Welcome to Taipei Medical University!

This handbook is designed to help international students make the transition to life in Taipei and classes at TMU. There is advice for everything from food to transportation to housing. You’ll also find phone numbers and web addresses for lots of other resources. But remember—your best resources are each other! Talk to the other students, whether they’re international or local, new or returning. Everyone knows something different, and you’re bound to get new ideas and learn new things each time you meet someone. We look forward to getting to know all of you, and we wish you all the best as you begin the school year!

-- Dana Jensen, handbook author

TMU New Students Website—Includes Orientation Schedule:  

TMU English News:  

TMU on Facebook:  
https://www.facebook.com/pages/TMU-Outwards-Taipei-Medical-University/119873921400517
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAIWAN BASICS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRE-ARRIVAL IMMIGRATION INFORMATION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONEY MATTERS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON ARRIVAL</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW TO PAY</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CULTURE AND ETIQUETTE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANKING</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARRIVING IN TAIWAN</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GETTING AROUND TAIPEI</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GETTING TO TMU</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMU HOUSING</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAYING HEALTHY</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH INSURANCE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS AND FITNESS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUN NEAR CAMPUS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAIWAN’S CUISINES</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPUS AREA</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL DIETS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TELEPHONES</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOBILE PHONE PLANS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEVICES</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRITICAL APPS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSTAL SERVICES</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONLINE RESOURCES IN ENGLISH</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFICIAL TMU WEBSITES</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOFFICIAL TMU FACEBOOK PAGES</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USEFUL MAPS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT WEBSITES</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORUMS, CLASSIFIEDS, AND TRAVEL INFO FOR FOREIGNERS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HASHTAGS FOR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taiwan Basics

**Population:** 23,299,716

**Area:** 35,980 km² or 13,892 mi²

**Capital:** Taipei

**Government:** Multi-party democracy with the current President Ma Ying-jeou, Vice President Wu Den-yih, and Premier Jiang Yi-huah all part of the conservative Kuomintang (KMT) political party. The largest liberal opposition party is known as the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).

**Climate:** The northern and central regions have a humid subtropical climate, while the south has a fully tropical climate. Taipei is known for relatively cold, wet winters where temperatures will occasionally drop below 15°C/60°F. Summer experiences extremely high temperatures (upwards of 35°C/95°F) and monsoon rains from May to September. Typhoons occasionally strike Taiwan in late summer or early autumn.

**Currency:** New Taiwan Dollars (NTD or NT$), seen as 元 in Chinese. Rough conversion rates are as follows:

1 USD = 30 NTD, 1 EUR = 40 NTD, 1 CNY = 5 NTD, 1 NTD = 3.3 JPY, 1 NTD = 37 KRW, 1 SAR = 2.9 NTD, 1 NTD = 2.3 INR, 1 MXN = 2.3 NTD, 1 MYR = 9 NTD

**Language:** Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in Taiwan, especially in the Taipei area. Anywhere in Taiwan, young people will speak Mandarin. Older people may not, and are more likely to speak Taiwanese and occasionally some Japanese if they were in Taiwan during the Japanese colonial period. Other languages spoken include Hakka and a variety of Formosan languages spoken by the indigenous peoples of Taiwan. Mandarin, Taiwanese, and Hakka are all written using Chinese characters.

**Religion:** Buddhism and Taoism are the two largest religions in Taiwan, each followed by roughly a third of the population. Roughly 4% of the population is Christian. There are roughly 60,000 Muslims as well. About 20% of people in Taiwan do not belong to any particular religion. The remaining people are split among a variety of religions from Baha’i to Mormonism.

**Ethnicity:** 98% of Taiwanese citizens are Han Chinese, with about 15% of them having come from mainland China in the time following WWII. The remaining 2% belong to Taiwan’s many indigenous groups.

**Major Cities:** The combined population of the adjacent cities of Taipei City and New Taipei City is over 6.5 million, while the southern city of Kaohsiung is nearly 3 million. Tainan comes in just under 2 million people. All of the largest cities are on the industrialized west coast.
Pre-Arrival Immigration Information
Foreign students should go to the Taiwan embassy or overseas mission closest to their home to apply for a visa. Ideally, you will be granted a resident visa. This will allow you to legally enter Taiwan and begin school. Within 15 days of arrival, you should apply to convert your visa to an Alien Residence Certificate (ARC). The International Office will assist students with this process on September 10th from 9-11am.

