

## **Reflection on MCU Teaching Excellence Award**

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**International College**

I am greatly honoured to accept this award as recognition of my service to Ming Chuan University. I would like to express gratitude to all members of the committee, chaired by President Lee for my selection as a recipient. Additionally I would also like to acknowledge the support of two other key figures. The first is Professor Walter C.H. Wang, who has supported me continuously at MCU. Walter, I have truly appreciated your wisdom and guidance over the years. Secondly I must also thank Wu Huei-ling, not just for her help in applying for this award, but in recognition of the way she has dutifully served the International College.

As a reflection on teaching styles and excellence, I see this award as recognition of the International College and its significant efforts towards providing a global standard and benchmark of education. In this environment our department strives for innovative and effective learning techniques. Within courses I focus on learning through 'understanding' rather than 'memorising', designed to give students understanding of key principles and theories that can be applied to a range of professions. I view this award as recognition of this and the developing effectiveness of the International College department as a whole.

I am so privileged to be part of this developing International College program, to be able to interact with students from all over the world and engage in lively class discussions about culture and society. As a teacher, I find that in this environment I am able to learn new things each day. This keeps me personally enthusiastic and motivated about teaching, a factor that is boosted by receiving this award.

As for my own teaching methods, I concentrate on maintaining students focus throughout a course, providing regular opportunities for them to interact (class exercises and discussions) and critique what they are studying. In order to prevent distraction or boredom I aim to bring make classes fun and use humour when possible. When students' see the teacher as approachable, they are more likely to interact with the material. I hope that this award confirms this technique, of the importance of encouraging students to learn in many different ways and styles.

In addition to course facilitation, I believe that service is an integral part of this award. As the students' within my program have varying backgrounds (nations, races and languages), I feel it is important to make myself available for any queries they might have. Thus, office hours and class breaks are essential for reassuring students about their coursework and assisting with administrative duties (e.g. recommendation letters, advice on exchanges and internships). Managing time is essential in these circumstances, where arranging meetings and responding promptly to emails is essential. I feel that this award verifies these efforts and the importance of mentoring and counselling students throughout their studies.

As the conclusion to this reflection, I would like to acknowledge both present and past students of the International College, who I have taught on a regular basis. Thank you for your hard work and perseverance within this program, encouraging me to look forward to each class and ultimately to earn this award.

