



Please Listen to Me,  
Dear Teacher

# Remote Learning from Hong Kong



In mid 2020, before Taiwan closed its boarder to residents of Hong Kong and Macao, I was scheduled to return to school 14 days before the start of the semester. This away, I would be able to self-isolate for 14 days and just have enough time to start medical school. All of a sudden, the Taiwanese Government banned all air traffic from Hong Kong and Macao. With such a short notice, I was not able to secure a plane ticket. I had to stay home and missed the opportunity of internship.

During the outbreak of the pandemic, Tzu Chi University connected with students from Hong Kong and Macao who were not able to return to School. In order for me to continue education, the administration and the professors formulated a plan for remote learning. Furthermore, to avoid delay of graduation due to internship, they also came up with a flexible schedule. Not only I could fulfill the requirements, I would also be able to graduate as planned. The university also relaxed the registration and fee payment restrictions, so that I could seek help in Taiwan to accomplish these chores. To achieve my remote learning, modern technologies were fully utilized, special training of teachers and students were provided, so that synchronized remote learning could be successful. I really appreciate such special accommodation.



**Nursing student Tso Hiu-Wing, who lives in Hong Kong, cannot go back to Tzu Chi University in Taiwan because of COVID-19 outbreak, communicates with teachers through social media or internet, breaking the distance between time and space, and can also take exams.**



**During the epidemic prevention period, teachers lectured as usual, except that there were more cameras or mobile phones in the classroom to send the contents to the remote students to synchronize the class. June 2020.**

After the semester started, the remote teaching was conducted on Facebook using live broadcasts and video tools. This way, I was able to participate in synchronized lessons. I downloaded the lecture handouts beforehand, participated the online sessions taking class notes and reinforced learning with after class reviews. To be honest, online study is not as effective as in-person classes. But, it's better than nothing. This way, at least, I could pick up the essentials of the class work and not to hinder my internship. Without real text books, I depended on after class study with my classmates. They kindly forwarded me photos and videos taken from the real-time class-room meetings. Other than that, I would

research on the web for solutions. I was not able to participate in group discussions because of time differences so I had to prepare additional individual reports.

Classes involving laboratory and hand-on experience were not easily handled by remote learning. Even with the help of photos and video tools, without the real personal experiences it is doubtful that the skills learned can be applied at work. Furthermore, because of the absence of laboratory credits, my graduation could be delayed.

I have no control as to when Taiwan will open for Hong Kong students again. The only thing I can do is to wait and hope. Whenever people ask me about my graduation and internship, I simply say, “Let nature takes its course.”

I have to adjust my attitude, I have to calm myself down, and take my remote learning until the day Taiwan reopens. I am not the only one; there are tens of thousands of people affected by this pandemic. I study, read, exercise, and entertain myself, just to keep up the physical and mental balance.

