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Office of International Cooperation

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2023 SEP - OCT

# NCCU Study Abroad Fair

## NO. 91

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# COVER STORY

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/Pic by Secretariat of NCCU

# A world to discover NCCU promotes academic exchange by holding a Study Abroad Fair

Article by Iris Calderon

## Introduction

The university's International Education Expo was held at Sze Wei Hall from October 17th to 19th. On the opening day, 102 notable educational institutions from 22 countries were represented. Among them were well-regarded universities such as University College London, Kristianstad University from Sweden, Sciences Po from France, Free University of Berlin, and Beijing University. Energetic exchange students acted as booth representatives, sharing insights from their home institutions and previous exchange experiences. This year's expo was particularly significant, featuring a record 77 booths with participants from places as diverse as China and Brazil, highlighting the resurgence after the COVID-19 restrictions.

The university's President, Tsai-Yen Li, delivered an emotional speech, emphasizing the importance of

embracing different cultures, broadening perspectives, nurturing an adventurous spirit, and thinking of their careers on a global scale. President Li underscored the significance of presenting one's abilities internationally, with the aspiration of becoming the global talent that stands out.

Associate Vice President for International Cooperation, Elaine Lin, presented an overview of the International Education Expo's 2023 agenda. She offered reassurance about the office's commitment to ensuring students' readiness, inspiring them to pursue their aspirations fearlessly and embark on their global adventures with self-assurance, and encouraging students to apply for the exchange programs.

Based on data from the International Relations Office, the university has maintained a steady influx of 600 to 700 international students annually, indicating that students have a strong interest in overseas education. Trends



▲ Study abroad flyers and booth hall. Students The study abroad far was an open space for students to come and get information from all the different universities. Photo Credit: Isis Calderon

suggest that university students prefer Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, and North America, with Japan, South Korea, Germany, France, and the USA as top choices.

Former NCCU student, Mei-yu Chen, who participated in an exchange program at Kristianstad University in Sweden, enthusiastically recounted her journey. "It ranks among the top choices I've ever made," she expressed. After completing her exchange, Mei-yu extended her stay in Sweden, diving into the early stages of her professional career. This gave her a

valuable opportunity to immerse herself in the nuances of Swedish workplace culture.

## NCCU Global Network

NCCU has established a broad global network with partner universities all over the world. While many of these institutions have a diverse student body, some feature fewer Taiwanese students. These settings provide a unique opportunity for students to engage deeply with individuals from varied cultures. Engaging with diverse cultures and learning new languages can

be instrumental for self-development, helping students cultivate a panoramic vision of the world. Students are encouraged to tap into these opportunities and consider the vast possibilities available to them.

Participating in an exchange program is more than just an academic endeavor; it's a transformative experience that broadens one's horizons both personally and intellectually. Engaging in such a program propels students out of their comfort zones, allowing them to immerse themselves in a different educational system and culture.

▲ University's President, Tsai-Yen Li, delivers an emotional speech, emphasizing the importance of intercultural exchange and competitive academic careers.



"I have a strong desire to step out of my familiar surroundings, immerse myself in diverse cultures, connect with different people, and broaden my worldview," shared Zhang Jing-chun, a student from the Chinese literature department. She further expressed her enthusiasm for studying in Spain, fueled by her passion for the Spanish language. In addition to Spanish, she is also in the process of mastering English and Thai!

The cultural immersion that exchange programs allow, fosters adaptability and resilience as students navigate new environments, social norms, and even

▲ Associate Vice President for International Cooperation, Elaine Lin, delivers a speech in which she inspires students to pursue their aspirations fearlessly, encouraging them to apply for exchange programs.'





languages. Further, interacting with peers from diverse backgrounds enhances one's cultural sensitivity and global perspective – which are imperative for our generation to tackle the world's most pressing problems. In an increasingly interconnected world, having a firsthand understanding of different cultures can be a significant asset, both personally and professionally.

## Resources

Feeling tempted yet? Students can access and read firsthand accounts from former exchange participants on the "NCCU Going Abroad" webpage.

The university will be hosting its study-abroad recommendation sessions on November 18 and 19. Students interested in overseas opportunities should mark their calendars to ensure they don't miss out.

▲ Study abroad flyers and booth hall. Students The study abroad fair was an open space for students to come and get information from all the different universities. Photo Credit: Isis Calderon



Additionally, don't let financial challenges hold you back. There are resources available to help! By visiting the website for the Office of International Cooperation Affairs at National Chengchi University, you'll discover numerous scholarships. Consider exploring these opportunities to make your study abroad dreams a reality!



