incoming exchange student at NTU and will be registering for classes soon please note that it is a multi-step process. You should receive an email with that information but in short, once you create an account you must:

1. Log-in to your account on the course selection website [here](#)
2. Select the courses you want to take by hitting the "add" button.
3. Once you finish adding the courses you want to take, you must **export** the course list as an excel file.
4. Add a column to the excel file that will rank your classes by level of priority
5. You must then **import** the excel file into "my class schedule"

That's pretty much the summary of the registration process. Unfortunately I thought it was a single step process...but luckily even if you don't get any of the classes you want during registration you can still email the professors of your preferred classes and ask them to give you an override. I was told that most professors are pretty accommodating to exchange students so if you email them and show up to their first day of class you should be able to receive a registration pass. I'll try to update this blog to see what classes I get. Wish me luck!

02/17/2017

Today is registration for new exchange students at NTU! Here are some tips for you:

Make sure to have all of your important documents and have photocopies of everything!

1. Copy of Admission and Acceptance Letter
2. Copy of Passport and VISA
3. Proof of Health Insurance Coverage
 - Please note that the proof of insurance form needs to include the minimum coverage amount listed, if you don't have the total amount on your proof of insurance make sure to bring a copy the Insurance plan listing what it covers
4. Copy of your Health Exam form and form C
5. Payment sheet and receipt (They should give you this at orientation)
6. Passport pictures of yourself...They like to attach pictures to documents in Taiwan so just to be safe I'd say bring 4-6 passport size photos
 - There are photoboos on campus where you can get your picture taken for around 100 NTD and that includes about 8 pictures. Ask someone to show you and make sure to choose the right size!

Hope that helps! Make sure to talk to other students about the process so that you can double check what you need and learn more about registration! The school should send you an email with instructions but I got that the two days before registration...

02/20/2017

Today, I went to grab my ARC. If you're carrying a resident VISA and need to get your ARC here is the link I used to learn what I needed to

bring: <http://www.immigration.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=1090287&ctNode=30085&mp=2>

Make sure to bring photocopies of your passport, VISA, NTU acceptance and admission letters and all other forms of important documents! Make sure to bring cash as well!

02/21/2017

School for the first semester just began! NTU allows students to still add and/or drop courses within the first week and half of school. Professors are given green access codes that they can hand out to students so that they may add the course to their schedule. If you're like me and still need to add courses here's some advice for you:

1. Find the courses you want to add and create a list containing the name of the course, time of the course (because NTU only list periods and NOT the time of the course), and its serial number. You can go to the course selection site by clicking [here](#).
2. Find the column labeled "Selection method" number. This number will indicate the selection method of the course during the add and/or drop period.
 - 1 meaning you can join without needing a code — so you can just add the course when the add and/drop period opens up
 - 2 meaning you need the access code
 - 3 meaning it will use the wait-list that was formed during the online registration period and students will be selected at random
3. If your selection method is "2" continue reading these instructions.
4. Email the professor.
 - Try find the email address of your professor. If you let them know early on that you need their class they might reserve a green pass for you or email you the code.
5. Show up to class early! I would say 10 – 15 minutes early.
 - It never looks good to show up late to a class, and if the professor shows up early you might be able to talk to them about your situation and get the green pass early.
6. Sit in the front row or as close to it as possible
 - Sometimes its first come first serve, if you're close to the front you're more likely to be one of the first people to receive a green pass

At this point, there is no guarantee that you will receive your classes but hopefully these tips will increase your chances of securing a seat in class! Good luck!

03/21/2017

This past week, I found a great place to buy cake! The store is called Tiramisu Cake and they sell slices of cake for as low as 25 NTD! That's equivalent to about \$0.82! They also sell a variety of cheesecake. Prices average around 25 – 35 NTD. You can also buy a whole cake for around 220 – 350 NTD.

If you're studying at National Taiwan University and want to try the Tiramisu Cake shop here is a nearby store location:

106台北市大安區復興南路二段162號

I recommend riding a bike to get to the store location since it is a few blocks away from campus.

