

# National Dong Hwa University (NDHU) – Overview

Founded in July 1994 (planning began in 1991), National Dong Hwa University (NDHU) is a national research university in Hualien County, Taiwan. Its first president was economist Paul Mu. NDHU started with four colleges (Humanities & Social Sciences, Science & Engineering, Management, and Indigenous Studies). Notably, it established Taiwan's first College of Indigenous Studies in 2001, dedicated to Austronesian and ethnic studies. On August 1, 2008, NDHU merged with the former National Hualien University of Education (a teachers college founded in 1947), thereby incorporating the urban Meilun campus. Today NDHU operates the main Shoufeng campus (251 hectares in a scenic river valley) and the Meilun campus in Hualien City.

- **History milestones:** Established 1994 (approved 1991); Indigenous Studies College opened 2001; merged with National Hualien U. of Education (Meilun campus) in 2008.
- **Campus:** Main campus in rural Shoufeng (Hualien County), with gardens, a lake and modern facilities. Total area ~251 ha (620 acres). Also a campus in Meilun (Hualien City).

## Faculties and Academic Programs

NDHU comprises **eight colleges** offering a wide range of disciplines. These include: Humanities & Social Sciences; Science & Engineering; Management; Hua-Shih College of Education; The Arts (Fine Arts/Music); Indigenous Studies; Environmental Studies and Oceanography; and Huilan College (general education). Altogether NDHU has on the order of 35–44 academic departments and about 48–56 graduate institutes (offering bachelor's, master's and PhD programs). The student body is roughly 10,000+ (about 3,800 graduate students), of whom ~900–1,000 (~8–10%) are international. Study fields span science & engineering (computer science, physics, electrical engineering, etc.), environmental and marine sciences, business and management, education, law, liberal arts (Chinese/English literature, history, philosophy, etc.), indigenous languages & culture, music/arts, and design. Many programs are offered in Chinese, with some English-taught degrees in key fields (engineering, management, environmental science, etc.).

## Admission Requirements

- **Local (ROC) students:** Taiwanese applicants (including Hong Kong/Macau Chinese) apply via the Ministry of Education's standard admissions (e.g. the College Entrance Examination and related selection processes). Admission is competitive and based on exam scores and other criteria. Only applicants meeting the national entrance exam requirements and departmental quotas are admitted.
- **International students:** Foreign applicants must hold non-Chinese (non-ROC) nationality and must not have entered Taiwan as "overseas Chinese". Educational prerequisites are required: a senior high-school diploma (or equivalent) for undergraduate admission, a bachelor's degree for master's programs, and a master's degree for doctoral programs. There are also special application channels for overseas

Chinese, Hong Kong/Macau students, and cross-strait students. International students apply online during the advertised application windows (typically two rounds in the fall cycle). All materials (transcripts, proof of language ability, recommendation letters, etc.) are submitted via NDHU's admissions system. (For details see the NDHU International Students Admission Guidelines.)

## Tuition Fees and Scholarships

- **Tuition (2024/25):** Tuition at NDHU is relatively low by Western standards. For **international students**, the undergraduate tuition plus fees is about **NT\$48,000–55,580 per semester**, and graduate programs about **NT\$21,480–25,800 per semester** (2024 rates). (A credit fee of NT\$3,060 applies for some courses.) The 2025 tuition schedule will be announced after MOE approval. Domestic (ROC) students and overseas Chinese pay lower rates (undergraduate tuitions roughly NT\$16,000–17,000 per semester plus fees).
- **Scholarships:** NDHU offers several merit-based scholarships to reduce costs: For example, the **NDHU International Student Scholarship** provides a 50–100% tuition waiver *plus* a stipend (NT\$20,000 per semester for bachelor's students, NT\$30,000 per semester for master's/PhD students). The **NDHU Southward Scholarship** (for applicants from Southeast Asia, etc.) covers 100% of tuition (excluding dorm and fees) and adds NT\$6,000/month stipend plus NT\$8,000/month research incentive. In addition, Taiwan government scholarships (e.g. Taiwan Scholarship/MOE and MOFA programs) allow select foreign students to study at NDHU with tuition waivers and monthly stipends (for instance NT\$15,000–30,000 per month, depending on degree). Many departments also offer travel grants or research awards to outstanding students.

