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No. 4

 NATIONAL TAIWAN NORMAL UNIVERSITY

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CONTENT

In the News

- 2 Valuing Student Rights & Forwarding International Development
- 4 Ongoing Progress and Building International Competitiveness
- 5 Successful Year of Rich Academic Exchange
- 6 Moving Up in International Rankings Four Years Running
- 7 NTNU Chinese Language Programs Find Fans in Southeast Asia
- 8 Taiwan's First College of Teacher Education an All-Around Success
- 9 A Display of International Flavor and Partnership- International Cultural Festival

Universal Connection

- 12 **My NTNU Love Story**
Juliano S. Parena Jr.
- 18 **My Experience in NTNU**
Maria Pineiro Chapela
- 22 **My Student Life at NTNU:
Helping Me Freely Be Myself**
Jeong Hyeonhui
- 26 **An Opportunity That Changed My Life**
-Kevin Kockelkoren

Campus Life

- 32 **Classroom Emphasis on Practical Application Has Clarified My Future Direction**
- 34 **Enjoying the Campus Environment of NTNU**
- 36 **Extremely Grateful for the Assistance of My Student Counselor**
- 38 **NTNU Is Well Known in Japan**
- 40 **Inspiring New Citizens to Choose NTNU**
- 41 **A Liberal and Open Education Leads to Profound Understanding**
- 42 **International Conference Brings a Sense of Achievement**
- 43 **NTNU Professors Kindling the Fire of Academic Enthusiasm**

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National Taiwan Normal University

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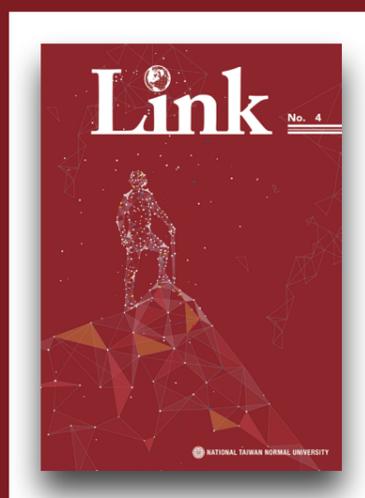
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NEWSLETTER

In the News 1.

Valuing Student Rights & Forwarding International Development

Newly Sworn in NTNU President Dr. Cheng-chih Wu Lays Out Vision

Department of Adult and Continuing Education | Chiu Yu

On February 22, 2018, NTNU welcomed in its new president, Dr. Cheng-chih Wu. Dr. Wu said that during his tenure as NTNU president, he would work to deepen the university's international connections, as well as its presence among the international community.

Dr. Wu offered several priorities for his upcoming tenure. They included cultivating and recruiting outstanding professors and professionals in fields of research, teaching, and school services; ensuring academic and administration departments maintain students as their central focus; strengthening diversified links with industry partners; fostering programs that elevate students' employability; and offering students diverse avenues for future development.

As for increasing NTNU's presence among the international community, Dr. Wu said the university will take the lead in upgrading school services and facilities in order to meet the goals of an internationally friendly campus. It will also look to strengthen academic cooperation with internationally-based students and teachers as a valuable academic resource for NTNU students. Dr. Wu hopes these steps towards further internationalization will help increase the mobility and comfort of NTNU students on the international stage and encourage them to look overseas to enhance their future competitiveness. Dr. Wu also hopes to build a strong alumni network, with alumni to play a major supporting role in university affairs.

Dr. Wu noted that during his tenure as Vice President of NTNU, he actively promoted various international exchange programs. He was responsible for the planning and execution of many school-based development programs, as well as the creation of academic exchange partnerships with several internationally renowned universities. He also established training curriculums targeting the development of teaching professions, as well as leadership skills in professors and administrators.

Reiterating the importance of cross-domain integration, under the aegis of "exploring new knowledge and fostering outstanding talent," Dr. Wu said he would continue to promote the transformation of NTNU with the goal of elevating NTNU's standing among the international community. Through international academic cooperation and student/teacher exchange programs, Dr. Wu says he hopes to increase NTNU's international visibility and offer students and teachers access to abundant academic resources through which they may broaden their international horizons.



In the News 2.

NTNU University Benchmarking

A Key to Ongoing Progress and Building International Competitiveness

Department of Human Development and Family Studies | Wen-hsuan Wang

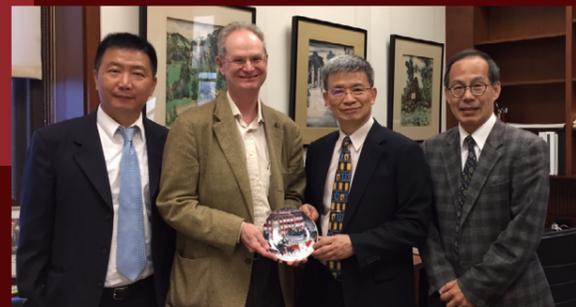
Three years ago, NTNU kicked off a university benchmarking plan, selecting one of the world's top universities, Pennsylvania State University (PSU), as its benchmarking partner. PSU is a leading research institution in the field of education and shares many similarities with NTNU in terms of research fields and school development, making it an ideal partner.

One of fruits of this academic partnership with PSU was the outline of new curriculums for NTNU's freshman-level general courses in 2016. Course goals over the semester now include fostering adaptive development, helping students plan their new life at university, promoting understanding of the meaning of higher education, and assisting students in their search for future career directions.

In 2017, NTNU and PSU met to discuss the policy launch of One Department, One Benchmark. At the conference's conclusion, results were implemented in the assessment protocols within each department. Additionally, each department was asked to find a suitable benchmarking partner. Outside of helping NTNU become a world-class university and offering students and faculty better university services, benchmarking has helped elevate and ingrain international perspectives within NTNU's academic research and school administrative departments.

NTNU's benchmarking plan is currently ongoing, as NTNU continues to study and learn from some of the world's foremost academic institutions. Sharing between universities occurs in areas of both student and academic affairs, including: freshman general courses, freshman counseling, tutoring, dorm management, teacher/student curriculum exchange, alumni relations and fundraising, online degree programs, etc.

Alongside these efforts, at the beginning of each semester, academic directors and faculty meet for a series of training activities part of the Flying Geese Camp: Academic Leadership Development Program. In turn, they lead the push for further on-campus internationalization. At the end of each semester, the same participants gather to share reflections and the results of their efforts to promote internationalization in their individual offices or departments. Such activities not only help academic instruction at NTNU grow as an organic whole, but also knit together the efforts of individual departments to help NTNU compete on the world stage.



In the News 3.

A Year in Review

A Hugely Successful Year of Rich Academic Exchange

Department of Adult & Continuing Education | Jia-ju Lei

Over the past two years, NTNU has actively worked to establish a wide range of academic exchange opportunities with several of the world's top universities. These have included the signing of academic cooperation agreements and the co-hosting of international conferences and symposiums. This cooperation between NTNU and its academic partners, in turn, has become an excellent academic resource for faculty and students, while also further expanding NTNU's presence on the international stage.

In 2017, NTNU and the College of Humanities at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), signed a three-year academic cooperation agreement. As per the agreement, every year three NTNU students are invited to study at UCLA, while UCLA graduate students are eligible for fieldwork fellowships at NTNU. The two institutions will also offer short-term faculty exchanges to conduct research, establish and/or strengthen academic relationships, and give public guest lectures. Also in 2017, NTNU signed a student exchange agreement with UC Berkley, allowing three NTNU students per year to enroll in a UC Berkley summer session and receive a subsidy while doing so. In Asia, NTNU and Japan's Kyushu University agreed to each provide five spots for exchange students and take turns holding academic seminars on a yearly basis; while in Europe, NTNU signed a MOU with Belgium's University Libre de Bruxelles. Later, in October 2017, representatives of Pennsylvania State University visited NTNU, with the two institutions sharing the results of their benchmarking initiative. And in March 2018, Simone Fraser University visited NTNU to sign a MOU, signaling a commitment to continuing the institutions' student exchange programs, academic seminars, and other related academic activities.

NTNU has a rich tradition of research and results in the field of science education, both at home and abroad. In March 2018, NTNU's Graduate Institute of Information and Computer Education, together with Uppsala University's Department of Information Technology, held their first ever symposium on computing education. Over the course of the symposium, the two universities discussed research results in the areas of programing design, game-based computational thinking, and education on Information security. The same year, NTNU and the National Taiwan Science Education Center signed an academic exchange and cooperation agreement, with NTNU pledging to send select faculty or students to the Science Education Center to help promote science education and its popularization. For its part, the Science Education Center will offer students from various NTNU departments internship or work-study opportunities.

In light of Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, NTNU brought together five of Taiwan's top public universities including, National Taiwan University (NTU), National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST), National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), National Tsing Hua University (NTHU), and National Chengchi University (NCCU) in the establishment of The Taiwan Strategic Alliance for Colleges of Education and Humanity. This strategic alliance unites the resources of each university in the goal of forwarding academic exchange with the top universities of the Southeast Asian region. As part of these efforts, in November 2017, NTNU signed an academic cooperation MOU with the University of the Philippines, with the two institutions later holding an academic exchange forum. In addition to expanding exchange opportunities between Taiwan and the Philippines in the areas of education and the humanities, NTNU has also invited delegates from higher education institutions in Southeast Asia to visit Taiwan to deepen educational and academic cooperation between the two sides.



In the News 4.

