



國立臺灣科技大學海外研習心得

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Semester : 3

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Host country & university :

TU Graz



Language : English,

German



Exchange period :

2019/09/03~ 2020/01/28

The report shall contain the following sections
(at least 2000 words):

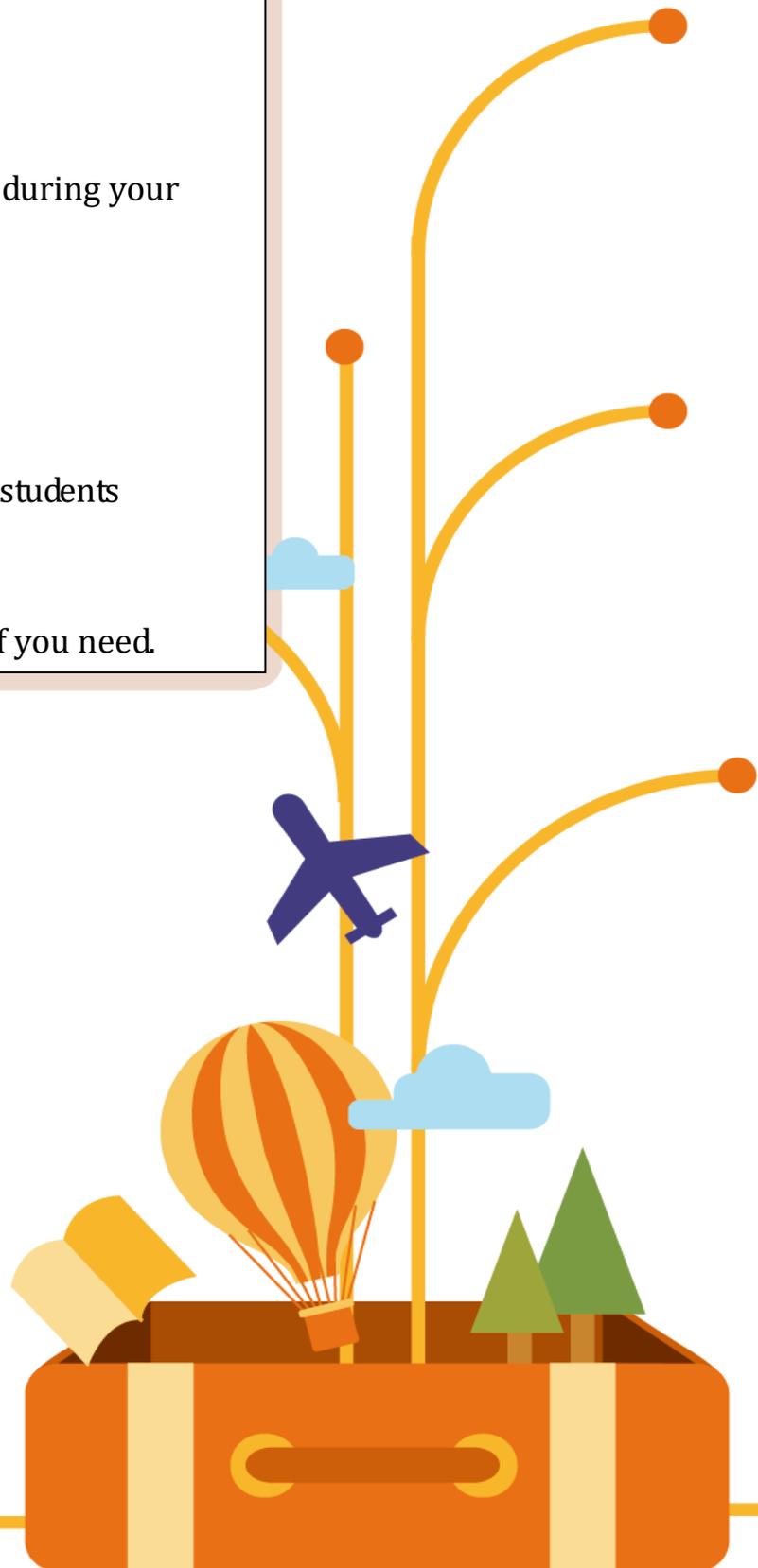
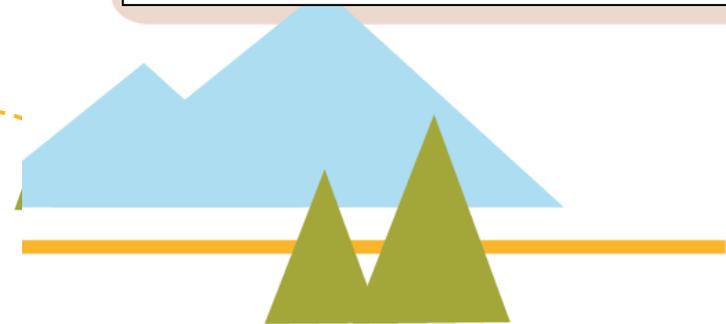
Part A (At least 1500 Words)