If you are unable to attend this session, or if you arrived much earlier or wish to apply on your own, the National Immigration Agency (NIA) office is located at 15 Guangzhou Street (廣州街 15 號), near Xiaonanmen MRT station. The 38 bus goes directly from the TMU stop on Zhuangjing Road to the 小南門 (和平院區) station near the NIA, if you prefer a slower but more direct route.

Money Matters
On Arrival
You’ll need to obtain Taiwan currency as soon as you arrive to pay for transportation from the airport. The two easiest ways to do this are currency exchange and ATM withdrawal. If you are coming from a small country, it may be difficult to exchange your money for NTD at the airport, especially at a fair rate. You may want to bring some “getting started” money in a major global currency like Euros or US dollars if you’re unable to obtain NTD in your home country.

The Taoyuan Airport currency exchange booths have varying hours of operation, but both terminals have one open until 23:00. Terminal 1 has a 24-hour exchange. There are also a number of ATMs that accept certain international cards. You can withdraw money from them at decent exchange rates, though you’ll likely have to pay a fee to do so. Around the city, you can find international ATMs at banks (especially international chains) and in 7-11s. Make sure you tell your bank that you’re coming to Taiwan, or they may accidentally freeze your account because of “suspicious activity.” Travellers’ checks are often difficult to cash and may incur fees, so they are not recommended.

How to Pay
Taiwan operates primarily using cash. Only NTD will be accepted, and only relatively large stores are able to accept credit cards. International checks are essentially useless. Larger amounts of money (like rent or a scooter purchase) are often paid by bank transfer. You can do bank transfers using any local ATM.

Once you have your TMU student ID card, I recommend getting an “EasyCard” (悠遊卡 / yōuyóu kǎ). They can be purchased at subway station service booths. If you show your student ID, you will be eligible for the Student EasyCard and discounts on your fare. There is a 100NT deposit associated with the card. These are stored value cards that you can “top up” with cash in stations or 7-11s. They can be used to pay for MRT and bus fares, to rent a YouBike, to pay in certain taxis (not all) and to make purchases at chain stores that display the EasyCard logo by the cash register.
**Culture and Etiquette**
Money matters such as income and how much you paid for an item are not considered taboo, so you may be asked about things like this by Taiwanese friends. You can generally deflect these questions fairly easily if they make you uncomfortable, but remember that no offense was intended.

As a general rule, there is no tipping in the service industry. This includes restaurants, taxis, etc. An exception is sometimes made for hotel porters, tour guides, and beauty treatment providers, though these should only be small tips. Some upscale restaurants will automatically add a “service charge” to the bill. This is not optional, but it is usually clearly marked on the menu.

**Banking**
On September 12 and 13, the International Office has arranged to take students to the local Taipei Fubon Bank to sign up for bank accounts. It is highly recommended that you attend this event, because signing up for a bank account on your own can be difficult unless you speak Chinese. You should bring your passport, ARC (IO will give you your number if your card isn’t available yet), TMU student ID card, and 1000 NT$. The money is required to open the account, but it is not a deposit, fee, or minimum balance. The 1000NT will be available to you in your account once all the paperwork is processed. This is the account that your scholarship payments will be deposited into if you are on a scholarship.

If you prefer to open an account at a different bank, the requirements are likely to be similar. Essentially all banks have an English sign, but international banks are likely to have better English language support. Citibank (with a large branch just south of the Taipei City Hall MRT Station) is an example of a large international bank with confirmed English support, but most students choose a bank near campus.

**Transportation**

**Arriving in Taiwan**
**Taoyuan Airport:** The Taoyuan International Airport is the nation’s largest airport (the smaller Songshan airport is located in the city, but few students will arrive here). There are currently three ways to get to Taipei from the main airport: taxi, bus, and high-speed rail.

- **Bus:** This is the cheapest method of getting into the city. If you’re staying near Taipei Main Station, Taipei City Hall, or a number of other stops throughout the city then it may also be quite convenient. Buses depart from both terminals, with many different companies available. The stops will be listed in English at the booths. Prices range from 95 to 145NT. This can take as little as an hour, but often much longer.

