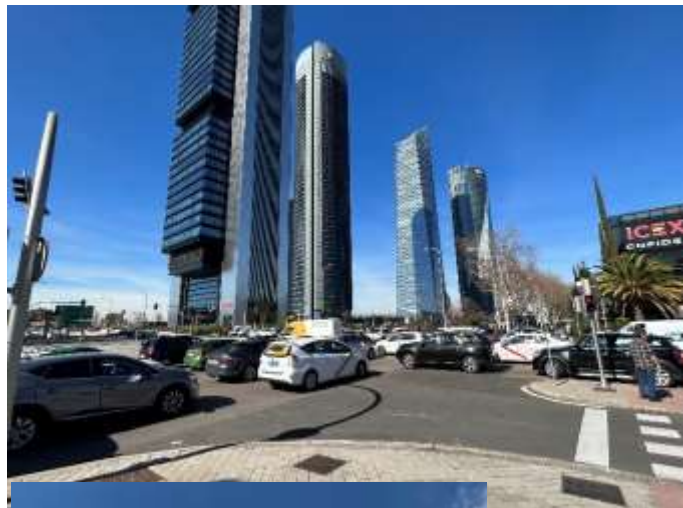


Contact: yutsewei@gmail.com

(1) 交換學校介紹及課程等學術方面資訊

IE University was founded about 50 years ago, featuring its Master of Business Administration. Although not famous in Taiwan, it's one of the top BA school in the Europe, and many of classmates I met come from prominent families. There are also many students from all over the world. I feel that Spaniards even account for less than a half of the students. IE is also one of the few schools that teach every classes in English in Madrid(Or even Spain?). It is located in the four tower district in the north of Madrid, which used to be the site of Real Madrid Football Stadium. The four towers are the four tallest buildings in Spain.



You can see sport cars in the district.



And some “rarely seen” cars..Only in protests. I name this photo as “Populism under Capitalism” .



You can take some “裝逼” pictures here. As you can see, I wore a down jacket because Madrid is actually cold enough to wear it.

The four buildings surrounding IE are Cepsa—a petroleum company, pwc and kpmg—we all know, and OHLA—a construction company.



Now I will introduce my courses. The major I chose was “Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence”. Although my major in NCCU is Political Science, but I have two minors—Computer Science and Management Information Systems. You can choose whatever major you want as an exchange student.

I had 28 ECTS, which was more than most students, but I think it was worth it!

1. Robotics & Automation by Edwardo

This was the class I spent most time on. The professor

is a genius. He got his doctor degree at Osaka University, which is famous for its robotics studies. And he even started learning Japanese from that time. Me myself as someone struggling studying a new language at age of 22 was totally amazed by him. After his doctoral period, he kept doing studies at different institutions, including MIT in the US. He's also a master of cryptocurrency.

In the first half of the semester we were talking about the mechanisms of “Robotic Operating System” (ROS). One topic one week, and we had to finish some coding homework on an online robot simulation platform, which is quite demanding to me because everything was done by Linux commands. And we also have a Lab session every week. Students were assigned to different groups to finish the final project as you can see in the pictures below. There are also mid-term and final exams, but they were not very hard. I think this teacher strongly emphasizes on

