

# Arrival

## 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 really close to the campus and the local Cathy United Bank only exchanges US Dollars.

### Free Map, Magazine on Taiwan and a snack

Grab a free map from the information desk in the main arrival lobby of Terminal 1 (the old one) and a copy of the free magazine *This Month in Taiwan* to browse through. You can find a snack bar on the right in the arrival hall, open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. You have to buy tickets first at the small counter on the left of the snack bar; the menu has an English translation, but the waiters do not always understand English. However, since your order is printed on the receipt, there shouldn't be too many problems. Only NT dollars are accepted here.

## Bus to Taichung

Once you have decided to take a bus straight to Taichung, turn left upon entering the arrival hall of Terminal 1, after having passed through the customs inspection. At the end of the hall you will find many ticket windows selling bus tickets to various destinations.

If you arrived in Terminal 2, you will find the long-distance buses when you turn right and walk all the way down.

Purchase a ticket to **ChaoMa** (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 Chaoma bus stop**

When you arrive at the Chaoma 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\$ 100 and 150 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 TPE 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 two options to spend the first night(s) after arrival and before you have found the room or apartment that is going to be your new place for the next few months.

There is one hotel called the Beacon Hotel, about 100 meters from the main gate next to McDonalds, on the corner of FengChia and Fuxing Roads, where the cheapest rooms go for NT\$ 1,600 a night. A better solution could be the Feng Chia University Alumni Hostel which is even closer, since it is on campus and they charge you only NT\$ 1000 a night. You only need to let us know in advance, the date *and time* of your arrival and how many nights you want to stay in the hostel, and we will book it for you. It is imperative that you contact the Language Center early enough in order to make sure that there are rooms available at that time. Have a pleasant stay!