▲ Inside the venue, 118 enthusiastic international exchange students served as booth hosts. Photo by Office of International Cooperation



▲ On the first day, representatives from 22 countries and a total of 102 schools gathered. Photo by Office of International Cooperation



▲ Representatives from Palacký University (Czech Republic) and Kadir Has University (Turkey) pose for a photograph. Photo Credit: Isis Calderon





# STUDENT LIFE

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/Pic by Yoal Desurmont  
on Unsplash

# Taiwan’s Bali Refuse Incinerationplant: A Beacon Of Sustainability and International Collaboration

Article by Asmita Banerjee



▲ Such gatherings foster valuable exchanges and collaborative efforts toward a cleaner and greener future.- Chung-wei yang, anofficial from theministry ofenvironment

In a collaborative effort between the Environmental Protection Administration, Executive Yuan, and e-Titanium Consulting, Inc., an insightful field trip unfolded on August 25th at the Bali Refuse Incineration Plant in New Taipei City’s Bali district. This remarkable expedition was orchestrated with a purpose to foster deeper connections with nations embracing the New South bound Policy. NCCU students along with many other participants embarked on this enriching journey to uncover Taiwan’s real-world expertise

in sewage treatment, waste management, resource recycling, circular economy principles, and the accompanying array of sustainable solutions and strategies. This voyage was not just about witnessing innovation in action; it was an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences that can drive environmental progress on a global scale. The field trip was nothing short of an eye-opening experience for all the participants.

## **Bali Plant: A Hub for Environmental Education and Community Development**

Bali Plant is not just an incineration facility; they are a model of innovation that integrates comprehensive community development, creating a dynamic environmental education platform that encompasses various facets of sustainability like green energy, low carbon, leisure, recycling, and local culture and history. Bali Plant goes beyond its core function to serve as an educational hub where individuals can learn, engage, and be inspired by the possibilities of sustainable living.

## **Jee's Insights: From "Garbage Island" to a Model of Waste Transformation**

Jee, a master's degree student from NCCU, shared her motivation for attending this event, highlighting Taiwan's incredible journey in

waste management. She expressed deep interest in Taiwan's history, recalling a time when it was dubbed "garbage island." "Today, thanks to collaborative efforts between the government and NGOs, Taiwan has undergone a remarkable transformation. From efficient garbage separation to innovative recycling practices, the nation now transforms waste into valuable resources, such as converting plastic bottles into clothing and electricity. Jee's enthusiasm reflects the global fascination with Taiwan's progress in waste management and its inspiring transition to a sustainable model.

## **Exploring the Plant: Witnessing Environmental Innovation Firsthand**

This event commenced with an enlightening video presentation that laid the foundation for the on-site exploration. Once we had absorbed the invaluable insights from the video, we ventured on-site to witness firsthand the inner workings of this state-of-the-art facility. Our visit encompassed a diverse range of key areas, like the Central

Control Room — the nerve center of the plant, where meticulous oversight ensures seamless operations; the dumping area — where waste is efficiently managed and prepared for the incineration process; the crane control room — where the staff look at the precision required to handle waste materials; the generator, which is the power generation that sustains the plant’s operations while adhering to eco-friendly principles; the bag filter and semi-dry scrubber — critical components that work tirelessly to eliminate acidic gases and particles from the emissions; the refuse bunker — where refuse is stored and managed before the incineration

process begins; and the activated carbon dosing system — an innovative solution contributing to cleaner emissions.

One of the most remarkable features of the Bali Plant is its resolute commitment to environmental sustainability. To achieve Commitment to Sustainability: “Zero Effluence” and Beyond the laudable goal of “Zero Effluence,” the plant employs a multifaceted approach:

**LEACHATE MANAGEMENT:**

Refuse leachate is skillfully incinerated within the furnace, eliminating any residual environmental impact.



▲ “Thanks to collaborative efforts between the government and NGOs, Taiwan has undergone a remarkable transformation.” - Jee, masters degreestudent from nccu



### **WASTEWATER TREATMENT:**

Wastewater from the incineration process undergoes thorough treatment, combining both organic and inorganic processes, and is entirely recycled.

### **ODOR CONTROL:**

A well-designed system effectively prevents odors from escaping, with a fan drawing air and biogas from the refuse bunker into the furnace, creating a negative pressure environment. Additionally, a deodorization system in the dumping area minimizes any potential odor emissions.

The Bali Refuse Incineration Plant's comprehensive flue gas treatment system stands as a testament to Taiwan's commitment to meeting stringent emissions regulations and championing environmentally responsible practices. This field trip was a testament to the power of innovation and collaborative effort in shaping a more sustainable future for the global community.

## **Wei Yang's Message: Encouraging International Engagement**

Chung-Wei Yang, an official from the Ministry of Environment, was elated to



▲ From efficient garbage separation to innovative recycling practices, the nation now transforms waste into valuable resources.

witness the event's participation from numerous South and Southeast Asian countries. He expressed his appreciation for the diverse international representation and encouraged all participants to mark their calendars for the upcoming event on incineration treatment issues in

Kaohsiung, scheduled for September 22nd. Such gatherings foster valuable exchanges and collaborative efforts toward a cleaner and greener future. These testimonials underscore the significance of international engagement and knowledge-sharing in addressing pressing environmental challenges.

