



Tracing the Roots While Exploring New Perspectives, Study Abroad in Taiwan

Qiwei Chen, Kinesiology, 2021

Cultural Exploration

SUMMARY

In June 2019, I visited Taichung, Taiwan with the UTSA Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. It was a special trip for me because growing up in China when I was young, I would always hear Taiwan in my classes. I never got to know what Taiwan real meant to me until I got on to this trip. During the trip, I got to visit many of the historical sites that have existed since the early centuries when Qing dynasty was still governing. We were practicing Chinese, aboriginal Taiwanese culture, and traditions on a daily bases. Some of the activities that we got to experience include Dragon Boat Racing, Moon Cake making, Aboriginal dancing, tea etiquettes and sampling, Chinese and Vietnamese spring roll making, and rice ball cooking.



SPICES

Gain a deeper understanding of traditional cultures, current issues, and future initiatives through the foot prints of my every own.

HERBS

Benevolent to others especially to the locals. Be equitable, keep your visions open. Don't judge others with the experience of your own.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

I got to learn more about my very own culture, and appreciate the differences and similarities of China and Taiwan. I also got to submerge myself in a Chinese speaking environment and practiced my speaking and reading skills on a daily bases. More importantly, I got to make friends with other UTSA students from all disciplines.



IMPACT

This experience had significantly impacted my perspective on the current Taiwan-China relationships issues and conflicts. I gained a deeper understanding of not just the current conflicts but the history of the two places. It also increased my interest of helping other students go study abroad. I have been increasingly find myself advocating for others when comes to study abroad opportunities.

ADVICE

Keep your eyes open, keep your mind open, and keep your heart open. A thousand read cannot equivalent to one mile witnessed.