

## **Study in TCUS : Feel the Excitement of Integrated Education in Taiwan**

**“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”- Benjamin Franklin**

The above quote illustrates how important education is for humans. Education can change the world, education as the unifier of mankind, even education can change one's mindset. Not everyone in the world can get a proper education, especially in areas of humanitarian crisis. Studying in a university education is very far from their reach, taking elementary education they cannot afford. UNICEF data for 2016 recorded that more than 408 million children are in dire need of assistance in the education sector.

Taiwan is one of the educational destinations for international students, especially in Southeast Asia. Scholarship offers from campus as well as the quality of international standard education are the main attraction for students, including myself. Several campuses in Taiwan are among the world's top campuses.

Introducing, I am one of the foreign students currently studying plant pathology, National Chung Hsing University (NCHU), Taiwan. NCHU is affiliated with three other campuses in the central and southern regions of Taiwan, forming an organization called TCUS (Taiwan Comprehensive University System).

TCUS is a resource that integrates several educational resources in several parts of Taiwan, namely: National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), National Sun Yat Sen University (NSYSU), National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) and National Chung Cheng University (NCCU). TCUS has a vision of developing integrated education in Taiwan and taking over the development of various types of industries and being and able to face competition at the Asian level to the world level.

The integrated campuses at TCUS have advantages in their respective fields, especially in terms of research activities. NCHU is the center of activity in agriculture in Taiwan. NCHU has produced many high quality outputs that are beneficial to the general public. Journal publication on good reputation journals, invasive overseas cooperation and providing services to farmers in Taiwan are some of the advantages of many other advantages at NCHU.

Studying at a campus that is a part of TCUS is very impressive, students can not only enjoy the facilities on their respective campuses but also enjoy each other's facilities on the 4 campuses that are members of TCUS. Participation in the learning process, borrowing books, participating in learning development and research activities and many other benefits for TCUS members. In fact, TCUS has initiated the International Summer School as an activity to learn about traditions and technology in Taiwan.

Apart from that, TCUS members also have many scholarship programs for foreign students. Apart from the allocation of funds for each campus, scholarships according to the Taiwan government are also available. ICDF Scholarships, MOE Scholarships are the best scholarships that can be applied for. For applicants who pass all expenses such as living expenses, accommodation, transportation, tuition fees all by ICDF or MOE. To accommodate the wishes of other foreign students who did not pass the ICDF and MOE scholarship selections, the campus offers campus scholarships which include tuition fees and monthly fees. Masters and doctoral students can work in their respective supervisory laboratories.

Studying in Taiwan on a scholarship from campus is certainly not a bad thing, that's what I feel as one of the recipients of the NCHU scholarship program. With this scholarship, I can focus on carrying out learning activities and research activities without having to burden my parents. The lecture I am currently in is very fun and full of benefits. I can gain knowledge from professors who are very professional in their respective fields. I can also meet friends from other countries, we can exchange experiences, information and other benefits. In the future, I hope that I can graduate on time and immediately apply the knowledge I get to my country, beloved Indonesia.