## **Waste to Wealth: Environmental Responsibility with Economic Benefits**

The incineration plant isn't just a beacon of environmental responsibility; it's a source of significant economic benefits as well. Through the combustion process, the refuse undergoes a remarkable transformation, reducing its original weight by about 20% and its volume by 10%. This efficiency in waste reduction not only minimizes the demand for landfills but also extends the service life of existing ones. It's a sustainable approach to managing the waste. The heat generated during incineration is harnessed for electric power generation, serving as a sustainable energy source. This power generation fulfills the plant's energy needs and goes beyond, as the surplus electricity is sold to Taipower. In essence, waste is transformed into a

valuable resource, benefiting both the environment and the economy. This dual focus on environmental preservation and economic viability underscores the plant's dedication to sustainability. It exemplifies how responsible waste management can not only protect our planet but also contribute to the prosperity of our community.

# OIC CONNECT

## STUDENT LIFE

▲ Bali Refuse Incineration Plant is in New Taipei City's Bali district/ credit:Bali Refuse Incineration Plant



# Exploring New Horizons: Meet Three U.S. Students in International Programs at NCCU

Article by Maria Wilkinson



▲ Peter, Katilyn, and Angela meeting up with classmates from the NCCU OIC Peer-Mentor Program

As the first week of the semester unfolds, the atmosphere at National Chengchi University (NCCU) is charged with excitement and anticipation, fueled by the arrival of fresh faces from diverse backgrounds. In this article, we get to know three new Master’s students hailing from the United States, who have just begun their academic pursuits in various international programs at NCCU.

Allow us to introduce you to Kaitlyn, whose academic journey has taken her from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where she studied language and linguistics, to the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she recently completed her Master's degree in Global Media and Culture. Inspired by her research on fan studies and fan culture, she has chosen to further expand her knowledge by joining the International Master's Program in International Communication Studies (IMICS) for her first year.

Next up is Angela, a native of Wisconsin, whose undergraduate years were spent at the University of Wisconsin-Madison,



▲ Kaitlyn, first-year IMICS Student



▲ Angela, first-year IMAS student

majoring in Chinese and Community & Nonprofit Leadership (CNPL). She too has set her sights on an international program, as she embarks on her first year in the International Master's Program in Asia-Pacific Studies (IMAS).

Lastly, meet Peter, a first-year graduate student originally from Virginia, with a Bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech in National Security and Foreign Affairs and Asian Studies. His academic aspirations center around critical topics such as Taiwan-China-US relations, Asia-Pacific regional security, and human rights, which he will expand upon during his time in the IMAS program.



▲ Peter, first-year IMAS student

These three students represent the spirit of Harmony, Independence, Balance and Preeminence that characterizes NCCU. In this interview, we delve into their motivations, goals, and expectations for their academic journeys ahead.

1. *What made you choose NCCU?*

**Kaitlyn:** I originally wanted to attend NCCU after finishing my bachelor's degree, but due to financial constraints, I went with Georgia Tech. However, after completing my program (a collaboration between the

colleges of modern language and literature, Media, and Communication), I wanted to continue studying communication. Specifically, from an East Asian perspective. I remembered that NCCU's IMICS program would provide that focus on communication studies within Asia, and I decided that attending NCCU would be the best option for my research.

**Angela:** I learned about the program specifically before I learned more about NCCU. However, NCCU's reputation as both a prominent social science institute and a widely international student body really solidified my interest in coming here.

**Peter:** I chose NCCU because it's a well-respected institution that offers many opportunities for research in the political science field. I spent my undergraduate years at a predominantly STEM-focused institution, so it's nice to finally be in an environment that's more conducive to research in the social sciences.

2. *How did you pick the program you wanted to study?*

**Angela:** Majoring in Chinese at UW-Madison made me realize how interested I was in continuing my studies in East

Asia. Paired with my CNPL major, I knew I wanted to approach it more from a social science lens rather than the humanities lens that I'd been using up until now. In addition, it was a goal of mine to live abroad in order to strengthen my language skills. The IMAS program presented itself as the perfect opportunity to do both.

**Peter:** I chose IMAS because of its regional focus on the Asia-Pacific. I hope to gain a deeper understanding of the region from different lenses—political, historical, cultural, and sociological.

*3. What expectations did you have about studying in Taiwan?*

**Kaitlyn:** I didn't know what I'd be getting into when studying in Taiwan. While I followed the NCCU IMICS Instagram and read up on the program requirements, I wasn't sure how the teaching styles might differ or if the expectations as a student would change. However, sitting through orientation and reading up on course descriptions, I felt a bit more prepared for the courses I'd be taking.

