

Michelle Chou – Exchange in Taipei, Taiwan

Major: Management | Blog: <https://cellehcim.wordpress.com/>

I studied abroad because...

I felt I wasn't experiencing as much growth as I wanted and ultimately desired a big change in my undergrad experience, studying abroad, seemed like the perfect refresher.

My favorite spot in my host city was...

There's a balcony area that overlooks the city of Taipei located on the upper campus of NCCU. It was the best place to go to early in the mornings to watch the sunrise but also had a great night view. It was my favorite place to go because it quiet and serene, allowing me to unwind my thoughts alone.

The weirdest food I tried while abroad...

Stinky tofu! A traditional Taiwanese street food, it's fermented tofu that smells horrific but tastes incredible.

My typical breakfast abroad...

Dan bing (basically a fried crepe stuffed with eggs and toppings like ham, corn, etc. served with a sweet and slightly spicy sauce) and homemade soymilk.

One cool thing that happened was...

I attended the PingXi Sky Lantern Festival on the day I arrived in Taipei. I'd seen the floating lanterns in pictures before, but to see it in person and send off my own lantern was unbelievable!

One volunteer opportunity I participated in...

For my Global Leadership class, our team's project included volunteering to collect and deliver goods to an aboriginal orphanage home in the south of Taiwan and plan a day of activities as well as cook dinner for the kids.

The most surprising thing about studying abroad is...

How you meet so many people who teach you things you'd never learn otherwise. Making friends with people from different countries seemed daunting at first, but I'm extremely grateful for stepping out of my comfort zone and pursuing lasting friendships.

Lastly, I would like to tell you...

You **HAVE** to go abroad if you get the chance. It challenges you in ways you'd never expect and exposure in a foreign country allows you to better accept, understand, and appreciate cultures around the world (including your own).