

Indian Students in Taiwan Handbook



Office of Student Affairs, KMU

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Cultural and Practical Challenges

Festivals and Celebrations

- Taiwan has a rich tapestry of festivals and celebrations, offering unique **cultural experiences**.
- You might encounter Chinese New Year, Lantern Festival, and other traditions that offer an opportunity to learn about Taiwanese customs.

Educational System and Teaching Style

- Taiwan's educational system is known for its emphasis on academic excellence and strong emphasis on rote learning and standardized testing.
- There might be a difference in teaching styles compared to India.

Cultural and Practical Challenges

Social Etiquette and Behavior

- Understanding **local etiquette and customs** is crucial to building positive relationships.
- **Respecting elders**, maintaining a **polite demeanor**, and avoiding direct confrontation are important values in Taiwanese society.
- Place your **chopsticks** together on the table, or the chopsticks rest when finished. Never stick your chopsticks vertically into a bowl.
- **Toasting** is common and is often made before and during meals ["乾杯" (gānbēi), meaning "cheers"].

Language and Communication

- **Mandarin Chinese** is the official language in Taiwan.
- While English is taught, it's less commonly spoken in everyday situations compared to India.
- Learning Mandarin can help you navigate daily life and academic settings.

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Language Learning Experiences

Learning Mandarin can be challenging for Indian students, as the language is significantly different from your native language. The pronunciation, tones, and writing system present a unique learning curve.

The complexity of Mandarin characters and tones can make it difficult for international students to achieve fluency. It's important to persevere and practice regularly.

Many students find that even after learning basic Mandarin, they still struggle to communicate effectively with locals. While it can be frustrating, keep practicing and seeking opportunities to converse in Mandarin.





Overcoming Language Barriers

1

Language Learning Apps

Utilize apps like Duolingo, HelloChinese, or Rosetta Stone. Practice speaking Mandarin daily, even if it's just basic phrases and greetings.

2

Language Exchange

Partner with a local student who wants to improve their English or another language you speak.

3

Feedback and Practice

Regularly ask for feedback from native speakers on your language use and pronunciation.

Food Challenges in Taiwan

Taiwanese cuisine can be both exciting and challenging for Indian students.

The flavors and ingredients are quite different from Indian cuisine, which is rich in spices and mostly vegetarian.

Taiwanese cuisine includes a lot of seafood, pork, and rice-based dishes. Vegetarian options are available but less varied compared to India. Food tends to be less spicy, and dairy products are less common.

Adjusting to the local palate and finding familiar food options can be difficult at first.

Ways to overcome these challenges

- ❑ **Learning to cook** simple Indian dishes at home can be helpful.
- ❑ **Visiting Indian grocery stores** will help find essential ingredients for Indian cooking.
- ❑ Experimenting with fusing Indian flavors with Taiwanese ingredients can create unique, enjoyable meals.

Learn phrases like

“I’m a vegetarian” (我是素食者 [Wǒ shì sùshí zhě]) or

“No meat, please” (請不要加肉 [Qǐng bùyào jiā ròu]) can be very helpful.



Indian Restaurants in Kaohsiung



Maharaja Indian Restaurant

This restaurant serves North Indian dishes and features a wide selection of curries, tandoori specialties, and vegetarian options.

No.392 Ming Cheng Second Road, Zuoying



Lahore Restaurant (Halal)

This halal restaurant offers a taste of Pakistani and Indian cuisine, specializing in dishes like biryani, kebabs, and curries.

No. 86 LinChuan St., LingYa, Lingya



RAWAT Indian Kitchen

This restaurant serves authentic North Indian halal cuisine. Their signature dishes include biryani, curries, and tandoori specialties.

50, Xinguang Rd., Lingya

INDIAN GROCERY SHOPPING

Sanfong Jhong Street, Sanmin District (Grocery Street)



Sanfong Jhong Street is one of the oldest markets in Kaohsiung City. Located beside Jianguo 3rd Road, it is of 400 meters long and consists of wholesalers and retailers of a variety of groceries. You can find variety grocery items you need from northern to southern dry goods, seafood, poultry sundried products, tea leaves, Chinese herb, confectionery, and many more. It is also popular for the Lunar New Year Shopping.



20 min walk westward
from the Kaohsiung Main
Station via Jianguo 3rd Road

SHOP No 86 Gencheng Indian Grocery Store

五穀雜糧 各式堅果
穀物加工 生機食品 86



International Grocery Store

Trinity Indian Store, Taipei



Online Shopping Available

<https://indianstoretaiwan.com.tw/index.php?route=common/home>

MIK Indian-International Grocery Store Taiwan



Online Shopping

https://www.indianstoretaiwan.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoo0cBdYLxY8yceMQjSiUqK_6hHWnnpbL6QfRV7zNKxE9SI7XCu5n

About Housing

- D.2.0.99. off-campus housing information inquiry, KMU WAC system
- Online housing platform: [591 Housing Platform](#)

International students may be more susceptible to rental scams or fraudulent listings due to their limited knowledge of local practices and lack of local contacts.

Scams and Fraud

Many landlords primarily speak Mandarin, making it difficult for students who are not proficient in the language to communicate effectively.

