

Between January and June 2022 I had the pleasure of studying Chinese at the International Chinese Language Program (ICLP) at National Taiwan University (NTU) in Taipei, Taiwan. ICLP is an intensive language-training program that incorporates all aspects of Chinese, however the program particularly emphasizes developing students' oral and listening proficiency. Each day consisted of three group-classes composed of three to four students and one one-on-one class. Each class was 50 minutes and I had to spend roughly one and a half hour reviewing and preparing each lesson.

ICLP offers many different elective courses covering topics such as: news reading, radio plays, Chinese idioms, everyday dialogues etc. During my first semester at the program I decided to take a business class and a class about reading news articles. I found the news class to be very fruitful and I learned a lot of useful vocabulary and sentence structures, thus I decided to continue taking the second part of the course during the following semester. During the second semester I also studied another news class that primarily focused on listening to news in Chinese. Combining these two news classes have greatly helped me to understand news communicated in Chinese and, of course, have also enhanced my overall reading and listening proficiency.

During my time at ICLP my level of Chinese significantly improved and I must say that ICLP is the ideal learning environment if you want to improve your level of Chinese in a short period of time. Having said that, being in Taipei was not just about studying, but also about exploring the city, interacting with Taiwanese people and enjoying local dishes - one of my favorite being the famous beef noodle soup. Although I did not have a lot of time to travel during the weekdays, I spent weekends and holidays travelling to different parts of Taiwan. Through my travels I was able to acquire a deeper understanding of Taiwan, Taiwanese culture and the vast differences between different parts of the island. Travelling was also a great opportunity for me to utilize the language skills that I had acquired in the classroom.

In short, my time in Taiwan was fantastic and I hope to return soon. I am confident that my experience of living and studying in Taiwan will help me to pursue a professional career where I can combine my interest of Chinese with international relations. I would like to thank the Swedish Chamber of Commerce for making my dream of studying Chinese in Taiwan possible.

Kind regards,

Lukas

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