



Andres Ponce

My name is Andres Ponce, I was born in Honduras, a small country in Central America. Since I was a kid, learning new things has always been a part of me. As a young boy I would spend hours in my school library reading about various topics, and this passion is something I have proudly maintained all the way into adulthood. I was fortunate enough to attend a school where all the instruction was carried out in English; this has opened various opportunities of communication and relations while living abroad.

The opportunity such an education afforded me filled my mind with dreams of going abroad to study, especially considering the situation in my country. I tried to consider as many options as I could, pondering what could be done given my circumstances. My brother had come to Taiwan two years before I graduated high school, and given how positively he referred to Taiwan, my parents encouraged me to apply to the Taiwan scholarship offered by the Taiwanese embassy in my country.

In August of 2016, I landed in Taiwan not knowing a word of Chinese and in a foreign culture. From 2016 to 2017, my year was spent studying Chinese at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, and that year has proven so helpful while doing my undergraduate degree: not only for granting the ability more comfortably, but also allowing the experience of learning a beautiful language such as Chinese.

When my year of studying Chinese was almost over, after applying to several universities in Taiwan, I decided that I would pursue my undergraduate degree in National Chiao Tung University, in the highly regarded Computer Science department. The experience has been highly rewarding, letting me gain insight into areas of computing that I had previously never imagined were possible.