Success Among Peers

NTNU Continues to Move Up in International Rankings Four Years Running

Department of East Asian Studies | Cheng-liang Kuo

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a London-based higher education analyst company, releases an annual report ranking universities and departments worldwide. In its 2017/2018 QS World University Rankings, NTNU was ranked 289 out of 4000 schools—a jump of 21 places over the previous year. In fact, over the last three years, NTNU has seen the highest jump in rankings of any university in Taiwan. It is also currently one of the top three universities in the world in terms of climb in rankings.

The QS rankings place a heavier emphasis on a university's international standing, and NTNU's rise in the rankings certainly highlights the success of its recent efforts in internationalization. In the 2018 QS World University Rankings, NTNU leapfrogged 196 spots to reach number 289. While in the category of internationalization, its success has been even more apparent, with NTNU jumping 125 spots to come in at number 122.

In the QS World University Rankings by Subject, NTNU has seen its performance in the subject of education lead domestic universities four years running, showcasing NTNU's strength and continued efforts in the field. This year, the QS Rankings also added the subject of Library and Information Management, in which NTNU currently ranks 29th worldwide.

NTNU has long embraced international cooperation with its partner and sister institutions through sister-school experience sharing and visits, student exchange programs, and the co-hosting of international symposiums and conferences. NTNU is also home to Taiwan's oldest and most storied Chinese language program. Every academic quarter, the Mandarin Training Center accepts 1700 students from over 70 different countries.

NTNU has striven to create an excellent study environment for its overseas students, from its NTNU International Youth Group volunteers, specialized tutors and counselors, and tailored Chinese language curriculums for overseas Chinese students, to outreach programs with NTNU alumni residing and working in Taiwan. Its efforts have been recently acknowledged by the Ministry of Education, which recognized NTNU as an "Overseas Student Guidance University of Excellence." Simply put, NTNU is fast becoming acknowledged as the first choice for many when looking to study overseas in Taiwan.



In the News 5.

Promoting Taiwan's New Southbound Policy

NTNU CSL Program Attracts Fans in Southeast Asia

Department of Chinese | Yu-hsin Feng

NTNU continues to actively cooperate with the plans and programs of the government's New Southbound Policy, focusing further resource integration in its growing cooperation with countries highlighted in the new policy. In addition to various academic cooperation and exchange programs developed by its departments and graduate institutes, NTNU also heads academic teams which visit the region to recruit students. The result has been an 10% uptick over the past two years in the number of students from Southeast Asia studying at NTNU. Currently, two students from the Philippines have graduated from NTNU and are now back in the Philippines engaged in the teaching profession.

NTNU is world leader in the field of Chinese language instruction and the preferred choice for many professors in the Philippines interested in developing their Chinese language competency further. NTNU is also a favorite among the overseas Chinese business community. At the recent Taiwan Expo 2017 in the Philippines, NTNU's booth was filled with Taiwanese parents looking to send their children to NTNU to brush up on their Chinese proficiency. Stories like this point to NTNU's growing reputation for professional excellence in the field of Chinese language instruction in Asia and beyond.

Currently the departments and graduate institutes of NTNU's College of Liberal Arts, College of Science, College of Education, and College of International Studies and Social Sciences, continue to expand cooperation opportunities with the countries of the New Southbound Policy. These included co-hosting academic symposiums, the signing of future academic exchange agreements at the university level, and assisting students in finding internships at local institutions. These, among other mutual exchange activities, have been extremely conducive in furthering the development of long-term cooperation between all parties.

For example, students of NTNU's Department of Chinese as a Second Language recently traveled to a vocational school in Thailand's Chiang Mai to hold a Chinese language training workshop, offering local students a study curriculum not previously seen in Thailand. While the Department of Life Science regularly invites students from Thailand's Chiang Mai University to attend its summer session lab course. Regarding academic cooperation, NTNU's College of Science and Da La Salle University of the Philippines, NTNU's College of Liberal Arts and Indonesia's Gadjah Mada University's College of Geography, and NTNU's Department of Asian Studies and Malaysia's University Tunku Abdul Rahman's Institute of Chinese Studies, have all signed MOUs promising to deepen future exchange and cooperation. Upon this solidly built foundation of trust and exchange, the future of NTNU's outreach in the region look bright.



In the News 6.

Teacher Education and Career Services at NTNU

Taiwan's First College of Teacher Education an All-Around Success

Department of Human Development and Family Studies | Ying-chien Hong

Recently, NTNU's College of Teacher Education received International Baccalaureate's (IB) international teacher program certification in the areas of International Education and Mandarin Education. The IB certificates are in the form of course credits and available to undergraduate or master's students of the College of Education, or those with previous teaching credentials.

Students who have met all the required credits required by the IB program can apply to the IB to receive an international teaching certificate. Once this certificate has been awarded, students are eligible to teach in any IB recognized school. Currently IB has curriculum taught by IB teachers in almost 5000 schools globally. Students with IB certification are extremely competitive in the international marketplace with abundant job opportunities to choose from.

In order to deploy teaching resources in the most advantageous way possible, curriculums and teaching resources previously spread out among assorted departments and graduate institutes have recently been systematically brought together under the aegis of the College of Teacher Education. By concentrating all teaching resources and energy under the College of Teacher Education in a more focused and planned manner, it is possible to elevate the quality of interactions between teachers and students, as well as their competitiveness on the international stage.

Over the past few years, NTNU has actively encouraged students to take part in corporate internships, either at home or abroad. The results of these internships have been lauded by students and businesses alike. In one example, the College of Teacher Education annually selects four pre-service teachers for an internship at the University of British Columbia. Students go on to intern at local middle and elementary school affiliated kindergartens. In addition to assisting teachers with the preparation of teaching materials, students also experience teaching their own classes.

The 2018 NTNU jobs fair saw the participation of 80 business from the industries of science and technology, culture and education, and the media among others. Every business which applied to participate in the NTNU jobs fair came with the goal of finding a new, marketable talent. The reception of the jobs fair in the business community highlights a growing confidence in NTNU's brand of education philosophy—a philosophy which ensures students graduate with marketable skills and exceptional career readiness. In the future, NTNU's educational brand is sure to create even more word of mouth in employers and higher levels of professional competency in its graduates.

In the News 7.

NTNU International Cultural Festival

A Display of International Flavor and Partnership

Department of Civic Education and Leadership | Yen-yu Wang

In March 2018, the NTNU International Cultural Festival was held over the space of three days at the NTNU Campus. The theme of the 2018 festival was national flowers from countries around the world. International students from 10 countries and five continents created a total of 14 stalls—each filled with international flavor and fun.

The 14 stalls were designed by NTNU's international student body to introduce their home countries in fun and memorable ways. The stalls offered local NTNU students and faculty the chance to learn more about different cultures, while local students had the chance to transmit some of Taiwan's customs and cultural to the overseas students. All in all, this event stood—and continues to stand—as one of the highlights of cultural exchange between Taiwanese and international students.

At every International Cultural Festival, local students play a part in helping international student set up their stalls, while also organizing performances and competitions in which international students can participate. Activities include singing competitions, as a way increase enthusiasm in studying Chinese, and cooking contests, which offer international students a medium through which to show off their cooking skills—and local students a chance to experience the amazing flavors of international cuisine! In sum, the activities of the NTNU International Cultural Festival offer international students a venue through which to express themselves, as well as abundant opportunities for cultural exchange, thereby enriching student life at NTNU as a whole.

The International Cultural Festival is organized by NTNU with international students in mind. The goal is to assist international students in expanding their social and cultural network while studying in Taiwan. The event also allows the international students of NTNU a chance to interact further with the community outside the university's gates. By working together to ensure the festival is a success, local and international students come to share ideas and learn from one another, thereby expanding international perspectives and horizons in all parties.



An aerial night photograph of a city street. The street is filled with light trails from cars and motorcycles, creating a sense of motion. On the left side, there are several trees and a building with a prominent gabled roof. The sky is dark, and the city lights create a vibrant, colorful scene. The text 'UNIVERSAL CONNECTION' is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image.

***UNIVERSAL
CONNECTION***



My NTNU Love Story

Department of Mathematics | Juliano S. Parena Jr.

Changing Landscapes

“Nothing in this world is permanent except change” so goes one of the age-old sayings that has proven to be timeless. In the Philippines where I came from, there was a radical shift in the offering of our basic education system. What used to be a 10-year program was deemed insufficient for the Filipino graduate to compete with their counterparts from other parts of the globe. As such, the decision of the government was to extend this basic education curriculum to a 12-year program that now included a senior high school level to be at par with world standards. The implementation of the program meant that there would be “gap years” where those who were supposed to go into college should instead take senior high school.

I am a lecturer at University of Santo Tomas teaching general mathematics and computer programming courses at the College of Science for seven years; and this education system reform has large implications to junior faculty members like me. As teachers who are handling these general courses, we will be the ones who would be adversely affected because those courses are now going to be taught at the Senior High School level, thus leaving us with no subject matter to handle; and I was one of those who might not have a teaching load during the gap years. While some dreaded this scenario, others in our department viewed this as the perfect opportunity to

broaden our horizons and improve our skill set as instructors in the tertiary level. Something must be done so that faculty members would make good use of this circumstance, after all, what are you supposed to do when there is no one to teach? Improve yourself of course! Retool yourself to be ready when the students come back. One of the best ways to do that is to pursue our doctorate degrees.

