

亞洲留學

今年暑假我要去台灣留學。除了去台灣以外，秋季班我也要來中國。這會是我第一次去亞洲。我又興奮又緊張。我覺得亞洲跟美國很不一樣，亞洲城市常常很吵也很擁擠。我是從 Port Townsend 來的，那是在美國華盛頓州一個很小的城。在 Port Townsend，沒有很多人，不擁擠，也沒有很多的活動可以做，所以年輕人常常覺得很無聊。但是，那兒的人很和氣。中國和台灣的城市都很大，所以我覺得我可能會不習慣，甚至迷路。我不常常喜歡吵的地方，可是我覺得我會適應的。

我決定訪問三個去過台灣或者中國的老同學談談他們的經驗。Quincy 是一個去了台灣留學的中文學生。在台灣，她看到了很多的不同的傳統，比方說茶藝。她跟她的同學做很多的茶藝活動。因為在台灣茶藝很重要，所以她覺得學習這個傳統文化很有意思。在普及灣大學，我去參加過一個茶藝活動。我也覺得很有意思，因為我不知道很多的中國文化。Quincy 剛去台灣的時候，有一點兒壓力，因為很多的中文她聽不懂。但是，第一天她遇到一個台灣女生。她把 Quincy 帶出去吃早飯，告訴 Quincy 一些很好吃的食物，也告訴她怎麼點菜。她在台灣的最後一天，遇到一個從奧地利來的女生。因為她不說中文，也不認識什麼人，所以 Quincy 就像第一天幫助她的女生一樣，把這位奧地利來的女生帶出去吃早飯。她說台灣的人好像特別和氣，所以我覺得台灣人跟在 Port Townsend 的人一樣。我覺得大家會願意幫我的。Quincy 說她最大的挑戰是孤單。因為她很白，所以看起來跟別的中國人很不同，而且說話也說得不流利，所以有時候就更覺得孤單。她知道她不可能改變，所以她只能適應。

Nathan 也是普及灣大學生，可是他沒去台灣留學。他去了中國，在上海留學。他說因為他長得跟中國人不同，所以大家會盯着他看。也會想跟他拍照。一般的中國人可能害怕跟他說話，因為不會說英文，他的中文也說得不流利。他覺得如果是白人，可能會是第一次在人群中因為膚色感覺跟別的人不一樣。雖然我是中國人，但是我的父母都是白人，我也說英文，所以我覺得別的人知道我是從美國來的。我覺得我的膚色在中國不會像 Nathan 那樣有問題，不過，我想開始的時候，大家會認為我可以說流利的中文，可是跟我說話以後他們會知道我的中文不太好。一般來說，不管你看起來像不像中國人大家都會說得很快。現在我覺得我不懂很多的東西，可是我會好好學語言和文化。

我覺得在中國和台灣學習比在美國更難。在普及灣大學我有很多的功課，所以我常常很忙。我覺得在國外我會更忙，因為老師有不同的期望。Lauren 是一個去過西安留學的中文學生。在西安，她有很好的老師，可是她說不論有什麼問題都得跟老師說中文。不知道在北京我的中文老師會不會跟這個在西安的老師一樣。我也有點兒擔心在台灣和中國的生活，很多東西我都不懂。比方說，我不知道怎麼買課本。不過我越學中文，越覺得中文比較容易。我想我的中文會越來越好。

在台灣和中國我希望我可以做很多的活動，一面學中文一面在旅行，參觀很多景點，比方說萬裡長城。我知道我會想念我的家人和朋友，可是我會認識新朋友。我還是有點兒擔心，因為我比較內向，認識新朋友常常不太容易。但是想到留學我就很興奮！

This summer vacation I will go to Taiwan to study abroad. In addition to going to Taiwan, fall semester I will also go to China. This will be my first time going to Asia. I am both excited and nervous. I think Asia and America are very different. Asian cities are often very loud and very crowded. I am from Port Townsend, a small city in

Washington. There are not a lot of people in Port Townsend so it is not crowded. There are also not a lot of activities to do, so young people are often bored. However, the people are very friendly. Chinese and Taiwanese cities are very big, so I think I will probably be unfamiliar so much that I will get lost. I don't often like loud places, but I think I will adapt.

