






HUAYU ENRICHMENT SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCE SHARING

Study period: September - November 2024



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The Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (HES), offered by Taiwan's Ministry of Education, is a fantastic opportunity for students to study Mandarin in Taiwan while immersing themselves in its vibrant culture.



HUAYU ENRICHMENT SCHOLARSHIP (HES)

The scholarship provides financial support of NT\$25,000 per month to cover tuition and living expenses. Recipients can choose a study duration of 3, 6, 9, or 12 months, depending on their preference and qualifications.

The application period runs from February 1 to March 31 annually, with eligibility requiring a minimum GPA of 3.0 for undergraduate/high school students and 3.2 for graduate students. Applicants must also meet language proficiency requirements, such as TOCFL A2 or TOEIC 550 for shorter programs and TOCFL B1 for longer ones.

Overall, the HES is an incredible program that combines language learning with cultural exploration.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

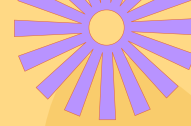
The process of applying for the HES scholarship requires dedication and planning. First, I followed the announcements regarding the scholarship and available language programs. Then, I prepared the necessary documents, including my transcripts and language proficiency scores. Choosing the right university was a critical step, and once I decided on National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU), I applied to both the university and the scholarship program.

After receiving my acceptance, I completed the visa application and health check process and prepared for my journey to Taiwan. I was awarded a three-month scholarship and attended the program from September to November 2024. Though the application process may seem complex, the reward of studying Mandarin in Taiwan made it worthwhile.

more information:

<https://www.roc-taiwan.org>

Why I Chose National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU)



I chose NSYSU for its reputation and location. Situated in Kaohsiung, a coastal city in southern Taiwan, NSYSU's campus offers breathtaking views of the ocean, beaches, and nearby mountains.

The university's Chinese Language Center (CLC) is government-certified, ensuring high academic standards for teaching Mandarin as a foreign language. The serene yet dynamic campus environment made it an ideal place to learn and grow.



National Sun Yat-sen University

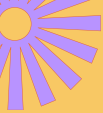
Chinese name: 國立中山大學

Established: 1980

Website: nsysu.edu.tw

- A top notch research university as an academic hub in southern Taiwan.
- World-ranked: Ranked among the top 500 universities in the 2025 QS World University Rankings.
- Academic Strengths: Exceptional programs in Science, Engineering, Medicine, Management, Social Sciences, Marine Sciences, and Liberal Arts.
- English-taught Programs: Extensive curricula for international and local students, with a focus on bilingual education.
- Campus: Situated between mountains and ocean, offering a scenic and vibrant environment with diverse extracurricular activities.
- Facilities: Fitness Center, Swimming Pool, Tennis Court, Sunset Beach, Library





“Learning Chinese,
no better place.”



NSYSU

CHINESE LANGUAGE CENTER

Upon arrival, I took a placement test to determine my Mandarin proficiency level. The Chinese language course at NSYSU was well-structured, offering four levels: beginner, elementary, intermediate, and advanced. Classes were kept small, with only 4-10 students per session, and were conducted three hours a day, creating an effective and interactive learning environment.

NSYSU also provided opportunities to participate in cultural activities, such as Chinese character workshops, water sports, and singing contests, which made the experience even more engaging and enriching.



*view from
classroom*



DAILY LIFE IN KAOHSIUNG: FOOD

Living in Kaohsiung was a blend of comfort and cultural discovery. The local food was perfect for someone who enjoys mild flavors. Night markets, however, added excitement with their diverse and flavorful street food options.

RECOMMENDED MENU



Gang Yuan Beef Noodle Restaurant

港園牛肉麵

Famous for its flavorful broth, tender braised beef, and chewy noodles.



Guyi Garden Dumpling

古猗園灌湯包

Juicy soup dumplings filled with rich broth and tender pork, a must-try for dumpling lovers.



Angel Fried Chicken

天使雞排-瑞豐店

Extra-large, crispy fried chicken with a deliciously seasoned coating, a night market favorite.



Rice Soup with fish

顏記鮮魚湯 - 自由總店

Light and comforting rice soup with fresh fish.



Wan Bing Maru Hama

丸浜霜淇淋

Creamy Japanese-style soft-serve ice cream with unique seasonal flavors.



Click
for Google
Maps
directions!

DAILY LIFE IN KAOHSIUNG: TRANSPORTATIONS & ACCOMMODATION



I stayed off-campus in a convenient location near the MRT, surrounded by restaurants, markets, and shops. Taiwan's efficient transportation system, including high-speed trains, local train, MRT, buses, and YouBike rentals, made commuting easy and affordable.

I was also impressed by Taiwan's eco-conscious lifestyle, which includes strict recycling policies, designated garbage collection times, and public water refill stations.

EasyCard, also called Yoyo Card (Chinese: 悠遊卡), is Taiwan's most popular and common reloadable smartcard for both locals and travelers. This super handy card can be used to swipe onto public transportation and pay for other things in Taipei and across Taiwan.