- **High-Speed Rail:** Especially during rush hour, this is the fastest method of getting to Taipei. It may also be the most comfortable. Unfortunately, the HSR does not
go all the way to the airport. You must take a 30NT shuttle bus, which departs frequently from both terminals. This bus will take you to the Taoyuan HSR station, where you can board a train for 160 NTD to Taipei Main Station – a taxi from there to TMU is around 220NT. The shuttle bus takes about 15 minutes and the train takes 20 minutes regardless of time of day.

- **Taxi:** Unless you arrive during morning or evening rush hour, taxis can be the most convenient method to get from the airport to campus, though it is also the most expensive. You simply exit the airport and enter the taxi queue. Your driver may not speak English so please have your destination written or printed in Chinese. Expect to pay between 1200NT and 1500NT. The trip can take as little as 40 minutes with good traffic, and over 2 hours in bad traffic.

**Songshan Airport:**
Some students coming from nearby countries may fly into Songshan Airport. If you do, you’re in luck! Songshan Airport is connected to the city’s excellent rapid transit system, the MRT. Just follow the signs to the MRT station and you’re ready to go. You can get almost anywhere in the city for less than 40NT. See the following section on transportation for more MRT information.

**Getting Around Taipei**
**MRT:** The Taipei Rapid Transit System (more commonly known as the MRT) is one of the world’s best, and most affordable urban transit systems. This orientation packet should have a route map, though a number of stations near TMU will be added to the red line this year. Standard fares range from 20NT to 65NT, depending on the distance traveled. If you don’t have an EasyCard, you can pay with a token purchased at the vending machines in every station. There is an English menu available. You push the button for the station you’re going to, and then insert your money. Take the plastic token that it dispenses, and tap it against the sensor in the MRT entry gates. When you arrive at your destination, insert the token in the exit gate token deposit slot to be let out of the station. The last trains leave the terminal stations around midnight.

**Busses:** The bus system in Taipei may not be as sleek as the MRT, but it is very extensive and buses run quite frequently. The standard fare is 15NT, payable by cash or (discounted) with your Student EasyCard. When you get on the bus, look at the lit sign by the door. If it says “上車” then you should pay as you get on the bus. If it says “下車” then you should pay as you get off. If you have an especially long ride, it may say 上車 as you get on and 下車 as you get off. In this case, you should pay twice. Most (but not all) buses will have English on these signs telling you when to pay. It can be a bit confusing at first, but just watch what everyone else is doing! The service hours vary for each bus line. Check the signs at every bus station to see the operating hours in English, along with names of some major stops. There are far fewer buses on weekends.

**U-Bike:** If the MRT or busses aren’t an option for whatever reason, consider taking U-Bike! They are bright orange bicycles available to rent near TMU as well as at many MRT stations and landmarks. You simply register at one of the self-service kiosks (you’ll need an EasyCard and valid Taiwanese cell phone number), then tap your EasyCard on the post holding the bike you want. The first half hour of every
rental is free, and it’s only 10NT per half-hour after that. The bikes come with adjustable seats, lights, bells, baskets, and built-in locks. They’re a great way to get around the city late at night or to carry around heavy groceries.

**Taxis:** Taxis in Taipei are quite affordable, and if you have 4 people they can even be cheaper than taking the MRT sometimes. Fares start at 70NT, and you can get almost anywhere in the city for under 400NT. There is an additional 20NT surcharge late at night. Taxis are generally very honest and safe. Drivers generally don’t speak English, so addresses in Chinese can be a great help. You can also show the location on a smartphone map.

**Scooter:** After you’ve been in Taiwan for a while, you may wish to start driving a scooter. Foreigners can obtain licenses from the Taipei Motor Vehicles Office. For small scooters under 50cc, you need only take a written test. It is available in a number of languages, and there are computers in the testing centers where you can practice the test. Larger scooters also require a driving test. If you have an international license, it is possible to convert it to a Taiwanese license within 30 days of arrival. The nearest testing location is at No. 80, Section 5, Chéngdè Road, Taipei / 台北市承德路五段 80 號.

