

Smart Living, beautiful learning

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Linlin

我是從遙遠印尼萬隆市來的 Linlin。萬隆有豐富的天然資源、美食、時尚、最重要的就是有很多美女及美男子。我從來沒想過要離開這麼舒服的地方。但命運很奧妙，在我們政府提升高等教育師資的政策下，我決定出國留學。阿拉一步一步的帶領我在成大護理國際碩士班畢業後，選擇健康照護所繼續就學。感謝我家人的支持，我踏上了我人生難忘的旅程。

My name is Linlin and I am from Bandung, Indonesia. Bandung is rich in natural resources, delicious food, fashion and most importantly famous for our beautiful woman and handsome guys.

Living in such comfortable city made me not want to move to other places. However, life is so dynamic and there was a point I had to decide whether to continue studying master and PhD abroad. Since the Indonesian government is sending teachers abroad to improve overall higher education, I thought this was my chance. This was a huge step for me but with my family support, I decided to step out from my comfort zone. The truth is that I never heard of Taiwan before. But Allah is amazing and he guided me step by step to choose Taiwan as my destination for my study. The more I researched, the more

I was sure about my decision to pursue degree for advanced nursing education in National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan.

Academic life

Studying in NCKU so far is way beyond my expectation. The academic condition is favorable and I am having a very meaningful learning experience, not only enhancing my knowledge but also building up skills such as critical thinking and research ability. The medical science technology in Taiwan is advanced and up to date compared to back home. In addition, the Department of Nursing of NCKU where I study, they offer many elective courses that are very helpful to develop my knowledge, and most importantly, they are conducted in English. As part of the program, we have many chances to visit hospitals and community setting to have real learning experience and observe how nurses in Taiwan do their work. Moreover, all the professors in my school are expert in their field and they are very open to discuss with students. Therefore, we have many chances to learn directly from experts. I really like my advisor, she

not only advise me on my research topic but also gives me chance to learn outside campus; she encourages me to attend important meetings and conferences related to my field. This really makes my learning experience more up to date. As part of the program, there is writing course to help us communicate our research to society, we also learn how to write scientific paper and submit it to journals. This is one of the big benefits of studying in NCKU.

Learning Chinese

During my study at NCKU, we are provided with 1 year complimentary course on basic Chinese language to support our daily life outside campus. Although Chinese is very difficult language, it is still one of the language most spoken in the world. Learning Chinese is a big plus in studying in Taiwan.

Financial support

Another important factor that makes NCKU and Taiwan one of the best places to study besides their dedication to educate students both local and international, is the financial support to cover tuition, credit fee and living allowance. This financial



Linlin in NCKU hospice ward

support is very important for students who have potential but lack on financial support. NCKU is a model to show the world that education is important asset for everyone who deserves it. That's why I believe that NCKU is a good institution to study.

Living in Tainan

When I first came to Taiwan, I was scared to deal with the foods and environment due to my religious beliefs. As a Muslim, we have certain rules about the food we eat. Fortunately, there are many Indonesian students who bring their family to Taiwan, so they can help provide us Indonesian halal food. Moreover, there are also quite numbers of Taiwanese food variant that are Muslim-friendly and that fits

our diet requirements. Along with the time, I have also tried some Taiwanese food and become addicted to foods such as Hot Pot, imien, Bubble Nai Cha, etc. It also was very touching that the Nursing Department of NCKU provide prayer room for Muslim with a place for Wudlu (to clean part of the body before praying). I heard that there are also other prayer rooms in our NCKU campus. We are very lucky that we have a very understanding office of international affairs that respects and supports our beliefs. NCKU has an International Muslim Association where Muslim students help each other and specially make newcomers fell more welcome. This phenomenon is very different to where many of my friends



Nursing Department field trip to Anping

are studying. For me, this part is very important- a friendly place for Muslim. This proves that Taiwan, especially NCKU is very open minded and respects other beliefs.

Friendship

Furthermore, being far away from family and with a lot of student work makes me feel lonely sometimes. The good thing is that Taiwanese people are very friendly. I am lucky to make some Taiwanese friends in school. They really helped me a lot. We learn from each other about the differences in our culture and beliefs. My local friends also introduced me to some delicious food we can eat and some famous places in Taiwan to visit. Therefore, I travel quite frequently to explore Taiwan. Taiwan is very

rich in culture and tradition. My friends share a lot of stories about the Chinese New Year and Mid-Autumn Festival that I have never heard before. Interestingly, some of them are very similar in Indonesia since we also have Chinese ethnic groups. Regardless of our differences in belief, my fellow friends and I blend in together and live in harmony.

Smart living

The city where I live, Tainan, is a very friendly city; the weather is good, living expense is lower than other cities in Taiwan, but still higher compare to Indonesia. As a student, it is very important to consider the living cost when we choose a place to study. I get around Tainan by bike. But, I have managed to travel to many other places by

using public transportation. I'm not afraid of getting lost because Taiwanese people are generally very helpful. With the limitation of language, we sometimes use body language or use technology such as Google translation to communicate or Google map.

It is such a wonderful experience to study and live in Taiwan. The program, the Chinese class, the Taiwanese culture and people, everything makes my experience unforgettable. For me, Tainan is like my second home. I am excited to my next year in my doctoral degree and proud to be an alumni of NCKU.