

## **My exchange year at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan**

I spent an academic year on exchange at National Taiwan University (NTU) in Taipei, Taiwan, as part of my dual degree in Computer Science and Industrial Engineering and Management at Linköping University in Sweden. My program has an international focus with Chinese language studies, which also includes the requirement to study abroad with some courses taught in Chinese. NTU therefore provided the perfect opportunity to combine my academic background with both language and cultural immersion.

At NTU, I enrolled in courses that included technology, management, and international business. Subjects such as Introduction to Computer Networks, Operations Research, Multimedia Security, and Social Media Marketing gave me both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The collaborative learning environment challenged me to adapt quickly, and a particularly valuable aspect was learning new ways of working in groups, both in Taiwanese classrooms and with a mix of international and local students. These experiences taught me to navigate different communication styles, expectations, and study approaches, skills that will definitely benefit me in the future as I pursue an international career, ideally connected to Asia.

In addition to my core courses, I also took two classes outside my main field that broadened my experience. An advanced Mandarin course gave me the chance to practice the language from a Taiwanese perspective, with a focus on everyday communication and culture rather than the technical vocabulary I had studied in Sweden. I also joined Exploring Taiwan: Film and Social Culture in Taiwan, where we analyzed contemporary Taiwanese films as a way to understand social and cultural developments on the island. Both courses were incredibly interesting and provided valuable insights into Taiwanese language and society.

Beyond the classroom, life in Taipei offered an exciting mix of tradition, with temples scattered across the city, and modernity, with robots in restaurants and high-speed bullet trains. From studying in the campus libraries to exploring the vibrant night markets, I gained perspectives and experiences that I could never have acquired by staying in Sweden or Europe.

The financial support I received through the scholarship played a crucial role in making this opportunity possible. It enabled me to focus fully on my studies and personal development without being restricted by financial concerns. I was able to participate in academic events, group assignments, and cultural exchanges that required both time and resources. This support ensured that I could make the most of my year in Taiwan, and I am deeply grateful for it.

Looking ahead, I will begin my master's studies in industrial marketing. My time at NTU has strengthened my academic foundation, given me practical international experience, and built a global network of peers. These elements will be invaluable as I pursue a career that bridges Sweden, Asia, and the wider global market.

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