

If you are searching for information about studying in Taiwan, please listen to my stories to know "Why did I choose Taiwan and NCHU?" or "How is my exciting journey at NCHU?"

Taichung, October 2020

NCHU in my heart!

Since I was a child, I always wondered "Why are so many people coming to Taiwan to work and send so much money back to their families in Vietnam?". When I grew up, the news often mentioned Four Asian Dragons, I asked myself "Why is that small island the developed country that is closest to Vietnam". When I went to high school, had more chances to use the Internet, and was able to learn more about Taiwan by myself, I asked myself, "Why can Taiwan develop the economy and maintain culture so well at the same time?". Many "Why" questions motivated me to learn more about this beautiful country and now I am in Taiwan to introduce to you about my interesting life right now.

Taiwan and National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) are a whole new horizon to me. This country not only has developed industry, but also extremely modern agriculture. When it comes to agriculture, the field that I am researching and working in, NCHU is the first choice. I chose the International Master Program of Agriculture (IMPA) to apply and chose agricultural tourism in Taiwan as my research topic.



After many months of hard-working preparing my documents for application and waiting for the results, I finally received an admission letter from NCHU in June 2019. When I held that letter in my hand, there were a lot of emotions in me, happy, proud, and also worried about the future. At that time I graduated from university for a year, I was having a good self-employed job and it was growing steadily. How can I imagine what will await me in Taiwan in the upcoming years and after I return, will I have another job like what I was having? But in the end, I still decided to stop that job, step out of my comfort zone to prepare to study abroad. Because I believe this will be a great opportunity to learn and improve myself a lot. To be honest, what's going on now has proven my decision to be very correct.

What happened in reality was more than what I expected of NCHU. The first is **a high-quality international education system**. Since NCHU has so many leading research centers and institutes,

international scientific conferences and exhibitions are regularly held at the university. Each semester, professors from famous universities in the world come to teach, especially in the program that I am studying. Besides learning in classes, most of the subjects contain field trips to companies and farms; or speeches given by managers who are running their practical projects. Through that, I was given the opportunity to learn about current scientific research trends, such as the application of artificial intelligence and big data in agricultural production. IMPA students will have a variety of research topics including natural sciences and social sciences. As my professor, Dr. Allen Hsieh said: “Studying at IMPA/IBPA is not only interesting but also expands multidisciplinary knowledge in addition to agricultural expertise”. Therefore, I not only focus on my topics about agritourism but also have the opportunity to expand my knowledge in many different fields. Each week my class has an interesting seminar where students from different fields give presentations on their research topics, such as postharvest of mango, seaweed, the influence of plastic in the soil, some people study marketing, supply chain management. In general, diversity and quality are IMPA's advantages and that is the reason why I chose this program.



The second thing that makes me impressed about NCHU is that the school is always equipped with **the most modern facilities** for students' learning, discussion, and entertainment. The library and the sports complex are my favorites. NCHU's library is the largest and most modern library I've ever been to. Not only does it have thousands of valuable books, written in many languages and many different fields, our library also has a computer room, conference room, and a free multimedia entertainment room for students. As a student of NCHU you not only need to learn about professional knowledge, you are also encouraged to become more comprehensive both physically and mentally. After studying hard, I often go jogging, playing badminton, and swimming with my friends and I just learned a new sport - tennis.

At first, I thought **the life of international students** would be very lonely, but that was not true at NCHU. The school, especially OIA, always cares and enthusiastically helps international students, regularly organizes extra-curricular activities for students such as Halloween, Christmas, or cultural exchange between countries. So I made many new friends and had many interesting experiences together. I



live in the school's dormitory with many other foreign students, who come from different continents. We share student life, so I not only better understand the different cultures around the world, but also have the opportunity to use English every day. Honestly, at first, my English was not that good, but since living in a very diverse international environment in NCHU, I have improved a lot. This is also an ideal environment for me to learn a new language - Chinese. It would be flawed if I do not mention my kind Taiwanese friends. Thanks to the help of teacher Thao and my Taiwanese friends, I got TOCFL level 3 just after 1 year. They are not only good Chinese teachers but also professional tour guides. They showed me many super nice places and introduced delicious local specialties.



Another reason why I love the school I am studying so much is because it is located in **a beautiful and peaceful Taichung city**. My favorite is the weather of this city, especially autumn, with light sunshine, little rain, cool air. Additionally, Taichung is also the only city in Taiwan that is free for both public buses and public bicycles. If you take a bus less than 10km and ride a bike for less than 30 minutes, it's totally free and that is more than enough for an international student to explore this beautiful city. For me, NCHU is like a home that gives me a sense of peace and safety after coming back from a long trip. In 2020, there is a big event that affects everyone in the world, it is the Covid-19 pandemic, but in Taiwan everything is completely different. Every time I call home, my friends and family are often surprised because even in the pandemic outbreak my life is not interrupted at all. While the situation of the pandemic is complicated globally, other countries have to lock down and most people have to stay at home for a long time, we still go to school and work normally in Taiwan. The only different thing is that we receive OIA emails more often to remind us to wear a mask and check our body temperature every time we go to public places. That made me love Taiwan more and my decision to study in this country was completely correct.



After all, it's my gratitude to this country, to NCHU, to my teachers and friends. Without them, I wouldn't have this precious opportunity to study, improve myself, and have unforgettable memories in my heart. Thank you so much, Taiwan!