



Chinese and Culture Study Abroad

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Cultural
Exploration

SUMMARY

I partook on a study abroad program to Chaoyang University of Technology (CYUT) in Taichung, Taiwan along with dozens of other UTSA students. During this program, we learned about Taiwanese culture in the classroom as well as from field trips to various places in Taiwan. In my advanced Chinese class, we learned how to read and write Chinese characters through the topics of food, the Chinese Zodiac, and aboriginal groups. We solidified our learning by travelling to places such as Sun Moon Lake and Kenting, cooking sun cakes, taking a tour of the National Taichung Theater, and interacting with the local students at CYUT. This activity was chosen because I took a Chinese language course in the first semester of college and I wanted to utilize my language skills in an immersive way. My goal was to increase my fluency in Chinese. This was accomplished by living in Taiwan for three weeks and taking the culture course.



SPICES

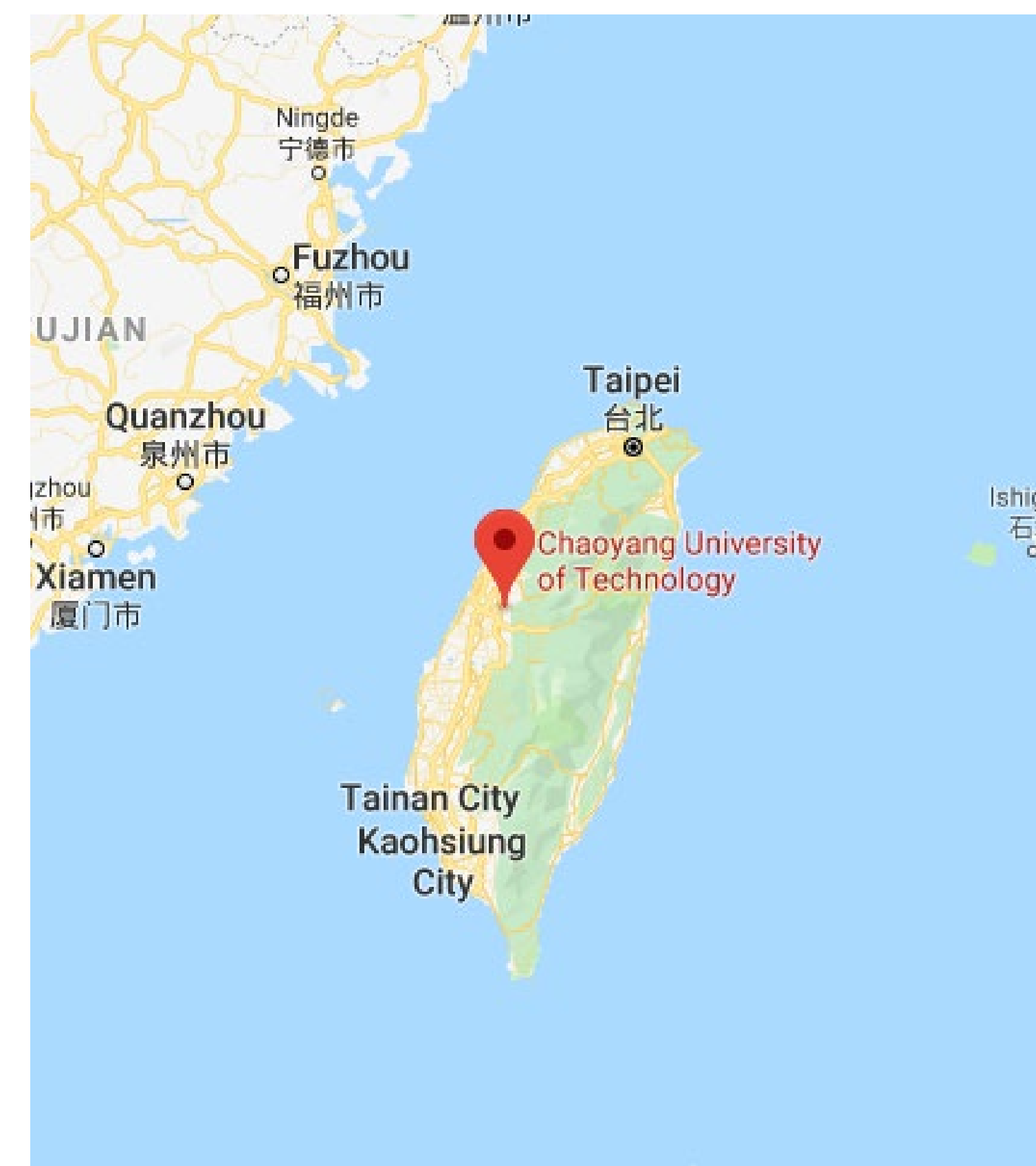
I became more self-aware of the different cultures in Asia and gained a multicultural understanding of the world by befriending many international students from other countries while speaking Chinese.

HERBS

I fostered benevolence by using the Mandarin I learned in class to interact with the local students. As UTSA students, we supported each other while exploring Taiwan in order to communicate with the locals as well as not get lost.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- *Communicate in another country*
- *Think creatively to express ideas when language was a barrier*
- *Recognize and appreciate cultural differences*



IMPACT

My fluency in reading, speaking, and writing Mandarin improved significantly. Before this experience, I could read a limited number of words, but now I am able to read road signs, menus, text messages, and informational signs. I was able to share about American culture with the students there.

ADVICE

Practice the language as much as possible and aim to not speak English with the people there.