**Angela:** I didn't really have many expectations about studying in Taiwan (or more accurately, living in Taiwan) because I knew it would be unlike anything I've ever done before. Until this past August, I had

never even traveled outside of the United States, let alone to a country where my language skills are only minimally passable. However, I have found the transition to be much smoother than how I initially thought it would be.

**Peter:** By studying in Taiwan, I expect to learn much from the perspectives of local Taiwanese students and other international students. So far, my classes are filled with students from diverse backgrounds. I look forward to engaging in conversations with them to develop a more nuanced understanding of the world.

*4. How has your first week of classes gone?*

**Kaitlyn:** The first week of classes was informative but interesting, nonetheless. There's a lot more group work and collaboration than I'm used to, but meeting with my classmates- both from Taiwan and abroad- has made me excited about the projects we're working on this semester. A lot of us are interested in the topics of social media and AI technology, however, we all have varying backgrounds of study that make our perspectives on the topics a bit different. Which makes for a more engaging class period.

**Angela:** I've enjoyed the classes so far and have met some really nice people that I'm

looking forward to getting to know better as the semester goes on. I've also been exploring the campus a bit more and scoping out which places I plan to do most of my studying.

Something a little unconventional that is going on is that I will actually be moving out of the dorms this week! The dorms were a great place to start meeting people and making connections, but I happened to find a really great room on Facebook and it was such a good deal I decided to take it. The whole "apartment hunt" process was a really insightful way to get out and explore the area more.

*5. What do you look forward to experiencing while you are studying at NCCU and being in Taiwan?*

**Kaitlyn:** One of the more exciting things to experience here in Taiwan is the holidays. Particularly the moon festival and the lunar new year. Both of which while celebrated in the US, aren't as big as Christmas or the Solar New Year. I'm interested in seeing the festivities that take place and especially the food that's reserved for holiday occasions. I've also seen Taiwan's take on Halloween with the intricate mundane costumes, and I can't wait to see them in person.



**Angela:** At NCCU specifically, I am looking forward to the classes and expanding my knowledge of the Asia-Pacific. There seems to be a lot of variety in the types of courses available to IMAS students, so I think this will be a great opportunity to explore and learn.

In Taiwan on a broader scale, I hope to continue improving my Mandarin skills



and exploring the country. While I've really been enjoying Taipei these past couple of weeks, I can't wait to see even more of this country.

**Peter:** At NCCU, I look forward to conducting research alongside professors and attending conferences. In my free time, I hope to travel around Taiwan and explore the various landmarks of the Beautiful Island!

If you are thinking of applying to NCCU next year, take a look at the Office of International Cooperation (OIC) for more information: <https://oic.nccu.edu.tw/>. If you are a new student, just starting at NCCU, we wish you best of luck on your journey at NCCU. OIC can also be a great resource for any questions you may have.

STUDENT LIFE

OIC CONNECT

# Scholarships For Studying in Taiwan

Article by Maria Wilkinson

Amongst the numerous benefits of studying in Taiwan, one helpful factor is the plethora of scholarships available to international students. Depending on where you study, where you are from, and what degree you are pursuing, there are a variety of scholarships to consider.

## Scholarships at a glance:

Government Scholarships:	National Chengchi University Scholarships:
<p>I. Taiwan Scholarship</p> <p>Granted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Education (MOE)</li> <li>• Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)</li> </ul> <p>2. Taiwan ICDF Higher Education Scholarship Programs</p> <p>3. Elite Scholarship Program: Southeast or South Asia/Africa</p> <p>For those only studying Mandarin:</p> <p>I. Taiwan MOE Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (HES)</p>	<p>New Degree Students:</p> <p>I. Tuition Waiver</p> <p>2. New Inbound International Students Scholarship Pilot Plan</p> <p>Current Degree Students:</p> <p>I. Academic Excellence Scholarship</p> <p>2. Department Scholarships</p>

There are a number of scholarships you may be eligible for, though regulations defer. The following gives an overview of each scholarship's regulations.

## The Taiwan Scholarship

The Taiwan Scholarship will be granted through the MOE, MOFA, or MOST. Each office has different regulations on tuition scholarships and subsidiaries.

### I. Ministry of Education (MOE)

The MOE Scholarship is applicable to Bachelor's for 4 years, Master's for 2 years, Ph.D. for 4 years. For Bachelor students, the monthly living stipend is NTD15,000. The government covers NTD40,000 each

semester and the remaining balance is waived by NCCU. For students who have graduated from one program and would like to enroll in a higher program subsequently, the scholarship allows you to reapply. The maximum time allotted for the scholarship is 5 years.