**Getting to TMU**
When it comes time to make your way to TMU, you’ve got a lot of options. You can take a taxi from anywhere in the city by telling them you want to go to 台北醫學大學 / Táiběi Yīxué Dàxué (Ty-bay Ee-Shway Dah-Shway, with emphasis on the third and fifth syllables). Show the driver the name written in Chinese. You can also take the M7 or 藍 5 (Blue 5) mini-buses from Taipei City Hall MRT Station, just outside Exit 2. The M7 stops slightly closer to school, but both come very close. You can take the M7 from Linguang MRT Station as well. If you’re looking for a free option and have a bit more time, the university hospital provides free shuttle buses from Liuzhangli MRT Station and Taipei City Hall Station. They leave from the same location as the paid buses, but will not accept standing passengers. The shuttles often fill up completely, so make sure you’re in line to get a seat. TMU has a U-Bike station just across the street from the north side of campus, so you can grab bikes at either City Hall or Liuzhangli and ride over. If the weather is nice, it’s a roughly 35-minute walk to City Hall and a 20-minute walk to Liuzhangli.

**TMU Housing**
There are two types of dorm room available to international students at TMU. Rooms are available in the three international dorms as well as the large local student dormitory. The three international dorms (A, C, and D) are located approximately 15 minutes’ walk from campus. They feature shared rooms and bathrooms, with different room arrangements. The prices vary depending on the location and how many roommates you want. More information is available at: http://io.tmu.edu.tw/Contents.php?MainDir=3&Sub2Dir=1&Sub3Dir=2 or by clicking on the “housing” link on the TMU English website’s new students page. In the local dorm, all rooms house four students in “lofted” furniture arrangements. Bathrooms are attached to each room. There are limited spaces available for international students in the local dormitory.
All TMU housing options have been marked on the attached campus area map. Their addresses are as follows:
Dorm A: #29-31, Lane 65, Leye Street (樂業街 65 巷 29-31 號)
Dorm B: #92-1, Alley 22, Lane 284, Wuxing Street (吳興街 284 巷 22 弄 92-1 號)
Dorm C: #9, Alley 4, Lane 583, Wuxing Street (吳興街 583 巷 4 弄 9 號)
Dorm D: #38, Fuyang Street (富陽街 38 號)

**Staying Healthy**

**Health Insurance**
You are required to have your own health insurance for your first months in Taiwan. If you do not have private health insurance or it does not apply in Taiwan, the school will help you apply for affordable temporary insurance until you’re eligible for National Health Insurance (NHI). If you use any of the services at TMU Hospital, be sure to bring your student ID card. There is a large student discount.

Once you have had your ARC for six months, you should apply for NHI. The International Office will assist in this process, and you will be contacted by email when it is the appropriate time. The monthly cost (749NT) will be automatically deducted from your scholarship if you receive one. Having NHI will allow you extremely affordable health care essentially anywhere in Taiwan. Be sure to bring your NHI card with you any time you seek health services.

**Sports and Fitness**
There are a number of options for staying in shape for TMU international students. The school has a swimming pool, sauna, and fitness center with weights and cardio equipment that is available for students to use. There is a 40NT entrance fee per use, though you can also purchase a semester membership for 1500NT.

The hours of operation for the swimming pool are as follows:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 05:30-09:00 and 17:30-21:00
Weekends: 07:00-11:00 and 14:00-18:00

The hours of operation for the gymnasium are as follows:
Monday-Friday: 17:30-21:00
Weekends: Closed
Monday-Friday during vacations: 09:00-12:00, 13:30-16:30, and 17:30-21:00
Weekends during vacations: Closed

**Fun Near Campus**
TMU is located just south of Taipei 101, the ATT4FUN shopping and dining complex, VieShow Cinemas, Eslite bookstore and mall, Shinkong Mitsukoshi department stores, and even more options opening in the near future. There are tons of great restaurants on the upper floors of ATT4FUN as well as in the basement food courts of Eslite and Shinkong Mitsukoshi. If you want to see a movie, show your TMU ID card for a
discount at VieShow Cinemas. Movies are almost always shown in their original language (subtitled in Chinese) with some English options. If you’re more interested in the party scene, the area has a number of lounges and dance clubs such as Myst, Stream, Spark and Room 18.

Tonghua night market is also very close to TMU. It’s about 10 minutes walk northwest of campus south of the intersection of Guangfu South Road (光復南路) and Jilong Road (基隆路). This market focuses on food and clothes. You can find everything from steak restaurants to 300NT party dresses, and a specialty is affordable women’s shoes. This night market is less crowded than some others so it can be a fun place to stroll around, munch on snacks, and hang out at with friends.

