



TERM: WINTER | JANUARY 2023

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from National Taipei University of Education

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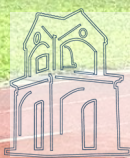
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NTUE's ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This year is the 127th anniversary of the establishment of the National Taipei University of Education. The university has held a series of activities beginning in October to celebrate.

The university has also proposed "EPOWER 666", hoping to achieve six goals:

Education: Educational Innovation, Pioneer Teachers;

Profession: Professional Multidisciplinary Innovative School;

Originality: Applied Trends of Research and Development Base;

Well-being: Social Positive Developmental Stronghold;

Enjoyment: Healthy Lohas Sustainable Campus;

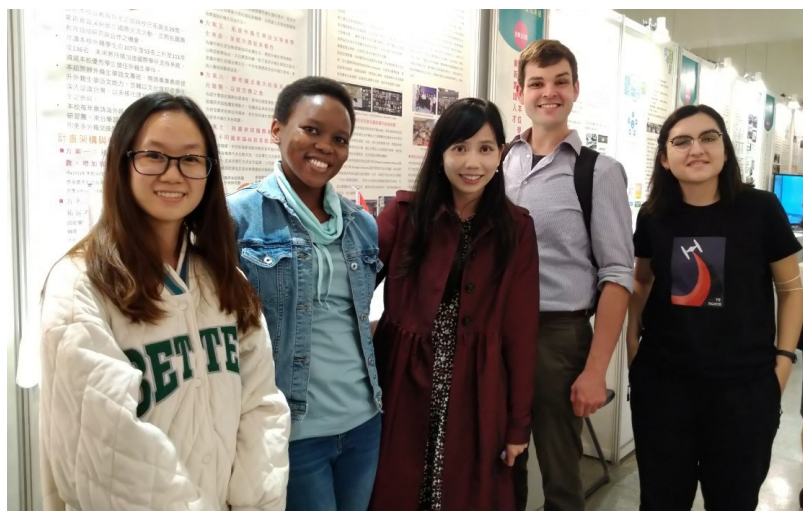
Resource: Integrated Innovation University.



NTUE's President (right) and Vice President (left)

The university held a sports day, a university fair, an exhibition of Physical, and an Achievement Exhibition of Higher Education Sprout Project to celebrate the occasion.

At the sports day, many competitions were held, including running, relay races, and many other fun events. The gave everyone a chance to exercise, and not just study all the time! Everyone looked forward to the sports day, and many people were in attendance. Even the rain that fell that day couldn't stop our enthusiasm!



▲▼ Achievement Exhibition of Higher Education Sprout Project



▲ The Exhibition of Physical
▼ Sports Day– Enter the Field



Chinese New Year Series arts and crafts

Chinese New Year is just around the corner!

First, we learned about the Chinese zodiac (learning our own zodiac signs as well as the sign for next year, the year of the rabbit) and tried to write auspicious words on every unique handmade red envelope. In Chinese culture, a red envelope or red packet (traditional Chinese: 紅包) is a monetary gift given during holidays or for special occasions such as a wedding, graduation, or the birth of a baby.

After that, we learned about the art of paper-cutting in Chinese culture. This included recognizing symmetrical character shapes, and cutting out the characters for peace(平) and spring(春).



Budaixi (布袋戲)— a Taiwanese connection

The development of Budaixi in Taiwan has an ancient history. Budaixi, or Budai opera, is closely related to religious beliefs such as the relationship between heaven and earth, gods and humans, economic seasons, and the transmission of cultural values.

In the age before television, Budaixi was everyone's favorite entertainment. It was also a must-have performance during festivals. Even today, Budaixi still has a place in Taiwanese culture, including on television and in movies.

International students painted their favorite patterns on the puppet and learned how to operate it. They devised dialogues in Mandarin and acted out a funny skit. This allowed international students to experience the traditional culture of Taiwan.



