

# STUDENT MOBILITY SCHEME REPORT



[For participants]

Your experience can help other students when they are planning for their study abroad program. To make sure that prospective students have a chance to learn from your experience, everyone who has participated in the SMS program should complete a Student Mobility Scheme Report.

Upon completion of the form, please submit it to the office which handles the ACUCA SMS at your institution.

Please note that the information will be shared with other students who are interested in the SMS through the website.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[For coordinators]

This report will be posted on the ACUCA Website. We would appreciate it if you could email us the file electronically.

(Evan Jiang, ACUCA Secretariat, Email: [acuca@mail.fju.edu.tw](mailto:acuca@mail.fju.edu.tw))

**1. Name: Tiara Tirtasari**

**2. Home Institution**— Name: Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta Country: Indonesia

**3. Host Institution**— Name: Providence University, Taichung Country: Taiwan

**4. Study Period:** from 09 / 2012 to 01 / 2013

**5. How did you hear about the ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme?**(Please Specify)

International Office at your institution,  ACUCA Website,  From Fellow Student,  Others

Comment:

**6. What did you study and what kind of activities did you take part in while abroad?**

I studied Chinese and also took some English courses related to my major which English language education.

**7. Was it difficult adjusting to life abroad, and if so what were some of the difficulties?**

Since Chinese is native language used in daily life in Taiwan, language becomes the biggest barrier when having communication with local people. In addition, since not all international exchange students can speak English and most of international exchange students cannot speak Chinese, sometimes one another had hard time to explain something.

**8. What advice would you give to fellow students at ACUCA universities who are thinking of taking part in the Student Mobility Scheme?**

Although we can apply for the subsidy from ACUCA, we and our parents still have to save some money to support our daily necessity when living abroad.

**9. Have you been changed in any way by the experience, and if so how?**

I do feel changed in term of language ability. After 4,5 months studying Chinese, my Chinese skill is improving. I can speak, read, and write quite a lot of characters. It's really different from before coming to Taiwan. Moreover, by experiencing living abroad and meeting many friends from many different countries, I can understand more about their culture and how to get along with them.

**10. How do you feel about other Asian Cultures now?**

Asian still do believe in superstitions from their ancestor and keep their culture traditions alive in their family.

## 11. Any comments?

Below please attach a more descriptive account (300-400 words) of your experience with the SMS for possible publication to allow others to find out about the ACUCA SMS Program. Include such information as the type of study you did as well as the cultural experiences you had, and any other things you would consider interesting. Photos are welcome.

Being an international exchange student is really great experience for me. I met many friends from many different countries, experienced how to mingle with people from different cultures, and got first-hand experience living in country which is not my home land. I never thought that Taiwan would become such comfortable country to live. I personally did enjoy living in Taiwan for the past 4,5 months. Taiwanese people are so friendly and helpful. In addition, the environment is very clean. I can hardly find people smoking in public area. Moreover, there's no traffic as well in Taiwan. Many people even pregnant mother and old people don't need to be worried to take public transportation such as bus because public transportation in Taiwan is clean, convenient, and safe.

Apart from Taiwan's surroundings, studying in Taiwan can be a good choice, too. In term of place, I prefer to study in Taichung rather than Taipei. It is because Taipei is more crowded than Taichung. I don't feel it's conducive for me to study in the place in which people seem to be in a rush. In Taichung, I studied in Providence University. In my opinion, as international exchange student, the staffs of the office of international affairs have provided enough kinds of activities to bond the togetherness among exchange students and Taiwanese fellow as well. During 4,5 months, we went to theme park together, had barbeque outside school, celebrated Moon Festival, Halloween, and Christmas, too. All activities make me know more about my friends and get closer with them.

In Providence University I took some English courses and also had Chinese class. Compared to English courses, I felt closer with my classmates in Chinese class. Maybe it is because we had Chinese class five days in a week, so we know each other more and more every day. I really felt my Chinese is improving after studying Chinese for 4,5 months. The class atmosphere was really conducive. I had very nice classmates and teacher who helped me and other friends in studying Chinese. Besides, my Chinese is improving because I live in Chinese speaking environment, too, so I can practice my Chinese with local people easily and quickly. Overall, I'm so grateful for having this great experience to be an exchange student and know culture and life in Taiwan. Last but not least, no matter country you choose to live abroad, there must be wonderful experiences and wonderful people you meet ☺



My Chinese class



Culture learning: Calligraphy



Me with exchange students and Taiwanese friends



Me with all exchange students and Chinese students when having trip held by office of international affairs.



Me wearing Indonesian traditional outfit in farewell party



Culture learning: visiting temple