## Rankings, Reputation, and International Collaborations

NDHU is considered a well-regarded public university in Taiwan's east. In recent global rankings: **Times Higher Education (THE) 2025** places NDHU in the *1501+* tier worldwide. **QS World University Rankings 2025** ranks it in the *#1201–1400* band globally. (In Taiwan's national context, NDHU often appears among the top 10–15 universities.) For example, THE ranked NDHU 10th among Taiwan's universities in 2020. NDHU also excels in certain subjects: e.g. its Computer Science program was THE-ranked *#5* in Taiwan (globally 301–400 band), and its Environmental and Marine programs are notable. In the **THE Impact Rankings 2023** (for UN Sustainable Development Goals), NDHU was ranked *#10* in Taiwan, with particularly strong showings (top 100 globally) in SDG7 (Affordable Energy) and SDG15 (Life on Land).

NDHU has a strong international outlook: about 8–10% of its students are from abroad. It maintains formal partnerships and exchange programs with dozens of universities worldwide. For instance, NDHU reports academic links with **40+ institutions** globally. Recent collaborations include a 2024 Memorandum of Understanding with Universitas Pertamina (Indonesia) on sustainable development research. The university is also active in regional consortia – e.g. it participates in Taiwan's European Union Centre network and hosts EU studies initiatives. These ties enable student/faculty exchanges, joint research (e.g. in renewable energy, environmental science), and dual-degree programs with partner schools.

## Research Focus Areas and Facilities

NDHU is known for interdisciplinary research, especially in environmental, marine, and cultural studies. Its **College of Environmental Studies & Oceanography** (est. 2009) is Taiwan's first dedicated environmental science school. NDHU collaborates closely with the National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium (NMMBA) in Pingtung: in 2005 it co-founded graduate institutes in Marine Biotechnology and Marine Biodiversity. These leverage NMMBA's state-of-the-art labs and NDHU faculty, making marine science a specialty. The university also leads in **Indigenous and cultural studies** – its College of Indigenous Studies (since 2001) focuses on Taiwanese aboriginal languages, arts and social development, serving as a research hub for Austronesian cultures. Other strengths include **biotechnology, earth sciences, and business/tourism research** (notably an ARWU-ranked top-4 program in Hospitality & Tourism).

NDHU's facilities support this research: the campus has modern laboratories, an ecology field station, and technical centers. The **NDHU Library** holds over **2 million volumes** (the 8th-largest academic collection in Taiwan). Graduate students can use specialized equipment for molecular biology, environmental monitoring, and renewable energy, often in collaboration with nearby research institutes. For example, NDHU researchers publish in high-impact journals on topics like sustainable tourism, marine conservation, and adaptive ecosystem management, reflecting their access to rich field sites (Taroko National Park, coastal zones) and academic partnerships.

NDHU's research resources include well-equipped labs and modern libraries. The image above shows one of NDHU's main campus buildings (housing the library and labs), highlighting the campus's green spaces and facilities.

## Campus Life, Student Activities, and Clubs

NDHU offers a vibrant campus life with numerous student organizations. The Shoufeng campus combines natural scenery with a focus on sustainability and indigenous culture. The **Student Activities Division** reports **59 formal clubs and 9 informal clubs** on the Shoufeng campus (plus additional clubs on the Meilun campus). These span five categories: academic/special interest (e.g. language, science), service/volunteer, physical/sports, arts/cultural (music, dance, painting), and social/recreation. The university also supports a Student Association and student council for campus governance.

Student clubs host regular events – for example, “*Show Tonight*” talent shows, singing contests, and cultural festivals are annual highlights. Clubs also engage in community service (e.g. local education outreach, environmental clean-ups). The NDHU Astronomy Club, for instance, has won national recognition. On-campus facilities include sports fields, an arts and performance center, and student lounges. A notable tradition is the integration of local indigenous culture – the university often holds Aboriginal Arts Week and creative workshops reflecting the heritage of Hualien's native communities.

