Experience Taiwan’s socioeconomic and cultural diversity as we visit 5 distinct communities across 6 separate localities, each with their own histories, traditions, and environments. Led by Professor Chiamei Hsia and assisted by her local travel partners, program logistics prioritize participant comfort and accessibility for transport and lodging.

Against the tensions and opportunities of globalization, modernization, and generational shifts in culture, how do local communities navigate authenticity, economic/environmental sustainability, and cultural preservation? Whether in Phoenix, AZ, or our sister city across the world, Taipei, there are lessons to be learned from—and shared with—the local businesses, social entrepreneurs, and intergenerational stakeholders that make up our vibrant local communities.

For an immersive and authentic study abroad experience curated and led by Assistant Professor Chiamei Hsia (PhD in Community Development from ASU Watts’ Department of Community Resources & Development), OLLI at ASU is delighted to invite you to join us in the cosmopolitan, modern democracy of Taiwan this coming May 13-24, 2024, for an 11-day program emphasizing authentic cultural and community exchange.

**Community Exchange**
- Experience Taiwan’s socioeconomic and cultural diversity as we visit 5 distinct communities across 6 separate localities, each with their own histories, traditions, and environments.
- Participate as an OLLI “foreign exchange student” in Taichung for an intergenerational workshop with current Taiwanese college students on the role of the university in tackling social issues.
- Meet with, and learn directly, from Taiwan’s youth leaders and entrepreneurs working to promote local socioeconomic growth.

**Authentic Culture**
- Explore Taiwan’s famous night markets and authentic local restaurants to experience dozens of delicious traditional foods such as BBQ skewers, fresh dumplings, and fresh mango shaved ice.
- Learn the art behind Taiwanese tea ceremony culture with a private tour of a local Oolong tea business.
- Explore Taiwan’s capital of ceramics, Yingge, to learn about the craftsmanship of traditional high-end pottery and ceramic art.

**Accessible Travel**
- Led by Professor Chiamei Hsia and assisted by her local travel partners, program logistics prioritize participant comfort and accessibility for transport and lodging.
- Air-conditioning, food options for those with dietary restrictions, and fluent English translation will be ensured throughout.

**TOTAL PROGRAM COST: $2450**
- 3 meals a day throughout the program, including local culinary excursions.
- All local transportation in private, air-conditioned vehicles.
- Private, guided tours at community partners & cultural sites.
- 11 nights of accommodations in modern, comfortable, and air-conditioned lodging.
- Participants are responsible for purchasing their flights and any personal travel and medical insurance.

Contact Nate Sawyer at nsawyer5@asu.edu or 602.543.5572 for a detailed trip itinerary, to reserve your spot with a deposit, and for any additional questions!
Program Design: Immersive Learning

Designed by Dr. Chiamei Hsia, our program is structured to offer participants a holistic, authentic, and community knowledge-driven look at Taiwan "from the ground up." With our core tenets of community exchange, authentic culture, and accessible travel, this study abroad experience focuses on connecting participants with grassroots organizations, local community-builders, and the "real people" that constitute each of the urban and rural localities we visit. These connections serve as our roadmap for immersive exploration of modern and traditional Taiwanese culture, Taiwan's diverse social and historical context, and its unparalleled natural beauty that locals have fought vigorously to protect.

Throughout our 11-day program, we will learn about, discuss, and critically examine:

- the affordances and constraints of globalization
- tensions in urban vs. rural development
- environmental and economic sustainability
- food security
- conservation of indigenous culture, and
- art as a vector point for social change.

Analyzing these topics through the lives of the local Taiwanese communities with which we connect, this program offers participants a unique window to reflect on our shared community challenges and opportunities all around the globe.
Trip Itinerary Overview

Our itinerary breakdown details major trip highlights and key locations. Please note that the program will also include: additional excursions to local historical and cultural sites, outdoor recreation activities to absorb the verdant splendor of Taiwan's natural beauty, curated meals to experience both traditional food and Taiwan's contemporary restaurant scene, and more!

We know that this OLLI study abroad experience is a unique opportunity and we want to help you make the most of it! Dr. Hsia is continuing to leverage her connections across the country as part of her work to deepen the learning and cultural exchange opportunities of our program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Taipei</td>
<td>Welcome to Taiwan! We begin our trip with a private city tour of major sites and areas in bustling Taipei. As Taiwan's urban, economic, and political capital, our tour of Taipei offers a window into intersecting trends affecting Taiwan. We will share a special welcome dinner featuring a variety of traditional Taiwanese dishes.</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>Qalang Smangus</td>
<td>We journey to nearby Hsinchu where we will visit the stunning beauty of Qalang Smangus, an indigenous community nestled in the mountain forests. We meet with local groups to learn about their development journey balancing economic growth with sustainable management of natural resources &amp; conservation of traditional ways of life.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Nan-pu</td>
<td>Continuing in Hsinchu, we travel to Nan-pu, an agricultural community showcasing organic farming methods alongside environmental education, to meet with local community leaders &amp; organizations. Keeping in mind water concerns impacting the American Southwest, we will learn how Nan-pu's community galvanized collective local action to restore a 100-years-old dam to solve their water crisis.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Lukang</td>
<td>Traveling a few hours down to the West coast, we visit Lukang - a former trade hub filled with red-tiled, curving lanes. Modernism and urbanization pressures led to the decline of this harbor town, but young entrepreneurs have been organizing new venues and opportunities to restore its former glory. These young leaders will showcase their social innovations before we explore the town!</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Chiang-Hua</td>
<td>In Chiang-Hua, we meet with, and learn directly from, a former tech company manager who switched careers to be an organic soybean farmer. From zero sales to record sales during the pandemic, we’ll get a close-up look in this &quot;agricultural classroom&quot; and analyze the intersections of sustainable agriculture, food security, and family.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Da-Mao-Pu</td>
<td>Traveling further inland, we head to the greenery of Da-Mao-Pu, where a local art gallery has invited our group for a close-up workshop on art as social intervention and the role of architectural restoration in community building. We will also learn about Taiwan’s Hakka culture with a curated array of delicious local foods and an exploration of the local community’s history.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Zhushan</td>
<td>We journey to Nantou County’s nationally renowned Yoshan Tea Cultural House for a private class on everything tea. Our partners will cover the history of Taiwanese tea before giving us a hands-on lesson on their tea production processes, the sociocultural and economic significance of tea in Taiwan, and the exquisite art behind each cup.</td>
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<td>9-10</td>
<td>Taichung</td>
<td>We head to Taichung, Taiwan’s second largest city, where we’ll be “foreign exchange students” at a local university. As part of our tour of the city and its renovations to the old commercial district, we will share an intergenerational class with current students to analyze &amp; share ideas on social entrepreneurship &amp; the social responsibility of academic institutions. On the second day, we attend a private workshop with Taiwanese artists at a local community center to study Taiwanese folk art including traditional instruments. As a unique cross-generational experience, we will attend and help support a community art gathering with some of the very same university students we study with!</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Yingge</td>
<td>Our final major stop, we head to the capital of pottery and ceramics in Taiwan, beloved for its unique artistic atmosphere filled with over 200 years of traditional pottery history. We will learn about the history and techniques behind traditional clay molding and porcelain. We will then explore Yingge Old Street, filled with over 800 ceramic artisans and more authentic cuisine for us to enjoy. We’ll return the next day to Taipei for participants flying home.</td>
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