



## Feedback of studying in National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

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## Before departure

Before coming to Taiwan you will have to arrange many things. Be patient! Studying in Taiwan is really worth of it!!! ;) Applying for studying in Taiwan you made the right decision!!! ;) It's better to start as soon as possible. At the beginning it seems that you have plenty of time, however in reality you have not.

## Vaccinations

There will be a list of required vaccinations. There are at least 2 vaccination centers in Hradec Kralove. One is Fakultní nemocnici (building #6 Centrum očkování a cestovní medicíny, <http://www.fnhk.cz/kliniky/inf/centrum.htm>), information about the second centre you can find here <http://www.ockovani-zahranici.cz/>. I strongly recommend to start with vaccination, as you can not be vaccinated at ones, there should be period of time between vaccinations. Also be aware about the line. (especially before Christmas) Also, please, not forget about the mezinárodní očkovací průkaz, all vaccinations should be mentioned there, last year the certificate cost 50 czk.

## Medical Tests

NTUST require more medical tests than other universities. (negativní testy na HIV, syfilis, tuberkulózu (röntgen hrudníku) a test stolice na parazity). All tests can be conducted in the Fakultní nemocnici in Hradec Králové. You will have about one month to submit all tests.

## Air Ticket

I flew from Vienna to Taipei via Bangkok (2 hours stop) by EVA AIR. The round ticket cost about 19 000 czk.

## Documents and visa

First you will have to write motivation letter in English (max 300 words). After submitting all medical tests, you will sign the contract, choose department and subjects. (Don't worry you will be able to change them later) At the beginning of January you will get an invitation letter from Taiwanese University. Then you will be able to apply for visa. You can apply for visa in Prague; all information you can find on this web-site: <http://www.taiwanembassy.org/cz/mp.asp?mp=147> . It's very easy to apply and you will get visa in 2 days. (The easiest and fastest visa I've ever applied)

## Studying in NTUST

NTUST is one of the leading technical universities in Taiwan. The majority of courses, which are taught, in English are for graduate students. Only some humanitarian courses are taught in English for undergraduates. If you are undergraduate, don't worry you can take any course you want (even in Chinese ☺), but be aware that masters courses are harder than bachelor. Taiwanese learn American English at schools and universities and have a specific accent. Don't worry you will get used to it very fast. Taiwanese need fewer credits to graduate and take fewer courses. However courses are more complex than in the Czech republic. If you take 3-4 courses, it doesn't mean that you don't have to study, for sure you will always have homework.

Students who study sciences or IT normally take 3-4 courses per semester. All classes are very different. But generally you will have homework, make a project and presentation.

### Wireless Networks

The course is very specific and detailed. It's completely different from Cisco!!! Even though the course is from the Computer Science department, you will study a lot of other networks (ZigBee, cellular networks, etc) besides computer networks. There was quite a lot of homework. We had to read a lot of papers and write reviews, make 2 presentations (45 and 30 min), 1 project and write exam. Basic knowledge of computer networks, Linux and programming is required. The teacher was very friendly and always ready to explain. I like the course, I find it useful and interesting, however I spent more time on homework than I expected.

### Advanced Computer Architecture

This course is also very specific and detailed. This course is from the Electronic Engineering department. Generally speaking this course was about CPU. During the course the following topics were covered (pipelining, multithreading, instruction sets, etc). There will be no exam, however you have to make a presentation and a very hard project. Knowledge of Physics, programming, computer architecture and UNIX are required. The teacher is very nice, always ready to help and explain very well. I also like this course, after finishing the course, you will understand much better how actually CPU works.

### English for Science and Technology

That was the best course I took. The course is taught by an American teacher. The teacher is very cool and funny!!! :D He always told jokes during the classes, I have never felt sleepy during his classes. I strongly suggest to take this course! 😊

### Basic Chinese Practical

Mandarin course is provided for NTUST and international students for free. First you will have to pay a deposit 60\$, later you get it back. At the beginning you might find it hard, but later it will be getting easier and easier. You will learn some survival Chinese. You will rarely have homework, however you will always have to study by yourself. There will be many intermediate tests and final oral exam.

