

## An International Student's Perspective

文●管理學院／Eric Lin

作者Eric Lin小檔案：

Eric Lin，中文名字：林一誠。26歲，父母親的名字分別為：Jeff〈編按：即林元闇學長〉和Helen，妹妹叫Alice Lin。Eric畢業自UCLA，主修經濟學，目前正在台灣交通大學唸MBA學位。Eric最喜歡的台灣食物為紅豆布丁剉冰，最喜愛台灣的旅遊景點為墾丁。Eric最喜愛的運動為網球和棒球。閒暇時，喜愛旅遊和看海。最喜愛的食物則尚未把台灣美食列入，而是義大利和墨西哥美食。

以下是Eric的文章——國際學生看台灣(An International Student's Perspective)。

**This past year and a half I have been studying for my MBA degree at Taiwan's National Chiao Tung University (NCTU).** My experience there has been a most enjoyable one, as I've been able to expand my knowledge in the business realm, while at the same time I've been able to make many new friends. Just being in Taiwan has given me a new perspective on life. It's allowed me to mature through academic studies, spiritual perseverance, and cultural diversities. I consider myself fortunate to have been given this opportunity and I know it will continue to shape my outlook on life in general as well as on today's fast developing Asian markets.



Eric and his friends in Taiwan/provided by Eric Lin

The decision to go to Taiwan was not an easy one to make. I found myself having to choose to leave behind all that was familiar with; my family, my girlfriend, my church, and my friends. The program I applied for would take me away from the comforts of my home for two years. I had nothing in Taiwan. Besides some distant relatives which I had not seen in years, I would be



Eric and parents/provided by Eric Lin

starting a new life. That was a scary thought. I was putting my trust in a school and in a program that was off in a distant foreign land in hopes that I would come out better in life. What would happen to me? Could I survive in a land where I could only converse in the local language? What would classes be like? In spite of all the initial insecurities, I found that the offer was too intriguing to pass up.

Taiwan's always been a mystery for me. I was born there but immigrated to the United States when I was two years old. My family and I would go back to visit on occasion when I was younger, but it was always for only a short period of time. I've never found myself attached to the place. It was not until I was in college and about to graduate that I began wondering what it would be like to either study or work in Taiwan. When the opportunity presented itself, I was quite excited. My parents always spoke highly of NCTU. It was my dad's alma mater. I knew it was the top engineering school in Taiwan and that it was renowned for preparing its students for life in the high-tech world. Conveniently located right next door to Hsinchu's Industrial Science Park, NCTU has produced many of the world's top engineers and entrepreneurs in the technology arena. With China's fast growing economy being the hot topic among business circles, I knew it was important to be familiar with developments in the region.

When I first arrived in Taiwan, I was uncomfortable with pretty much everything. The weather was extremely hot and humid; the food gave my stomach some problems during the first couple of weeks or so. Hsinchu is such a small city. It's very different from the suburbs I was used to living in. I had to learn how to use the mass



Eric and friends travelled Kenting /provided by Eric Lin

transit system and I got used to walking to various locations. The initial adjustment period was difficult because of the culture shock, but after the first month I was doing well. It always takes time to settle in when transitioning to a new environment and I found that after overcoming the initial learning curve for everything it was fairly easy to establish myself both socially and academically.

NCTU has really taken the initiative to provide a friendly environment for international students. The school is in the process of internationalizing many of its campus facilities. housing accommodation, registration, class enrollments, and most all administrative logistics are facilitated with the help of various personnel and professors. Scholarships are offered to most foreign students and are more than sufficient to cover expenses. The cafeterias on campus offer a great selection of food. Should that not be enough to satisfy one's appetite, the Tsing Da Night market is conveniently located right outside the school.

This past year I sat as the President of the school's Foreign Student Association (FSA). That position has allowed me to further improve areas which I felt could benefit the school. Often there are planned activities, celebrations, and traveling expeditions for the international students. Thus, there are many opportunities to mingle not only with the local Chinese students but also with people from around the world. The campus is slowly



Eric and his roommates in NCTU campus/provided by Eric Lin

becoming a global village; much like how the world is transforming itself today. A majority of the foreign students are from Sweden, France, India, Thailand, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, Canada, and the U.S.

I was enthusiastic about the MBA program when I first applied and continue to be so today. NCTU

offers an International Master's in Business Administration (IMBA) with a focus on issues related to the strategy, forecasting, and marketing in the Hi-Tech world. The department which governs the curriculum for this degree is the Institute of Management of Technology (MOT). There are a handful of well known MOT programs in the world, including those at UC Berkeley and MIT. NCTU's MOT department has been internationalizing itself. It is by far the largest department in terms of foreign student population and continues to grow with each academic semester. One can find quite a selection of technology, business, finance, and business classes to take at NCTU, most of which are taught in English. The number of classes offered extends to those available at National Tsing Hua University (NTHU). NCTU has a partnership with NTHU to allow international MOT students at both schools to enroll in classes at either campus. NTHU is conveniently located within a walking distance of 10 minutes. I've had a chance to take classes at both classes and my experience has been pleasant as I've had the chance to meet foreign students at that school as well.

Campus life is great. I've really enjoyed my time in my classes as well as my time outside with friends. The MOT department provides its graduate students with research labs for them to study in. In these labs, each student is assigned a desk and a computer

with which they share with another classmate. It's in these labs that one gets to know both the local and the foreign students. In essence, the friends that you make here become your extended family. You turn to them for everything. The local students are always nice and helpful with the little things that I've had trouble with. I admit that knowing a little Chinese makes life a little easier, but that's not to say that it's a requirement. There's always something to do. The labs become the center of your student life because that's where you study and play. The friendships that grow out of the close interaction have been priceless and I'll treasure them for the rest of my life.

While it was difficult deciding whether or not to attend graduate school in a foreign country, it's been easy knowing that it was the right choice made for me. As time has progressed, I see that I've been able to receive a balanced education both in academics and friendships. NCTU has made significant strides in establishing an environment pleasant for international students and has made my stay thus far a pleasant one.∞

## 友聲徵信

### 九十五年一月份、二月份

徐忠猷	CE 35級	續訂一年
徐忠猷	CE 35級	贊助\$1,250元
周紹武	民35級	續訂一年
汪 薛	運管39級	續訂一年
王永豪	電信76級	續訂五年
田銘莒	電工78級	續訂一年
田銘莒	電工78級	贊助\$1,200元
李叔猷	土木系	續訂一年
盧春林	電工66級	贊助\$5,000元
李芳政	計控60級	訂閱五年
林四川	土木71級	訂閱一年
王寧遠	電工59級	續訂一年
王良卿	唐山土木1945	續訂一年
郭瑞鑫	電信63級	續訂一年
張維淮	唐山土木30級	贊助\$1,000元