Food

Taiwan’s Cuisines
Taiwan’s restaurants offer different cooking styles using a huge variety of fresh ingredients, and draws heavily on Chinese, Japanese, and Western culinary traditions. Famous dishes include beef noodle soup, oyster omelets, bubble tea, hot pot, and hundreds more. Rice and noodles are staple foods, but by no means the only things available. (Check out CNN’s “40 Taiwanese Foods We Can’t Live Without” at http://travel.cnn.com/explorations/eat/40-taiwanese-food-296093.) Many restaurants have English menus (ask for them), and TMU’s resident food blogger prepared a handy guide to ordering from Chinese language menus that you can find at http://goo.gl/EiEwND.

Campus Area
TMU is located in a great part of Taipei for foods. Some of the options closest to school are shown on the map in your packet. A clickable map with more info is available at the TMU Campus Area Map project at http://goo.gl/maps/amNJa or via the TMU food Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/BeiYiMealtime. You’re welcome (and encouraged) to contribute to the maps or FB. If you want to share your favorite find, e-mail the information to TMUfood@gmail.com or just use the #TMUfood hashtag on Instagram or Facebook.

If you don’t want to leave campus, there are still choices. There is a food court in the basement of the United Medical Building (Back Building). These food stalls are supposed to have English menus, and the prices are great. There is a Starbucks near the main entrance to TMU Hospital. A healthy buffet style cafeteria in the hospital basement serves lunch only, and a smaller “LOHAS Café” serves healthy snacks and a few meal choices near the Chinese Traditional Medicine pharmacy. Two 7-Elevens (one on the TMU main plaza and one in the hospital) provide quick snacks or surprisingly tasty larger meals. Mr. J’s restaurant (run by the internationally famous pop star and actor Jay Chou) is right next to 7-Eleven, and offers a more upscale atmosphere and a nice lunch set menu. The Sun Merry bakery offers fresh pastries, coffees and sweet gift items in the hospital.
Special Diets
Many students at TMU adhere to special diets, whether for personal, health, cultural, or religious reasons. Several vegetarian restaurants are located near TMU, especially buffet format restaurants. One is across from the hospital emergency room, another is around the corner on the food street, and still other vegetarian restaurants are found further up Wuxing St. and on Zhuangjing. Many Buddhist vegetarian restaurants are marked with an ancient symbol that looks like a reversed swastika. If you find a good vegetarian restaurant, or a good veggie menu item anywhere else, post it to Facebook or Instagram with the #TMUveg hashtag so others can try it.

Muslim students should be aware that many restaurants cook food in pork fat and flavor their foods using non-halal ingredients. Unless the restaurants specifically state otherwise, assume that meat products were not slaughtered using halal methods. A number of halal restaurants are shown on the map found at http://goo.gl/maps/81Hxe. If you find good halal food options in Taipei, please post to Facebook or Instagram with the #TMUhalal hashtag.

Telephones
Mobile Phone Plans
Mobile phone service is absolutely critical for life in Taipei. Mobile phone with data service is recommended so that you can use maps, internet, translation applications and so on. A variety of plan types are available, though they’re generally split into pre-paid, contract, and “no contract post-paid” plans. Pre-paid plans are easy to obtain and very flexible. If you go back to your country for the summer, simply stop paying while you’re gone. However, many pre-paid services do not include data or only include a small amount of data. To sign up for a pre-paid plan, you’ll need two forms of identification from your home country. Your passport should be one of them. A driver’s license or similar ID is a good second option. Most major service providers (plus smaller providers such as 7-eleven) have a pre-paid option.

You can also get a temporary pre-paid SIM card at the airport upon arrival. Several options are available (including plans with unlimited data usage) to suit your needs at the telephone services counters in both terminals of Taoyuan Airport. These temporary plans are very convenient and can be extended indefinitely by purchasing more days of usage or minutes from a convenience store, but they tend to be fairly expensive in the long run.