I Feel In Love Not Once but Twice

As cheesy as it may seem, but I believe that destiny played a very big part of my coming to Taiwan and specifically to National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) to study. I have been to the country twice before albeit in different capacities. The first time was for my vocation, that of serving my community back home as a volunteer fire fighter. The Taiwanese government was gracious enough to host a weeklong firefighting training at the National Fire Agency in Nantou. There I fell in love with how the Taiwanese people valued safety, how they made sure that they could provide emergency care at a moment's notice. My second opportunity to come here was on a benchmarking activity by the Mathematics Department of the College of Science, University of Santo Tomas, with different universities in Taiwan. This time I was wearing my academic hat. I was

smitten again by the way the Taiwanese education system valued its academics, on how they invested in research and development, on how they encouraged their researchers to collaborate, explore, and innovate. So when opportunity knocked, and opened its doors for the chance to take my doctorate in Taiwan, it was not a hard decision to make, after all who would not want to take the time to get to know the country better, to mingle with its people longer, and to make our bond stronger.

My Brush with Destiny

It was during one of the international symposiums organized by our department in the College of Science University of Santo Tomas, that I was able to meet Professor Hsiang-lin Liu, the Chairman of Physics department of NTNU. During his talk, he spent quite a significant time to introduce NTNU to the students, at that time he was recruiting students of our Applied Physics program to take their internship from NTNU during the summer break.

This was where I first had an in-depth look at NTNU and what it had to offer to its students who wish to pursue their studies there. The students of course were excited, but behind the scenes, Professor Liu was also active in looking for interested faculty members who wish to take their PhD at NTNU. He was discussing this with two of our physics faculty members, when I had the chance to ask him if he has knowledge if the mathematics department has an opening. He said that he will ask as soon as he gets back, because he might not be able to answer all my inquiries. True to his word, a week after his visit, I received an email where he introduced me to the then chair of the department, Professor Jein-shan Chen. Professor Chen was enthusiastic to answer my questions regarding student life, scholarships opportunities, research, and everything else in between. He invited me to apply to the department's PhD program. My

colleagues and superiors also encouraged me to try it out, and with the final push coming from my family, I submitted my application and waited for the results.

Mine was a peculiar case because my master's was in mathematics education and the program that I wanted to pursue was for applied mathematics. The former was more concerned on the educational side of teaching mathematics, and as such it was a balance between education and math courses; whereas the latter was more into deeper mathematics, studying its foundations, working more closely with analysis on how mathematics may be applied to solve real world problems. Thus, I had to look back to my undergraduate studies, and the closest experience that I had which closely resembles what I am about to embark on at NTNU was my course in Operations Research which fit perfectly with the specialization of my soon to be adviser Prof. Chen which is Optimization. When news from my colleague reached me that I was accepted to NTNU along with him, I knew then that this would be an exciting change in my life. And so, I started to fix and submit all of my documents and got ready to face this new chapter head on.

When NTNU Gave Me a Chance

When I learned about my acceptance into the PhD program under the Mathematics Department, I wasn't sure at first if I will go through with it. Yes, applying and being accepted is one thing, but to actually devote the next three to four years of your life, away from what you are accustomed, far from your family and friends, those are actually a lot of things to consider. I even waited for the final day of confirmation before I submitted my reply. I had to do a thorough soul searching, to be sure if I was up to it. I first considered the distance, and I knew that compared to other countries, Taiwan was relatively near the Philippines, it was easier to go home when I wanted to. Next, I thought of the culture and its people, and I remembered all the wonderful experiences that I had during my past two visits to the country, so it was again another check.

At this time also, the Office of International Affairs announced a special scholarship program of the government called the Elite Scholarship Program that I am eligible to apply since I was a lecturer at the University of Santo Tomas, this surely enticed me and made the decision easier. Plus of course, communication was not a problem, due to my great experience of fast internet speeds in the country. This means that I could easily stay in contact with



My NTNU Love Story

my family and this meant a lot because it would be the first time in our family that someone will be away for so long, and it's unimaginable if I do not have a means of constant communications with them. I have heard of several people who did not finish their program because of homesickness, thus being able to maintain constant communication, and the fact that it's just a 2-and-a-half-hour flight from Taiwan to the Philippines made my decision to push through with my studies at NTNU easier. So, I made up my mind to pursue my doctorate studies at NTNU. I would not let this opportunity to be part of one of the best universities in Asia (QS Ranking #56), and a leader in research, to just slip by.

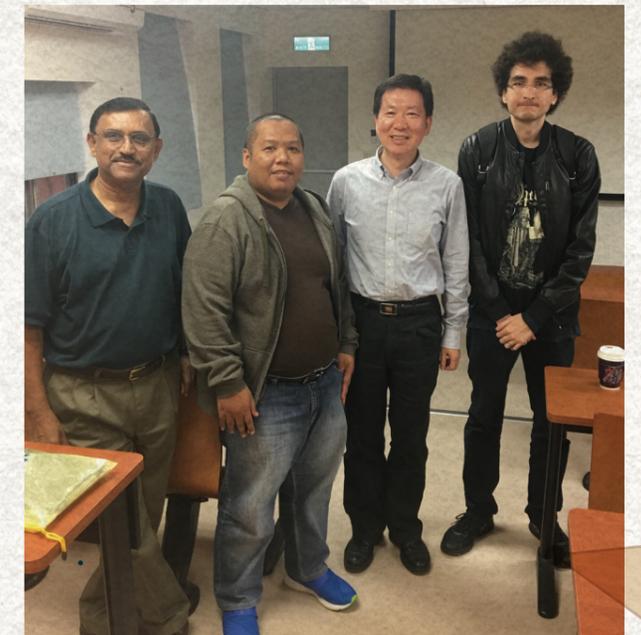
It Was Love at First Sight

My colleague and I arrived in Taiwan on September 1st, 2017. Just enough time to be familiar with the new environment and let the new reality sink in. We moved in the dormitory at the Gongguan campus the next day. It was an exciting day because we went to RT Mart and I had my first shopping experience in Taiwan for my everyday needs. We were scheduled to have our orientation activities the whole week, starting on the 4th of September, and thus we knew that will be busy in the coming days. Seeing the videos and pictures of the university was nothing compared to when I set foot in the university during our orientation day. I felt the positive energy of knowledge flowing through me the moment I started walking from the gate towards the orientation venue.

We were given a very comprehensive orientation program by the staff of the OIA. We also learned a lot from the experiences shared by our fellow foreign students who came before us, and they had nothing but beautiful stories of their NTNU student life. We were also reminded to always have our umbrellas at the ready because it always

rains in Taipei, they said. We were then asked to show and submit the required documents, and were given several documents too, signifying our formal entry into NTNU as graduate students. This was of course symbolized more concretely when we were given our student identification cards.

Which I quickly learned has the added functionality of an Easy Card which made travelling and buying from convenience stores very convenient. Talk about NTNU going through extra efforts to make our student lives easier in Taiwan. The staff of the OIA was always there to answer our questions, student volunteers were also on hand to show us around, to give us directions, and of course to teach us the cool places to be in or around the university. I was primarily concerned where the nearest restaurants were that had delicious dumplings, hotpot, and beef noodles. I was gradually able to try them one at a time.





How NTNU Showed Us Her Love

From the moment that we moved in to our dormitories, we immediately knew that NTNU looked out for our wellbeing. Facilities were well maintained, there were a lot of places outside the dorm where you could study. Internet was fast and reliable in the entire campus. We had access to the gym, and to the track and field oval, also, there was always the school clinic to make sure that our bodies were on the peak of health. Library hours was something new to me as it was not just extended during the weekdays, but it was also open on weekends, this was really helpful to us. But she was not yet done, when I tried to borrow a book from the library, imagine my surprise that it was issued to me for the entire semester. When the book is available at libraries in the other campuses, they can deliver the book to our campus just to ensure that you had what you needed to study. Even our mental health was also assessed, they wanted to make sure that we are coping up with student life in campus. We had to make sure that we were in the best shape especially if the professor takes you on a hike after the orientation on your first day in class.

The staff of the Office for International Affairs were all very helpful to foreign students in many ways. Sometimes, I approach them for language assistance on official documents because Google translate proved to be less helpful in most cases. One time when one of the international student got sick, I called up the office to ask for help in locating the nearest facility or doctor that we could go to have my friend checked up, not only did they

provide us with directions, they also called up the facility, explaining to them our concern, making sure that we will be taken care of once we got there, hence it was a very smooth experience that I am sure made my friend recover faster. The OIA also never ceases to encourage us to share our culture to the world, they have organized a lot of programs to let us do so. But what is more interesting is how they wanted us to experience Taiwan, its culture, its traditions, its people. There were a lot of host-family programs and cultural activities that were done just so international students could have a deeper appreciation and understanding of the country.

NTNU also made sure that we will be able to survive on our own while we are here. As an international student, part of the challenge is understanding what the vendor is trying to tell you when you are buying your milk tea, or your chicken pie, or your manthao, and all the other yummy things that you could eat. Of course, you cannot rely on just pointing out the pictures or using your online translator to get along on your everyday life in Taiwan. Having a Mandarin Training Center meant that international students had the opportunity to learn the Chinese language from the very best. To start with, the language was not a problem for me because I graduated from a Buddhist run Chinese school in the Philippines. One of my goals was to be able to brush up on the language since I was already here. I decided to take the mandarin classes offered to us, this was facilitated by the Department of Chinese as

a Second Language (DCSL), and together with my fellow international students from the Philippines, we enrolled in the Basic Chinese class. That was when I had my first rejection at NTNU. On the first day of class, the teacher asked us “你叫什麼名字?(What's your name?)” to which I quickly replied, out of instinct, “我叫·巴人俊。(My name is Juliano.)” And so, the teacher said, you don't belong here, I am promoting you to the next level and asked me to transfer to the elementary Chinese class. When I entered the class, the teacher said, today since it's the first day, I am going to gauge how much you have learned Chinese, kindly write a 100-word essay introducing yourself. After I read what I wrote, I was again told that I did not belong in the class, I was promoted again to the advanced class and was asked to come the next day for it. Unfortunately, my schedule did not fit well with this and so I had no choice but to discontinue the class in favor of my major courses.

