From Home Education to Open Education:
An Experiment in Higher Education

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I am a global education activist

- Advocate education choice since 2007
- Teach at Nat’l Tsing Hua University Leadership Program
- Founded the first experimental education institution for Taipei City Government in 2016
- Member of Taiwan’s National Curriculum Review Committee Plenary Session since 2016
- Member of the National Experimental Education Review Committee of Higher Learning
- Member of the 2016, 2018 and 2020 Global Home Education Conference organizing committee
Taiwan balances non-school-based students’ right to learn and parents’ right to educational choice

- Parents-initiated home education legislation
- Homeschool students are active in advocating their rights
- The law guarantee homeschool parents and homeschool groups at least 2/5 of seats on non-school-based EE review committee
- Homeschool students have access to all school activities including sports, clubs, competitions and the use of school facilities
- High school students receive up to US$2,250 a year tuition subsidy
- Counseling and support services for the assessment, teaching, and administrative care of special needs homeschool students
- Special admission channels for higher education
1.0: Establishing school was for the privileged before 1999
2.0: Local non-school-based experimental education 2000 - 2010

Government Control

Education Freedom

Senior High School Act

Primary and Junior High School Act

Public

Private

Government

School Foundation

Non-school-based experimental education

Individual

Government Control

Education Freedom

Senior High School Act

Primary and Junior High School Act

Public

Private

Government

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Non-school-based experimental education

Individual
3.0: National non-school-based experimental education 2011 - 2014

**Government Control**

- **National non-school-based experimental education 2011 - 2014**
  - G10-12 non-school-based EE
- **High School Experimental Education Regulation**
  - Senior High School Experimental Education Act
  - Senior High School Education Act
  - Primary and Junior High School Act

**Education Freedom**

- **National non-school-based experimental education**
  - G10-12 non-school-based EE
- **High School Experimental Education Regulation**
  - Senior High School Education Act
  - Primary and Junior High School Act

**Institution**

- Government
- School Foundation
- NGO

**Group**

- Individual

**Individual**

- Government
- School Foundation
- NGO

**School Law**

- Private
- Public
- Government

**Teacher Law**

- High
- Low
- Special

**Legal Framework**

- Government
- School Foundation
- NGO
- Individual
4.0: Introducing school-based experimental education in 2015
5.0: Allowing experimental higher education after 2018
Experimental education penetration rate quadruples in 4 years

0.19% school age students

0.73% school age students
Non-school-based EE penetration rate increases by 7 folds
Non-school-based experimental education is rather open

- access: 99% success
- content: open
- pedagogy: open
- recognition: fully
- collaboration: somehow
- research: none
- strategy: mixed results
- technology: mixed results
- leadership: mixed results
- quality: mixed results

Source: EU JRC Opening up Education
Non-school-based experimental education (NSBEE) has liberated Taiwan’s ISCED 1, 2 & 3.

Leverage the NSBEE experience, the school-based experimental education has the potential to change Taiwan’s ISCED 5, 6 & 7.
Establish a experimental higher education by integrating alternative credentials and OERs

Source: OECD “The emergence of alternative credentials”
Higher experimental education has open access subject to space availability

• Article 7 of “Enforcement Act for School-based Experimental Education (2018)” allow schools to set their own students enrollment policy as part of the experimental education plan.

• Article 9 of the Act further allows schools to be exempted from the Junior College Act and the University Act.

• However Article 14 of the Act limits total number of students from associate’s degrees to master’s degrees to 500, 160 students if schools only offer associate or master’s degree, 320 if only offer bachelor degree.

• Schools can offer open access while spaces last.
Open content can lower the cost of tuition

• Article 7 of the Act allow schools to set their curriculum and teaching plan and funding needs, sources, and fee standard as part of the experimental education plan.

• Schools may use open educational resources (OER) and free of charge content as teaching materials.
Open up pedagogical practices is inherent in experimental education

- Article 7 of the Act allow schools to design the following in their experimental education plan:
  - education concepts and plan features
  - curriculum and teaching plan,
  - school system
  - administrative operation and organization type
  - learning outcomes assessment
  - student affairs and guidance methods
Recognition will be a huge breakthrough

- Article 7 of the Act allows schools to be exempted from the Degree Conferral Act
  - RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning)
  - Qualification
  - Social recognition
No regulation in collaboration

• There is no law regulates collaboration
• Hard to find collaboration partners for newly established schools
• Some collaboration such as acceptance and recognition of alternative credentials by third parties may need exemption from relevant laws.
Openness in research benefits new player

- Schools can get recognition by sharing and collaborating proactively.
- Such activities help schools to advance their other goals.
Experimental university will open up TW’s HE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>NTHU</th>
<th>NCTU</th>
<th>NCKU</th>
<th>XU</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Experimental Education</td>
<td>Arete Honors</td>
<td>Cross College Elite</td>
<td>Taiwan’s Got Talent</td>
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<td>Established in</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<td>Student No.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>160~500</td>
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<td>Required Credits</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>16 waivable</td>
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<td>Self-Design Courses</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Not Possible</td>
<td>Possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>Internal / External</td>
<td>External</td>
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<td>Recognition</td>
<td>traditional and nontraditional courses, internships outside of school, and international study-abroad programs.</td>
<td>28~32 credits from school courses, outside school course and others. Of which min 16 school credits.</td>
<td>Three 6-credit Interdisciplinary Projects total 18 credits.</td>
<td>alternative credentials and OERs from local and international NGOs, corporations, labs and universities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: Universities’ websites
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