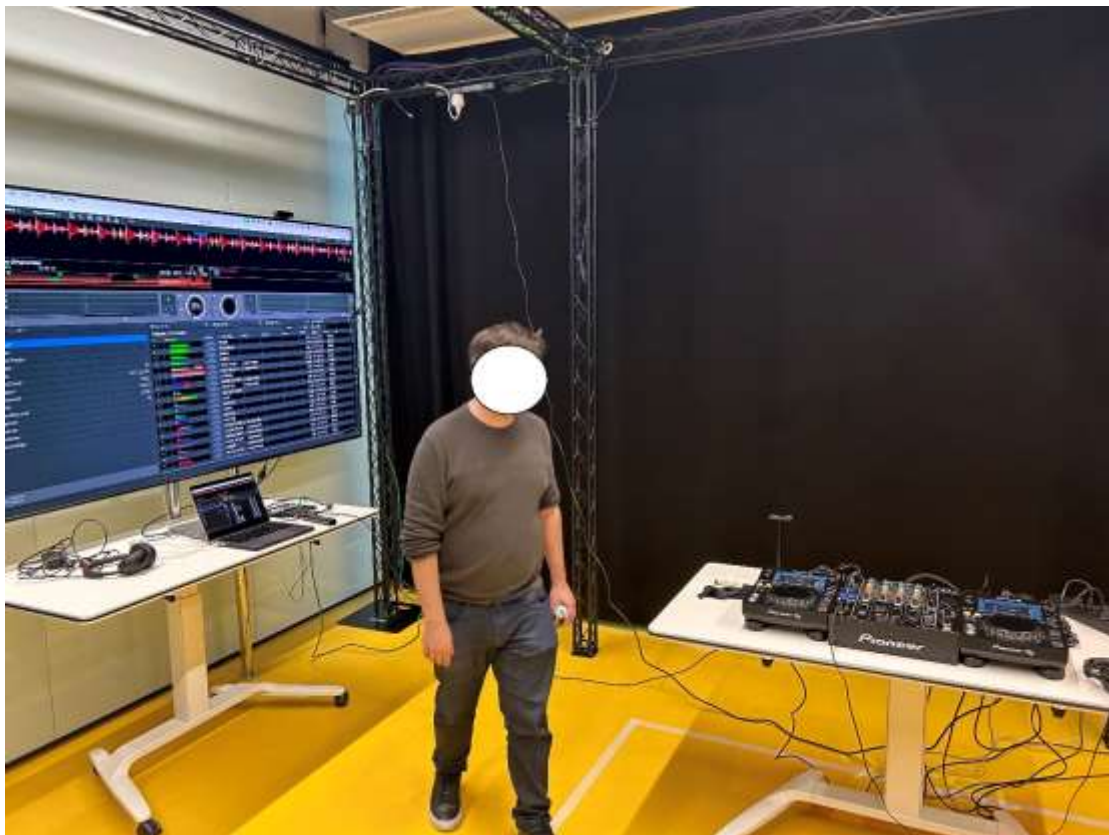
practicing instead of too many theories, so just focus on doing your project well.



Endless debugging. I often stayed at the lab until 10 p. m.

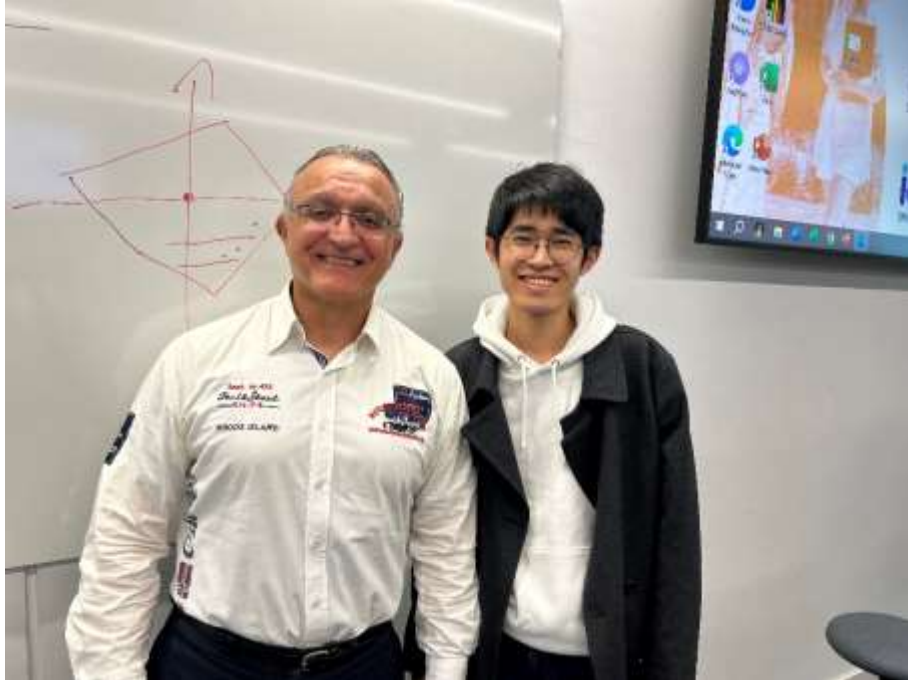


The professor is also a fan of electric music. We learned to be a DJ in one of the sessions. I've never known there are many theories behind remixing music.