I decided to interview three students who went to Taiwan or China about their experiences. Quincy is a Chinese student who went to Taiwan to study abroad. In Taiwan, she saw a lot of different traditions like the tea ceremony. Her and her classmates did a lot of tea ceremony activities. In Taiwan, because tea ceremonies are very important she thought studying this tradition was very interesting. At University of Puget Sound, I participated in a tea ceremony. I also thought it was interesting because I don't know a lot about Chinese culture. During the time when Quincy just arrived in Taiwan, she felt a little bit of pressure because there was a lot of Chinese she didn't understand. But, the first day she was there, she met a Taiwanese girl. She took Quincy out to breakfast and told her what food was very good and how to order it. On Quincy's last day in Taiwan, she met a girl from Austria. Because this girl did not speak Chinese and didn't know anyone Quincy, like the girl from her first day in Taiwan, took her out to breakfast. Quincy said the people in Taiwan seem especially friendly, so I think the people in Taiwan are similar to the people in Port Townsend. I think everyone will be willing to help me in Taiwan. Quincy said her biggest challenge was feeling lonely. Because she is white, she appears very different from other Chinese people. In addition she is also not fluent, so sometimes this made her feel even lonelier. She knew this was something she couldn't change, so she knew she could only adapt.

Nathan is also a student at the University of Puget Sound, but he did not go to Taiwan to study abroad. He studied abroad in Shanghai, China. He said because he looks different from Chinese people everyone stared at him. They also wanted to take photos with him. In general, Chinese people were afraid to talk to him because they don't speak

English and he wasn't fluent in Chinese. He thought if you are white this could possibly your first time as a minority. Although I am Chinese my parents are both white. I also speak English, so I think other people will know I am from the US. In China, I think because my skin color is not the same as Nathan's I won't have that kind of problem. Only, I think at first everyone will think I am fluent in Chinese, but after they speak to me, they will know my Chinese is not very good. Generally speaking, regardless if you appear Chinese or not, everyone will speak very fast. Now, I think I don't understand a lot of things, but I will carefully study the language and culture.

I feel that studying in China and Taiwan will be more difficult than in the US. At the University of Puget Sound, I have a lot of homework so I am often very busy. I think while I am abroad I will be even busier because the teachers there will have different expectations. Lauren is a Chinese student who went to study abroad in Xi'an. In Xi'an, she had a very good teacher, but regardless if you had a question or not, you had to speak in Chinese. In Beijing, I wonder if my Chinese teacher will be the same as Lauren's teacher in Xi'an. I am also a little worried because I won't entirely understand life in Taiwan and China. For example, I don't know how to buy textbooks. But, the more I study Chinese, the more I feel like Chinese is relatively easy. I think my Chinese will get better and better.

In Taiwan and China, I hope I can do a lot of activities as well as study Chinese and travel at the same time along with touring a lot of scenic spots like the Great Wall of China. I know I will miss my family and friends, but I will make new friends. However, I am still a little worried. Because I am relatively introverted, making new friends is often not easy. However, when I think of studying abroad I get very excited.

Vocab:

第一次:dì yī cì, the first time

亞洲:yàzhōu, Asia
興奮:xīngfèn, excited
緊張:jǐnzhāng, nervous
擁擠:yōngjǐ, crowded
年輕人:niánqīngrén, young people
無聊:wúliáo, bored
和氣:héqì, friendly
不習慣:bù xíguàn, unfamiliar
甚至:shènzhì, even/so much that
迷路:mílù, to be lost
適應:shìyìng, adapt
談談:tán tán, to discuss
經驗:jīngyàn, experience
傳統:chuántǒng, tradition
茶藝:chá yì, tea ceremony
剛:gāng, just
壓力:yālì, pressure
遇到:yùdào, to meet
點菜:diǎn cài, to order food
最後一天:zuìhòu yītiān, the final/last day
奧地利:Àodìlì, Austria
願意:yuànyì, willing to do something
挑戰:tiǎozhàn, challenge
孤單:gūdān, loneliness
看起來:kànqǐlái, appear to be
流利:liúlì, fluent
改變:gǎibiàn, to change
只能:zhǐnéng, can only
盯:dīng, to stare at
一般:yībān, in general
害怕:hàipà, afraid

人群:rénqún, crowd
膚色:fūsè, skin color
感覺:gǎnjué, to feel
那樣:nàyàng, that kind of
認為:rènwéi, believe/think
國外:guówài, abroad
期望:qīwàng, expectations
不論:bùlùn, no matter/regardless of
生活:shēnghuó, life
課本:kèběn, textbook
越來越:yuè lái yuè, more and more
希望:xīwàng, hope
萬裡長城:Wàn lǐ chángchéng, The Great Wall
想到:xiǎngdào, to think of
想念:xiǎngniàn, to miss
認識新朋友:rènshí xīn péngyǒu, make new friends
擔心:dānxīn, worried
內向:nèixiàng, introverted