But NTNU was not giving up just yet. We were informed that the OIA would be opening a one-on-one mandarin tutorial at the Gongguan campus, where our department is located. We did not have to go to the main campus to avail of this, plus your preferred schedule will be matched to an available tutor from a pool of experienced students from the DCSL or the NTNU International Youth and work from there. This was the perfect arrangement for me and so I quickly signed up for the program, and two weeks after, I already had my first session with my tutor. She was very professional, gauged first my level of Chinese, asked my expectations after our tutorial sessions, and of course gave me assignments to answer and hand in the next meeting. She corrects my way of speaking and writing, telling me that although I may have the correct meaning in mind, but the way it's written tells the reader that it was done by somebody who was not a native speaker of the

language, so she wanted me to develop and reach that level where they would be unable to tell that what they are reading or listening to was done by a foreigner; that became my definition of Chinese proficiency. This was really one program of the school that proved very beneficial to me personally.

That Joyful Feeling

A balanced student life is essential to every international student at NTNU. Maintaining a healthy mind and a healthy body was essential for study, but as they say it can't be all work and no play. And there are a lot of things that you could do to take your mind off studies for a while and take a breather. There is of course campus led activities that encourage the international students to participate in. It was not always typical activities that you would think of that can be done in Taiwan, we even had a Christmas Party hosted by the OIA! Yey! Of course, we were also able to participate in the annual Chinese New Year party organized by the OIA as well. Our own Mathematics department also sponsored a gathering of all its graduate students, both local and international, so that we get to know each other and be able to socialize.

If you prefer to be alone, then you can always go out at the back of the Gongguan campus, take a walk, or ride a bike at the Guting Riverside Park. Enjoy following the river, being greeted by different birds chirping, and the many colors of flowers that are in bloom. During my first months here, before the weather turned cold, the other Filipino students would organize a bike ride during Saturday afternoons, we would ride our bikes to Tamsui just to watch the sunset. We were eventually joined by our friends and classmates from Vietnam, and Indonesia. So vibrant was the chemistry of the international students that we were able to organize a barbecue get-together during the time of the moon cake festival.

Truly, you will find a new home in NTNU, I just wish that more people from my country get to experience what I had experienced. It was one of the biggest decisions that I made in my life, and I am really happy that I made the journey to NTNU. Would you like to feel her love too?



I'm Maria Pineiro Chapela

My Experience in NTNU

Department of Chinese as a Second Language | Maria Pineiro Chapela

My name is Maria Pineiro Chapela and I come from Galicia, Spain. I am currently a student at NTNU's Department of Chinese as a Second Language. With a long interest in foreign languages, at the University of Vigo I studied for three years in the translation department. Although the languages and cultures I focused on were European, from as early on as junior high school, I was interested in traveling to Taiwan to study Chinese culture. Later, when deciding on whether to follow up on this interest as an exchange student, I was pleased to find that I would have the opportunity to study at NTNU.

Since Europeans are not very familiar with Taiwan, they often mistakenly consider it an unsafe country. For myself as well, in the beginning I was worried that public safety might be an issue. In the end, however, using online resources and teacher recommendations, I applied to NTNU on the last day before the deadline. I was very nervous at the time and considered long and hard whether it was wise to travel alone to a country so far away. I was afraid of the uncertainties I would face—including having to pay for everything myself. I waited with apprehension for the admission results, before finally getting the notification that I was accepted. Soon after, I very happily started preparing for my trip, even going as far as studying some basic conversational Chinese ahead of time.

However, moving to a new country wasn't as easy as I thought, and I encountered many difficulties in the move. For example, finding an apartment, building a social



network, problems with culture shock, and the limitations of my Chinese. Furthermore, my initial impression of Taipei was unfavorable, being so incredibly different from the world I came. My home is in a relatively small town. The pace of life there is slow and there are abundant chances to enjoy nature. However, in Taipei, my life was suddenly very different in that there were crowds everywhere. I was often in a bad mood and found myself missing the environment at home. At the time, I was unable to see many of Taiwan's good points, and I often considered giving up and leaving for home.

This was in part due to the culture shock, as well as the fact that I was unable to find a place to rent during my first month in Taipei. In addition, my limited Chinese language skills meant that even simple things



were a challenge and my days often left me exhausted. Sometimes, something as simple as finding a place to eat could be a challenge, as most restaurants did not have English menus or pictures I could refer to. Add to this, my classes weren't going as well as I anticipated. I was often confused and had a hard time understanding what was being taught. I also found myself unable to keep up with my classmates. At times, I thought I was simply not suited to learning Chinese and felt that I maybe should study another language.

Facing all of this, why would I ever consider spending another four years studying in Taiwan? The answer is love. I met a Taiwanese boy who showed me a side of Taiwan that I had been unable to see. He helped me to understand the beauty of the island. Soon I found myself adapting to the culture and way of life in Taiwan and even started thinking about how I could extend my stay here. One day, I met a Spanish girl also studying in my language program who introduced me to the Department of Chinese as a Second Language, and right away I decided that was where I wanted to study. I also had discovered that Chinese had become my passion. Studying at NTNU's Mandarin Training Center, my enthusiasm and interest in Chinese grew day by day. Since I was only an exchange student at the time, I wasn't paying much attention to classes, but spending much of my time exploring Taipei and Taiwan. Therefore, I didn't know much about NTNU

outside the environs of my language center and certainly never thought that it would one day become an important part of my life.

After learning of the Department of Chinese as a Second Language, I didn't immediately apply. Afraid my Chinese level would be insufficient, I waited three more years. During those three years, I found Chinese to be an exceedingly interesting language, especially its written component. Gradually, studying Chinese characters and improving my Chinese speaking became two of my most important goals. Being able to graduate from the



Department of Chinese as a Second Language became my dream, and the reason that I originally wanted to study in Taiwan, namely love, was no longer my main motivating factor.

The reason I chose to study in the Department of Chinese as a Second Language was my continued interest in Chinese and also wanting to challenge myself. I wanted to see if I could handle the pressure of studying Chinese at a professional level. I promised myself that, no matter what, I would try my best to arrive at a sense of accomplishment, a feeling that had eluded me during my studies in Europe.

My impressions of my department and Taiwan in general is very different now compared to when I first arrived. I feel that studying in my department is one of the most amazing things that I have done in my life and I feel that I am very lucky to have this opportunity. This is a way of learning Chinese that is simply not available to the vast majority of Spanish speakers. I feel that my studies in the Department of Chinese as a Second Language are not only about a receiving a degree, but also a way to challenge myself. Being a student in the department has not only opened my eyes to parts of the world that I never understood previously, it has also allowed me to better understand myself and my capabilities. That is to say, it has drastically improved my self-confidence.

At the beginning of my studies, since my spoken Chinese was limited, I lacked self-confidence and passed the days with a lot of unnecessary suffering in that I was unable to adapt to my new environment. In my first semester in the Department of Chinese as a Second Language, I started working part-time, which meant my days were filled with class and work. I was extremely busy, sometimes not even having time to eat. But this lifestyle brought with it a deep sense of satisfaction. Because, even though I was often exhausted, I felt fulfilled. Every day I was learning something new, making new friends, and being 100% independent while doing it all. Being a student at NTNU helped me grow as a person and see the real world. My life in the department is something that is with me always and I could not imagine life in Taiwan without it. Furthermore, NTNU has given me goals. When living in Europe, I lacked self-confidence, and wondered if I would ever make something out of myself. In other words, I didn't know what I wanted to do with myself. I felt that I would never find an ideal department in which to study. However, the Department of Chinese as a Second Language has been an excellent fit and given me a clear direction in my studies.

Yet, it is not always all work and no play. While at NTNU, I have found time to engage in extracurricular activities, in part because PE classes at NTNU are required. I chose boxing, not knowing that this class would become one of my favorite ways to exercise. The class not only offers a way to reduce stress, but is also another way through which I can challenge myself.

Furthermore, I have made several new friends during my studies. When I first arrived in Taiwan, I felt that creating interpersonal relationships was next to impossible. I was worried that it would be difficult to get to know my classmates, especially those from Asia who had been exposed to educational methods and ideas very different from mine. So, in the beginning, I was afraid to speak out in class and making friends was even harder. It got to the point that I was worried that I would never make a friend while in Taiwan. However, after a period of time, not only have my relationships with my classmates developed into friendship, I have come to better understand cultures other than my own and my life is much richer as a result.

Although I am currently still in my first year of study in the Department of Chinese as a Second Language, I have learned much in that time. However, more important than results are the efforts one puts in. The world holds nothing that is impossible, only those who don't believe in themselves. As long as we continually make efforts and never give up, all our goals are attainable. There are times of hardship, of course, and times when I miss the comfort of my home in Europe, but NTNU has given me so many unforgettable memories. My wish is that I can continue to improve my Chinese while I am here and continue to familiarize myself with the culture and language of this beautiful island all the way through to graduation.