1. Preparation before departure
2. Courses take at host universities
3. Difficulties and solutions you have during your exchange stay

Part B (200~500 Words)

4. Experiences learned and sharing
5. Suggestions to potential exchange students
6. Picture * 12

◇ You are free to add more page if you need.



Part A (At least 1500 Words)

Preparation, Courses and Difficulties you faced

Report:

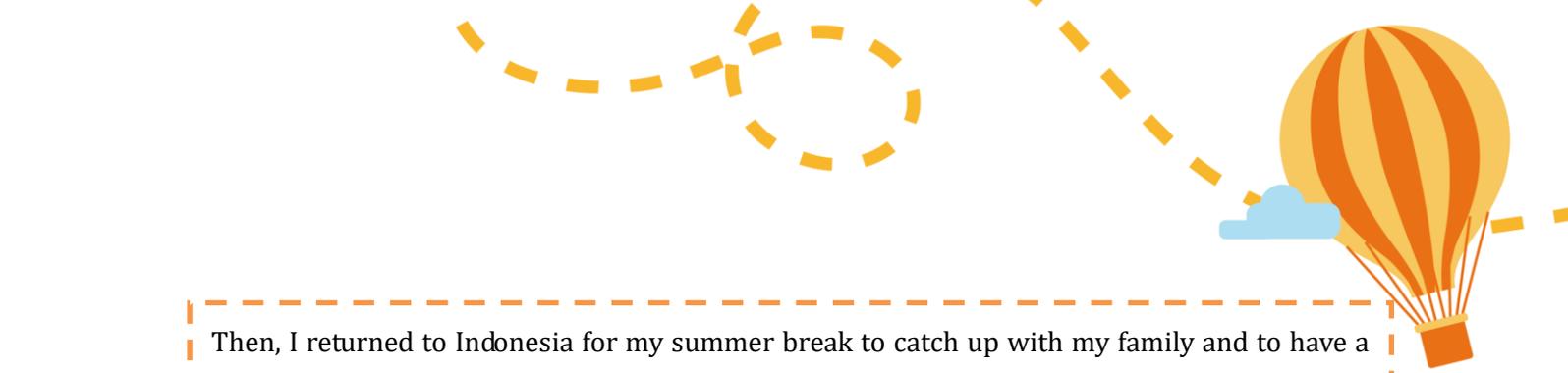
When I first noticed about this exchange program, I was determined to join this program because I was extremely bored and I needed something exciting. So I registered. The registration process was not that difficult, I only needed to prepare a motivation letter, IELTS, and transcript. Since I already got my IELTS and transcript then I only needed to write motivation letter.

Then I had to choose universities. I chose several universities in Europe especially Germany and Austria because of my personal interest. It was quite difficult to choose the Universities since I had to put them in order as well but I managed to choose the Universities that I really want to get in. After some time, I got an email that I got nominated in TU Graz, Austria and I was really happy.

After I got nominated in TU Graz, what I did was to prepare VISA, book flight and accommodation. Before getting the VISA, I had to book flight and accommodation because they asked for the flight ticket and proof of accommodation to apply for VISA. I looked for accommodation in the internet and decided to choose the closest one so I don't need to spend extra money for transportation. My accommodation name is ÖJAB-HAUS GRAZ and the application process took a little bit of time (around one month or so). But it was not so difficult. Then, getting the VISA was not that difficult either. I just needed to go to Austrian Embassy in Taipei and prepare every documents I needed to apply for VISA. As long as you have everything they ask, it will go really well and I had no trouble with this. The process took around 2 weeks.

After I took care of everything that I needed to take care in Austrian Embassy, I had to extend my ARC because I'm not Taiwanese and I had to make sure that I can go back to Taiwan after my exchange semester. It was quite difficult because normally I can only extend my ARC 2 months before it is expired. I had to return to the National Immigration Agency more than twice even though I already explained and to them my purpose of extending my ARC earlier. But anyway, I was finally able to extend my ARC anyway after showing all of the documents to them including my acceptance letter from TU Graz.





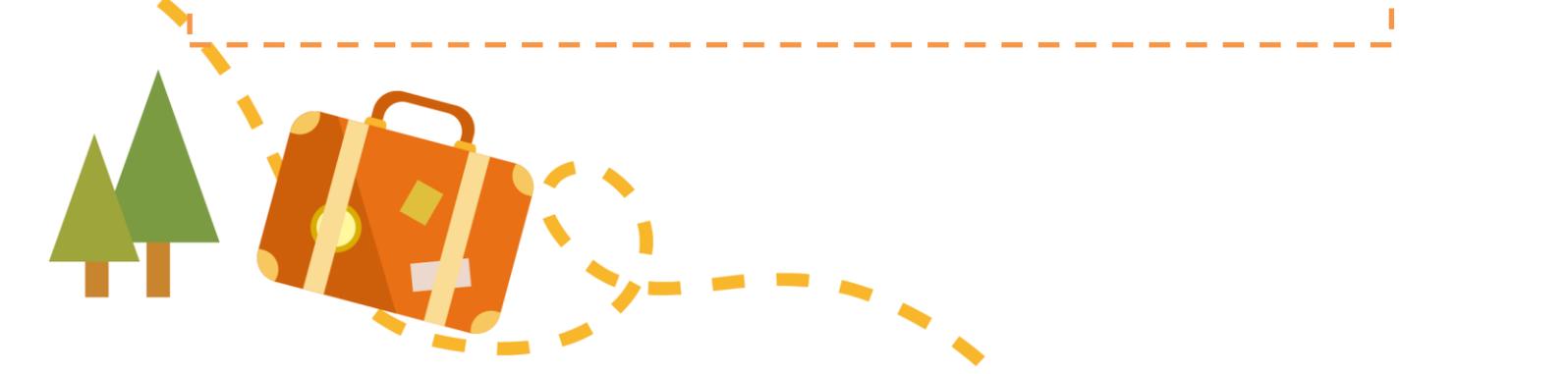
Then, I returned to Indonesia for my summer break to catch up with my family and to have a little bit holiday to Bali. While being in Indonesia, my family was supportive in preparing stuff to bring to Austria as well. They gave me 20 packs of instant noodle because they know I couldn't cook and they know that in Europe basically everyone has to cook. They also helped me prepare bed sheet and blanket because the dormitory told me to bring my own and my mom thought it would be too much for me if I had to look for bed sheet and blanket on the very first day I arrived in Graz.

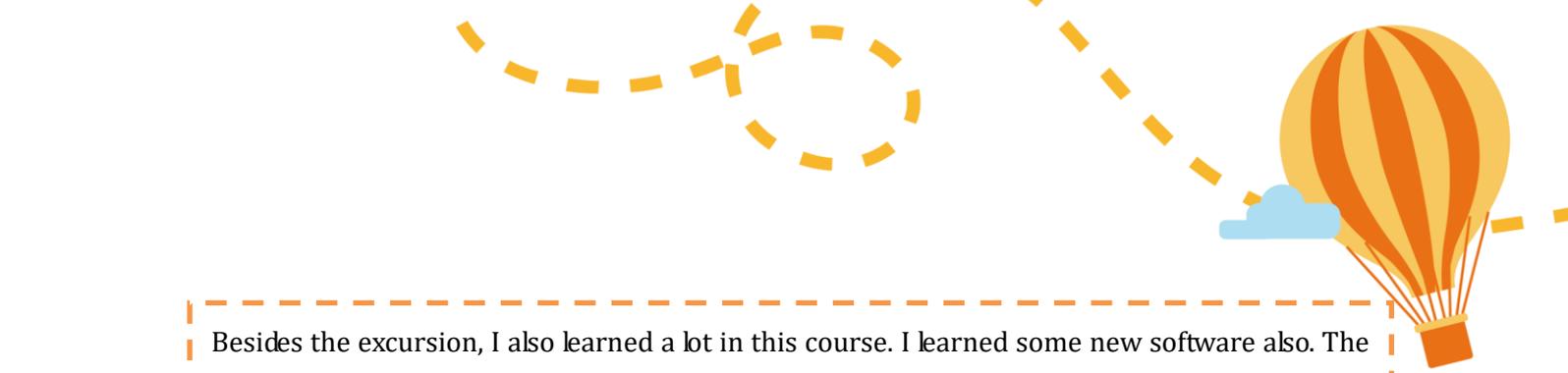
I had so many stuff to bring but luckily, my friend from Switzerland who did exchange in NTUST had holiday in Bali and Lombok (Indonesia) for 2 months with his family before going back to Switzerland. Then I asked him if he wanted to fly to Vienna to help me instead of flying to Switzerland and he said yes. So he helped me with the luggage, and his family flew directly to Switzerland and took care of his luggage.

