Congrats on choosing to study abroad in Taiwan! In addition to any cultural and social considerations you may have to make before and during your time abroad, you should consider how you want your actions to affect the ecosystems and communities that you will be a part of. This guide will walk you through ways to consciously and sustainably study abroad in Taiwan, including your options to shop locally, ride public transit, and give back to the communities you will be staying in.
TAIPEI

Public Transportation

- Taipei’s extensive public transportation network makes getting around the city easy and affordable. Rides on the subway are priced based on distance travelled and will cost between NT $20-65 (US $.64-2.07). The public buses are also a popular mode of transportation around Taipei and a ticket will cost at least NT $15 (US $.48).

Food Options

- Dragon fruit, passion fruit, pears, pomelos, and persimmons are all in season in the summer and fall. In the winter and spring, strawberries, plums, tomatoes, and jujubes are in season. Year-round, you can find fresh and in-season pineapples and papayas. Remember to shop locally and in-season for the freshest and cheapest produce!

Volunteering

- Taipei is a large city with many volunteering options for all interests. It was previously illegal for foreigners to volunteer in Taiwan without sponsorship from a specific organization, but those laws have been lifted and those without sponsorship can now volunteer on beach cleanups, in animal shelters, and in other informal settings.

Recycling and Thrifting

- Taiwan flea markets are a great place to find secondhand clothing and other goods. Check out Tianmu Square on Friday and Saturday nights and the Fuhe Bridge Flea Market on weekends.
- Taiwan has very few public trashcans, so be aware that it may be difficult to find a place to throw out trash or recycling.