My Student Life at NTNU: Helping Me Freely Be Myself

Department of Chinese as a Second Language | Jeong Hyeonhui

I am an exchange student from the Chinese Language Department at Kongju National University in South Korea. When I first started at university, I didn't know exchange was an option, but after I started my life at school, I learned from my homeroom teacher and senior classmates that it was an option. I wanted to live in a place different from South Korea and gain new experiences, so in order to become an exchange student I did a lot of preparation and gathered a lot of information on the schools that were more suitable for me.

There were two reasons that out of many schools I looked at, I chose to come to NTNU to study. First, when I was a child, I lived in Qingdao, China for eight years for school, so I wanted to try living in another place. In different places you can get a feeling for different local customs. The second reason is that once I started university, I had a few classes that were carried out in traditional Chinese, which I thought was even more difficult to read than simplified Chinese, but also very interesting, especially understanding and deciphering the words. Every stroke in traditional Chinese has a particular meaning and not a single one can be left out. I think the process of understanding the meaning of every stroke is very interesting.

I also wanted to learn the words and tones that are different in Taiwan and China. I studied in Shandong

Province before, and, after I returned to South Korea, when I chatted with the Chinese exchange students, they would all ask me, "You've studied in Shandong Province before, right?" This was because studying in a certain place you can learn the way things are said there. So, I also wanted to learn the accent unique to Taiwan and compare the differences it has with that of Shandong Province.

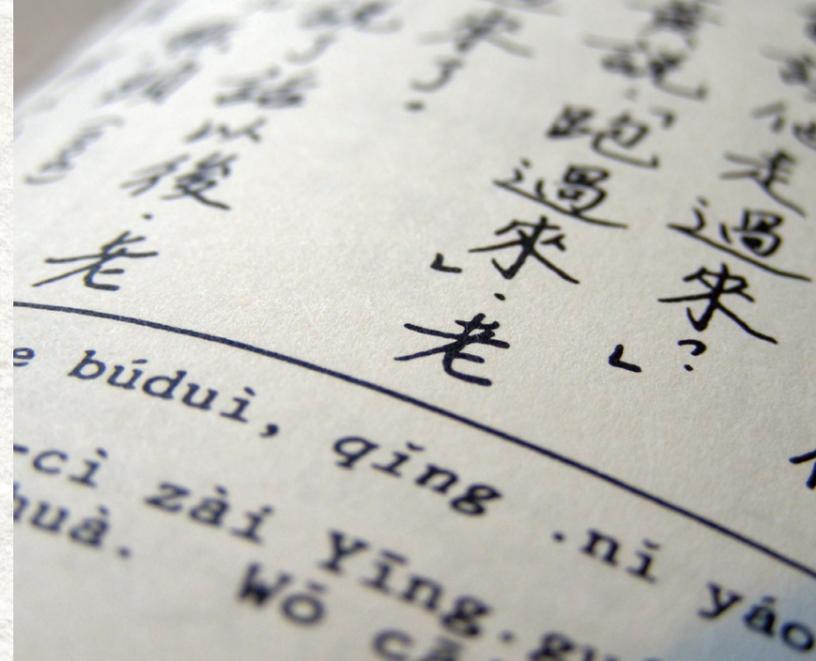
It has been two months since I came to NTNU, but these two short months have been unforgettable for me. I believe the remaining few months will leave strong memories in my mind. At the beginning, the most arduous thing about my student life at NTNU was the frequent quizzes. Even though I also studied Chinese in South Korea, most of the courses there were cultural classes so there weren't so many quizzes. At first, I was nervous for the one or two we had a week, but through these weekly quizzes I noticed my vocabulary had increased a lot. When



I was in Chinese elementary school, I only learned words that a child would use, so my vocabulary wasn't very good, and after returning to South Korea I rarely used Chinese to communicate, which made me gradually forget the words I knew.

When I chatted with the exchange students from China, I felt like my language level was as low as an elementary student. So, when we really got into a conversation, they would explain words that I didn't understand or were more difficult. Because of this, my first goal for coming to NTNU was to improve my vocabulary. Even though the weekly quizzes are really quite hard for me, I am working hard to face the new words being tested because the quizzes can help improve my ability. It has been a long time since I used Chinese to communicate, so coming to Taiwan I still feel it is a little hard to use. When I first arrived in Taiwan, before I would speak, I would always think, "Is my pronunciation correct?" "Is this word suitable for this context?" This made it hard to speak easily. But after I took the Comprehensive Chinese 2 course, I slowly regained my confidence. In this class I not only learned reading, writing, and conversational Chinese, I also learned the appropriate word usage for various situations. From this class I also learned the joy of sharing the things I know with others, and from listening to the reports from other people, I learned what to say in order to smoothly express my own opinions.

Every exchange student is able to take the MTC course and choose their own class time for 3 hours a day,



2 times a week. In this class I could have discussions with classmates from other countries, which helped me learn how to have formal conversations. Interacting with people from various countries, and not just Taiwanese people, also helped me improve my conversation abilities. When my conversation partner doesn't understand the meaning of what I say, I use Chinese to explain the part he or she doesn't understand, which helps increase my understanding of the vocabulary. NTNU's Department of Chinese as a Second Language is just like a miniature of the world, and through these classes I can improve my Chinese ability level and also learn more about different countries, which increases my understanding of these countries and my ability to embrace cultural differences.

I feel that writing is very difficult. When conversing in Chinese, if you say something that is unclear you can explain it clearly or use expressions or actions to clarify, but when writing you can only use words to express yourself with no other type of expression, that's why it's so hard. When I was at elementary school in Qingdao, at the end of every Chinese test we had to write a 300-character essay. I could never get a high mark for that section. When I heard that the Office of International Affairs wanted me to write this essay, I hesitated a long while. I thought to myself that it is already hard enough to write an essay in Korean, let alone Chinese, and I worried I wouldn't be able to write anything. When I was thinking this, my reading and writing teacher said to me, "while other people are taking three minutes to write a sentence, you take six. If you practice like this, you can improve your writing ability." So, I mustered my courage and wrote this essay.

One of the reasons I came to NTNU was to try experiences I had never tried before. In my life, I have never submitted an article in Chinese to a school magazine,

and from this opportunity I gained new experience. In the Comprehensive Chinese class, for homework we have to use the newly learned vocabulary and grammar patterns to write a composition. At first, it was hard to write even with one new word and I would often get the usage wrong and write it incorrectly. For a lot of South Korean students, it is embarrassing to ask questions about something we don't know, and it is the same for me. So, when there's a word I don't know, or a grammar pattern I don't understand, I will just figure it out on my own. But when I saw lots of other students asking teachers about words they don't know, not just after class but also in the middle of class, I realized that asking questions is nothing to be shy about. After getting an understanding of the vocabulary and grammar patterns you can then write out an essay.

My favorite pastime is traveling. Since starting at university, I go on a trip every break. The reason I like traveling is that I can experience things I have never experienced before and can see diverse cultures. I lived in China for 8 years, so I understand a bit of Chinese culture. One day, I saw the beautiful scenery of Taiwan while watching TV and it made me curious. This is why I wanted to come to Taiwan as an exchange student.

I now feel that the life of an exchange student is a type of travel. Every weekend I will go to different areas in Taipei to walk around; I've seen the sunset in Tamsui, all the animals at the zoo, and I've strolled around the Huashan 1914 Creative Park. Going to these places has allowed me to see the colors of Taiwan. When I was in class, my teacher talked to us about all the things in Hualien and along the Suhua Highway, and I was really interested. So, from that day I started preparing for a trip to Yilan and Hualien, and at the beginning of April I went with some classmates. In Yilan I went paragliding for the first time in my life, and in Hualien's Taroko Gorge I saw such beautiful scenery. The most unforgettable of all was the Qingshui Cliff on the road before reaching Taroko, with the ocean in front and the mountains behind and the road connecting village to village running along the edge.

If I still have time, I would like to go to Kaohsiung and Tainan, like a tour around Taiwan. After coming to Taiwan, the strongest feeling I have felt is one of relaxation. At the beginning, people on the street would walk really slowly and sometimes I would feel gloomy, but now I feel more relaxed. In South Korea, everything has to be done "fast, fast, fast," without taking care of yourself. Attention is only paid to work and school; we care only about the next thing we need to rush off to. But here, I can invest a lot of time

in myself and I can take care of myself. I can plan the things I want during my time here as an exchange student, including the things I want, what I want to study, and what I want to do.

Finally, I hope that all of the exchange students that come to NTNU can experience every last thing that they want to experience.





An Opportunity That Changed My Life

Department of Chinese as a Second Language | Kevin Kockelkoren

One morning in the middle of January, 2014, I turned on the TV and saw a report on the sights, culture, and customs of Taiwan. This was quite appealing to me. So, during the winter vacation of my first year at university in Belgium, I decided to come to Taiwan to travel for a month.

During my travels, not only did I fall in love with Taiwan, I also made a lot of Taiwanese friends. One of them was a girl who told me that Chinese is an incredible and interesting language. Chinese is also being used more and more in business and economics, and she suggested I come to Taiwan to study the language. With her recommendation and financial help from my parents, I returned to Taiwan after half a year to study Chinese for one year at the National Taiwan University Language Center. Although my Chinese improved a lot during that time, I still felt I could be more fluent, and from that moment I had the idea to attend university in Taiwan.