## Student Housing and Accommodation

NDHU provides multiple **on-campus dormitories** for students. Rooms are typically shared (2–4 students) and include basic furnishings and internet. Dormitory fees are very affordable – for 2024–25, on-campus housing costs about **NT\$9,500–16,500 per semester** (depending on the dorm and room type). (NDHU has over a dozen dorm buildings on Shoufeng and Meilun campuses, some reserved for internationals or graduate students.) Admissions to dorms is usually by lottery or priority (e.g. first-year students and international students often get preference).

Many upperclassmen choose **off-campus housing** in Shoufeng Township or nearby Hualien City. Private rentals are inexpensive by Taiwanese standards; a simple shared apartment might cost on the order of NT\$5,000–10,000 per month, though prices vary. Hualien City (16 km north) offers more rental options, markets, and convenience. (For reference, a small studio apartment in Hualien can be as low as ~NT\$6,000–8,000 monthly, much lower than Taipei rents.) The campus area has convenience stores, student cafeterias and shops for daily needs. NDHU's **International Students Division** provides a dormitory manual and assistance for finding housing.

## Cost of Living in Hualien

Hualien is one of the more affordable cities in Taiwan. NDHU estimates typical personal expenses (food, transport, utilities, etc.) at **NT\$30,000–45,000 per semester** for a student (roughly USD \$1,000–1,500). Monthly living costs thus fall around NT\$7,500–11,000 on average. For comparison, local prices are lower than in Taipei: a meal on campus can cost NT\$60–100, a cinema ticket about NT\$260, and groceries are modest (see Numbeo data).

- **Food:** Campus cafeterias and local eateries are cheap (a bowl of noodles ~NT\$50–80). Evening night markets and street food in Hualien City offer variety (e.g. Dongdamen night market).
- **Transport:** Public buses in Hualien cost NT\$15–25 per ride. Many students use NT\$0.5–1.0/day campus shuttle or rent bicycles (campus has bike lanes). Gasoline is around NT\$117/gallon if using scooters.
- **Other:** Utilities (electricity, water, internet) for a small apartment run on the order of NT\$3,000–4,000/month. Mobile phone plans (~10 GB) are under NT\$800/mo. Leisure (movies, gyms) is inexpensive (movie ~NT\$260; gym ~NT\$1,500/mo).

Overall, students report that living in Hualien is very budget-friendly. A monthly budget of NT\$10,000–15,000 (including modest rent) is usually sufficient for a comfortable student lifestyle outside of Taipei.

## Transportation and Accessibility

NDHU is well-connected despite its rural setting. The campus is located in Shoufeng Township, about **15–16 km south of Hualien City**. Transportation options include:

- **Train (TRA):** The nearest station is **Shoufeng Station** on Taiwan's Eastern Line. Frequent trains connect Shoufeng to Hualien City (north) and Taitung (south). For example, the train from Shoufeng to Hualien Station takes about 18 minutes. Commuting from Taipei to Hualien by train takes ~4–5 hours.

- **Bus:** Hualien Bus operates local routes. Crucially, **Route 1121** runs directly from Hualien City (near TRA Hualien Station) to Shoufeng/NDHU once an hour, taking ~45–50 minutes. Taxis and shuttle vans are also available between Hualien and the campus.
- **Highway/Car:** Provincial Highway 9 passes through Shoufeng, linking it to Hualien (north) and Taitung (south). Driving from Hualien City to NDHU takes ~20–30 minutes by car. Taiwan's north-south highways and Highways 8/9 make Hualien reachable in about 3–4 hours from Taipei by road.
- **Air:** The nearest airport is **Hualien Airport** (~20 km north). Domestic flights operate to Taipei Songshan and Taoyuan, and (seasonally) to Kaohsiung. A taxi from the airport to NDHU takes roughly 30–40 minutes.
- **Local transit:** Within Hualien and Shoufeng, buses (NT\$15–25) and scooters are common. On campus, NDHU runs shuttle buses around the valley, and students often bike or walk between facilities (the campus is bike-friendly).

In summary, although NDHU is outside Taiwan's major cities, it remains accessible by multiple modes of transport. The combination of train, bus and road makes travel to/from Taipei, Taichung or Kaohsiung feasible in a day. Most students traveling to NDHU first arrive at Hualien Station or Airport, then transfer to local buses/taxis for the final leg to campus.