Top 10 Useful things when in Taipei, Taiwan

1. Bring 3 copies of all documents and 8 copies of passport sized photos. When you get to National Taiwan University they require exchange students to hand in multiple copies of documentation. This includes:
 - Copy of Admission and Acceptance Letter
 - Copy of Passport and VISA
 - Proof of Health Insurance Coverage
 - Please note that the proof of insurance form needs to include the minimum coverage amount listed, if you don't have the total amount on your proof of insurance make sure to bring a copy the Insurance plan listing what it covers
 - Copy of your Health Exam form and form C
 - Payment sheet and receipt (They should give you this at orientation)
 - Passport pictures of yourself...They like to attach pictures to documents in Taiwan so just to be safe I'd say bring 4-6 passport size photos
 - There are photoboos on campus where you can get your picture taken for around 100 NTD and that includes about 8 pictures. Ask someone to show you and make sure to choose the right size!
2. If you want to create a bank account, you need an ARC. For ARC application click [here](#).
3. Make sure to check and read all emails! You may miss important information if you don't read the entire email.
4. For registration: make sure you create an excel file and rate your classes by level of priority and then submit it to the registration website.
5. You can still add courses within the first week and a half of school. Professors have override codes that they can give out during the first day of class. However, they only have a limited amount of these override codes so the best way to get a class is by emailing the professor, attending the first day of class, and talking to the professor in person.
6. Pay all of your rent + the two-month deposit in one go. Depending on the bank you have, it may be cheaper to pay for all of your rent and the two-month deposit in one go instead of paying all of it monthly. This is due to international transaction fees. My bank charges a flat rate of \$50 to wire money to Taiwan so I thought it'd be better to pay for everything all at once.

7. Always have cash on you! I think having cash with you at all times is important since a lot of places don't take credit cards. Also bring some US cash in case you wanted to travel (it may be easier to exchange US currency instead of Taiwan currency)
8. Talk to people! It's important to meet people while studying abroad. Try to talk to people as much as you can!
9. Do a language exchange with a local! You can do that by posting on this Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/689157281218904/?ref=br_rs
10. Travel as much as you can! Taiwan is a large place and I would recommend going out exploring it with friends!

More details about tip #'s 1, 2, 4 and 5 above.

My Journey

01/30/2017

In about a week,

I will be boarding a plane to go to Taipei, Taiwan. These past few days have me filled with a mixture of emotions. Part of me wants to stay with my friends and family, I am nervous to venture into a new country alone; However, part of me is excited to begin a new chapter in my life! I don't know what will happen, but I know the experience gained on my travels will be one for the books!

All that I need to do now is pack...

02/07/2017

I just came to Taiwan yesterday. I was able to meet my uncle who I haven't seen in over 20 years! He picked me up from the airport, took me to his house, and dropped me off at my dorm. Him and his wife were so nice to me even though we haven't seen each other in such a long time! I'm glad he spoke English because my Chinese is not good at all haha

Today I went to explore NTU for the first time. I found the gym, language center, and the College of Management buildings! I think its a very nice place. I hope to get to know the culture, language, and city more during my stay. I have only eaten 711 food so far so I hope I can get a better taste of Taiwan food haha

02/21/2017

Taken from <https://hawaii2taiwan.wordpress.com/>

These past two weeks in Taiwan have been great! I made some new friends from all over the world, I've met up with family and reconnected with them, and I've been to various parts of Taipei!

This past weekend I got one of the best surprises in my life; my friends through me a surprise birthday party. I can't put it into words how thankful I am of everyone I met so far. Their kindness towards me is more than I ever expected!



02/25/2017

I just got my class schedule finalized this week!

My classes are:

Service Learning-International Companions for Learning Searching for course equivalent Not yet applied

NTU Course	Possible UH Manoa Equivalent	Status of petition
Chinese Elementary 2	Searching for course	Not yet applied
Strategic Management	BUS 345 Strategic Management	Not yet applied
Financial Management	BUS 314 Business Finance	Approved as course equivalent

3D Creations in Reality	ITM 360 Current Topics in ITM	Applied awaiting for results
Social entrepreneurship and Social Business	No course equivalent<	Not applicable
Introduction to Historical Fictions in Postwar Taiwan	Searching for course	Not yet applied

I will be taking 4 business courses, 1 Chinese learning course, an Asian studies/history course, and a service learning course. I went from having 0 courses to 7! I will be taking 18 credits — I guess I really want to learn while I'm here haha

03/04/2017

This past week I visited multiple places throughout Taiwan! My friends and I biked 25 kilometers from Gongguan to Tamsui, we hiked up a mountain in Pingxi, hiked up Teapot mountain, and visited



Jiufen. Each place we visited had a service or attraction that they are known for.

Biking to Tamsui

Tamsui is known for its night market. You can enjoy a lot of good food along the riverside! We also visited this high-rise cafe that gave us a great view of the river and city lights.



Pingxi is known as a place to light up lanterns! After our hike, my friends and I pitched in to buy and decorate a lantern. There are many colored lanterns that you can choose from. Each color has its own meaning. For example, a green lantern represents good health. So by choosing a green lantern, you are asking to receive good health this year.



Teapot mountain is a famous hike near Jiufen. Jiufen is known for its old night market as well as the town that may have inspired Japanese animator, Hayao Miyazaki, to create Spirited Away.