For Master's and Ph.D. students, the monthly living stipend is NTD20,000 and each semester the government covers NTD40,000 in tuition costs. For students in International Master of Business Administration (IMBA) and Master of Business Administration (MBA), the

#### ▲ Ministry of Education



remaining balance must be paid by the scholarship recipient. All other programs' remaining fees are covered by NCCU. For Master's and Ph.D. students, the monthly living stipend is NTD20,000 and each semester the government covers NTD40,000 in tuition costs. For students in International Master of Business Administration (IMBA) and Master of Business Administration (MBA), the remaining balance must be paid by the



scholarship recipient. All other programs' remaining fees are covered by NCCU.

### 2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

The MOFA scholarship is applicable to Bachelor's for 4 years, Master's for 2 years, and Ph.D. for 4 years. The award coverage is a month living stipend of NTD30,000 and one round-trip economy-class flight ticket from home country. The MOFA Taiwan Scholarship is granted to students from countries that have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. However, special consideration may also be given to students from other countries. The award may also be granted to students that wish to only study Mandarin, in that case, the scholarship duration is 1 year and the monthly living stipend is NTD25,000.

### 3. Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

The MOST scholarship is applicable to Master's students for 2 years and Ph.D. students for three years. The scholarship provides a monthly living stipend of NTD30,000. The aim of the MOST scholarship is to encourage outstanding international students to study in Taiwan while promoting bilateral scientific and technological exchanges. This scholarship is not eligible to students from Macau, Hong Kong, or Mainland China.

▲ Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Taiwan MOE Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (HES)

The HES scholarship is available to students who wish to study only Mandarin. The duration of the scholarship differs. There are 2 months scholarships for students who study June to July or July to August. Additionally, there are 3, 6, 9, or 12-months scholarships from September to August. Students should apply if they are not currently enrolled as a student in a Mandarin language center or have never been a degree-seeking student at any university in Taiwan.

For these four scholarships, contact the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in your country. Applications are accepted from February 1st to March 31st. Note that your eligibility depends on your country's ties with Taiwan. Some countries may not be eligible or there may be another scholarship you are eligible for.

For more information, visit the Taiwan Scholarship website:

<https://taiwanscholarship.moe.gov.tw/web/index.aspx>



## Taiwan IDCF Higher Education Scholarship Programs

The Taiwan IDCF Higher Education Scholarship's mission is to help partner countries with human resources development. Currently, there are 54 partner countries. Taiwan IDCF has established the Taiwan International Cooperation Alliance with 22 partner universities. NCCU, being one of these universities, offers two Master's programs to apply to, IMBA and International Master's Program in International Studies in the College of International Affairs (IMPIS). And one Bachelor's program, the International Undergraduate Program in Business Administration (IUP in BA). The duration of the scholarship for Master's programs is 2 years. The duration of the scholarship for the Bachelor's program is 1 year.

IDCF arranges and covers the airfare for a round-way ticket to and from Taiwan. The dormitory, credit fees, tuition, insurance, and textbooks are paid for by IDCF. For students in an undergraduate program, a monthly living stipend of NTD12,000 is provided. For students in a Master's program, a monthly living stipend of NTD15,000 is provided.

For more information, visit the IDCF website; <https://www.icdf.org.tw/wSite/np?ctNode=31561&mp=2>.

## Elite Scholarship Program: Southeast or South Asia/Africa

The Elite Scholarship Program is applicable to those who currently occupy a formal lecturer position at a public or private college or university in Southeast Asia, South Asia, or Africa. Nationals of the Republic of China and overseas Chinese citizens are not eligible.

▲ NCCU main gate



In addition, individuals who are currently enrolled in or on leave of absence from another college or university in Taiwan, with the exception of students who are in the process of graduating from a Bachelor's or Master's program and are applying to pursue a higher degree, are ineligible. Candidates enrolling in a program that awards a degree that duplicates another degree already held by the applicant from a university in Taiwan is ineligible. Current exchange students or students enrolled in a double (or joint) degree through an academic cooperation arrangement between a foreign educational institution and a college or university in Taiwan is ineligible. Lastly, those who are currently receiving other scholarships or subsidies from the ROC are ineligible.

Applicants are nominated by their individual academic departments or programs to the Overseas Office for International Cooperation (OIC). The duration of the award for Master's students is 2 years. For Ph.D. students, the duration is 3 years. The award cannot exceed 3 years cumulatively. The tuition and monthly stipend differ depending on the funding available. The quota is announced and regulated by the ROC MOE.



▲ Lakeside reading house

## NCCU Tuition Waiver

The duration of the tuition waiver is 4 years for Bachelor's, 2 years for Master's, and 3 years for Ph.D. The award is full exemption from tuition fees and credit fees. Only international students who are newly admitted and without additional scholarships are eligible. Students will be nominated by their college, individual applications by students are not accepted. For more information, you may see the guidelines; <https://oic.nccu.edu.tw/Upload/FileManager/6c3d4823-b7b5-4473-8380-61e01fb75162.pdf>.

