The work I did:

• Worked primarily with the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei’s Publications team, which produces the Chamber’s monthly business journal, *Taiwan Business TOPICS*.

• Wrote multiple in-depth (2,000 word) articles for the *TOPICS*’ September and October issues; research for articles included interviewing industry leaders.

• Wrote ten short articles highlighting the most important policy recommendations of the Chamber’s various committees in the 2017 *Taiwan White Paper*, the primary policy advocacy tool for American business interests in Taiwan.

• My published work from the internship can be found here: [https://topics.amcham.com.tw/author/marinafinley/](https://topics.amcham.com.tw/author/marinafinley/)
The AmCham 2017 summer interns (from Princeton, Brown, USC and the University of Manchester):
Most rewarding aspects of my work experience:

• The opportunity to interview and learn from successful business leaders across industries was invaluable, both personally and professionally!

• My Mandarin Chinese language skills improved dramatically. Living in Taipei, I was completely immersed in Chinese. My work helped improve my language skills as well: while the AmCham office functions primarily in English, I did get to practice speaking Mandarin with my Taiwanese colleagues and some of the companies I researched had reports in Mandarin only, so I learned new, niche business vocabulary, such as “profit capability” (獲利能力) and “return on investment” (投資回報率).
I am extremely grateful for the enriching experiences I had this summer at AmCham and in Taipei. I gained in-depth knowledge of U.S.-Taiwan business relations, as well as the intersection of business and public policy at large. My work with AmCham has taught me the crucial importance of business advocacy and development, and I hope this experience can serve as a launchpad for future opportunities in Asia.
Personal:

Besides the enriching learning experiences offered by AmCham, I also benefited from the wonderful cultural immersion of living in Taipei. Taiwan is much more in line with Westerners’ standards for amenities and infrastructure than much of mainland China, so the transition from the West to Taiwan is relatively easy, especially for those who do not have extensive experience with still-developing Asian societies.

In addition, Taiwan is beautiful! Public transportation is extremely convenient and economical, food is cheap and delicious, and there are so many beautiful places to visit, both in the city of Taipei and within a few hours’ travel for weekend day trips.
Some photos from my travels around Taiwan: