

Getting to Taichung

Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport

You will normally arrive at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport in Taoyuan, 43 kilometers southwest of the capital, Taipei. Alternatives are the International airport in Kaohsiung or the harbors in Keelung, Taichung and Kaohsiung, though not too many people travel by boat these days.

Exchange Money

You may want to exchange some money at the airport to buy your bus ticket and enough to cover you for a few days, as it will be more complex to change money in Taichung on your first day, because there are no banks in the campus.

Bus to Taichung

Purchase a ticket to **Chao Ma** (it is the stop closest to our University, so it will save you considerably on cab fare). Once you have purchased your bus ticket, proceed to the exit to the left of the ticket booth and head for the last bus stop on the right. The one on the corner, is the one for Taichung. If you are unsure, just ask the representatives.

Tickets often have the departure time and seat number marked, so you will have to check what time your bus leaves, since it won't necessarily be the next one. The trip takes about 2-3 hours, depending on the traffic conditions. Show your ticket to the representatives and they will be happy to escort you.

When boarding the bus, ask the driver to tell you when to get off, because some of them will shout the name of the station they are approaching, while others don't bother telling whether and where they are about to stop.

All government long-distance buses have toilets in the rear, though they're not always well maintained.

Be sure to keep the ticket stub, because you may have to hand it back to the driver when you get off the bus.

Taxi from Chao Ma bus stop

When you arrive at the Chao Ma bus stop, chances are very big that you will be swarmed by taxi drivers who want to cash in on unwary traveler. Big suitcases, lots of luggage and a bewildered expression are obviously signs of extra income.

All taxis in Taiwan are yellow, in order to be more visible and uniform. The only way to tell a real taxi from a possible rip-off, is to have a quick look at the license plate: it should have two red letters and four numbers on a white background, whereas all regular cars have black numbers on a white background. Don't try to negotiate a price with a cabbie who doesn't want to use his meter; insist on using the meter, and if he's not willing, walk away and take another cab; there are plenty of them.

You should pay between NT\$ 150 and 200 for the ride to the University, depending on the traffic conditions.



Exit from Freeway View

From this location, you will likely need to get off the bus soon. Chaoma is about 400m ahead.



UBUS Company

You will be let off in the back. You can then make your way to the front for a taxi.



Free-Go (Feigou) and Other Bus Companies

They normally let you off just after this intersection, on the right side. Taxis will be waiting there.



KUO-KUANG Bus Company

This stop is just off of Taiwan Blvd. Taxis wait across the street.

Taxi from Taoyuan Airport to Taichung

Another option is to take a taxi from the airport to the University, but this is, of course, the most expensive. On average, such a ride will cost you minimum NT\$ 2,500.

Problems

If you have any problems of a more serious and official kind, you may want to contact your embassy or representative office in Taipei. Keep the telephone number or address available and they may be able to help you.

Your First Night in Taichung

If you arrive here in Taichung and you have no friends or relatives to stay with or to arrange accommodation for you, there are many hotels near Feng Chia. There is one hotel called Beacon Hotel, about 100 meters from the main gate next to McDonalds, on the corner of FengChia and Fuxing Roads.