03/08/2017

Last night, I went to a Brewing club event that was cohosted by my language exchange partner! During the event the Brewing club taught participants how to make milk tea. It was really cool to learn how to make milk tea. I was surprised on how easy it was to make! I was also completely satisfied with my very own “handmade” milk tea! My language exchange partner said that if I was interested he can teach me and my other friends how to make bobba. I am so excited ~

Unfortunately I drank my milk tea before I remembered to take a picture of it. I will upload a picture of the next one I make.

03/22/2017

Last night, a few of my friends and I learned how to make boba with my language exchange partner! It's surprisingly easy to make, but it does take around one hour to produce a batch of boba.

My language exchange bought the tapioca pearls from a store and all you need to do is boil them in hot water for 30 minutes, and let them cool for 20 minutes. Depending on the tapioca pearls you buy, you may need to boil them for a longer time. Once the boba is cooled down, you can use either soak them in a bowl with sugar water or honey water to sweeten them. I would recommend using honey because they came out tasting better (in my opinion)!

Once the boba is done, you can start making milk tea! To make milk tea you would need about 4 bags of black tea per person, 100 – 150 cc of milk, and a few teaspoons of sugar (depending on how sweet you want your milk tea). First you need pour around 200 cc of hot water into the cup (with 4 tea bags inside). Next add 3-5 teaspoons of sugar and stir (you can add more sugar if you want it sweeter). Let it cool for about 4 minutes. After that add ice and milk and stir.

Finally combine the boba and milk tea together and you get a nice homemade boba milk tea drink



03/31/2017

Today, I decided to start off my 5-day weekend with lunch! My language exchange showed me and my friends a famous Taiwanese style restaurant. The restaurant is in Guting and offers a variety of dishes for people to try. It also serves unlimited rice and tea! I recommend going with a group of around 8 people (just so you can try more food). The cost for us was around 270 NTD or about \$8.

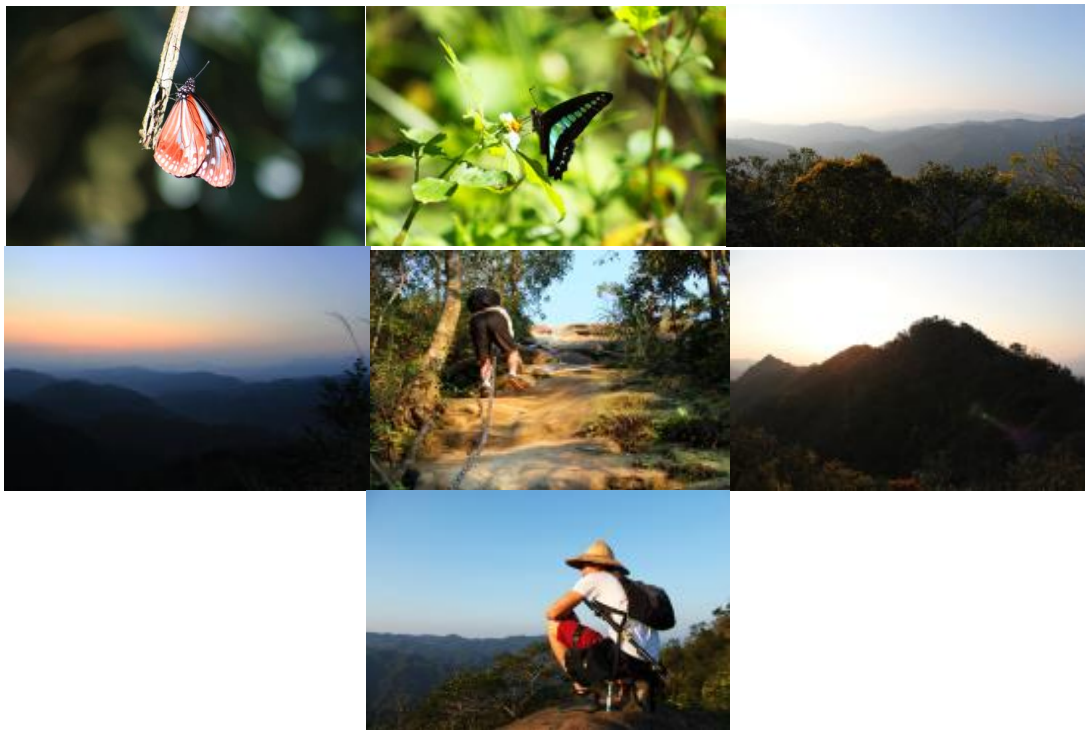
Here is the detailed address my language exchange sent us (It's not the actual address but he said its the closest one to the site!): 106台北市大安區和平東路一段75巷

Taken from <https://hawaii2taiwan.wordpress.com/>



04/03/2017

Today, I hiked up the mountain Huandidian (Sorry if misspelt). It was an awesome hike! The bus actually skipped our stopped so we had to walk another path for a few kilometers to get to our destination, but it was totally worth it! On that path there were lots of butterflies. Sometimes the best things happen when you get a little lost.



