



Group photo of students and staff members of the 2019 NTU Plus Academy Summer+ Programs.

## 2019 NTU Plus Academy Summer+ Programs: Connect with the World, Excel with NTU

The 2019 NTU Plus Academy Summer+ Programs offered 13 programs to 277 elite international students from over 100 top universities located in 23 countries around the world this past July and August. Besides enriching their academic knowledge, the students had the wonderful opportunity to develop a better relationship with Taiwan.

Organized by the Office of International Affairs (OIA), the short-term programs covered topics ranging from Mandarin Chinese language learning, Chinese-English translation, research and experimentation, arts and culture, business management, technology and engineering, natural sciences, to law and the social sciences. The students came from leading universities around the world, including the University of California, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of British Columbia, the University of Tokyo, Seoul National University, Peking University, the University of Groningen, and the University of Sydney, just to name a few.

Besides coordinating the programs, the OIA was in charge of offering several programs, including “Chinese Language & Culture,” “Chinese Translation &

Culture,” “Research & Culture,” “East Asian Studies: Society & Culture,” and “Exploring Taiwan: Art & Culture.”

Among these courses, “Research & Culture” has been a long-standing highlight of the Summer+ Programs. Every year, over 120 NTU faculty members from 11 departments pitch in, ensuring that the students can choose research topics that are related to their own research interests and training backgrounds. Once accepted into the program, the students can join short-term research projects led by NTU professors. This provides an excellent opportunity for them to learn from the best professors and laboratories in Taiwan. While thus enhancing their research methodology and enriching their knowledge base, the students become acquainted with the local academia and research scene.

Over the course of 4-6 weeks this past summer, the students were immersed in Taiwan’s local customs, landscapes, human geography, and history through the academic programs, group visits, and other activities. Not only did they experience Taiwanese culture as a hybrid of traditions and modernity, they were impressed by the friendliness and enthusiasm of the Taiwanese people. Additionally, the OIA recruited 13 student advisors from NTU who assisted with the planning and execution of all the program activities and provided practical tips and information to help the international students adapt to the new environment in Taiwan. Through these programs, the OIA hopes to attract more outstanding students from abroad to study at NTU and enhance Taiwan’s international influence and visibility.