++ Bonus Culture Class ++

The most popular type of puppetry in Taiwan is Budaixi (布袋戲, also sometimes written as Potehi or Poteshi), in which puppets are worn like a glove and manipulated by hand. Scholars believe it originated in the coastal regions of China sometime in the 18th century before spreading to Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia along with migrants from mainland China. Though found elsewhere, Budaixi experienced its greatest development in Taiwan and has become a national art form.





The Year of Adaptation



Tiffany Nathalia /
Department of Arts and Design

Hello everyone! My name is Tiffany and I'm a proud NTUE international student. I came all the way from Jakarta, Indonesia to pursue my higher education. I'm currently in my second year, majoring in Arts and Design (Design Program). I've been living in Taiwan for roughly over a year now.

I have to be honest with you, studying in Taiwan wasn't really what I would have in mind when someone asked me what my dream university life would be, and I have my reasons to support this statement. First of all, language. Chinese might be the most complicated language out there to ever exist. And yes, I've been familiar with this language since I was a kid, but I never really got serious into learning or fluent. Second, I've never been to Taiwan in my whole 18 years of life. So believe me, really, Taiwan was the last place that I had in mind.

I did tons of research on which schools I wanted to apply to, and I came across NTUE which offers a program that matches my interest in arts and design. I looked up the overall school environment on Google, loved the vibe that it was giving me, and just like that, I applied here.

Fast forward to a few months later, I received an email of acceptance from NTUE. Thankfully and gratefully, I got accepted into the school that I had my eye on! Truthfully, I had mixed feelings about this, because with this acceptance letter everything started to feel real. This was really happening. To say I was nervous and worried is an understatement. I felt grateful that I had a new journey to walk through, but it was borderline scary when reality hit.

That feeling didn't last for long. I started school online, since Covid was at its peak, and quickly found out that I was the only international student in my class. My classmates were all so lovely and kind to me. Then, offline school started. I was still in Indonesia, since Taiwan's border was closed for international entry. I felt major FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) at this moment. My friends were all having fun and getting to know each other in real life, but meanwhile I was stuck in a totally different country.

When I finally managed to come to Taiwan and attend offline school, I felt like a late-comer. My friends had

gotten a head start at getting to know each other. I spent my first year in my design department having a lot of fun despite the lack of intimacy that I had with my classmates. I knew them on a surface level, but talked to them only when I needed to. All of the teachers in my classes taught the lessons in a fun and direct way. Pressure was obviously there since I had to manage and adapt to the language and try my best to understand what the teacher was saying in every class, but all of my friends were there for me when I didn't understand what the teacher was saying during lectures or when we were assigned a project that I didn't understand. I really am grateful for my classmates that helped me throughout the year.

I studied various random things in my first year of study. Starting from making clay projects, studying colour theory, making a 3D product from scratch, designing a 3D product, studying design psychology, to mastering drawing straight lines for over 100 pages. I gained a lot from my first year of study. Time flew by so fast in this first year, the year of adaptation.

In no time, I'm already in my second year of study. I feel like I have matured in so many ways. I better understand what my body needs, physically and mentally. This year, I started offline school along with my friends. This year is different. I came back with a different, healthier mindset in how I view life. I've decided that I will put more effort into socializing with friends. I have always thought "if they wanted to, they would." in the back of my head. This led to me doing the absolute bare minimum in hopes that someone would actually reach out to me first. But no, I need to open myself up, in order for others to actually get into my life.

I started showing up and contributing more with my friends in class. I've tried to start conversations first. I showed them that I'm here and I'm present. I've since realized that in my first year of study, it wasn't anyone's fault but my own that I wasn't that close with my classmates. I was so closed up that I felt that they were hesitant to approach me. When I started to be more present and active in class, I felt more light, brighter, and showing up to class got easier and easier. No matter how complicated or high pressure the class is getting, it feels fun to go through it together with friends. This second year screams freedom of expression and I love it so much. I get to express my art in endless ways, and I'm grateful that I didn't give up, because I'm here now and I wouldn't wish to be anywhere else.