### Accommodation

International students may either live in the private flats or dormitory. Dormitory is provided for all international students. I lived in the dormitory, it cost about 1000 NTD (30\$) per month. Prices for a room in the private flat start from 5000 NTD (150\$). If you are going to stay in the dormitory, you don't have to worry, coordinator will arrange everything. Dormitory is not really luxury, but acceptable. 5-6 students live in one room. Everybody will have his/her own table and cupboard, there will be several fans and air conditioner. (you will have to buy a prepaid card to use it) Wireless and wired internet is available, also there will be computers in the university. I suggest you to use wired internet as it is faster and much more secure than wireless. You won't be



allowed to download any music, films, etc. There will be limits for traffic per day (wired - 3 gb, Wi-Fi - 500 mb). You will get ID and password from the coordinator and later you will need to ask network manager to connect your laptop to wired network. (They assign a special MAC address for each new student) Bathroom and toilets are for the whole floor. Hot and cold drinking water will be provided for free. Cameras are everywhere, you don't have to worry about your things left in the room. (We have never closed the door 😊) It's forbidden to cook or iron in the dormitory. In the dormitory there are washing machine and dryer (one washing or drying cost 15 american cents) and refrigerator. Bedding is not provided, you will have to buy your own. (Bedding cost about 50\$)

### Food

Taiwanese food is extremely delicious, cheap and you can always buy it anytime anywhere. There are 2 cafeterias in the campus. I prefer the one, which is on the second floor and close to sport facilities. It's cheaper (I guess government donate it) and delicious. Canteen works from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (from Monday to Saturday) and till 7 p.m. on Sunday. There are many places, where you can eat outside the campus. Food there is usually a little bit more expensive than in the campus, however you can try new food there. Dinner cost from 1\$ to 3\$ in the student's cafeteria and from 2\$ outside the campus. I liked Taiwanese kitchen so much, that even though there were many McDonalds, KFCs, etc, I have never had a wish to eat there during 5 months. 😊

### Transportation

There are 2 international airports in Taipei and Kaoshiung. The Taipei airport is much bigger than second one, therefore you will most likely go there. Actually Taipei airport is not in Taipei, about 15 km from Taipei in the city Taoyuan. I was picked up by university driver in the airport. In Taipei there are following means of transport: underground, buses, bicycles and scooters. The underground was built about 10 years ago, therefore it very new, modern and nice. The underground ticket cost from 70 cents to 2\$. Unfortunately there are no tickets for several months, every time you go by metro you will have to pay. If you put money on your student's ID, you will get a discount 20%. Everything is very easy to understand and underground staff will be happy to help you. Buses are cheaper, however it's much easier to get confused. It is possible to buy or rent bicycle, but it might be dangerous, because of traffic. It's impossible to buy scooter for people, who hold tourist visa. You can rent it, but it might be pricy and dangerous as well.

### Finance

In the table I mentioned things I bought and how much I paid:

Item:	Cost:
Vaccination, medical tests	6 000 czk
Air ticket	19 000 czk
Visa, Insurance	2 000 czk
Living expense (per month)	5 000 czk
Travelling around Taiwan	9 000 czk
Souvenirs, presents, etc	8 000 czk
Total:	69 000 czk

I got 65 000 czk from the university, which covered almost all costs. I have personal savings and, of course, my parents were always ready to help. However I spent only 200\$ extra. If you don't travel, you can even save a little. Students who are doing masters get 300\$ extra per month. Unfortunately students who are doing bachelor don't get anything. ☹ It's impossible to work legally, unless you have ARC (long-term visa). I got an invitation letter only for 5 month and I couldn't apply for a long-term visa. I strongly suggest to open an account in mBanka, as they don't charge anything, when you withdraw money abroad and generally fees are lower than in CSOB or KB. I brought a lot of cash to Taiwan (exchange rates are very attractive there) and opened a post account and put money on it. (In case you want to take Mandarin course, you will have to open post account and pay deposit anyway) University doesn't charge anything except for the overdue book. 😊 I didn't buy any book in Taiwan, most of them I borrowed from the library. Generally speaking 65 000 czk is enough have an amazing life in Taiwan.

### Conclusion

Studying in Taiwan is priceless experience. When I just came there I felt like I am on the other planet. Everything was so different. However I got used to life in Taiwan very fast, mostly because of extremely friendly Taiwanese people. They are really very nice and always willing to help foreigners. Asian people have different way of thinking, culture, manners, etc. therefore it will be a perfect chance to broaden your mind and knowledge. I believe that there is no better to learn it than live in it. Fortunately Taiwanese are very open and friendly people. Taiwanese education system is much different from European, teachers teach in a different way. Studying in Taiwan is a perfect chance to travel around Taiwan and abroad as well. Architecture, nature, history, museums are so amazing, that you won't be able to be indifferent.

I would like to thank FIM for this opportunity to go to the other side of the world. Studying in Taiwan was one of the most brightest part of my life. Taiwan touched my heart, I will never forget that trip.