

# Students from Around the World Gather at NTU for Plus Academy Winter Program

The 2020 NTU Plus Academy Winter+ Program, organized by the Office of International Affairs (OIA), drew a total of 70 students from top universities all over the world to engage in short-term studies at NTU.

Three programs were offered this winter, namely, the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program, the Chinese Language and Culture Program, and the Research and Culture Program. This group of students came from a wide range of universities, including Cornell University, the National University of Singapore, the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Osaka University, the University of Tsukuba, Tohoku University, Kyushu University, Seoul National University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), the University of Oklahoma, the University of Queensland, the University of New South Wales, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and the University of Auckland.

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program, jointly offered by NTU and National Chiao Tung University, was a one-week intensive program that pooled teaching and campus resources of both universities. Students recommended by NTU's partner universities in the Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU) and students from high-ranking universities all over the world gathered at NTU to participate in the program. The program presented innovation case studies and offered practice in creative thinking, with an innovation workshop organized jointly by NTU's OIA and D-School. In this workshop, the students shared design concepts and explored and tested creative ideas through discussions, experiential learning activities, and hands-on projects. Besides learning in the classroom, the students also went on fieldtrips to Dadaocheng (an old town in Taipei), learned how to blue-dye in Sanxia, visited porcelain kilns in Yingge, experienced Hakka culture in Beipu, and visited Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), Taiwan's top semiconductor manufacturer.



The Chinese Language and Culture Program offered the students not only a chance to sharpen their Chinese language skills, but also a variety of cultural activities introducing them to Chinese art and literature, food and drink, and religion and folklore. The students were also provided with the opportunity to experience the indigenous cultures in Taiwan, thus gaining a glimpse into the rich cultural diversity of the island.

The Research and Culture Program hosted students from Mainland China, Hong Kong, and South Korea. The faculty members of this program included professors of psychology, geography, economics, and information engineering. The students both received instruction and guidance from their professors and worked with research teams on campus. Their research capacity and skills were considerably enhanced during the four-week program.

During these 1-4 week programs, the students studied, played, made friends, and experienced the cultural





Winter+ Innovation: A visit to Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC).

landscape of Taiwan. Their New Year's celebration included enjoying the spectacular firework show at Taipei 101, Taiwan's tallest building.

A total of 12 NTU student advisors assisted in the planning and operation of the programs, offering support and consultation to the visiting students and helping them to get accustomed to life in Taiwan. This experience challenged the student advisors to improve their foreign language skills and enhance their multicultural sensitivity through their interactions with the visiting international students.

The NTU Plus Academy Winter+ Program offers international students a precious opportunity to learn more about Taiwan and to interact with local students. By offering these short-term programs, NTU's OIA aims to attract more international students to NTU and encourage them to pursue advanced studies here, thus enhancing the influence and visibility of Taiwan in the global academic community.



Winter+ Innovation: Taiwan Indigenous Culture Trip.



Winter+ Innovation: Orientation.