

## **2023 Ambassadors international students' life experience**

### **Lim Siew En**

Hello, I am Lim Siew En, a proud Malaysian currently pursuing my dream of studying veterinary medicine at National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) in Taiwan. Reflecting on my journey, five years ago, while I was in the final year of secondary school, I stumbled upon NCHU's recruitment for veterinary medicine students. Fortunately, I seized the opportunity and successfully interviewed my way into this esteemed institution. This decision has shaped my life in numerous ways.

The primary motivation behind my choice of NCHU was the generous scholarship they offered. NCHU provided me with a full tuition waiver and a monthly stipend, a gift I am immensely grateful for. Beyond the financial aspect, NCHU's location in Taichung was another draw. The weather here is just perfect, unlike Taipei, where it often rains, or Tainan, where it can get unbearably hot. Moreover, the cost of living in Taichung is reasonable, making it an ideal place for a student like me. After a year in Taiwan, I even obtained my motorcycle license, adding an extra layer of convenience to my daily life. I highly recommend this for students in Taiwan, but do exercise caution on the roads!

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to be living my dream as a veterinary medicine student at NCHU, even though the journey hasn't been easy. In the first year, we delved into the intricate world of canine anatomy, which included hands-on dissection. We also tackled general zoology, general chemistry, and animal welfare. The second year brought more challenges, with subjects like veterinary physiology, parasitology, bacteriology, immunology, histology, and virology, along with medical biochemistry. The third year expanded our knowledge further to include infectious diseases in domestic animals, reproductive disorders, aesthetics, and pathology. As we moved into the fourth year, we studied diseases of swine, poultry, ruminants, small animals, and engaged in both large and small animal surgery. We even explored wild animal diseases, veterinary public health, aquatic animal diseases, and veterinary clinical pathology. The final year involved veterinary epidemiology, jurisprudence, ethics, and intensive preparations for clinical conferences. It was a rigorous journey, filled with countless examinations and an ocean of knowledge to absorb, but I am grateful for the excellent studying environment NCHU provided. We could study overnight in the basement of the library, and there were dedicated study rooms in the dormitories to ensure we didn't disrupt our roommates.

In our esteemed institution, we are fortunate to have a distinguished faculty of professors, each possessing a wealth of experience and expertise in their respective fields. Notably, our department is led by Dr. Chan Peng-Wen, an eminent figure in reproductive disorders. Dr. Chen Wen-Ying imparts her profound knowledge in the realm of internal medicine, while Dr. Mao Chiahung enlightens students about animal physiology and endocrinology. Dr. Tung Kwong-Chung's specialization lies in parasitology and wild animal

studies, complementing Dr. Shien Jui-Hung's focus on avian diseases, and Dr. Chou Chi-Chung's dedication to clinical pathology.



Went to Neiwan culture trip with OIA, made a handmade pencil box.

Further enhancing our faculty, Dr. Chang Shih-Chieh imparts insights into small animal surgery and oncology. Dr. Lee Wei-Ming's expertise enriches our understanding of endocrinology, while Dr. Wang Chi-Young delves into the intricate world of virology. Large animal surgery finds its master in Dr. Chang Shih-Te, while Dr. Chen Jeng-Rung enlightens students on the intricacies of anatomy. Dr. Chang Lee-Tain broadens horizons through the study of immunology, and Dr. Chen Kuan-Sheng's prowess lies in Diagnostic Imaging.

The academic spectrum extends with Dr. Wang Hsien-Chi's exploration of aesthetics, Dr. Kuo Chih-Jung's insights into bacteriology, and Dr. Lin Shiun Long's focus on ophthalmology. Dr. Liu Pan-Chen imparts wisdom in small animal medicine, paralleled by Dr. Lai Cheng-Hung's dual expertise in parasitology and acupuncture. Dr. Liu Hao-Ping unveils the realm of medical biochemistry, while Dr. Chia Min-Yuan delves into infectious diseases. Aquatic health falls under the purview of Dr. Hsieh Chia-Yu, while Dr. Chen Po-Wen sheds light on pharmacology. Virology is masterfully taught by both Dr. Liu Shin-Wu and Dr. Shin Dai-L'un, as Dr. Chen Kuang-Ti imparts insights into anatomy.

The surgical domain continues with Dr. Shia Wei-Yau's proficiency in small animal surgery, while Dr. Liu Pin-Chen enriches our understanding of small animal medicine. Dr. Chang Chia-Yu's focus on vaccinology contributes to the field of preventive medicine. Animal welfare finds a dedicated proponent in Dr. Kenny Tzu-Yun Teng, and the intricate realm of wild animal diseases is unraveled by Dr. Chou Shyun. Pharmacology receives further illumination through the teachings of Dr. Julia Chu-Ning Hsu.

Our faculty stands as a beacon of knowledge and expertise, nurturing the minds of the next generation of medical professionals. Each professor's dedication and mastery in their domain create a dynamic and enriching learning environment for our students.

Another aspect of NCHU that I deeply appreciate is the rich array of activities they organize for students. The Office of International Affairs (OIA) deserves special mention for facilitating cultural exchange and fostering friendships between foreign students like me and the local Taiwanese community. I've had the privilege of participating in several cultural trips, each of which has been a meaningful and enlightening experience. What's even more remarkable is that most of these events are free of charge, a testament to NCHU's commitment to providing students with enriching opportunities.

In conclusion, my journey at NCHU has been a remarkable one, marked by academic challenges, financial support, a fantastic environment for learning, and the opportunity to immerse myself in Taiwanese culture. I am excited to see where my veterinary medicine studies will take me in the future, and I will forever cherish the memories and experiences I've gained at NCHU.



Meet a new friend from India, and a friend from Vietnam



Self decorated desk ornament