It became possible to swipe the card for buses, ferries, YouBike, and even some taxis. It can also be used to pay for items at most convenience stores, as well as some department stores, supermarkets, parking lots, and tourist attractions.



591 房屋交易



Since my stay in Taiwan was only three months, finding suitable accommodation was quite challenging, especially since the university did not provide dormitories this year due to renovations. Most landlords preferred longer rental contracts of at least six months to a year, making it difficult to secure a short-term lease. As a result, I opted to rent through Airbnb, which offered move-in-ready rooms without the need to purchase essentials like pillows, blankets, or even a mattress—something that some unfurnished rentals require tenants to provide themselves.



For those staying in Taiwan for more than six months, I recommend searching for accommodation on platforms like 591 Rental or other local housing websites, as they offer more affordable and long-term rental options.



DAILY LIFE IN KAOHSIUNG: TYPHOON

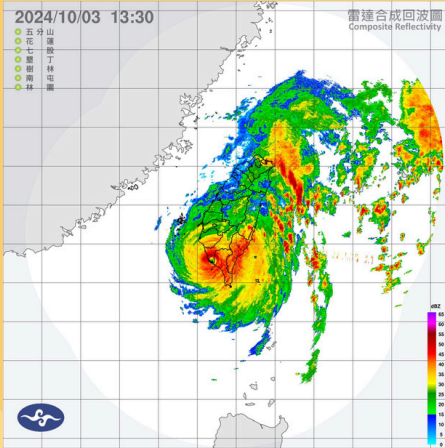
During my stay, I experienced a typhoon, which was both alarming and insightful. Taiwan's preparedness for natural disasters, including timely warnings, safety protocols, and accurate updates, demonstrated the country's commitment to public safety and resilience.



Before



After



Typhoon Preparation

1. Prepare Essential Supplies:



Prepare flashlights, batteries, and portable power banks in case of power outages or emergencies. Store an adequate water supply in case of power outages and water outages.

2. Three-Day Food Storage:



Choose the food that can be stored at room temperature, has portable packaging, and can be eaten without heating.

3. Close the doors and windows tightly:

Check whether the doors and windows are secure, close non-essential doors and windows, and add wooden boards if necessary.

4. Stay at home and pay attention to Typhoon Updates: Keep track of typhoon developments through TV or the internet for the latest weather updates.

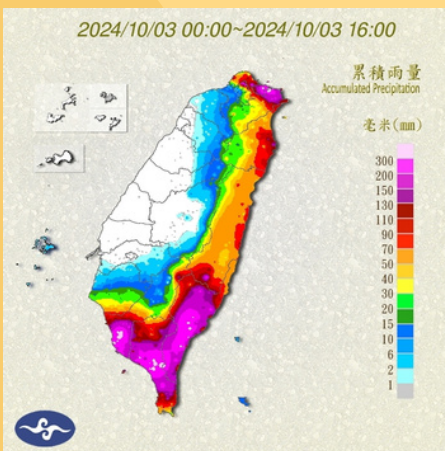
- Follow real-time typhoon reports from the Central Weather Administration: <https://www.cwa.gov.tw/eng/>
- Check government announcements regarding work and school closures due to typhoon impacts: <https://www.dgpa.gov.tw/>

如有災情可撥打 119、110、1999 聽語障人士簡訊報案專線 0911-611917 緊急求援請撥 112

颱風天注意事項

01 勿到山區、河川及海邊進行各項活動	02 清理居家排水	03 加固招牌、懸掛物、盆栽及水塔
04 準備防颱用品	05 設置砂包、防水閘門	06 留意颱風動態

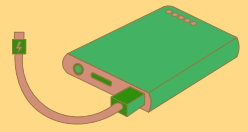
高雄市政府



交通部中央氣象署
Central Weather Administration

LIVING IN TAIWAN: THE ESSENTIALS YOU NEED

When living in Taiwan, a few essential items can make daily life much more convenient.



*
a reusable water bottle is a must-have, as Taiwan has numerous public water refill stations, helping you stay hydrated while being eco-friendly
*

*
A sturdy umbrella is also essential due to Taiwan's unpredictable weather—expect sudden rain showers, especially during the typhoon season.
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*
Comfortable sneakers or walking shoes are highly recommended since public transportation is efficient, but you'll still do a lot of walking.
*

*
a portable power bank is useful for keeping your phone charged, especially when navigating unfamiliar places or using translation apps.
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REFLECTION ON THE EXPERIENCE

This experience has been highly enriching. Studying Mandarin in an immersive environment has improved my language skills and enhanced my understanding of Taiwanese culture through various activities.

Adapting to life in a new country has provided valuable lessons in independence and resilience. From navigating the vibrant streets of Kaohsiung to appreciating the serene beauty of Taiwan's natural landscapes, each moment has contributed to my growth.

The Huayu Enrichment Scholarship was a meaningful opportunity that has broadened my horizons and offered insights into a different way of life.

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