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ETP證書：18+36

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“You cannot connect the dots looking forwards; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future,” well said Steve Jobs. Now looking backwards at the four replete years spent at NCCU, I do reckon the enrolment at and all the gains from the English Taught Program (ETP) as my connecting dots to—if not some great success—at least what I am proud of having achieved today.

As its name suggests, ETP allows for a full English, customizable learning experience. The 18-credit language courses well organized throughout the academic years have not just refined my English skills but equipped me with what it takes to be competitively competent in such an era where global mobility and working in an international context seem to be norms.

The entrepreneurial projects or improvised speeches from the oral training courses, on one hand, enabled me to acquire sharpened eloquence applicable to both casual and professional occasions. On the other hand, the CV and cover letter workshops from the writing training section, helped well prepare me for my future career pursuit. Synergistically, such projects as oral debates and written argumentative essays enrich my ability to think critically, which is one very crucial skill lacked in most of the conventional Asian educational systems yet absolutely essential at work or in life.

Language courses being the building blocks, the 36-credit businesses courses can be scheduled according to individual interest, hence ETP a virtually custom-made program. Taking advantage of this feature, I managed to grasp a fundamental business understanding with courses in *Economics* and *Fundamental Accounting*, and explore a plethora of unexpectedly interesting realms in the management field thanks to such courses as *Cultural and Creative Entrepreneurship* and *Business Strategies*.

Beyond the sheer convenience of sharing credits between prerequisite courses of my major and ETP, one of the greatest benefits is that I profited a lot from such class setting when exchanging at Bocconi University or even later on when pursuing my master degree in Paris, where I found myself at ease working professionally with other international students and quickly adaptive to different learning environments. All the ameliorated or newly obtained language capabilities—whether it be presentation or writing skills—turn out to be rewarding and fruitful, and I still find it so today.

Moreover, not only does ETP benefit one within the curricular scope, but it can also open so many more doors. Firstly ETP itself is a community gathering selected students from all the eight departments under the College of Commerce, where networking and exchanges are already encouraged at an early stage of one's college life. Second, a wide spectrum of extracurricular opportunities comes along the academic years to help put into practice what one learns from the Program, for instance, the international buddy program allowing one to share with international students the cultural beauties unique of Taiwan and to garner a more global perspective. In addition, I was fortunate enough to take part in the annual field-study program of Purdue University, during which I collaborated with talented fellows from other departments in co-devising one-week cultural and educational activities. I also served as a moderator for a variety of international events such as English campus tour, the orientation for international exchange students or the commencement ceremony of IMBA. In addition to honing my language skills, these experiences have cultivated me as a more organized, independent and well-rounded individual.

Now with the dots being connected and all being said, I would also love to express my greatest, sincerest gratitude to every single faculty, peer student and professor that render ETP the way it is now, and better as it will become. Simply yet genuinely concluded, there might have been reckless decisions made throughout my college years, but being part of the ETP family is never one but the best ever.

November 5, 2017

Brussels

A handwritten signature in Chinese characters, appearing to be '郭辛辰', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.