Communication Issues

Reading and understanding rental contracts written in Mandarin can be challenging, leading to potential misunderstandings or unfavorable terms.

Understanding Contracts

Challenges

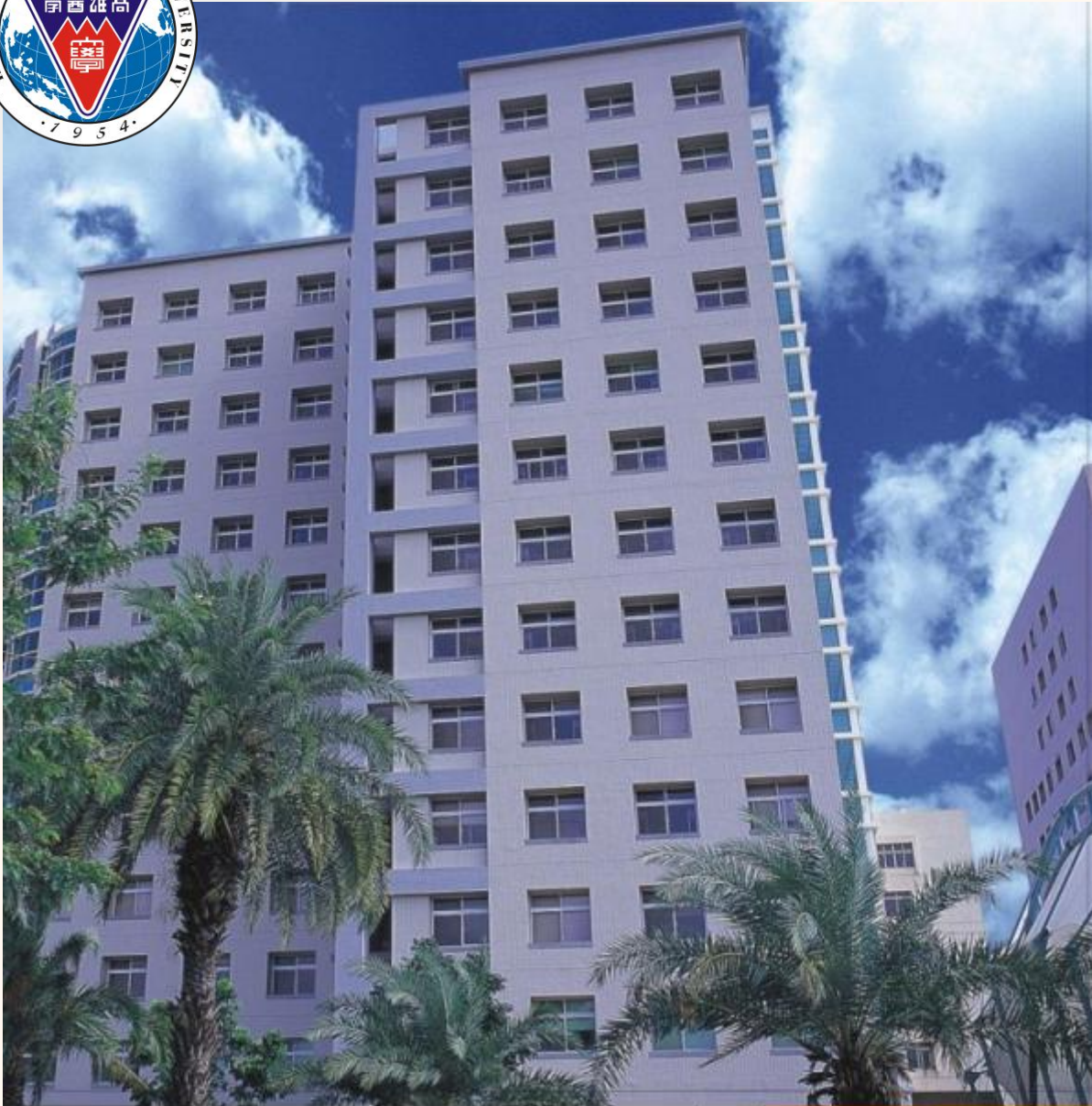
Finding affordable housing within a reasonable distance from the campus can be difficult, affecting daily commute times and costs.

Proximity to Campus

Some landlords require high security deposits, which can be financially burdensome for students.

High Deposits

Solutions to Help Overcome these Difficulties



1

School Dormitory

Living dormitory is much cheaper and near to the campus despite there are some restrictions like cooking policy and room types.

2

Seek Guidance/ Assistance from the School

Get guidance/ assistance from the Office of Student Affairs (OSA)) for clear information about housing.

3

Language Assistance

Find friends who speak both Mandarin and English helps to facilitate the communication during housing.

4

Roommates and Shared Housing and Budget Planning

Embrace Cultural Experiences

Festivals and cultural events (Lunar New Year, Dragon Boat Festival, Lantern Festival...)

Exploring temples, historical sites and nature

Interaction with locals- etiquette and social norms

- Taiwanese festivals are largely influenced by Chinese culture, including Lunar New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival, and Dragon Boat Festival.
- These are celebrated with family reunions, special foods, and traditional customs.

