

Study Abroad

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Study abroad is one of my dreams in my life. I really want to experience more about the world. After I enrolled to university, I always care about the exchange student information. Although it was not easy to apply the program, I still tried hard to get good score in IELTS test and talk over with my parents. Fortunately, everything went on so smoothly. That is the reason I am in America now, so I would like to share about my life here.

First of all, the thing that makes me so surprised is the time for class. In Taiwan, every class spends basically two hours for each, but here, it is one hour for each class. Because of the time is not long, students can be concentrated during the class, and also professors can focus on the topic that they going to teach. In addition, the teaching methods are different with Taiwanese. In class, they emphasize teamwork. Professors will assist their students to the right direction, therefore they won't speak too much, they just walk around in the classroom, make sure someone needs help. They gave students a lot of time and space to think about what they want to do in their project. Moreover, discussion also takes a big part of the class. Do not be afraid to speak out your own opinion. For local students, to understand different idea is

good for move on the project. However, I can totally understand that for exchange students, it is not a simple thing to do. For instance, English is not my first language. In my group, other members speak so fast, I could not follow their pace. Sometimes I felt upset and disappointed because I felt like I did not do anything for the group. Luckily, everyone is so kind in our group. They can understand everything is not easy for exchange students, and try to make everybody get into the conversation.

Second, in America, people are crazy about sport, so there are many choices for P.E. class that I have never seen in Taiwan. For example, rock climbing, hip hop dance, surfing, and stand up padding. Even if P.E classes have to charge more fees, I still decided to take some of them. To my mind, take some courses that not easy to have in Taiwan, it makes me get more special experience. Therefore, I took rock climbing and bowling. What's more, people also enjoy watching sport game. In our university, we can get many tickets for free. All of them are basketball tickets or football tickets that our school teams play. I enjoyed the games a lot, especially football. At first, I couldn't understand the rules. My friend explained to me while we watched the game. After I realized, I am addicted to it. If the team got into the touchdown, I was so happy. I stood up from my chair and clapped my hands so hard, the band started to play music and cheerleader started to dance. In the stadium,

everybody stay together, cheer up for the school team, everyone has same topic to talk to. However, when the team plays in their home ground get the winner, it will put on a display of beautiful firework. Now I understand, for American, watching games is not just focus on sport. It is kind of entertainment, makes them feel relax.

In America, people attach important to celebrate their holiday. In this semester, I can experience two big holidays here. One is Thanksgiving, the other one is Christmas. In Thanksgiving, we got 5 days' vacation. The school closed the day before Thanksgiving. Nevertheless, almost all the stores on the streets were closed, too. It is a family day for America. People will go back to their hometown and stay with their family. I also stayed with my homestay family, and we had a turkey feast. We talked about five things we were going to thanks for in this year. After that, we started to enjoy our meal. I really glad that I can have this experience. I watched a lot of movies that people will have a turkey feast in Thanksgiving. I have never thought I can do the same thing like the movies. However, the turkey was so delicious, but I started to feel sleepy. Then my host family told that turkey will makes people feel sleepy, and it was an interesting information to me. After Thanksgiving, people will start to prepare Christmas. Our host family went to a farm that selling trees, they chose one and brought it home. At that time, I was so surprised, because I did not

know that they would have a real tree to become a Christmas tree. We decorated the tree together, after that day, we have a beautiful Christmas tree sparkling in our house. Moreover, we also can see other houses have different kind of decoration on the street. Everything is new for me, I like it and I enjoy it.

The next thing I am going to take about is the system of return and refund is really good. The first time I tried to return the item was in Costco, the famous hypermarket in America. I bought a box of watermelon water in there. In my memory, watermelon water was a tasty beverage in Taiwan. I did not think clearly that would have some different with America's. After I tried it, I realized the taste was so terrible, and I thought I couldn't finish all of them. Nonetheless, if I throw them away, it waste money and waste the food. Therefore, I decided to return them. Even I threw away all the packing and one of the bottles I have drunk already. In the end, they let me returned item and gave me all the money back. In three months, you can return the item you bought but you dissatisfied. I admire them that they having this nice system.

The time pass so fast, I just feel I been here yesterday, but now everything is going forward to the end. I love my life here. I have known different kind of people

from different countries. I have friend from Japan, Germany, Vietnam, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia and also local people. The USA is a big melting pot, it contain different cultures. However, because the culture different sometimes I can learn more about different opinion, different angles to think about one thing. Moreover, English is the only language that all of us can understand, so it push me to speak English a lot. Nevertheless, most of my close friends are same as me, they are exchange student. We can understand how hard when we have problem in foreign country and sometimes we will have homesick. If these things happen, all of us can try our best to help each other. It is the warmest thing that I feel when I study aboard.

Now, some of my classes are finished, after the last class over, I have to prepare to leave San Diego. I learn a lot from this half year. I feel like I just get used to everything, but I have to leave soon. I still have a lot of thing that I want to do. And how can I leave my friends? Maybe is not easy to meet again, after I go back to Taiwan, and some of them also have to go back to their country. The only thing that I can do is cherish the rest of the time. In addition, it is a really good experience to study aboard. Before that, I couldn't image I handle everything by myself in an unfamiliar environment and using a language that is not my native language. If I have one more chance to come here again, I won't hesitate.

American Food



School Days



Life