2. AI: Reinforcement Learning by José

I had two classes of this professor. His teaching style is very detailed, so he often couldn't finish his contents ha ha, but I like it.

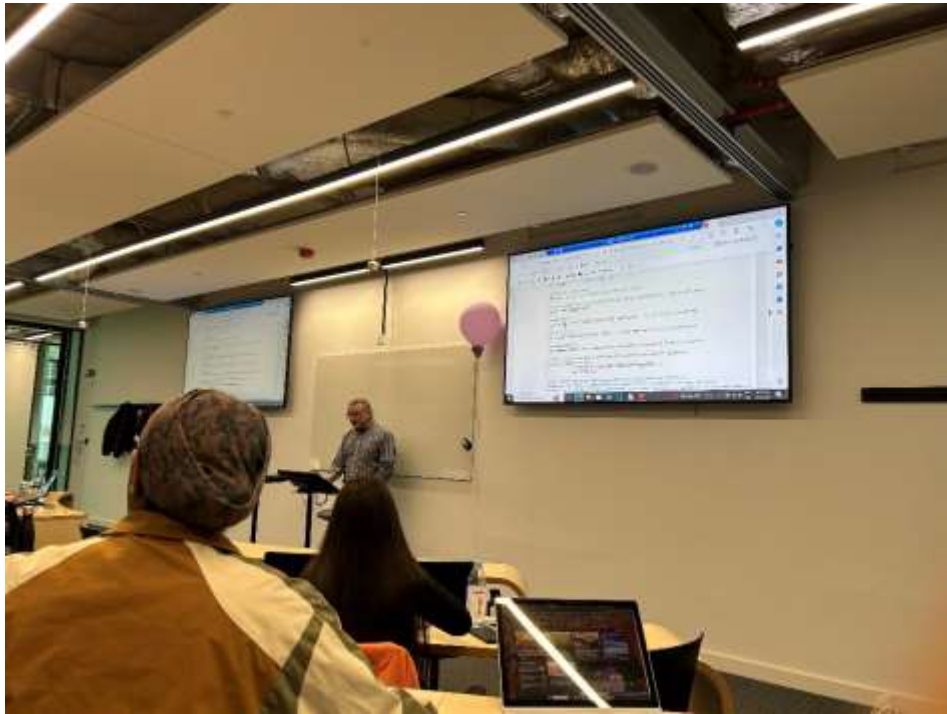


This class was purely theoretical. It covered from basic tabular methods to advanced policy gradient methods. We had to finish one coding homework every few weeks, and a final presentation to propose a reinforcement learning solution and apply it to your business.

3. AI: Machine Learning Foundations by José

This class was taught by the last professor, too. It covered almost every Machine Learning methods I've heard, giving me an image of how they work. The

requirements were the same as the last class.



4. AI: Chatbots & Recommendation Engines by Miguel
This professor is from Microsoft, and he is very active on social media. On the class, he liked to talk about technology news and gave us career suggestions. He didn't go very deep into theories, but he put lots of emphasis on the final project. We were strictly required to follow github branch management and CI/CD rules.



5. Spanish Intermediate 2
Unfortunately I didn't take any picture of this

class. It was taught online, which I don't consider the best way to learn a language, but the teacher was still trying her best to teach us, and her English is super good.

(2) 生活及文化交流

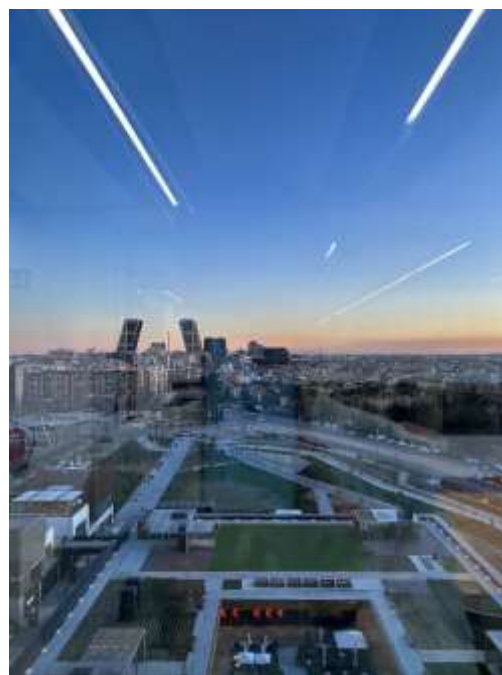
There is no many Taiwanese in IE. I only met 1 Taiwanese and no any Chinese. But I met some Asian during the Chinese New Year activity held by IE.



