



NCKU Exchange Program Report

Exchange Period: Sept. 2017 to June 2018

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My name is Felix Gallenmüller and I am a student from RWTH Aachen in Germany. I was fortunate to be chosen as an exchange student at NCKU and came to Taiwan in September 2017 to study here for two semesters. I chose this program over others because I am very interested in all the cultural and educational differences. In addition to that my aunt has been to Taiwan before and recommended this destination to me many times.

The department of electrical engineering at NCKU and RWTH have a partnership that removes multiple bureaucratic barriers which made it easier for me to apply and organize my stay. In addition to that I had a very, very good experience with all the people at NCKU. I have received a lot of help from students, professors, at the registration desk and especially at the electrical engineering department office. I really appreciate that people went the extra mile to make sure that everything worked for me. This was a really great experience and from the first moment made me feel very welcome at the university.

The first semester I took the courses Power Electronics, Archeology of Ancient Civilizations, Intelligent Manufacturing Systems and Basic Chinese

1. I am very grateful for the offer of being able to take a free Chinese class. I enjoyed it very much and opened the door for many great encounters that I was able to have because I could express myself in Chinese a little bit. This also allowed me in the long run to enjoy my stay here even more. I can only recommend for future exchange students to take that opportunity as well. Thanks to that free course I discovered a deeper interest in Chinese and took an intensive Chinese course during the second semester at the CLC.

I was also glad that there were only very little restrictions regarding my course choice, so I was able to take classes from different departments that covered my extra interests or, like in the second semester, provided me with courses that fit perfectly in my curriculum at the RWTH, like Photovoltaics and Power Systems from the Energy Program. The third class I took from March to June was Electronics 2.

Outside of the classroom I was able to join the dragon boat team from the IMBA department. Visiting the club fair at the start of the first semester provided me with lots of contacts and possibilities to join activities, although the language barrier did not always make it possible for me to join certain groups. Nevertheless, the variety is great and gives every exchange

student the possibility to immerse themselves in the social life of NCKU.

All in all, I had a very good time at National Cheng Kung University and can only recommend it to every student at my department at home. I have always felt like at home in this environment here and was given great opportunities to learn - in university and outside. The education system is very different to how I know it, but I have really come to like the way of studying here and it has taught me a good lesson of how I want to change my way of studying at my home university. I am very glad I was able to learn some Chinese as well and that I was welcomed in such a warm way.