

# **A Study on the Overseas Chinese Students with Academic Difficulties: A Case Study of National Chung Hsing University**

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Higher education around the world has moved onto a market with an open, pluralistic, and free of choice approach. According to the statistics of Taiwan's Ministry of Education in 2018, because of a substantial increase of students from southbound countries the amount of foreign students exceeds 120,000. However, the overseas Chinese students scattering among campuses in Taiwan's higher education institutes might not have good adaption in their academic process. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to understand their academic difficulties and strategies to overcome their hurdles.

The sample of this study was 4 southeastern Asia overseas Chinese students studying in National Chung Hsing University. Through in-depth interview and document analysis, qualitative data were collected. In addition to overseas Chinese students, 2 full-time staff of the Office of Overseas Chinese Students were interviewed so as to fulfill the requirement of data triangulation. The study found that:

1. An overview of the study of overseas Chinese students in Taiwan: (1) Families are in poor financial condition and are busy working without a mind. (2) The focus of life is on community activities, so as to neglect their studies. (3) Insufficient knowledge of basic disciplines, and negative attitudes that are not due to progress. (4) Choose the wrong department, get bored with the contents of the class, and run away from school.
2. Strategies to overcome academic difficulties: (1) strategies dealing with basic subjects; (2) strategies dealing with personal learning; (3) strategies dealing with language proficiency; and (4) strategies dealing with support system.
3. The strategies used by overseas students in the face of difficult schooling: (1) strategies in foundation courses; (2) strategies for personal learning; (3) strategies for language ability; (4) good use of support systems.

Finally, several recommendations were provided for overseas Chinese students, college administration, government, and future research.

*Keywords:* qualitative research, overseas Chinese student, academic pressure, learning adaptation, National Chung Hsing University