## New Inbound International Students Scholarship Pilot Plan

This scholarship is similar to the NCCU Tuition Waiver, as the duration is 4 years for Bachelor's, 2 years for Master's, and 3 years for Ph.D. The award coverage depends on whether you receive the full scholarship or half. For those who receive the full scholarship, a tuition waiver is provided, though credit fees are not included, and a living stipend of NTD150,000 per academic year is given. For half-scholarship recipients, only the tuition is waived, not including credit fees, and no stipend is given. This scholarship is only for newly admitted international students without other scholarships. Students are nominated by individual academic departments and programs to the OIC every April and December. For more information, the guidelines are here: <https://oic.nccu.edu.tw/Upload/FileManager/a58aea8a-96c2-4fid-ab80-626208c181b7.pdf>

## Academic Excellence Scholarship

The Academic Excellence Scholarship is given each semester as a reflection of your academic performance the semester

before. Students who have enrolled at NCCU for more than one semester may apply. A transcript of the previous semester will be required upon applying and volunteer hours that contribute to the NCCU OIC community will be asked of the student. Those who have received other full scholarships are excluded. Students studying Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. are all welcome to apply. Applications are to be sent to OIC around September and late February each year. The actual deadline will be announced by OIC. For more information, you can find it here; <https://oic.nccu.edu.tw/Upload/FileManager/230b16f9-bb6c-4912-bda6-e198168108e3.pdf>.

If you are reading this article prior to October 16, 2023, note that the Academic Excellence Scholarship is currently accepting applications until the 16th of October. Contact OIC for more information.





▲ Art & culture center

## Department Scholarships

Lastly, each department may have its own academic scholarship for students who do not have any other scholarship. Contact your department to inquire what their scholarship opportunities may be.

STUDENT LIFE  
OIC CONNECT





# CULTRUAL SPOTLIGHT

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/Pic by Tanushree Rao  
on Unsplash



# Walking the U Theatre Path: NCCU International Freshmen's First Maokong Meditation Experience

Article by Jeremy Kuo

On the first weekend of the new semester at National Chengchi University, the Wenshan area experienced an unusual clear day, indicating that it was a great day for outdoor activities. In the afternoon, more than thirty international students from afar gathered at the Maokong Gondola Zoo Station, preparing to participate in the cultural journey organized by the Office of International Cooperation. Over the next few hours, they would need to walk along the “U Theatre Path” that meandered through the mountains, visit the hidden mountaintop theater in Maokong, and eventually, in the open-air surroundings of the forest, practice the

meditation basics that the U Theatre troupe members do daily.

But before venturing into the mountains, the students were given a chance to travel by “vehicle,” and in this context, the vehicle referred to the unique mode of transportation in the Wenshan area, the “Maokong Gondola.” The Maokong Gondola is four kilometers long, making it the longest cable car in Taiwan and the first with a mass transit nature. In less than half an hour, it securely transported the students from the zoo to Maokong. The scenic nature of the Maokong Gondola allowed the students to enjoy panoramic city views from high above, and the ride from the “Zoo South Station” to

the “Zhinan Temple Station” provided a distant view of the NCCU campus. When the students saw NCCU’s iconic azure field and the towering comprehensive building still clearly visible from high above, they couldn’t help but exclaim and quickly took out their phones to capture the moment.

Most international students were experiencing the charm of a cable car for the first time. Mariko from Japan mentioned in an interview that while Japan has chairlift cable cars designed specifically for skiing, the sensation of riding them is quite different from the Maokong Gondola. It was her first time trying the Maokong Gondola, and she still felt a bit nervous. Julia from the United States, on the other hand, said that the up-and-down track design of the Maokong Gondola was reminiscent of the roller coasters she enjoyed riding, so she thoroughly enjoyed the journey. She even chose to sit on the side facing away from the direction of the cable car without feeling any fear.

Upon arriving at Maokong, a day of physical activity began. Several U Theatre troupe members led the group in the “Cloud Feet” way of silent walking as they ascended the “U Theatre Path” towards the mountaintop theater. Before setting off, the leader, Yu Wen, explained



▲ "Enjoying the Scenery While Riding the Maokong Gondola"

the significance of “Cloud Feet” to the students. It meant that when people walk with complete attention, they can see all their thoughts, sometimes veering left and sometimes right. These thoughts are always there, but it’s when one focuses on each step that the inner turmoil becomes more apparent and can be acknowledged and, eventually, quieted.

To help the students better understand the spirit of “Cloud Feet,” Yu Wen shared a story about the founder of U Theatre, Liu Ruo-yu. Liu had once asked troupe members how many steps it would take to walk from the southernmost point of Taiwan to the northernmost point. His



▲ Silently ‘Cloud Feet’ Along the U Theatre Road Throughout the Journey



▲ When focused on the present moment, one can become aware of inner turmoil and, in turn, calm it.

answer was simple: just one step because the most challenging step is always the first one. Using this small story, the leader encouraged the students to take that first step, as once they do, it becomes easier to take one step after another and to focus their hearts during the journey.

