

# STUDY IN TAIWAN

## AUSTRALIA-TAIWAN EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

By the Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Australia



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**JULY 2025**



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# TAIWAN STUDY JOURNEY

By: Jess Raso (羅潔絲)

My name is Jess Raso (羅潔絲) and I have just come back from an amazing six months of Mandarin study in Taiwan as a Huayu Enrichment Scholarship recipient.

Coming from Far North Queensland, I had been working in Canberra for a few years when a colleague told me about the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship — a stipend granted by Taiwan's Ministry of Education to Australians to learn Mandarin in Taiwan. I was immediately interested. Although I had no prior Mandarin knowledge, I had been to Taiwan on holiday in the past and was very keen to reimmerse myself in the language and culture.

I attended Shih Chien University in Taipei and had a very positive experience. Despite struggling with Chinese characters at first, dedicated Mandarin classes meant fast learning, and after only a few weeks, characters started to feel more natural. I also enjoyed extra-curricular activities offered at my university, such as excursions to tea fields, tangyuan (湯圓) cooking classes, and bubble-tea tastings.

During my last week in Taiwan, I had two eye-opening experiences that made me appreciate how much I had learned. The first was fluently chatting to a Dihua Street fruit vendor about my mum's love of strawberries, and the second, translating a conversation with a tea museum guide to a friend visiting from Australia. These experiences really made me appreciate how far my Mandarin had come. Although I still have a way to go until total fluency, my time in Taiwan took me a long way there!

Many other highlights of my Taiwan experience took place outside the classroom. One of these was the Pingxi Lantern Festival, where the sight of innumerable red lanterns floating into the night sky was unforgettable. Some other bucket list experiences included: swimming with turtles in southern Taiwan, staying at a Buddhist monastery, eating Michelin-rated ice cream in Taichung, watching Peking Opera, visiting Alishan Mountain on my birthday, eating my weight's worth of braised pork rice, visiting night markets, soaking in hot springs, and of course, the terrific New Year's Eve fireworks at Taipei 101!

I have just returned to Australia, now with more friends, experiences, and Mandarin proficiency than I could ever have hoped for. My time in Taiwan was an experience to remember, and I heartily recommend it.



**TECO is holding a Study in Taiwan seminar at University of Queensland on 1 Aug**

**SIGN UP** 2





## Wayfaring: Photography in Taiwan, 1950s–1980s Book Launch

On Friday 20 June, the Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW) at the Australian National University (ANU) hosted the book launch of *Wayfaring: Photography in Taiwan, 1950s–1980s*. The event and book is a product of the Taiwan Study Program, a partnership between Taiwan's Ministry of Education and the ANU.

The event was opened by CIW Senior Research Fellow Prof Benjamin Penny and TECO in Australia's Deputy Executive Director Mr Joseph Chang, who welcomed the book's editors, Dr. Olivier Krischer and Dr. Shuxia Chen, as well as well as curator and researcher Mr Chien Yun-Ping and Director of the CIW

Gallery Professor Ari Heinrich for a series of insightful talks exploring the historical and cultural significance of photography in Taiwan during in 1950s-1980s.

Magda Keaney, Head Curator of International Art at the National Gallery of Australia, also joined the occasion to share her expert reflections on the book and formally announce its launch.

Featuring twelve richly illustrated essays and interviews, the book sheds light on how Taiwanese photography has captured everyday life, documented social change, and contributed to the island's vibrant artistic development. You can read *Wayfaring: Photography in Taiwan, 1950s–1980s* now at the below link where it is free for download on the ANU website.

Read now: <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/.../1be5fd2e...>



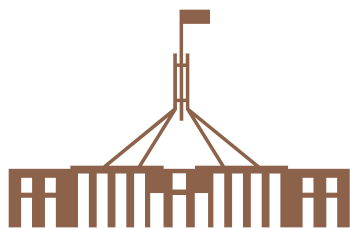
Hou Tsung-Hui, 6, from the series "Longfatang," 1983. © National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts



## Taipei First Girls High School visits Canberra!

On 2 July, Taipei First Girls High School visited Canberra as a part of their Australia study tour. The visit provided students with a valuable opportunity to explore international relations, promote mutual understanding between Australia and Taiwan, and demonstrate the initiative and talent of Taiwanese youth.

The delegation's first stop was Parliament House, where they were welcomed by electorate advisers for David Smith MP, Bryce Wilson and Brendan Forde, who gave them a tour of Parliament and shared insights on Australian democracy.



The group then visited the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia (TECO), where they shared lunch with diplomats from a range of departments. Representative Douglas Hsu shared stories of his diplomatic career, while Deputy Representative Regine Chen highlighted Taiwan's strong record in gender equality. Students asked thoughtful questions and displayed high levels of engagement.

This journey symbolises growing ties between Taiwan and Australia and offered students a meaningful international learning experience to promote understanding and friendship between Taiwan and Australia.



**The task of the Education Division of TECO in Australia is to facilitate cooperation between Taiwan and Australia in areas of education.**

Education Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Australia  
Address: Unit 5, 40 Blackall Street, Barton, ACT, 2600, Australia  
P: +61 (0)2 6120 1021/ 6120 1022/6120 1023  
E: [Australia@mail.moe.gov.tw](mailto:Australia@mail.moe.gov.tw)