

Hungkuang University, Department of Applied English

Exchange school: Troy University, ESL

Name: 蔡欣儒

Motivation

I want to apply this program to be an exchange student. It is because I want to improve my English skills, especially speaking. I do not dare to talk to foreigners because I am afraid of saying wrong or pronounce and accent sounds strange. That is why I do not dare to speak, but if I do not speak how can I improve my speaking.

Also, learning a language it is important to communicate with people. I wish I speak more and listen more in four month. In addition, I want to test myself whether I can understand the foreigners words and let them know what I am talking about or not.

School's location & environment

Troy university is located in Alabama. The air is good and fresh also there are a lot of trees. In addition, the school's environment is beautiful and campus is large. It is large enough to walk the whole campus.

Weather

I came to Alabama in early August. It is exactly summer, so the weather is hot and dry. Furthermore, it is cool in autumn. I prefer autumn's weather because it makes me feel warm and comfortable. However, it is really cold in winter and wind is strong enough. I am really afraid of cold, so I usually wear lots of cloth.

Traffic

I and my friends usually take school's shuttle buses to go to bank or walmart. The distance is too far away to walk there. We should remember which route go where and what time will bus come.

Accommodation

I and my friend live in dorm. It has a living room, a bathroom, and two bedrooms. Each room can live two people. First floor have washing machines and clothes dryers to use. We have to pay 1.25 dollars to use each machine, so we share money. At first time, I did not know how to go to other places. Therefore, I spent much time arrive destination. Afterwards, I have friends lead me to walk paths. Furthermore, I understand more about which ways saving much time.

Food

School provide meal plan and there have a large number of restaurants can choose. Most American food are fried, they are usually quite oil and salty. I am not get used to eat some food because they are too salty for me. The dessert are also sweet too.

Courses

I study ESL. It is abbreviated by 「 English as Second Language 」 . It helps

international students improve English skills. It has two semesters and almost finish final has a final exam. Before start the classes, we had better do a test. It tests which level should we go to. The level from one to six. I study level five and there are four courses every day. They are listening and speaking, reading, writing, and grammar. The teachers are all great and teach us patiently. If we do not understand the details, they will explain again and explain carefully. Also, they are encourage us to say our own ideas and answers. Some Asian students are shy to speak their own ideas, so the teachers will encourage them to speak or give them a chance to say. In addition, they are some class rules that students should follow. Students can not speak Chinese, play cell phone, and talk to other classmates in the class. The difficulty course that I learn is writing. It is because both my grammar and sentence structures are not good. Furthermore, when I receive my essays I usually see lots of red words. Every time I see them, I will feel frustration. Even though I am little sad about these, I think the teacher want me progress. Therefore, they are many red marks on it. Also, when I consider I have lots of lacking room. It makes me snap out of it. I will use after class to ask writing teacher or tutor. We discuss it together how to revise my essay better. I am familiar with American friends, so I can practice my speaking. Although I can not speak fluently, but I am just say it out loud. I believe that I practice more my speaking will progress. Also, they are kind to me.

Activity

I joined a variety of activities. I think the most impress activity was New York trip. It was fall break and vacation long to one week. I have been wanting to experience how American's celebrate Thanksgiving. Also, the teachers taught me about Thanksgiving things before. We discussed it in the class for example why Americans celebrate Thanksgiving and why is black Friday and lots of things. Therefore, I am know more things about Thanksgiving. I and my friends went to a lot of tourist attractions such as Time Square and Madame Tussauds and so on. I enjoyed the tour very much although it was freezing. It was so freezing that I felt my fingers lose perception. Furthermore, the wind was so strong that I thought I could blew away.

Conclusion

I am growing up in this four month, especially my speaking is progress very much than any other course. I am dare to talk to foreigners. That is because my teachers teaching make me progress and I have foreigner friends to talk to them. Also, I learn how to greeting to other and speak like local people. Despite the fact that I come back Taiwan, I have to continue learning English. Otherwise, my English ability will regress and return before I go to America. This was a wonderful experience!

就讀系所:弘光應用科技大學應用英語系

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姓名:蔡欣儒

動機

我當初會想參加學海飛颺計畫當交換生的動機是想要提升自己各方面的英語能力，尤其是口說是我希望進步最多。我不太敢跟外國人說話，因為我害怕說錯、怕發音或腔調聽起來很奇怪，所以都不太敢開口，但是學習語言最重要的就是能夠與人溝通。當初就是期許自己能在四個多月能多聽以及多說，也想測試自己的能力在環境只能用英文的情況下，可以到達哪個地步。

學校位置及環境

特洛伊大學位在阿拉巴馬州，空氣很好很新鮮、樹木很多、環境很優美及它的校園很大，只是環境真的很大用走得都走不完必須要坐車子。

天氣

我是八月初的時候到學校，天氣很炎熱而且很乾燥，不過秋天時很涼爽很舒服，不過冬天真的很冷、風很強也很乾燥，而且我超怕冷，剛好又遇到阿拉巴馬州第一次這麼冷，連當地人都很驚訝。

行

平常我跟我朋友要去銀行或是超市的話就是搭學校的接駁車，要記得是搭哪一線去哪裡及甚麼時間會來，然後在等接駁車的地方搭車。

住宿

我是住學校的宿舍，它的規格是一個客廳以及兩間房間，一個房間各住兩個人。一樓有洗衣機及烘乾機可以使用，要付 1.25 美元，我跟我同學一起使用及分錢。上課剛開始不知道要怎麼從宿舍走去其他地方，都會花很久的時間才走到，後來有朋友帶著我走捷徑才慢慢知道。

食

學校提供 meal plan，有很多餐廳可以選擇，美國的食物大部分都是炸得也比較偏鹹跟偏油，甜點也很甜。

課程

我讀的是 ESL 是「English as Second Language」的縮寫，幫助國際學生加強英語能力，共有兩個學期快要學期末時會有一個期末考，一開始要先做分級測驗，等級從 1~6。我上等級五每天都會有四堂課，分別是聽力和口說、閱讀、寫作、文法。老師們都很好、很有耐心的教導，上語言學校的大部分都是亞洲

人，那亞洲人通常會比較害羞不太勇於發表自己的想法或是提出問題，但他(她)們都會鼓勵我們說出也會專心的傾聽以及耐心的解釋。上課不能講中文也不能滑手機及講話，會被老師趕出課堂。我覺得在學習中遇到瓶頸的是寫作，因為我的文法還有句子的架構沒有很好，每次作文發下來時都會看到滿滿的紅字，雖然有挫折感但是想到我還有很多不足的地方讓我又重新振作起來，我會去詢問老師以及助教一起討論要如何修改。我覺得口說進步最多，現在敢跟外國人說話。

活動

我印象比較深刻的活動是 11 月份時有感恩節假期，假期長達一個禮拜，是對美國人來說很重要的節日，家人會利用這個節日團聚。我跟朋友參加學校舉辦的紐約行，這是一個很難能可貴的經驗，可以跟朋友加深感情也體會紐約的人文風情，也可以認識到美國人是如何過感恩節的。