After experiencing “Cloud Feet” for forty minutes, several students reflected on the change in their mental state throughout the journey. They went from the initial restlessness and difficulty in focusing due to external distractions to gradually becoming calmer and refocusing on themselves. The students also observed

an interesting phenomenon. When they walked silently along the “U Theatre Path,” even fellow hikers heading in the opposite direction, who might have been engaged in conversations before, would automatically fall silent. This illustrates the power of tranquility, which has the ability to influence people, leading them into a world of self-reflection and sharing the clarity of the moment.

At the end of the “U Theatre Path” lies the daily training base for U Theatre, the “Mountaintop Theater.” In this semi-open theater space, the students enjoyed a cup of Tie Guan Yin tea while listening to leader Yu Wen narrate the

history of the Mountaintop Theater. Yu Wen shared that the reason the founder, Liu, chose to establish the base in the mountains and required troupe members to walk the rugged U Theatre Path to reach it was to encourage them to practice self-adjustment through the repetitive movements of bending, lifting their legs, and avoiding obstacles on the path, rather than attempting to alter nature. The philosophy of U Theatre is to integrate the spirit of learning from nature into every performance, and it is only through training in the deep mountains that one can truly come close to the world of nature and all its elements.



▲ Repetitively practicing regular movements is the method U Theatre employs to stabilize the mind.

The highlight of the event was the experience of the U Theatre troupe members' daily meditation training. Yu Wen guided the students, starting with seated meditation and then leading them through a series of structured movements, including raising their hands, counting, and turning their heads. Yu Wen pointed out that practicing these structured movements repeatedly is the method used by U Theatre to calm the mind. Just like "Cloud Feet," after walking with repetitive steps for a while, there is a natural change in one's inner state.

The students were surprised to find that maintaining the regularity of repetitive movements without making mistakes was not as easy as they had initially imagined. They pointed out that there were many factors that could distract them, such as diverting their attention to observing others' movements, which could cause them to lose focus on their own actions, leading to mistakes in raising their hands or counting. Sometimes, being overly concerned about making mistakes or becoming too satisfied with not making mistakes for a period of time could also cause their minds to stray from the actions themselves, increasing the likelihood of making errors later on. Yu Wen agreed with the students' feedback and emphasized that seemingly simple



movements actually contain profound lessons. The fundamentals of U Theatre are built up through repeated meditation practice, one step at a time.

When the day's event concluded, the students gathered in a circle to share their experiences while enjoying dried fruits, mochi, and aiyu jelly. To everyone's surprise, one of the U Theatre troupe members who had helped with the event, Shang Jun, revealed that he was a graduate





of National Chengchi University. It turned out that there are now three NCCU alumni within the troupe. Shang Jun mentioned that during his time at the university, he had visited the Mountaintop Theater with international students. Little did he know that after graduating, he would join U Theatre and continue to serve each incoming class of junior students. He expressed his happiness that the tradition of visiting the Mountaintop Theater, initiated by the Office of International

Cooperation, is being passed down from one generation to the next. He believed that this short journey would help international students gain a deeper understanding of Taiwanese culture.

# Celebrating Diversity: Walking with Taiwan Pride

Article by Iris Calderon

On October 28th, in the heart of Taipei, a sea of rainbow flags flowed in the wind as an estimated 176,000 participants took to the streets, celebrating the largest Pride parade in East Asia. Taiwan Pride, a beacon of LGBTQ+ rights in Asia, has come a long way since its inception in 2003, when it became the first event of its kind in the Chinese-speaking world. This year’s theme, “Stand with Diversity,” was not just a slogan but a lived experience for many who joined from across the globe.

The origins of Taiwan Pride trace back to the early 2000s, with the first parade attracting a modest crowd. Fast forward to today, and it’s a dynamic weekend attracting over a hundred thousand participants, including international visitors. The event has grown in significance since Taiwan’s landmark ruling in 2017, which paved the way for the legalization of same-sex marriage two years later, making it the first in Asia.



▲ Crowds marching in the streets of Taipei along the parade.



▲ A rainbow flag is paraded by community members in the streets of Taipei.  
Photo credit: Josh Ellis Photography

This year's theme, "Stand with Diversity," underscores a commitment to recognizing and respecting different gender identities. It's a call to embrace the spectrum of human experience, and Taiwan's parade has become a platform for those from less tolerant regions to express themselves freely. The celebration is a representation of Taiwan's progressive stance, where waving a rainbow flag is not just an act of pride but also an act of defiance.

The day of the parade was a kaleidoscope of joy, with politicians, celebrities, and even companies, such as VietJet Air, and NIKE – joining in solidarity. The presence of such a diverse group, including the deputy

mayor of Paris and travelers from as far as New York, highlights the importance that this safe space represents not only in Taiwan but for individuals around the world. The festivities included a Rainbow Market, drag performances, and interactive stations, allowing participants to express their interpretations of diversity.