However, as a student, it is considerably expensive to go abroad to study, and I didn't want to rely on my parents anymore. Thus, I started going online to see if there were any scholarships that I could apply for to help ease some of the financial pressure. As a result, on the website for the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium I discovered two scholarships I could apply for: the Ministry of Education's "Huayu Enrichment Scholarship" and the "Taiwan Scholarship." Because I wanted to study in university in Taiwan, of course I applied for the Taiwan Scholarship. There are only two recipients for the Taiwan Scholarship – one for graduate school and

one for undergraduate school. At the time, I thought the chances of winning the scholarship were quite low, but if I didn't try how would I know if I could succeed? So, full of self-confidence, I went ahead and applied for the Taiwan Scholarship.

When applying for the scholarship, of course I wanted to find a suitable university and department. While looking up the university rankings online, I found that NTNU was listed in the top ten and had an ideal location, so I immediately set my sights on NTNU. Afterwards, I was looking up Chinese-related departments on the school website and saw there was a Department of Chinese and a Department of Chinese as a Second Language. At the time, I was confused and couldn't understand what the difference was, so I asked a few Taiwanese friends and friends I met at my language school. They all recommended I go to NTNU to study at the Department of Chinese as a Second Language. They thought that after four years of acquiring knowledge on Chinese language and culture, I could teach Chinese in Taiwan or abroad. After hearing their advice, without hesitation I went to the NTNU website to apply.

Through the "Admission Prospectus for International Students" on the NTNU website, I entered my personal information and uploaded a copy of my high school diploma and original school transcript. I then set about writing an 800-to-1000-word plan explaining why I wanted to come to NTNU to study, and asked teachers from my high school and my language school in Taiwan if they could write letters of recommendation for me. While I was preparing all these,

I went in person to the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium to hand in my application form, study plan, recommendation letters, and other related documents. At the time, the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium only asked applicants to submit their study plans in English, but in order to showcase my Chinese abilities, and furthermore to show them how much I really wanted to go to NTNU to study at the Department of Chinese as a Second Language through the Taiwan Scholarship, I also wrote a Chinese version. The study plan was not limited to my plans for studying in Taiwan, but also my plans after graduation.

I still remember it clearly; one morning in early May of 2016, I received an email informing me that I had been awarded the Taiwan Scholarship. It's truly difficult to describe my feelings in that moment, and I could hardly believe it. This was because I was the only person in Belgium who could come to Taiwan to study at university with help from the government. The four years of subsidies from the Taiwan Scholarship would be of considerable financial help, and I would be able to focus my attention on my classwork at NTNU's Department of Chinese as a Second Language.

Before coming to NTNU's Department of Chinese as a Second Language, I also considered what I would do about accommodation. Even though I personally would rather have my own space, on financial considerations, I decided on staying at NTNU's Student Dorm 7. I didn't know



anyone and moved into an unfamiliar dormitory; it was the first time in my life that I had to share the same space with other people. At the time, I was extremely nervous; I didn't know if my roommates were friendly or not, or if they kept normal schedules. But after spending some time with them, I could tell they were all nice, and one of them even showed me around campus and the nearby restaurants. That's when I realized that anything you need is right there on the Gongguan campus. There's a convenience store called "Pin Da," breakfast shops, and Chinese buffets. And not only that, the Gongguan campus also has a track and field and a gym. For someone like me who loves to exercise, it is all very convenient.

At the Department of Chinese as a Second Language, the students come from all areas of the world; some come from nearby countries, others come to study at NTNU from far-flung reaches. This also means that some classmates come from cultures that are completely different from mine. But because we all have the same goal – to learn Chinese and understand Chinese culture – we can all get along, and moreover it is an opportunity to better understand different cultures.

After coming to NTNU and studying Chinese for a while, it was inevitable that I would start to get homesick. Technology is very advanced these days and I could contact my family through video messaging, but they were still not here with me, so I decided to talk to my teacher about what was on my mind. The teachers don't think of us simply as their students, but as family members. The Department of Chinese as a Second Language is one big family, and the students are never without the care and attention of the teachers and advisors. This is one of the reasons I think it was worthwhile to come to NTNU for my university studies.

Aside from my core department classes, the school rules say local and international students must all take physical education and general education classes. At the beginning, I thought, "Why do I have to take PE? I can exercise by myself," or, "General education classes will be too hard for us foreign students. I'm sure to fail." However, I later realized that taking gym class was a good opportunity to meet people from other departments who were passionate about sports. As for the general education classes, they allowed me to become familiar with new fields, like politics, history, and nature. This further helped my Chinese to improve to the next level. Now I truly enjoy my PE and general education classes, as they help expand my horizons.



In addition, the Department of Chinese as a Second Language is not only about studying. Every year there are all sorts of events put on by the department's student association. When I had just started at the university, I went to a welcoming party and Christmas dinner; both were splendid. At the welcoming party I could get to know and interact with my classmates in a relaxed and happy atmosphere. However, the most unforgettable event for me was the Christmas dinner. For me, Christmas is very important, because it is at this time that I especially miss home. But with the company of friends, classmates, and teachers I still had a great time during this holiday.

At the end of first year, our class took over from the second-year students. That is to say, when we moved up into our second year, the event planning had to be taken care of by us. I decided then to take the role of director for print materials. The work included record keeping for meetings, distribution of work for our team, and working with the team to design all kinds of posters, invitations, and the making of department publications. Sometimes, because of differences of opinion between

team members, it was hard to avoid some tension, so after taking on this role, I learned how to solve all sorts of problems and also how to accept different opinions. Even though it was quite stressful at times, I always had a sense of accomplishment whenever my duties were complete. This gave me even more motivation to prepare for the next event.

It has been just over three years since I came to Taiwan. I have long become accustomed to the life here, and I won't be leaving any time soon. Taiwan already seems to have become my home. The beautiful scenery, the friendly people, and the open learning environment are all reasons why I first wanted to come study in Taiwan. However, Taiwan is now more to me than this; it is where I study, it is where I met many like-minded friends, and where I found my amazing partner. During the time I spent attending university here, I have become more mature and more independent. This is all because I was given a rare opportunity by Taiwan's Ministry of Education and NTNU; that is, the chance to come to Taiwan to study at NTNU.

泳館
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CAMPUS LIFE



Classroom Emphasis on Practical Application Has Clarified My Future Direction

Department of Chinese | Yu-shin Feng



Bartosz Czerwiński came to Taiwan from his home in Poland to study at NTNU's Graduate Institute of Mass Communication. Czerwiński feels that there are several areas in which his studies in Taiwan differ from those in Poland. Perhaps foremost among them is that the faculty at NTNU go to great lengths to look after student progress and their in-class needs. For example, in addition to scheduled classes, faculty will often email students topics for next week's classes, thereby giving Czerwiński and his classmates ample time to prepare and to ensure their studies progress smoothly.

Czerwiński also celebrates the fact that students at NTNU can choose from whatever classes and fields of study appeal to them. In Poland, curriculums are set, while at NTNU, the flexibility of the course elective system means Czerwiński can freely enroll in classes that most interest him.

Czerwiński believes that his time at NTNU has been a valuable compass in helping him discover future directions of development. When studying Mass Communication in Poland, he had little idea of what kind of industry or work he might do in the future. However, at NTNU, with its emphasis on practicum-based classes, Czerwiński has developed a much clearer picture of his future and the work he would like to be doing.



In the class Oral Communication Research, for example, as a final project, Czerwiński was asked to film and edit a story. To fulfill the demands of the project, he was expected to use his department's recording equipment and digital editing software in the process. While working on this project, Czerwiński says he was able to experience first-hand the demands, expectations, and fruits of this particular line of work.

Czerwiński has also found that NTNU opens up new classes every semester, with some of the classes featuring topics that he would have never encountered otherwise. Enrolling in these classes has expanded the scope of his professional interests and has made his studies at NTNU particularly fruitful and fulfilling.

The Office of International Affairs also offers a one-on-one Chinese tutoring, which Czerwiński believes has done much to help his Chinese language competency. These tutoring sessions are tailored to the individual, and Czerwiński often asks that his tutor teach him words and phrases commonly used in daily conversation in Taiwan. Although he has studied Chinese for seven years, Czerwiński feels that he still has problems speaking Chinese as a local would when it comes to expressing thoughts and ideas.

Czerwiński has also found that Taiwanese is commonly heard in Taiwan— often being used in conjunction with Chinese. Therefore, one of the goals for his tutoring sessions is to learn a bit of Taiwanese. These one-on-one tutoring sessions have helped Czerwiński fully adapt to his surrounding and are a measure of the importance that NTNU places on ensuring international studies prosper during their studies in Taiwan. Regardless if it is a problem with school, classwork, or life, solutions are usually just an email or phone call away.



Enjoying the Campus Environment of NTNU



Department of East Asian Studies | Cheng-liang Guo

Marine Mournier, who hails from France, is currently a master's student at NTNU's Department of Education. Despite being a foreign student, she finds she has fully adapted to the demands of life in Taiwan. "My lifestyle has become very Taiwanese. So much so that when I travel to France for a visit, I feel out of place there," Mournier says.

Mournier remembers the time when she first decided to study in Taiwan. There was no particular reason or planning behind her decision. It seemed very much by accident, yet somewhat preordained, with the pieces just falling into place. At the time, Mournier had already begun to study Chinese characters and basic Mandarin to go along with her interest in Japan and Asian culture. She had not heard much about Taiwan but, being someone who enjoyed trying new things and experiencing different cultures, she came to Taiwan as part of a Rotary Club visit.

