

The University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) is located in the Manoa Valley on the island of Oahu, just outside Downtown Honolulu, Hawaii. The University itself covers approximately 320 acres of land, making it the largest among other affiliated UH Campuses. UHM have students coming from a diverse cultural background. Among the various cultural backgrounds, most of them are Asian. This particular set of Asian culture coexisting in an American state helps students mainly from Asia to adapt better in a familiar environment. The balance of cultural difference made Hawaii a perfect place to experience a different culture without having to deal with overwhelming culture shock. Located on the islands of Hawaii, the Hawaiian culture played a significant role in creating this University. The rich Polynesian culture makes Hawaii a unique place to spend my exchange program. This new culture experience had broadened my cultural exposure. Besides that, the University also provides students with various fun activities, ensuring that students have their school-life balance. Dormitory life at UHM is more likely to be fun. Every month the Housing Program Council will at least make an event for the residence to know each other better. It is a dorm life experience that I have never encountered before. The University also provides students with various facilities that all students can utilize.

During my exchange program at UHM I took several courses; Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics, Elementary Korean, and English Composition for Second Language Writers. In general, the class in UHM is more interactive in a way that students and professor establish a two-way interaction throughout the lecture. Professors in UHM also implement technology in their class to make it more enjoyable and interesting. Incorporating technology into the class also brings a lot of benefit to the students as well as the professor. By using technology, it saves time, prevents students from homework plagiarism, encourages students to go to class, increases student's participation in class and many other benefits. I remember that I have to pay another cost for the in-class quiz remote called "iClicker" and an online homework system called "Aplia". Basically, iClicker is a remote that can be connected to the class server and students use it to answer the in-class pop quiz that will be randomly held by the professor in each class. At the same time, the iClicker system helps the teacher to check student's attendance without the hassle to call every students name. On the other hand, Aplia is a website platform that allows students to test their knowledge that has been thought in class. According to every professor, every week there will be several online quizzes and homework to be done before the deadline. The system has an automated marking system to tell if the answer is right or wrong and if the answer is wrong, it will give the right answer followed by an explanation. Students are given three chances to answer the homework and the average mark will be taken for grading. The best part of this system is that they have a different set of questions, so every student gets different set of questions which lower the chance for them to copy their homework from their classmates. Although this technology comes at a cost, I personally feel that it is quite useful for every education institute to implement such a system to enhance the students and professor experience in learning. Lastly, from what I have observed throughout the semester at UHM, all class uses the school email service to remind students of their assignments. Because sometimes there is too much to do in a day and it is quite hard and overwhelming to keep track of the things assigned by our professors. Therefore, those reminders are helpful to keep students on track with their assignment due dates.

Aside from in-class education, I also joined the International Student Association (ISA). The association serves as a bridge between international students and local students. It creates a platform where students from around the world can meet and make friends. Aside from that, it also gives chances for students to share their

cultures in an annual event called International Night. There, students from across the globe share their own culture and show their appreciation of other cultures. In general, there are a lot of student clubs that we can choose from. Aside from student clubs, there is a lot of events going on inside the campus. Some of them are; athletic events, concerts, bazaars, and many more.

Personally, I think that exchange program could potentially be beneficial for my future. In fact, my parents are actually against the idea that I'm going for an exchange program because they found no reason for funding my program if it doesn't benefit me. So, I managed to find some information on the internet regarding the benefits of being a student exchange and finally convinced my parents to fund me for my exchange program. After my exchange program has ended, I came to a conclusion that by being a part of the student exchange program have helped me in different ways. Throughout my exchange program, I have gained intercultural competence, international networking, becoming more independent, and mostly my personal development.

Overall, it is really worth investing in student exchange program. I learned and gained a lot of experience from this student exchange program. From my student exchange experience, I also wanted to encourage students to apply for student exchange program. I hope in the future, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) will have more choices of the university for the exchange program and also give more choices of the University for non-business major. By doing so and adding more info sessions to inform students about the benefits of the student exchange program, I believe that it will encourage more students to join the student exchange program in the future.