You have to take initiative to know local students. Spanish students tend to form their group so that they can chat in Spanish, but if you talk to them, they are always happy to chat with you. I was fortunate enough to make friend with a Spanish student. She even invited me to her home. It was my first time going to a foreigner's house, which was a very cool experience!

I spent lots of time studying. Whenever it was close to the sunset time (around 9 to 10 p.m.), I could always saw

this beautiful view. Most buildings in Madrid have red roofs, and accompanied by the afterglow, the whole scene is like a painting, very impressive.



I lived very very very close to IE. Almost across the street (actually not only a street—it is one of the most important avenue in Madrid, “Paseo de Castellana”). I lived with

four Mexican and one American flatmates. I don't have a



picture with the American one, but I have one picture with the Mexicans and their national food: avocado. Many foreigners do not care about other's feelings as Taiwanese do, so we (including my Taiwanese friends friends) had to tolerate

their habits, like not washing plates or playing music loudly at night, but except for that, they are friendly, and we often talk about our countries, our daily life, and our future. Here is a photo of our living room. It's pretty nice, right? If you need help with finding your room, feel free to contact me.



Madrid is always sunny, but it is not as uncomfortable as Taiwan. It is less humid and actually quite cold during morning and night. I only saw raining maybe two or three times during my six-month stay, so you can always explore this city as much as you want. Compared to other cities in Europe, Madrid might not be as surprising as them, but it is very relaxed(chill) living there. With a youth metro card, you can go to everywhere, even the small towns near Madrid. There are many huge parks(to Taiwanese) in this city. Strolling under sunshine, sitting and observing people around you, or just gazing blankly in the parks are some of the activities you can do.

Food and travelling are something you must try in Spain. I didn' t go to many countries because I found Spain itself is already a country worth spending time on. It has attractive ocean, magnificent mountains, endless dessert, kind people...and more! Their food is very different from Taiwan and famous worldwide, but I have to say that, for daily food, Taiwan still win. Their daily food sold in traditional Spanish bars(those with refrigerated display case) can never be without the combinations of patato, jamon and bread, and always fried. For example, Spanish broken eggs(huevos rotos), bread with jamon,

croquettes(croquetas). It's not as healthy as we think, unless you go to a slightly expensive restaurants, so I cooked a lot after the first few weeks. I will introduce more about food and travel in the 電子報.



(3) 交換需注意之事項

1. House Renting

In the beginning I tried to rent my room on Facebook groups and Idealista website, but I founded out that there are too many scammers, so I ended up using Aluni to rent my room. Be careful of how the landlord calculates the utility fee. If you can arrive at the city earlier, it's strongly recommended to visit the house in person.

2. Money Transferring

I applied for the “永豐 ISIC 學生證 debit 卡”, which allows you to create two accounts-NTD and EUR, then when you pay by the card, the bank will deduct the amount multiplying by 1.05 from the corresponding currency account. In the end of every month, the bank will charge 2% service fee and refund the rest pre-charge fee with rewards(回饋). This card also allows you to withdraw cash from ATM in Europe, but not very

necessary though. You can pay by card at almost everywhere, even to street performers!

3. Language and Safety

Many Taiwanese have an impression that Spain isn't safe, however, I didn't experience or see any robbery. Many streets are dirtier, darker and stinkier than Taiwan, and there are indeed some beggars and peddlers who would approach to you, but they wouldn't do anything if you say no. I think most misunderstanding with other people comes from language and culture difference. Spaniards are quite stubborn, and they have a very different way to do things and treat others, not to mention Madrid is a metropolitan, and because of its geographical location and historical reason, there are many people from Europe, middle east, Latin America and Africa. We have to know that most people in Spain don't speak English well, so just try our best to speak Spanish and use easy words when speaking English, and make you look less smart and less elite; They don't like being degrading. These actions can help you a lot.