

As a 5th year student at RWTH Aachen, I decided to take a chance to expand the horizon of my university experience through an exchange program, offered by faculty of electrical engineering. Not to mention the enormous support from them that has made the process look "quite easily done". National Cheng Kung University tops on my list, because it offers several interesting engineering and management courses.

Taiwan is a culturally rich country. Night markets offer an assortment of snacks. Incense-filled temples offer a peek into ancient architectures and sculptures. The beauty about Taiwan is the geographic proximity of tourist attraction spots that I could enjoy the morning view of entire Tainan city from the Ching Yeh Dorm 3. In addition, Taiwan is a travelling hub that makes trips to China, HK, Korea, Japan or Philippine, manageable. Apart from the travelling aspect of my exchange experience, what really amazes me is the lifestyle and activities surrounding National Cheng Kung University.

NCKU, one of the top university in Taiwan with large resource across broad categories, ranging from libraries, lecturer's qualification to student societies, offers both English and Chinese-taught courses. Despite of the fact that the majority of courses is taught in Chinese, there are still dozens of English-taught courses. Plus, it offers comprehensive Chinese language classes different levels for students, interesting in learning Mandarin. For me, I took 4 courses, equivalent to 14 credits at RWTH with options to take more courses. The amount of academic loads is less than expected with a 3-hour-long lecture per week for each course. This has left me with time for extracurricular activities, ridiculously numerous student clubs and attending activities.

The culture on the campus promotes a sense of freedom, independence, prestige and most importantly belonging; a community that offers a platform for each club to host events, mostly by students, such as, BBQ, balls, performance shows and trips. Through participation in seemingly ordinary activities, I have a fabulous time at learning to host and participate in local students' events. It is also intriguing to meet friends from European and Asian countries, who share the same level of passion for exploring Taiwan as well as having fun at KTV and enjoying the food!

In term of living expenses, the on-campus accommodation (Ching Yeh 3) costs about €400 per person per semester for a double-bed room. Besides the campus (including the dormitory), restaurants offer a variety of good food. In general, the living cost in Taiwan is approximately half of that in Germany.

I am feeling truly grateful for this exchange program, offered by RWTH and NCKU for adding a breath-taking chapter in my life. Of course, the people I have met. For those people who still have doubts about going on an exchange, you really need to come and see for yourself. Exchange is so much more than travelling.