After I arrived, everything went well with moving in to my dormitory and I started to have orientation from TU Graz. It was a very nice orientation. TU Graz explained everything I needed to know and I needed to do. Once again everything went really well and I had no trouble at all from city hall registration to course selection.

During this semester, I took 3 architecture courses in TU Graz and also took German Course from UNI Graz. There were so many interesting courses to take so it was a little bit difficult to choose but for architecture department, the courses were integrated so I only needed to choose 1 institute and there will be 3 courses to attend. Before choosing the course, they also have presentation about the institute so students can choose which institute they're most interested in. I ended up choosing Integral Design Studio from Institute of Structural Design since they have a really nice presentation about the course.

The course was indeed interesting. We had excursion to Switzerland, visited some places in Bern, Münsingen, Solothurn, and finally ETH Zürich to learn about Schweizer Stahlbau (Swiss Steel Work) and Swiss technology especially from Fritz Haller. I learned so much from the excursion, mostly about how Fritz Haller designed a structural system. We also visited a well-known furniture factory USM and it was awesome how Fritz Haller designed a system that makes the furniture adaptable to the space.





Besides the excursion, I also learned a lot in this course. I learned some new software also. The interesting part is I learned how to optimize a structural design and how to calculate dimension just by using a software. It was also a new experience because I had to design with snow load as well (I have never design anything with snow before).

The difficulties I encountered during exchange semester is quite a few actually. It was really easy to adapt in Austria. Maybe the most difficult thing was to cook my own meal. I used to live where I can just buy food every day and everything is so convenient. In Austria, everyone cooks. There is not so many food shops, only expensive restaurants which is usually dedicated for special event (people doesn't eat out that often). But it was not a big problem either, I had to buy some cooking utensils, learned to cook and turns out it wasn't even that difficult for me to cook even though I have zero knowledge of cooking. Besides, there is so many pre-made meals in the supermarket so I can just buy it and heat it in microwave when I got no time to cook. Sometimes I also go to restaurant to eat with my friends as well because Austrian foods are awesome! Apparently Austrian foods such as Wienerschnitzel, Backhendl, Sachertorte, etc became my favorite food now.

Another difficulty I got there maybe was the language. But before the semester began, I had German intensive course from TU Graz so it was not such a big deal for me since I can use the language for daily life after finishing the course. And most people in Austria can also speak English so it was not really a problem. Also, Austrian people are so nice and very helpful. So when I don't understand something like the washing machine instruction or some announcement written in German, I can always ask them and they always help.

Sometimes, some professor also talked in German during the class and sometimes our study material such as handouts and instruction are in German but once again Austrians are so nice and helpful. After the class, one of my classmate explained everything to me and everything was not a problem anymore. And one of the course the professor even explained everything in English after the class for me and I was really grateful for that.

As conclusion, my exchange semester in Austria was awesome and totally worth it. I learned so much during that time and enjoyed my life, did some travelling in Europe, including trying to ski for the first time as well. It was a very nice experience for me.



Part B (200~500 Words)

Experiences, Suggestions and Picture * 12

Your feedback may be posted on OIA Facebook page in order to share your fruitful experience.





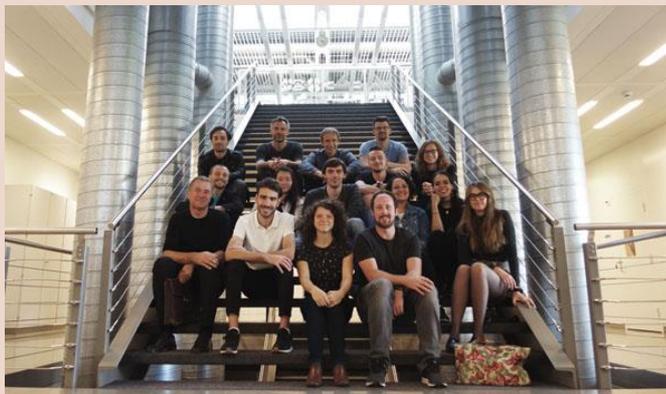
照片說明：

Feeding Beavers



照片說明：

Final Presentation



照片說明：

Excursion to Switzerland





照片說明：

Mount Rigi, Switzerland



照片說明：

Aufsteirern Festival



照片說明：

Mountain Trip





照片說明：

Ski at Kreischberg, Austria



照片說明：

Ice-skating in Bern



照片說明：

Blausee, Switzerland



照片說明：

Building a Snowman