

Helpful Hints and Pointers for Finding Part Time Work while studying at NCCU

“There are way more options than just teaching English!”

IMAS Master's Student and Teaching Assistant Maleakhi “Kiki” Sutanto shares his experience

Working part time is an important part of life for many full-time students. Covering the cost of living, funding travel, or earning a bit of spending money can easily be achieved through the part time work opportunities available to students who are studying at NCCU.

In the past, the OIC has published a guide to applying for work permits and fulfilling the formal obligations you need to legally work part time as a student in Taiwan ([found here](#)). We have also published a list of job search websites and other tips on finding jobs ([found here](#)).

With this article, we aim to provide you with some first-hand insights into the experience of searching for jobs, from the perspective of an Indonesian full-time master’s student Maleakhi “Kiki” Sutanto.

Known to his friends and colleagues as Kiki, he is a student with the International Master’s in International Studies (IMPIS) program, and at the time of publishing he is putting the finishing touches on his thesis. Kiki is well liked and respected amongst his peers for his diligent efforts as a teaching assistant. Fellow IMPIS student Jess Penn described how Kiki has always supported students. “Kiki always offered insightful and alternative ways to consider theories and real life situations. He always supported [us] and gave us ample resources to complete our assignments.”

Over nearly 2 years at NCCU, Kiki has held part time jobs both on and off campus. As a self-funded student, he has credited the income from these jobs with helping him to cover his basics expenses and allowed him to do some travel around Taiwan.

Let’s have a look at how students can find these opportunities and take a look at some tips and advice for finding part time work.

Getting started

Part time work can really make a difference to a student’s finances. Kiki said “for me the pay really helps, and every month it is deposited directly into my account. If you manage your money well, I found myself being able to travel every semester. Short trips of 2 or 3 days, to a few cities. Chiayi, and Tainan.”

Knowing where to start is important when finding part time jobs as a student in Taiwan, and the main points Kiki returns to again and again while we were talking were these: make connections with Taiwanese people, learn a little Chinese (a little goes a long way!), and join student groups. In short, the more connections you make, the better your chances are of finding part time work.

Kiki acknowledged that some job opportunities can be found by hanging out within your own community but noted that many more opportunities have come his way by making connections with people from the Taiwanese community and other expat groups.

“Many Indonesians love to hang out with fellow Indonesians,” he said. “In our line groups sometimes [work] opportunities are shared, however I would really encourage you to branch out and hang out with Taiwanese.”

One of the main ways international students can make connections with local people is joining the NCCU International Association. The International Association regularly holds events that bring together students from all different majors together with Taiwanese students.

In Kiki’s own personal experience, interacting with Taiwanese students has not been difficult. Even if you don’t speak Chinese, Taiwanese students are often grateful to have the opportunity to speak English. Kiki also found that he was able to meet people through his church and found some part time work opportunities this way also.

On campus work opportunities

One of the most common part time work opportunities for students on campus is working as a teaching assistant (TA) within the student’s own department. TAs have various duties, but in brief they are responsible for helping the teaching professors with administrative duties and making sure courses run smoothly. The main thing TAs do is marking assignments and helping professors set up before class.

Getting acquainted with the administration staff and professors for your course can really improve your chances of finding work as a TA, and students will often be offered these positions based on their performance in classes they have taken in their first or second semesters.

Kiki believes that working on campus jobs is a better option for the full-time student when they are studying. “Working on campus is more stable and more relaxing. I would recommend working off campus during summer holiday. During holiday there are no working hour limits so you can work as much as you want.”

One of the major benefits of working as a TA is that students are not required to apply for a work permit, they only require a letter of recommendation from their department.

Students can also work as research assistants for professors who need extra help, but professors are looking for RAs with native Chinese proficiency. However, if you have a specific skill set or background that professors might find useful getting in touch with relevant professors and introducing yourself will go a long way.

In addition to working as a TA or RA there are other options for working on campus, such as working with the OIC. The author of this article agrees with Kiki; making connections and introducing yourself to as many people as possible is a great way to make sure you are aware of available work opportunities.

Besides, NCCU is an equal opportunity employer.

Off campus opportunities

NCCU students are also able to find part time employment opportunities outside campus. In our interview Kiki explained that shortly after he arrived in Taipei to study at NCCU he was able to find employment at a Malaysian restaurant.

Kiki also noted that there are opportunities available for proof reading, editing, and teaching. The advice he returned to again and again though, was to make connections with people, seek advice from local Taiwanese students, and don't be shy. If you put yourself out there you will have no problem finding part time work.

Returning again to the subject of Facebook groups, Kiki noted that often his Taiwanese friends have helped him by referring him to posts where Taiwanese students are seeking Indonesian students for various paid work, and it is the connections he has made that have allowed this.

So don't be shy! Get out there and connect with the local community, professors, administration staff, and your classmates. Following this advice, you are sure to find the part time work opportunities that you need to make the most of your time as a student at NCCU.