Exchange programs provide an enriched lifestyle for students hoping to experience different cultures. Po-Yuan Huang, a 21-year-old fourth year university student, moved from Taiwan to the U.S. in August 2012 for a year to study.

“I had always wanted to be an exchange student because I believe that this would be a fantastic experience for me,” Huang said. “I can obtain [a] different learning experience and meet many foreign friends. I really enjoy sharing my own culture and learning different cultures from them.”

Huang has taken advantage of numerous opportunities for exchange students in the U.S., including Temple’s Global Living Learning Community housing program and TemPAL, a program that encourages Temple alumni to help international students transition into their new culture. Huang said he has also gotten involved in Temple’s Taiwanese Student Association.

“Temple offers a lot of special programs for international students which enrich our lives and enable [us] to experience plenty of things other than studies,” he said.

Huang currently lives in Temple Towers with an American student. He said living closely with an American student has enhanced his English ability and helps him to “learn [about] different experiences while chatting with students from different countries.”

For Huang, he said meeting different people and learning through cultural conversations is a highlight of being an exchange student. His main advice for prospect exchange students is to be open-minded and flexible to new experiences – that’s what has helped him along the way.

Huang, a business administration major, has a sincere interest in how businesses operate, especially in how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of supply chains, he said. Luckily for Huang, studying at Temple has given him a unique educational experience, particularly focused on his field of study.

“Teachers usually deliver lectures as well as offer open spaces for discussions, while schools in Taiwan usually offer pure lectures, and in my opinion, business courses are best taught in the form of lectures with discussions,” he said. “There’s more interaction between teacher and student, which I really enjoy.”

Huang also said he thinks being an exchange student at Temple, with its diverse student population, will benefit him when doing business with foreign companies or even if he ends up working for a multinational company.

Huang will return to his home school, National Taiwan University, after this semester. As for his future plans, he wants to get a job related to supply chain management, but still must serve for one year in the military after he graduates.

Although Huang is thinking of going to graduate school, he still said he thinks, “being an exchange student will be one of the most fantastic experiences in the school life.”