

美國匹茲堡州立大學交換生學習心得

--在匹茲堡州立大學的上課方式

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時光飛逝，來到匹茲堡州立大學上課也已經滿一學期了。在這邊的幾個月裡在課業上付出了很多前所未有的努力，到目前生平也不會那麼用功讀書。甚至爲了不適期中考亦或是期末考的商業科考試，在圖書館從白天讀到晚上，待了至少七個小時，不過最後考出來的成績並不是很好。在美國最終學期的成績是以A-F來區分的，大多都是每十分一個單位來分階級。在台灣時，曾經覺得只要及格我就心滿意足了。在這邊60分就是D，直接影響到學生的GPA，而對於那些要申請國外研究所的學生的影響就不言而喻了。

在匹茲堡州立大學，環境優美的學校中，穿梭著各式各樣的學生們。上課時，不論是美國人或是從世界各國來的國際生都非常的認真，不會看到有人上課趴著睡覺或是吃東西。我個人覺得從台灣來的學生們反而好像是裡面最不認真的，我認為有幾個原因導致這個問題。第一個原因是美國的學費非常貴，國際生一個學期至少是台幣一百萬起跳，美國更好的私立學校不用說了。美國本地人的學費大約也是在僑光科技大學所付的8倍，所以幾乎所有人都會認真上課，因爲很多人負擔不了被當掉的學分所要負的補修費。第二個原因是在學期一開始時，教授們會把每課堂的配分方式說得非常清楚，並且每一堂課的進度、作業或者考試都會打好在課程大綱上，而學生們也能在學校的App找得到。幾乎沒有進度拖延或者考試變更的事情，評分方式以及課堂的規則都很有條理、透明和清楚。這樣做的好處之一就是學生能夠比較好去預期自己在上完一學期的課之後能夠學到什麼，以及他們缺席這堂課對他們會有什麼影響。

第三個原因是這裡上課是屬於偏向互動和開放的方式，學生對於課程的

疑惑或是自己的意見也都勇於發言，而這跟亞洲的填鴨式教育方式是很不一樣的。最後一個原因是我認爲最主要的因素，這些從全世界各國飄洋過海而來到這裡的國際生都是自己提出申請、有意願想要跳脫自己的舒適圈到異地學習的學生，並且幾乎都是有達到世界的各個學校的要求、不同門檻以及和同儕競爭所塞選出來的，因此這些學生本來就有想要向上的心，也會比較認真、把握和珍惜這樣的得來不易機會。畢竟許多國際生到匹茲堡可以不用付這裡的學費，又可以拿政府和學校的獎學金，這對於那些想要嘗試到國外讀書卻沒有很多預算的人，無非是最好的選擇。

來到這邊上課的好處不勝枚舉，適合喜歡活動的人，這裡有非常多課外活動，例如橄欖球比賽、雕刻南瓜活動、遊行、甚至連百老匯都會到學校演出。學校資源也很豐富，像是體育館就有游泳池、不同的球場和各種健身器材。也適合喜歡學習的人，這裡除了圖書館還有很多適合看書的地方，課程的選擇很豐富，不只是一般的學術科目，還有各種美術課甚至有拳擊課等等。目前我非常喜歡在這裡的生活，雖然課業很重，也很想念台灣的美食，不過我相信有了這個經驗，對我的人生一定有莫大的幫助。



Reflections on Studying Abroad at PSU

Time flies like an arrow; it has already been six months since I came to Pittsburg State University (PSU). During these months, I have studied harder than I have ever studied in my life. I have put so much effort on the school work; I stayed in the library for more than seven hours, from daytime to night, studying for my business exam, and it was not even a midterm nor final exam, but my grade did not turn out well that time. In American schools, generally speaking, all final grades are divided into 5 groups which is A, B, C, D, and F (ten points of difference in each). When I was in Taiwan, I once thought that getting no less than a 60% was fine for me, though at PSU, 60 is a D, which directly influences the Grade Point Average (GPA). It may seem nothing for most of students, but it means so much for those students who want to apply for a higher degree.

There are many different people walking among this amazing and astonishing campus. The students, whether they are locals or international students or not, are so hard-working. I have never seen any one eating or sleeping in classes. From my own perspective, I think that the students from Taiwan are not as diligent as others; and I believe there are some reasons for this effect. Firstly, tuition in the United States is expensive; it costs at least a million TWD for an international student per semester, let alone other private universities in the United States. The tuition that the local American students pay for PSU is 8 times more than we paid in Overseas Chinese University (OCU). Almost all American students study hard because many of them can not afford the fees if they fail classes.

Secondly, at the beginning of every semester, professors will talk through their syllabus, make it very clear how the grade system works and what will you learn in the class, what's more, there is an app for students to check everything about the classes. Procrastinate of schedule or exams changes are barely happen. The pro of this is that students are able to have a better understanding of what the professors' course requirements.

The third advantages of studying abroad at PSU is that professors are teaching in a more interactive and open way, also students are very proactive if they have any confusions or opinions, which is very different from what we do in Asia. Last but not least, I believe the main advantage of studying abroad at PSU is that all the students from all over the globe have put in a lot of effort in order to be here. They need to apply for the program, which means they want to improve themselves and ready to leave their comfort zones; furthermore, they have to go through and meet every university requirement. As a result, students must be more conscientious and cherish this opportunity more than others. After all, most of us do not need to pay the tuition and have the scholarship from schools and governments. For those who are keen to study abroad but do not have enough budget, it is a really nice choice. Besides, PSU suits those who love activities since PSU has many sport games, parades, shows, and holiday events, campus is rich in school resources, such as swimming pool, gym, and fields for different sports. For those who love learning, PSU has not only has a library but many other places for study, and diverse courses, including normal academic classes, sports classes, and art classes. You will always find something to do and learn at PSU; it is an university for everyone.

In conclusion, studying at PSU has many advantages. I strongly recommend students to come here to get involve in the program and experience the different life at PSU. I love my life in PSU so far; although the school work is heavy, and I miss Taiwan, I believe the experience of studying abroad at PSU will help me a lot in the future.