For many, Pride is more than a parade; it's a reflection of their journey toward acceptance and equality. It's a day when love triumphs over hate, and individual stories weave into the collective narrative of progress. Nonetheless, the event is a reminder that while Taiwan has made significant strides, such as granting same-

sex couples full adoption rights, there is still work to be done, particularly in areas like assisted reproductive treatment laws.

If you are an international student in Taiwan, and feel inspired to delve deeper into advocacy or seeking community support, there are plenty of resources to do so – New Bloom Magazine, accessible at [newbloommag.net](http://newbloommag.net), is an online and physical platform offering radical perspectives on Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific. It serves as a gathering space for discussions on Taiwan’s political, LGBTQ+, and social spheres, fostering a community of activists and thinkers.



▲ Professor de Busser on a hiking expedition in Taiwan

# CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT

# OIC CONNECT





# GLOBAL CONVERSATION

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/Pic by Andrea Cau  
on Unsplash



# NCCU Student's Overseas Internship Experience

Article by Asmita Banerjee

Global Communication and Innovation technology, NCCU along with the Southern News Group organized an internship opportunity at Southern News Group for GCIT students. This opportunity offers a fascinating glimpse into the media empire of Southern News Group, which spans ten major U.S. cities, encompassing newspapers, a business printing company, an International Trade Center, and an International Television Station. These entities serve as dynamic hubs for educational, cultural, and international business activities within the Greater Houston area.



With a proud legacy spanning four decades, Southern News Group has been instrumental in publishing the Southern Chinese Daily News. In line with their commitment to innovation, they've introduced the English-language Houston Daily News, which caters to the advertising needs of local businesses while capitalizing on the Group's established readership for the benefit of advertisers. This publication effectively bridges a notable gap by delivering a blend of national, international, and local news to the community, all the while providing businesses with an invaluable opportunity to tap into new markets within Houston's diverse cultural landscape. Aron's internship experience promises to be an insightful chapter in this captivating story of media, innovation, and community connection.

Aron, a dedicated Taiwanese Master's student enrolled in the Global Communication and Innovation Technology (GCIT) program at National Chengchi University (NCCU), embarked on a thrilling internship journey with the Southern News Group in the vibrant city of Houston, USA. When questioned about how he had come across this promising opportunity and his experience working in a U.S.-based media company, Aron enthusiastically recounted his journey.

He attributed the start of this incredible journey to Mr. Wea H. Lee, the illustrious founder and chairman of the Southern News Group and an esteemed alumnus of NCCU's Department of Diplomacy. Mr. Lee was invited by GCIT to share his wealth of entrepreneurial and media



▲ Mr Wea Lee, the founder of Southern News Group.

insights, captivating students with the tale of how he successfully established a media empire in the United States. This narrative of inspiration resonated deeply with many students, sparking a genuine interest in interning at the Southern News Group. To cater to this enthusiasm, Mr. Lee and GCIT Director Hsu orchestrated the exceptional opportunity for overseas learning.

For Aron, this internship represented more than just a professional experience. It marked his first visit to the United States in 16 years and his maiden voyage to the vibrant state of Texas. Life and work in the heart of a foreign Chinatown presented an intriguing and truly unique adventure.

It was an eye-opener, as he witnessed firsthand how overseas Taiwanese, Chinese, and Cantonese immigrants thrived and made a lasting impact on the local community. Aron's experience in the U.S. was not merely about work but a rich cultural and personal journey, highlighting the significant role of internships in broadening horizons and fostering cross-cultural understanding. Internships, often regarded as the bridge between classroom education and real-world experience, offer a multitude of advantages that transcend traditional learning environments. They open

doors to professional networking, skill enhancement, and the unearthing of one's true vocational path. These hands-on opportunities serve as the initial stepping stone on an individual's professional journey, where academic potential transforms into practical expertise, allowing students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a tangible work setting.

When asked about the most significant takeaways from the internship, Aron's response was illuminating. He succinctly articulated, "My primary objective for the internship was to gain insights into the evolution of traditional media in the digital age. Southern News Group, in this regard, is hitting its stride." Aron's words encapsulate the essence of his internship experience, where he bore witness to the dynamic transformation of traditional media in an era dominated by digital innovation.

National Chengchi University astutely recognizes the profound significance of internships in shaping students' personal growth, skill development, and the seamless transition into their chosen careers. Such immersive experiences grant them a comprehensive understanding of the professional realm, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. These internships, thoughtfully integrated into the university's curriculum,

empower students to gain practical insights across diverse industries, enriching their educational journey with real-world applications.

▲ Aron ( in the middle) with Southern News Group employee discussing his work.





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