美國明州TCML學員接受華語文獎學金的經驗談

#明州臺灣華語文中心 #華語文獎學金 #體驗台灣文化 #東海大學華語文中心 #芝加哥僑教中心 #美國人到台灣

明州臺灣華語文中心 活動時間：2026-03-14

A Learning Journey from Michael's Story: Connecting Through Mandarin, Culture, and Family

by TCML-MN director Pei-Wen Fang

Studying Mandarin in Taiwan helped me not only improve my language skills, but also connect more deeply with my wife's family and Taiwanese culture.

在台灣學習中文，不只讓我的語言能力進步，也讓我能更深地與太太的家人交流，並理解台灣文化。”～ *Michael*

A Learning Journey from Minnesota to Taiwan

從明州走向台灣的學習旅程

In 2025 Fall, I received the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship to study Mandarin in Taiwan. I applied through the education department of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago, applied to the Tunghai University Mandarin Language Center, and completed my visa process through Chicago TECO.

Once I arrived in Taiwan, I needed to open a local bank account to receive the scholarship. Because my wife is Taiwanese, I was able to open one easily, while some of my classmates opened accounts through the post office. Finding a place to stay was also manageable. I was able to stay with family, while other classmates found apartments through websites, through the school, or stayed in dormitories. I also used an affordable eSIM for my phone, which made communication easy.

Discovering Taiwan Beyond the Classroom

在語言之外，看見台灣文化

In addition to taking three hours of classes every morning, I participated in cultural field trips to a farm, a temple, and a museum. One of the most memorable experiences was hugging a water buffalo at a farm, which was both surprising and fun. There were also optional cultural classes where we learned about traditional Chinese opera and attended a performance of 京劇《夢紅樓》 at the National Taichung Theater.

Learning Mandarin in an Immersive Environment

沉浸式語言環境帶來的成長

The class environment in Taiwan was more rigorous, and being a full-time Mandarin student helped me learn quickly. There were also more opportunities to practice Mandarin outside of class. Over one semester, I made a lot of progress in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and I was able to hold reasonable conversations with my wife's family. Having a foundation in Mandarin from TCML-MN before going to Taiwan was very helpful. Both Tunghai and TCML-MN have similar class sizes and cover many of the same characters, grammar patterns, and cultural topics. TCML-MN teachers also incorporate games and interactive activities, which makes learning fun.

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Traveling and Experiencing Taiwan

旅行、文化與生活的回憶

Most people in Taiwan were friendly and welcoming. I never felt unsafe, even at night, which made exploring the island enjoyable. Public transportation was convenient and safe, and several classmates traveled across Taiwan each weekend without a car. I also enjoyed spending time with family and traveling with my wife. On our last full day, we visited Liberty Square, Taipei, a meaningful conclusion to the semester.

Continuing the Mandarin Journey

回到明州，延續華語學習

I’m grateful for the opportunity to study in Taiwan, but I’m also grateful to return to TCML-MN. My favorite part of TCML-MN is how kind and fun all my classmates are, and the teachers find many creative ways to study and practice Mandarin. TCML-MN also hosts many fun cultural events throughout the year. Minnesota is my home, and TCML-MN is the best place for me to continue studying traditional Mandarin and learning more about Taiwanese culture. I plan to continue my Mandarin journey at TCML-MN and prepare for the Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL), aiming to speak more fluently with my wife’s family and connect more deeply through language and culture.

Michael’s learning journey shared with us that language learning is not only about communication, but also about building relationships and deeper cultural understanding between people. At TCML-MN, we also hope to promote opportunities such as the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, encouraging more students to study Mandarin in Taiwan and experience its language and culture firsthand.

從 Michael 學習旅程中，分享到語言學習不只是溝通能力的提升，更是建立人與人之間的理解與文化連結的過程。TCML-MN 也希望持續推廣【華語文獎學金】鼓勵更多學員有機會前往台灣學習語言、親身體驗文化。

TCML-MN online news: https://tcml-mn.org/news-%26-activity

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Michael 在台南台江國家公園搭船遊覽

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Michael 和太太到高雄圓山飯店遊覽澄清湖美景

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Michael的美國家人到台灣旅遊體驗卡拉OK文化

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Michael and his wife ran the super supau 5k in taichung, which had over 30k runners.

Michael在台中參加高達三萬人參與的馬拉松比賽

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回到明州和TCML-MN的老師和同學們一起慶祝馬年活動



Michael(右7)回明州繼續在TCML-MN學習華語，並上台表演說馬年吉祥話