# Student User Guide: Chatbot Context

## Chunk 1

### ### Student User Guide: Club Website System

This comprehensive guide explains all the features and functionalities available to you as a student user of the Club Management System. Follow these instructions to make the most of your experience.

### ### Navigation

- **Desktop**: Use the sidebar on the left to navigate between different sections
- **Mobile**: Tap the menu icon in the top-left corner to access the navigation menu
- Notification badges will appear on the Announcements and Messages icons when you have unread content

## Chunk 2

### ## Browsing and Joining Clubs

#### ### Finding Clubs

1. Click on "Clubs" in the navigation menu
2. Browse the list of available clubs
3. Use the search bar to find specific clubs by name or description
4. Filter clubs by category using the category buttons

#### ### Viewing Club Details

1. Click on a club card to view detailed information
2. On the club details page, you can see:
  - Club description
  - Upcoming events
  - Club announcements
  - Member information

## Chunk 3

### ### Joining a Club

1. Navigate to the club's details page
2. Click the "Join Club" button and state your reason for joining
3. Once approved, you'll receive a notification and gain access to member-only content

### ## Events Calendar

#### ### Browsing Events

1. Click on "Calendar" in the navigation menu
2. View events in calendar view or list view
3. Filter events by:
  - Date (click on a specific day)

- Club (using the dropdown)
- Category (using the dropdown)

### ### Registering for Events

1. Click on an event to view details
2. Click "Join Event" to register (note: some events may require club membership, and form filling, while some are public)
3. Your registered events will appear in your profile

## Chunk 4

### ### Event Reminders

- You'll receive notifications for upcoming events you've registered for
- View all your registered events in your profile under the "Events" tab

### ## Announcements

### ### Viewing Announcements

1. Click on "Announcements" in the navigation menu
2. Browse all announcements or filter by:
  - Club (using the dropdown)
  - Type (All, Public, Members-only)
  - Search for specific content

### ### Interacting with Announcements

- Like announcements by clicking the heart icon
- Comment on announcements in the comment section
- View attachments by clicking on them
- Announcements are automatically marked as read when viewed

## Chunk 5

### ## Messaging System

### ### Starting New Conversations

1. Click on "Messages" in the navigation menu
2. Click "New Message" to start a conversation
3. Search for and select a user to message

### ### Managing Conversations

- View all your conversations in the left sidebar
- Click on a conversation to view and respond to messages
- Unread messages are highlighted and counted in the navigation badge

### ### Group Chats

- Access club group chats through the messaging interface
- All club members are automatically added to the group chat.

### ### Finding Users

- To find other users, go to the users tab in the sidebar navigation, there you can search for users by name, email, or department. Click on a user to view their detailed profile. After that you can directly message the user by clicking the send message button.

## ## Profile Management

### ### Viewing and Editing Your Profile

1. Click on your profile picture and select "Profile"
2. View your personal information, clubs, and events
3. Edit your profile by clicking the edit button

## Chunk 6

4. Update your:
  - Profile picture (click on your current picture)
  - Personal information
  - Bio
  - Interests

### ### Managing Your Password

1. Go to your profile
2. Select the "Change Password" tab
3. Enter your current password and new password
4. Click "Update Password"

## ## Settings

### ### Appearance Settings

1. Click on "Settings" in the navigation menu
2. Choose between light and dark mode
3. Your preference will be saved for future sessions

### ### Language Settings

1. In the Settings page, select your preferred language
2. The system currently supports English and Traditional Chinese
3. Click "Save Settings" to apply changes

## ## Additional Details

-To create a club , or become a club manager, you need to find the school admin at [admin@example.com](mailto:admin@example.com). And register your club details there.

-If you encounter issues with the website or a bug please contact the school admin at [admin@example.com](mailto:admin@example.com)

-Here are the chatbot functionalities:

Ask for club recommendations

Show all the available clubs

Ask basic questions about NDHU

If you want to ask specific club related question, please select the club you want to ask about from the dropdown, otherwise use the general option.

Technical details:

-Chatbot is allowed to store conversation history up to 3 last chats.

-Chat data is refreshed on every login.