She could have never imagined that she would fall in love with the island after experiencing its culture and traditions. Back in France, Mournier enrolled in classes in the Chinese department, returning to Taiwan once again as language exchange student. It was then that she learned that many foreigners chose to pursue advanced



degrees in Taiwan. Having an interest in education and aware of NTNU's stellar reputation in this field, Mournier decided to come to Taiwan to pursue a master's degree in education.

Mournier says she particularly enjoys the architecture of NTNU, as well as the campus atmosphere. One of her favorite spots is the outdoor café located across the main library. You can often find Mournier there as she takes in a few minutes of quiet to recharge between classes and the demands of her program. Another plus for Mournier is life outside the NTNU gates, with the convenience of the MRT system being a major advantage. In the immediate environs surrounding NTNU, Mournier says she has numerous coffee shops to choose from, just like back in her native France. Half in jest, she proclaims, "If I could buy a place in Taiwan, it would definitely be in the area of NTNU."

Mournier says she has had no problems adapting to academic life at NTNU. She enjoys abundant interaction with her classmates, many of whom come from overseas as well—and everyone is happy to extend a helping hand. These friendships and connections are some of her best experiences while studying at NTNU. Mournier also clearly remembers NTNU's International Culture



Festival. As she sees it, the festival is a valuable opportunity for international students at NTNU to get to know each other better. Participation in the festival also affords a deeper understanding of other cultures, as well as one's own when seen from the viewpoint of others.

The two things that Mournier most looks forward to are graduating with her master's degree and going on a trip with her classmates after graduation. For her, this would be the perfect ending of her studies and time at NTNU.

Extremely Grateful for the Assistance of My Student Counselor



Department of Adult and Continuing Education | Chia-ju Lei



Kim Bomi comes from Seoul, Korea. She is currently enrolled in NTNU's Department of Business Administration. Prior to her studies in business administration, she was a student at NTNU's Mandarin Training Center. Bomi feels that, as a country, Taiwan is extremely welcoming towards foreigners. As well, since her aunt is Taiwanese, she has always felt a connection to Taiwan. Add to this her interest in Taiwan's culture and hopes on improving her Chinese competency, studying in Taiwan was the obvious choice.

Bomi says she is shy at heart and will seldom go out of her way to make new friends. In addition, interactions are more formal in Korea and revolve around social rules that must be followed. As a result, interpersonal interactions can be stressful at times. However, Bomi says that in Taiwan she has never felt that way. Her classmates are extremely welcoming. They make it a point to strike up a conversation whenever they see her and are more than willing to help with any classwork. "I love Taiwan's interpersonal relationship model. It's full of warmth," says Bomi.

Every department has guidance counselors on staff who are there to help students solve any difficulties they might be facing at school or in life. The counselor also acts as a bridge of communication and understanding between students and the school administration, making them a unique and valuable facet of the educational system at NTNU. Bomi says that when she first arrived in Taiwan to begin her studies, she was



unable to communicate fully in Chinese, which made life difficult at times. For example, renting an apartment near campus presented major challenges. Fortunately, thanks to her guidance counselor's help, she was able to rent an apartment with no problems. In addition to the assistance extended by her guidance counselor, Bomi also expressed particular praise for the administrative efficiency of the Office of International Affairs and her professors. She noted that when sending an email inquiry, she would always get a response within one to two days.

One of Bomi's most memorable experiences in Taiwan was during Mid-Autumn Festival. At the time, she was a language exchange student at NTNU's Mandarin Training Center. One of her friends in the program, who was Taiwanese, invited Bomi to her house to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival with a BBQ. This was a novel experience for Bomi as, in Korea, Mid-Autumn Festival is only to honor one's ancestors, without any of the celebration seen in Taiwan. "This was without a doubt one of my most memorable experiences in Taiwan," says Bomi.

Whether it is rowing dragon boats during Dragon Boat Festival, learning about Taiwanese cooking through DIY classes, or participating in the NTNU International Culture Festival, these are all memories that Bomi has come to cherish for giving her a deeper understanding and appreciation for Taiwan and its people.



NTNU Is Well Known in Japan



Department of Adult and Continuing Education | Qiu Yu



“In the past, I often came to Taiwan for shrimp fishing,” says Japan national Yuta Okubo, whose eyes light up when discussing his favorite pastime.

Before Okubo was a student at NTNU, he spent time in Taiwan fishing for giant freshwater prawns. Over time, he fell in love with the island, which eventually led to his decision to study in Taiwan.

Okubo visited many of Taiwan’s top universities, before finally deciding on NTNU. “I found NTNU had a very international academic environment,” says Okubo. “Furthermore, the university offered a department that I was interested in.”

Okubo is a people person and loves to make new friends with people from around the world. NTNU’s Department of Chinese as a Second Language is Taiwan’s only degree conferring department that was established specifically with international students in mind. For someone that loves to experience multiculturalism and enjoys trying new things and ideas, Okubo has taken to this department like a fish in water. “NTNU is extremely well known in Japan and is the first choice for many Japanese looking to study in Taiwan,” explains Okubo.

However, Okubo believes that many Japanese studying Chinese in Taiwan don’t get as much out

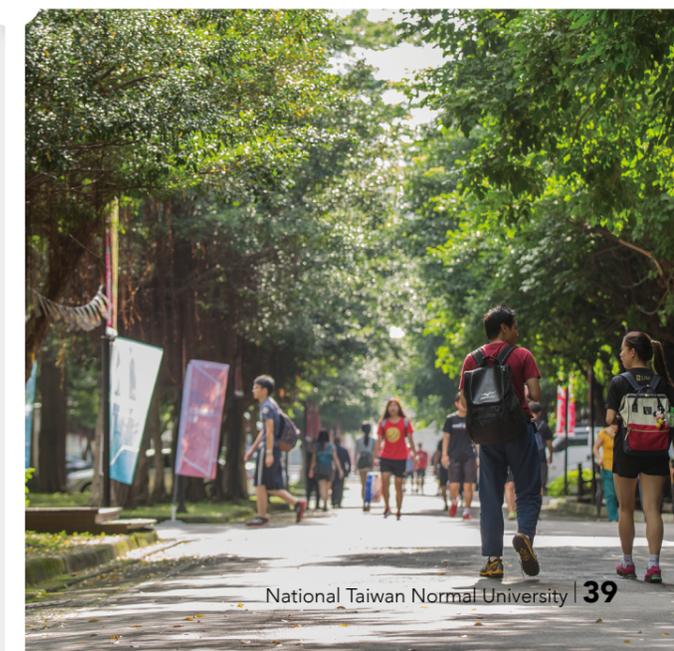


of their studies as they could. As Japanese also use Chinese characters in their writing system, they come with a certain familiarity with Chinese and thus a leg up when compared to their Western classmates. However, this advantage is often a detriment to their motivation. The result is that many never develop competency in speaking Chinese. Okubo believes that if one does not practice speaking Chinese on a daily basis, it will be hard to fully experience Taiwanese society and your learning opportunities will be far fewer.

Because the students of the Department of Chinese as a Second Language come from a host of different countries and language backgrounds, the department’s lingua franca is Chinese. Add to this Okubo’s outgoing nature, and it is no surprise that he gets plenty of opportunity to practice speaking Chinese and has seen a rapid improvement over the past years. He has even been asked to appear on a Taiwanese talk show, where he could be seen expressing his thoughts in fluent Chinese.

Looking over the past year, Okubo’s face once again breaks out into a smile. He says he loves strolling around

campus. And the library, with its circular architecture that accentuates and softens the light streaming in, is a place that always leaves him feeling comfortable and full of hope. He also loves the area surrounding NTNU, especially the easy availability of a multitude of transportation options that take him to his favorite shrimp fishing pools.



Inspiring New Citizens to Choose NTNU



Department of Human Development and Family Studies | Wen-hsuan Wang

Coming from Vietnam, Thran Thi Hoang Phuong is currently a PhD student at NTNU's Graduate Institute of Curriculum and Instruction. Hoang Phuong believes that education is an elixir for change; a path that can change the lives of countless people as well as stereotypes about them and the world. A lover of education, Hoang Phuong decided to enroll in the PhD program of the Graduate Institute of Curriculum and Instruction. With NTNU being a world leader in education, she saw the program as key to increasing her professional competency and understanding of the field. NTNU's other advantages—convenient transportation links, central location, vibrant campus life—also factored into Hoang Phuong's decision to study at NTNU.

Before coming to NTNU, Hoang Phuong had over 10 years of experience teaching Vietnamese at Chengchi University. She sees her time at NTNU as building upon that experience, as well as correcting and improving upon her previous teaching methods. These improvements have led to noticeable improvements in interactions between herself and students and have allowed her to more clearly realize her teaching goals.

The guidance that Hoang Phuong has received from her professors at NTNU has meant a growing familiarity with both educational theory and its applications. Although the demands and workload of the program are heavy, Hoang Phuong has never felt that she is walking the journey alone. Recently she made a friend with a fellow classmate from Malaysia, with the two supporting each other with classwork and thesis research.

At first, Hoang Phuong was worried if her language skills and free time would be sufficient to meet the demands of a PhD workload. In addition to being

a mother of two, she is the president of the New Citizens Association, a TV show host, and a lecturer at ChengChi University. However, it turns out her worries were unfounded: "The faculty at NTNU are supportive of students in ways that exceeded every expectation. Each professor cares deeply about his or her students and their focus has helped me acquire a plethora of professional based knowledge and skills," says Hoang Phuong.

