Through Chinese language and culture programs, US college students discover Taiwan

“2010 Mandarin Summer Tour” hosted the group of seventeen students and their professor, providing intensive Mandarin Chinese language courses, cultural activities and fieldtrips. 

During the two months, the students spent three hours in class every weekday, followed by two hours with one-on-one tutors. The NCCU tutors gave the Richmond students not only valuable practice and support speaking Chinese, but a chance to make friends with Taiwanese students.

These friendships continued outside of class as the tutors accompanied the Richmond students on the cultural field trips to places such as Danshui and the National Palace Museum, both of which are among the most visited spots in Taipei.

Juliet Lee, one of the visiting students, enjoyed interacted with the tutors on and off campus. “I loved hanging out with the tutors and we ended up really getting to know them,” she said. “We went bowling and went to karaoke (KTV).

Juliet’s favorite experience was an overnight trip to the historic location Jiufen, a small old village near the northern coast of Taiwan that gave the group another glimpse of Taiwan’s hidden sights. “It was beautiful, the mountains overlooking the South China Sea. Our hotel was in this little town that could have existed a hundred years ago.”

Upcoming Events

- International students Orientation
  Sept. 10
  Contact: ninahsu0825@gmail.com (Nina)#62828

- Student Ambassador Welcome Party
  Sept. 21
  Contact: ninahsu0825@gmail.com (Nina)#62828

- Lunch talk (Misguided Missile) by scholar Prof. Yizhak
  Sept. 24
  Contact: clairetao46nccu@gmail.com (Claire)#62016

- Study Abroad Fair
  Oct. 25-29
  Contact: clairetao46nccu@gmail.com (Claire)#62016
This summer, National Chengchi University (NCCU) hosted international students to participate in the 2010 International Summer School program (ISS).

Taking place in July and August, the ISS provides international students interested in East Asia with courses in Chinese language as well as topics relating to cross-strait economic development and Chinese culture in Taiwan.

The program divided into two-month long sessions aims to create a continuous year long learning environment to complement the regular semester system at NCCU. By offering summer courses, NCCU’s semester system is able to better coordinate with other countries and provide more opportunities for international educational exchange.

Students select to study for one or both months and choose the courses they wish to attend. Chinese language courses are provided by NCCU’s Chinese Language Center, while credit courses are taught through the Asia-Pacific Culture Program or Economic Development Program.

Lee Seung-Hoon, a student from Seoul University enjoyed the ability to gain first-hand experience culture, rather than reading about it in a textbook. “I think the program gives foreigners a good chance to experience traditional Chinese culture,” he said.

Jonas Goldbach, a German student who used the program to extend his study abroad experience from the previous semester, found the discussion based element of the Chinese language program helpful. “I never felt like I was just sitting in class doing nothing because you could participate in class at any time.”

All classes are held in NCCU facilities and foreign students have the option to be housed in the university dorms, giving them an opportunity to experience a piece of Taiwanese student life.

I participated in the program: summer school of National Chengchi University in Taipei for one month. My decision to participate in this program made the wish to improve my Chinese come true. I choose Chengchi University because it is one of the universities that we regard as a better place based on culture and politics in Asia. I think the course “Asia-Pacific Culture and Economic Development” is the best part of this program because in European education we have few opportunities to learn the history of Asia in detail. The participation of Summer school is one of my best experiences.

2010 International Summer School--from participant point of view

I made many friends despite my Chinese is the basic level. Most students in the program of summer school are from different sphere. In this program, I could meet many people from countries such as Australia, Austria, Czech Republic, Korea, Italy, Poland, Singapore, and USA. Their differences are great enrichment for me. The university also offered the service of buddy program which local student helped us and followed our visit.

http://oic.nccu.edu.tw
Activation of bilateral cooperation between Georgia Institute of Technology and National Chengchi University

STORY / Sharon Chang
PHOTO / Kelly Wang

Eighteen National Chengchi University (NCCU) students returned from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) Summer Program, which lasted a month from July 17 to Aug 7.

This is the first time NCCU’s sister school Georgia Tech cooperated with NCCU to offer the “U.S. Enterprise and Economy Summer Program”. During the program, in the mornings NCCU students took classes on the US economy, history, media, and government, and in the afternoons toured leading enterprises like CNN, Coke Cola and institutions such as the US Federal Reserve Bank.

Kelly Wang (王植之), the coordinator of the program from Office of International Cooperation (OIC) at NCCU, said this is a new and unique experience for Taiwanese students.

NCCU in cooperation with Georgia Tech worked for more than half a year to create a flexible and customized schedule for the NCCU students. The program became a combination of academics blended with field trips to institutions that are normally restricted to the public.

Chelsea Wu (吳蘭芝) from the Department of Risk Management and Insurance said what impressed her most during her stay was the Federal Reserve Bank. At the Fed, she had the opportunity of participating in a simulated vote on raising interest rates.

According to Wu, usually interest rates only appeared in the newspaper, but when she participated in the stimulated voting process, she quickly gained new hands on appreciation for the voting process.

Students return from Berkeley with new attitudes

STORY / Mindy Kuo

A group of 36 students from National Chengchi University (NCCU) finished their 42-day stay in Berkeley’s Summer Sessions and came back on Aug. 13 with a new view of learning and deeper understanding of the world.

Chen, an English Department senior said that she was surprised with the back-and-forth discussions between professors and students during her first class in Berkeley.

“It was amazing that whenever the teacher threw out an issue, everyone in the class came up with an idea immediately and was eager to speak up their mind,” she said. It is very different from the typical class in Taiwan where all you need during a class is to listen and take notes.

Allen Chen (陳信帆), the coordinator of Office of International Cooperation (OIC), said in his second year of hosting the event, what makes this program distinguished from others is that NCCU students are allowed to take their regular courses.

Yang, who is going to start her first year of graduate studies in Linguistics at NCCU, is planning her second visit to Berkeley after learning that NCCU had signed an agreement with the university for graduate student exchanges.

All the students are excited about visiting CNN Headquater in Atlanta.

SCHOOLS

| Development of the University of Chile | Chile | Jul 2, 2010 |
| University of North Carolina at Greensboro | America | Jul 12, 2010 |
| Arizona State University | America | Jul 13, 2010 |
| Sungkonghoe University | Korea | Jul 14, 2010 |
| Colegio Universitario de Estudios Financieros | Spain | Jul 16, 2010 |
| Wells International School | Thailand | Jul 21, 2010 |
| Kwansei Gakuin University | Japan | Jul 26, 2010 |
| Soga university | Japan | Jul 30, 2010 |
| Hallym University | Korea | Aug 2, 2010 |
| DAAD IC Taipei | Germany | Aug 2, 2010 |
| International Pacific College | New Zealand | Aug 5, 2010 |
| University of Tsukuba | Japan | Aug 9, 2010 |
| Representatives | New Zealand | Aug 10, 2010 |

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