

Harvard-KMU Exchange Program 2016 Student Interview Form

Dear all,

Thanks to all your contribution and dedication to the course, the 2016 Harvard-KMU exchange program—International Field Experience on Occupational Health and Safety was a big success. President Ching-Kuan Liu of Kaohsiung Medical University was really impressed by the course and would like you to share your experience with KMU faculty, students and alumni. We would like to ask you couple questions via this interview form and would gather your response to publish in the KMU Alumni Journal , 高醫人. We may also translate your response into Chinese in the article.

Please kindly return the form before January 31th, 2016. You do not have to answer all of the questions, only the ones with asterisk (*) are required. Your inputs are greatly valued.

Sincerely yours,

Pi-I Debby Lin
Course Teaching Assistant

1. Can you tell me your name and your program at Harvard? *

Pei-Lun Kuo
MPH QM (quantitative methods)

2. Why are you interested in the Harvard-KMU Exchange program? *

It's my first field experience in occupational health. Also, though I grow up in Taiwan, I can rarely get these precious experiences without taking the course. Being a Taiwanese with a hope to prevent employees in Taiwan from getting occupational injuries, I'd like to further realize both the role of physicians in the occupational health and the role of researches and policy-making in the industries.

3. What was your impression of Kaohsiung Medical University and Taiwan after the 14-day exchange course?

KMU contributes to the health of the employees in many aspects, especially in occupational health. What's more, many experts with previous training in KMU provide workers in Southern Taiwan, center of heavy industries, with both prevention programs and treatment programs.

4. What do you think is the best quality of KMU students? How can KMU improve and what can the school and our alumni do to the fostering the growth of our students?

KMU students are friendly, creative, considerate, and diligent.

Actually, many KMU students had other final reports/exams at the same time. Though they were always energetic even if they had other school duties during the course, it would be better if KMU can modify current policy to make sure these students finish their finals in other courses at the beginning of this program. Also, most of KMU students didn't have opportunities to take part in the courses in Taipei, so if possible, I'd recommend the school and alumni supported KMU students to participate the visits to the EPA and Taiwan ILOSH.

5. What are the similarity you have noticed between Harvard and KMU students?

Both of them are eager to learning as more as possible from their classmates and showing their critical thinking during the discussion.

6. What difference have you noticed between Harvard and KMU students? In your opinion, how can the KMU students learn from Harvard students and vice versa?

Most KMU students are too shy to ask questions directly during the Q & A session. Thus, I recommend KMU students try to ask their questions they get after critical thinking without hesitation. Also, Harvard students can learn the culture difference between Taiwan and their own country, and then provide KMU students appropriate bridge to know Western learning and discussion style.

7. What can you bring back to Harvard or your country from this exchange experience?

From this exchange experience, I learned a lot from how Taiwan government makes improvement in both occupational and environmental health though Taiwan is famous for heavy industries, especially through education, proper punishment, and adequate incentives. However, we can also see the conflicts between pursuing higher profits from industries and protection of environment and occupational health, and the difficulties in balance between these two sides.

8. What was the most value lesson you learn from the exchange program?

General understanding of the environmental and occupational health and on-site experiences are the most valuable lessons. In addition, we realize the potential achievements in decreasing environmental and occupational injuries through technology improvement, such as what Taiwan ILOSH showed us, and what many industries showed us in their training centers. What's more, through this course, we can see how closely research is linked to the practice, i.e. policy making, prevention strategies,... , in this field.

9. Do you have any recommendation for the course?

Generally, the course is really well organized. I think it's better for students know which industry they will inspect, and the contact person of the industry in advance. With these information, students can become much more well prepared when they visit the industry, and can make the inspection more effective and more efficient.

10. What did you like the most about Taiwan?

The climate, the culture, the convenience, and the people.

11. Please pastes any pictures you would like to include in the article on the form.





12. Is there any other thing you would like to include in the article?
I really appreciate the efforts the professors in Harvard and KMU make and the strong supports from KMU Board to lead a so wonderful program.