It has always been Hoang Phuong's dream to work in an educational field. In addition to the professional guidance of her teachers, the sharing of experience and ideas by her classmates has helped her reach her educational ideals more efficiently. Hoang Phuong believes that the learning environment at NTNU, with its diverse injection of views, has given her a more comprehensive worldview with which to work. When attending meetings of the New Citizens Council of the Executive Yuan, for example, she finds she is able to offer the government policy suggestions more in line with new citizen needs.

Many of Taiwan's new citizens see Hoang Phuong and her decision to study at NTNU as a model to emulate. Hoang Phuong says she feels an enormous sense of accomplishment to hear of others being motivated to enroll in NTNU as a result of her own experience. Her time at NTNU has given her so much; therefore, whenever a new citizen comes to her for advice, Hoang Phuong always recommends NTNU. She hopes that these new citizens may follow a path similar to hers in finding a personal space in which to grow and prosper while at NTNU, while eventually transmitting their learning and experience to the next generation.

A Liberal and Open Education Leads to Profound Understanding



Department of Adult and Continuing Education | Qiu Yu

When he was a student in university, Matthew Fullen recalls finding a music CD in a library. On this CD was a song from a Taiwanese composer, whose melody left Fullen entranced by its beauty. Not long after, he decided to come to Taiwan to follow in this particular composer's footsteps. "Her music touched my soul. It made me want to learn as much as I could from her. As a result, I came to Taiwan and enrolled in the Graduate Institute for Ethnomusicology at NTNU," explains Matthew Fullen.

"She found a key to a new world," says Fullen, referring to NTNU Professor Ching-wen Chao. Whenever he mentions Professor Chao, Fullen's eyes seem to light up. More than once he extolled her almost magical skills in combining Eastern and Western music to create new forms and styles of music. This is what Fullen has come to Taiwan to learn. During his studies, Fullen has acquired a wealth of knowledge, not only in the world of music, but in the field of life as well. For example, in the class Chinese Music Tuning Theory, an inter-disciplinary class that blends math, physics, and philosophy, Fullen was able to acquire a plethora of new and important music knowledge. "Studying philosophy has been a huge help in my understanding of Eastern music, as it differs from Western music considerably," explains Fullen.

In addition to the level of content, Fullen says he is also very happy with the way the classes are being taught, as well as the interaction between faculty and students. Teachers are very open, Fullen explains, and leave students with a lot of freedom in their studies. Not only are schedules flexible, but students have large leeway in their choice of subject matter and how they wish to pursue it. As someone who has been traditionally very independent, this style of instruction has been

perfect for Fullen.

For others interested in studying in Taiwan, Fullen says the most important thing is that they make an effort to open up to their new environment. If they restrict themselves to their own, familiar world, they will miss opportunities to get to know Taiwan and NTNU better. "If you broaden your horizons, you will be rewarded with an amazing experience, as the Taiwanese are very warm and friendly," says Fullen.



International Conference Brings A Sense of Achievement



Department of Human Development and Family Studies | Ying-chien Hong



Kumagai Morio, who hails from Japan, is currently in his third year in Taiwan. Morio says NTNU's excellent learning atmosphere and strong instruction are two of the major reasons he decided to continue his studies in Taiwan.

Morio sees the faculty at NTNU as really caring about their students; encouraging students to: "come to every class with a question and leave every class with an answer." Faculty are thoroughly engaged in and during class, and welcome opportunities to help students with any problems they might have. Not only are important theory and information being taught in the curriculum, but their practical implementation as well. This well-rounded curriculum has given Morio many of the skills needed to prepare for his future entry in the job market.

An academic highlight of Morio's time at NTNU has been his participation in the international conference held by his department every May. Although the days and weeks preceding the conference are extremely busy, at the end of the conference there is a real sense of achievement shared by all. During the conference, Morio has the opportunity to discuss topics in his professional field with scholars and graduate students from around the world. During this academic exchange, he is afforded a new understanding of different topics and viewpoints, helping to broaden his vision of the field as a whole.

When not in class, Morio's favorite place on campus is the study room within the environs of the Sports, Leisure, and Hospitality Management department, a room reserved for the use of its graduate students. He says that the room is very much akin to his living room at home. Students from the department can often be found here, relaxing or discussing various class topics and homework. If they come across a problem that they can't solve, they often take it to the nearby

faculty office to ask for clarification. Spaces such as this, designed primarily with the needs of students in mind, are one of the reasons why Morio thinks it is wonderful to be a graduate student at NTNU. This constant interaction between and among faculty and students reduces barriers to academic growth at the same time that it accelerates it.

Before enrolling in his current department, Morio was a student at NTNU's Mandarin Training Center. There he had a chance to meet and interact with students from around the world. In fact, the high percentage of international students at NTNU is one of the reasons that Morio chose NTNU to continue his academic studies. A lover of sports, Morio was also asked to join the NTNU Dragon Boat team. Although this is an extracurricular activity, everyone takes it very seriously. For three months, the team members would meet daily at 6:00am to practice. And with everyone working towards the same goal, Morio soon made many close friends on the team.

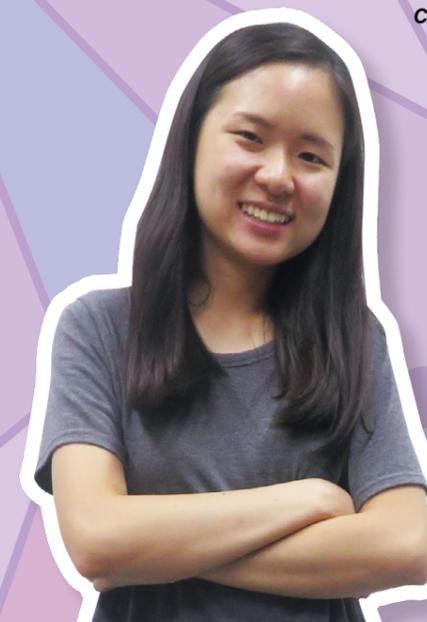
As for life in Taiwan, Morio loves the availability of different fruit year-round, with bananas being his favorite. Other food MVPs are xiao long bao, tang yuan, and shaved ice. As for his future goals, Morio hopes to take the skills and knowledge that he has learned in his graduate program and one day open up his own restaurant in Taiwan.



NTNU Professors Kindling the Fire of Academic Enthusiasm



Department of Civic Education and Leadership | Yen-yu Wang



Chowgsujunt Kunlanit, a language exchange student from Thailand is currently pouring all her energies into learning Chinese at NTNU. Leaving the familiar surroundings of her home in Thailand, she enrolled in NTNU's Department of Chinese as a Second Language. Although she believes that her Chinese still has room for improvement, her love for the language perhaps explains her willingness to use it whenever the opportunity presents itself.

"The department at NTNU in which I was most interested was the Department of Chinese as a Second Language. The reason being is that this department was established with international students in mind and is designed as a teaching-orientated Chinese learning program," explains Chowgsujunt Kunlanit.

Anyone who has ever tried to learn a new language is familiar with the pitfalls and difficulties that come part and parcel with such a journey. This is doubly so when it comes to learning classical Chinese, which even Taiwanese consider difficult. "At the beginning, I really didn't like classical Chinese," says Chowgsujunt Kunlanit. For many, studying classical Chinese is like studying an entirely new language. Fortunately for Chowgsujunt Kunlanit and her classmates, their faculty have abundant experience in teaching international students and will slow down the pace of the class to ensure foreign students understand each character of the text. It is thanks to this kindly consideration on her professors' part that Chowgsujunt Kunlanit has been able to find success in her study of classical Chinese.

Chowgsujunt Kunlanit points out that faculty at NTNU go out of their way to look after international students, and are more than willing to answer any questions

they might have. This type of learning environment has made it easy to maintain her enthusiasm for her studies. "After starting at NTNU, my Chinese proficiency saw a big improvement. Chinese is also the language that we international students use with each other, lacking another common tongue. It is fun to practice Chinese in this way and certainly helps us improve our speaking abilities," says Chowgsujunt Kunlanit.

"Will I be able to adapt to life in Taiwan?" Before coming to NTNU, this was a big question mark for Chowgsujunt Kunlanit. At NTNU, however, she made it a point to engage with university's extracurricular activities, expanding her circle of friends in the process. Now firmly on the road of her studies, Chowgsujunt Kunlanit believes that studying at NTNU is one of the more worthwhile choices students can do with their life.



Become a New Student at NTNU!

Fall 2020 & Spring 2021



Calendar of Events

	Prospectus announced	Application Period	Announcement of Admission Results	New Student Registration
Fall semester	January, 2020	Deadline: March 16, 2020 (IHRD Deadline: March 30, 2020)	May, 2020	September, 2020
Spring semester		April 2 – April 30, 2020	June, 2020	February, 2021

Scholarships

Applicants for NTNU International Student Scholarships may submit their applications along with their online applications. Results of the scholarship application will be sent out with the admission acceptance letters.

> Chinese: <https://www.ntnu.edu.tw/oia/scholarshipc.php>

> English: <https://www.ntnu.edu.tw/oia/scholarship.php>

Admission Prospectus, Online Application, and Admission Results

<https://ap.itc.ntnu.edu.tw/istudent/apply>

886-2-7734-1272

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