

100 學年度大四工工專題摘要

第 21 組	An Evaluation of Bilingual Environment in NTHU	
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摘 要		
The number of foreigners leaving their countries to go study abroad increases every year. Countries now see education as one more attraction and service their territory can provide to the global market. Taiwan, with a total of 19,495 foreign students as of the year 2008 (double from their 2004 figures), is one such country. As one of the top universities in Taiwan, it is only logical that National Tsing Hua University attracts a big part of all those International Students streaming into the country. NTHU offers students a world class education in engineering, science and humanities and through experience their dealings with foreign students has progressed over the years, nonetheless, there is still much room for improvement. A university environment has many elements interacting with each other, e.g. the staff, the students, the facilities, the classes and even the city in which it is established. Thus, to discover the critical areas of international students' life it is important to examine their interactions with all those elements, especially the local students. Therefore, to establish the critical areas within the NTHU environment, survey questionnaires were handed out to 335 Taiwanese students and 55 international students on campus. The surveys encompassed all kinds of questions about their interactions with each other, their perceptions and obstacles associated with school life. As a means to ample the outlook into the university, interviews were done with a foreign teacher and a Taiwanese student who experienced studying in another country.		

Through the responses of the students, the key problematic areas within the university were found. The problems found were in different aspects of life in the university, such as education, school living, the school facilities, etc. However, amongst them the most common and greatest source of grief is the language barrier. The ability to speak Mandarin Chinese, or the lack thereof, affects many of the basic necessities of students, their living arrangements, the food they eat, and especially their flow of information, within and outside the classroom. A detail analysis of each problem was made, in addition to recollection of data to support each finding.

This thesis concludes as a proposal with suggestions and ideas that might lessen the hardships that International student go through during their time in NTHU. Some possible ways to achieve that are: Incorporating a tutor program assigning a Taiwanese senior student from the incoming students' department; more comprehensive English information on the school within the classrooms, as well as on the school websites and periodical newsletters. Hopefully, these findings will improve the life of foreign students in NTHU by lessening the hardships they face