If you will be using your phone’s data services heavily, you should choose a contract or post-paid plan. Contract plans are not very flexible, but can get you good deals on service and discounted new phones. The International Office will help you sign up for a contract with Taiwan Mobile on September 11. Details on these contract and phone prices are available at: http://www.tmu.edu.tw/english/files/archive/226_cfd4d8ce9.pdf or via the new students website on the TMU English page. The other main telecom companies (Chunghwa Telecom and FarEasTone) have contract plans available as well. However, contract plans may require deposits or Taiwanese co-signers, and they will often refuse to let you sign a 2-year contract unless you have a 2-year ARC. This policy seems to be unevenly enforced, so it may be worth asking.
Post-paid plans are roughly the same price as contract plans and are more flexible, but they do not grant access to discounts on new phones. If you’re bringing a phone or purchasing a used one, this method is recommended. A very flexible plan that lets you choose how many minutes/texts/MB you want is available from Chunghwa Telecom.

**Devices**
If you wish to bring your phone to Taiwan, know that it must be unlocked and able to accept a SIM card. Furthermore, it must be able to use the 900/1800 MHz frequency bands. You can google your phone’s specs to check which frequencies it supports. It’s easy to buy a phone in Taiwan. Some products will be slightly more expensive (e.g. a 10% increase over American prices for Apple products), but prices are generally fair. Used phones are available at steep discounts at the Shi Zi Lin Communication Mall (獅子林通訊廣場/ Shīzi lín tōngxùn guǎngchǎng) at 36 Xining South Road (西寧南路 36 號) near the Ximen MRT Station.

**Critical Apps**
There are a few applications that every smartphone user in Taipei should definitely have. All these apps are available in the iPhone App Store and Google Play.

- **Google Maps**: If you have an iPhone, be aware that the Apple maps program works poorly in Taipei. Google Maps has done a great job integrating public transit information, and knowing where you are is critical when you are new to a city.
- **Pleco**: This is probably the best Chinese dictionary application on the market. The base software is free, though some features cost extra. The most impressive feature is an OCR camera dictionary, where you hold your phone up to words and they’re automatically translated on-screen. Student pricing is available for bonus features.
- **Taipei Bus Tracker (台北等公車)**: It’s only available in Chinese, but it shows you how long you’ll have to wait for your bus at any given station with live updates. There is a GPS feature to find nearby stations as well as the option to bookmark favorite routes. You’ll likely have to search for it using the Chinese name.

Although this is not an application per se, it is recommended that you add Chinese language inputs to your phone. All iPhones and most Android phones will support this, and it allows you to “translate” pinyin into characters or draw characters to type them.

**Postal Services**
Taiwan’s postal system is fast, affordable to use, and almost never loses letters or packages. Most post offices are open during standard business hours during the week, and in the morning on Saturdays. The postal service in Taiwan is known as Chunghwa Post. The post office closest to TMU is 418-1 Zhuangjing Rd. (莊敬路 418-1 號).

If you live in an apartment or somewhere else where you have difficulty receiving packages, you may be able to have your purchases shipped to a convenience store for pick-up. Look for the convenience store delivery option on most Taiwanese online
retailers’ websites. This is even more helpful if you can’t or prefer not to pay online, because you can pay for your items when you pick them up at the store.

**Online Resources in English**

**Official TMU Websites:**
TMU New Students Website:
TMU Outwards English News:
TMU on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/TMU-Outwards-Taipei-Medical-University/119873921400517

**Unofficial TMU Facebook Pages:**
“BeiYi Mealtime” restaurant reviews for TMU international students:
https://www.facebook.com/BeiYiMealtime

**Useful Maps:**
TMU Campus Area Map:
http://goo.gl/maps/amNJa
Taipei Halal Restaurants Map:
http://goo.gl/maps/81Hxe
Taipei MRT Service Map:

**Important Government Websites:**
National Immigration Agency (available in several languages):
http://www.immigration.gov.tw
Ministry of Education:
http://english.moe.gov.tw
Taipei Motor Vehicles Office:

**Forums, Classifieds, and Travel Info for Foreigners:**
Forumosa Forums and Classifieds:
http://www.forumosa.com
Tealit Classifieds:
http://www.tealit.com
Wikitravel Taiwan Travel Information (available in other languages):
http://wikitravel.org/en/Taiwan

**Hashtags for Facebook and Instagram:**
General TMU news/info/photos: #TMU
Halal food near TMU, Muslim events, etc.: #TMUhalal
Food and restaurants for TMU international students: #TMUfood
Vegetarian food, restaurants, and news: #TMUveg
Feel free to make your own tags!