The reasons why I Chose Taiwan and NCTU

Name: KARUNA NIDHI, Current Ph.D. student



Company of the second	
Major (Department)	EECS
Home country	INDIA
Company's name	Vanguard International Semiconductor Corporation
Job title	Senior Device Engineer
Name of University / high	B.E Degree: Visvesvaraya Technological University
school you graduated before	(VTU),Bangalore, India
studying at NCTU	Masters: Asia university, Taichung, Taiwan
Please tell us your reasons for	Taiwan has high quality of skilled education, research
choosing to study in Taiwan	environment and highly educated faculties, infrastructures
	and advanced technologies. My decision to choose
	Taiwan was influenced by semiconductor research and
	industries, foundries like TSMC, UMC, VIS are well
	known because they cover almost all foundries business
	around the world. Taiwan education system shares a close
	relationship with industries. Hsinchu based science park
	is known as "The Silicon Valley of Asia" for their
	research quality in field of semiconductor.
	Apart from semiconductor, Taiwan belongs at top in a
	group of very peaceful and safe countries where
	people can walk in streets safely even in nights.
	Education cost and living expenses are lower than
	western countries. A very convenient living environment
	and people from this island are very welcoming to
	foreigners and extremely eager to help and get to know
	us. Opportunity to learn Chinese language was another
	important aspect that influenced my decision to choose

Taiwan for Higher study. I am in Taiwan since 2010 (more than 6 years now) and all my expectations are positive EXCEPT my Chinese language learning. I feel like Taiwan is my 2nd home. People around me whether he is my boss and colleagues from company, professors, staffs, and classmates from schools, along with local friends always concerned about my learning, understanding and my life in Taiwan. They always try to help me out if needed.

Please tell us your reasons for choosing to study in NCTU

NCTU based in Hsinchu, Taiwan is well recognized for their academic achievements, advances in technology, faculties, and educational tools, high performances, supporting personnel and highly qualified broaden knowledgeable professors. This university is one of the most important research centers in the world for Electronics and Computer science. Most of engineers in Hsinchu Science park are either from NCTU or NTHU. Professors from NCTU have many collaboration projects with companies based in Hsinchu Science park. Many industries have their academic research center with different labs in NCTU. My boss and colleagues from company influenced me to choose NCTU for the PhD degree over others because they all have feeling that NCTU is best for electronics in Taiwan. My PhD degree adviser Dr. Ming-Dou Ker is one of the famous well known personalities in field semiconductor. His academic research works (more than 900 international publications in term of papers and patents) and valuable contributions in field of semiconductors made easy for me to choose this school. Only around 200-300mts distance from my office to NCTU made my decision easier like "what else I need".

Overall, I think that anyone studying in NCTU will not only get a healthy studying environment but also can earn a rich and cross culture (people from different countries) experience. I am really having a great time to improve my scientific skills and research ability along with the great educational environment at NCTU.

How did you find your current job?

I am working in Vanguard International Semiconductor Corporation (VIS). I did my internship (July-2011 to Sept.-2011) and few projects with VIS during the Master Degree. My current team in VIS was looking for a new role and shared the job outline to my Master degree Professor Dr. Jean Sheu and he (Dr. Sheu) recommended me for this job in VIS. I was familiar with current team as I did few projects with them during the Masters and my internship, so it was easy for me to accept this role. After an interview with my manager (Mr. Chili Tu Sir) and few meetings with company HR and other members I received the offer, which I accepted.

In short I can say that Taiwan education system which shares a close tie-up with industries helped me to choose my current job. There is no discrimination for job positions in Taiwan, companies use to choose candidate as per their knowledge not according to their nationality.

Although there is open house exhibition in each semester. In open house many company use to visit in the campus to explain their work culture and company value. Many International graduate students got job from this platform. Also there is good possibility to get jobs from public job hunting platform like 104. Almost all companies prefer to pick candidates from 104 and other similar platforms.

How did NCTU's degree help you for your career? In other words, is NCTU's degree helpful for your career or job-hunting?) NCTU ranked top 3 universities in Taiwan. There should not be any doubt about job opportunities with NCTU's degree. I have many friends and seniors with NCTU's degree working successfully in Taiwan or any other countries like India, USA, Singapore, Australia, Europe etc. World class companies related to semiconductors, electrical, electronics, software, mechanical, MBA, biotechnology, academic researcher etc. offer jobs and big roles for their firm during open house exhibition in

campus. Learning Chinese is one big plus point to get offer sooner than others for Taiwan based companies. I believe anyone after graduating from NCTU will have many opportunities to find employment not only in Taiwan and China, but all across the world.

Your opinions or suggestions for prospective students

Try to clarify for yourself what's important to you with respect to choosing a school or advisor. What are your research interests and what kind of work you are interested after your degree. Student's experiences vary even within a single program, and advisors play a key role in one's experience. Students should do adequate research before selecting their advisor. Student should search about recent work of advisor and read as many papers he can about his professor's recent work which will be helpful to understand research work. NCTU provides many courses for language learning. For International students must learn Chinese language (It's tough to learn but certainly enhance your knowledge) to improve your everyday life and this will enhance your chance to work in Taiwan. Foreigners should make local friend to know Taiwan's mixed (traditional and modern) culture. In NCTU campus many activities held students which are very helpful to make friendship with Taiwanese and other international students. School staffs, company colleagues and local people are always supportive and fast problem solver must have close relation with them.