

Summer 2025

NTHU

Huayu BEST Program



Summer Mandarin Course at NTHU

NTHU Huayu BEST Program

Mandarin Course at NTHU

- Taught in traditional Chinese, but **simplified characters are allowed** for homework, assignments, and exams.



I had a great experience in my Mandarin course. I really liked my teacher and classmates! ~ from Rodney Willoughby

*My mandarin course (intermediate 3) was a wonderful experience!
~ from Emily Song*



Activities & Workshops for this Summer

NTHU Huayu BEST Program

6/3 (Tue) Hsinchu Old Town Walking Tour

- We explored some of the most iconic spots in Hsinchu's historic downtown on a guided walking tour.



*The cultural activities were **all very interesting!** ~ from Emily*

Great starter activity to get familiar with the city. ~ from Mandy Gao

6/7 (Sat) Hsinchu Hakka Town 北埔(běipǔ) Walking Tour & Puzzle Game

- We visited Beipu and played a local history-themed puzzle game.





6/12 (Thu) 象棋 (xiàng qí) Workshop

- We discovered the strategic world of 象棋.



*Relaxing and not physically demanding since it was on campus.
~ from Mandy Gao*





6/18-6/20

Mandarin for Semiconductors Workshop

- We learned commonly used Mandarin terms in a semiconductor context.



6/21(Sat) Coastal Cleanup Project in Hsinchu

- In collaboration with Mediatek International Volunteer Program, we contributed to the local community by helping clean the shoreline.



Meaningful way to give back to the community while also meeting professionals from Mediatek. Some participants got to know the Mediatek volunteers well. The nice dinner afterward made the hard work feel worthwhile.~ from Mandy Gao

I appreciated the fact that we got to meet some local families and talk to them, and stay in touch with some.~ from Caroline Huang



7/5 (Sat) a Tea Leaf Picking in 苗栗(Miáolì)

- We met with local high school students and participated in ice-breaking activities.



I enjoyed the cultural activities that I went on, especially the 苗栗 tea leaf picking one with the high schoolers. It was an experience that we would otherwise not have, and the high schoolers were engaging and willing to talk to us after warming up a bit. ~ from Caroline Huang





7/5 (Sat) Tea Leaf Picking in 苗栗(Miáolì)

- We visited a tea garden in Miaoli with local high school students, where we picked tea leaves and made our own tea bags.



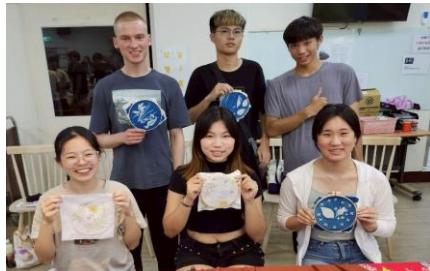
A unique experience to see the whole process from picking to roasting, and we got to take our tea home as a souvenir. Meeting Taiwanese high schoolers here was a highlight—they were fun and friendly.~ from Mandy Gao





7/5 (Sat) Tea Leaf Picking in 苗栗(Miáolì)

- After visiting the tea garden, we went to High School for cultural activities, including a traditional tea party and botanical cyanotype DIY.



7/9 (Wed) 剪紙 (jiǎn zhǐ) Workshop

- We learned about the role of paper cutting in Taiwanese wedding culture and practiced traditional paper cutting techniques.



7/12 (Sat) Visiting the Old Streets of 南庄(Nánzhuāng)

- We strolled through the charming old streets of Nanzhuang with local high school students and even made Hakka Lei Tea together.



I thought the cultural activities were a lot of fun, especially the ones where I could practice my Chinese, like when we did activities with the high schoolers. The events with the high schoolers were some of the highlights of my trip! ~ from Rodney Willoughby

7/16 (Wed) Lecture: Taiwan's Semiconductor Industry in the Context of Geopolitics

- We gained insights into historical development, strategic foundry model, global role, and future challenges of Taiwan's Semiconductor Industry.



7/23 (Wed) A visit at TSMC Museum of Innovation

- We had an inside look at one of the world's leading semiconductor companies through a guided visit to the TSMC Museum of Innovation.



Standard but interesting museum visit, giving insight into the company and founder.~ from Mandy Gao

8/13 (Wed) Seal Carving Workshop

- We explored the traditional art in a hands-on workshop, where we learned the cultural significance and basic techniques of crafting our own personalized seals.



The stamp carving event was also pretty cool. Because I was also helping out in a lab outside of class, I couldn't go to all of the events, but I thought the amount of events was nice. Lots of stuff to do!
~ from Rodney Willoughby

8/15 (Fri) MediaTek One-Day Engineer

- We learned about the daily life of engineers in Taiwan, explored the topic of why engineers engage in volunteer work, and gained insights into the intersection of technology and community service.



I appreciated the mix of language learning, cultural immersion, and opportunities to connect with both local students and professionals.

~ from Mandy Gao



Teaching English in Rural Elementary Schools for this Summer

NTHU Huayu BEST Program

Teaching English in Rural Elementary Schools



Teaching kids was a **good experience**—they were **cute and friendly**. We made lesson plans and taught them basic material. I thought we would be teaching more based on orientation, but the **amount we did was fine**. ~ from Mandy Gao

Teaching English in Rural Elementary Schools



I thoroughly enjoyed the English teaching part. The kids clearly loved to interact with us, and the teachers were helpful. ~from Suemin Kim

Teaching English in Rural Elementary Schools





Local Buddies at NTHU for this Summer

NTHU Huayu BEST Program

Local Buddies in Taiwan – College Buddies



I loved my buddy that I was paired with, and despite us not meeting until a few weeks in, I think the program did a really good job in pairing me with her. ~from Suemin Kim

Local Buddies in Taiwan – High School Buddies



My high school buddy was great! We met online once or twice a week for most of the summer. I feel like this buddy was very important for my language learning and my learning about Taiwan.
~ from Rodney Willoughby

Thank You!