04/16/2017

Friday, I was able to go to 順圓小館. It's a Taiwanese restaurant near National Taiwan University. I ate 牛肉麵 and 牛肉餡餅! 牛肉麵 is beef noodle soup and 牛肉餡餅 is like a big pan fried gyoza filled

Taken from <https://hawaii2taiwan.wordpress.com/>

with a meatball. They were both really good! If you're interested in going to this restaurant the cost (for me and my friends) was approximately 130 – 200 NTD.

Warning/side note: I did find hair still attached to one of my meatballs in my soup...though I think out of my group I was the only one to have that....soooo I was probably just unlucky.



Overall the food was good and I would probably go again! I'm hoping my hair incident was just bad luck, but will update later if it happens to be more than just a one time occurrence. Adventure ~

4/26/2017

This past Sunday , I went hiking in Fulong! The name of the hike is 草岭古道. You go follow a stream through a forrest to a grassy coastline on a cliff. Occassionally, you may run into some buffalo! There are also resting areas where you can eat and use the restroom. The length of the hike depends on how fit of a person you are. It is around a 16 Kilometers, and there are quite a lot of stairs to climb, However, it was a beautiful hike to go on. If you're fit, you should be fine! If you're not fit, than it'll be a good hike for leg day haha.



4/26/2017

Taken from <https://hawaii2taiwan.wordpress.com/>

Today, I tried NTU's famous ice cream. It's ice cream made using milk from NTU's dairy farm. It's about 20 kuai (less than \$1). I liked it! It wasn't really sweet, but it was creamy. You can choose to get chocolate, vanilla, or a swirl (chocolate and vanilla).

If you want to try it, you can get it at Xiao fu (one of the food courts on campus). Although, you may need to be a NTU student to try it or go with someone who is because the workers did ask me to show my student ID.



05/08/2017

This past weekend I went on a hike that had not 1, not 2, but 3 waterfalls! It was a fun, easy hike and I would recommend it to pretty much anyone who doesn't mind rain and mud! You will most likely get wet on this hike so I would suggest to bring a change of clothes, jacket, plastic bag (to put muddy/wet clothes and/or shoes in) and an extra pair slippers.

You can also walk to Houtong — the cat village from the hike! The name of the hike is 三貂嶺!

Taken from <https://hawaii2taiwan.wordpress.com/>



05/16/2017

This past weekend I got to explore a little bit of Okinawa! It had a lot of good food~



05/26/2017

This past week, I had the privilege of being on two ICL trips! ICL is a learning service class where you are paired with a local student to teach children about your culture. You are grouped with a school and are assigned students to skype with. Towards the end of the semester you have the opportunity to travel to not only your school but other schools as well. It's an awesome opportunity to meet local students in Taiwan and visit different parts of the country.

Taken from <https://hawaii2taiwan.wordpress.com/>



My friend took this picture, but its a beach we visited in Yilan during our ICL trip!

06/12/2017

This week is the week of the dragonboat festival and I was able to witness a dragonboat competition. You could truly feel the heat of the competition, as it was quite a hot day.



06/12/2017

This past weekend I traveled with a friend to Tainan. We visited a temple as well as an old fort built by the Dutch in the 1600s. The food in Tainan is exceptional! We had ice cream and 意仁 which felt really refreshing since Tainan is really hot. If you visit Tainan I'd recommend wearing summer clothes, sunscreen, and water.

06/19/2017

This past weekend, my friends and I visited the Philippines! It was an amazing adventure! We were able to eat authentic Filipino foods, ride ATVS, see buffalos and so much more! It was a trip I'll never forget!



06/23/2017

This past week was finals week! Although I am very happy to be done with exams, I know that this means I only have one more week left in Taiwan. I will cherish this last week by spending time with friends and family.

06/30/2017

As my time in Taiwan comes to a close I can't help but look back on my study abroad experience. I have a lot to be grateful for this past semester. I learned about my culture, I was able to meet my mother's relatives for the first time, I was able to make lifelong friends. Although my time in Taiwan was limited, my time there definitely inspired me to do more (as cheesy as that sounds). I was able to meet amazing people during my time at NTU. If it weren't for them, my study abroad experience wouldn't have been as memorable. It is to them that I would like to say thank you!

If you're looking into studying abroad, I would highly recommend it! It gives you the opportunity to gain new perspectives, experiences, meet new people, and build bonds that can last a lifetime.

Freeman Scholars

If you are interested in learning more about the Shidler Freeman scholarship please visit <http://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/freeman>

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