



FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
New Taipei City 24205, Taiwan, R.O.C.

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新北市新莊區 24205 中正路 510 號 Tel: (02) 2905-2561 Fax: 886-2-2905-2163 <http://english.fju.edu.tw>
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Dear Freshmen,

Congratulations on your admission to Fu Jen English Department! As department chair, I'm writing to welcome you to your new home.

I remember long ago I was just 19, and I started college and faced some big adventures of my life: moving, immersing myself in an English only academic environment, choosing my courses. Feeling curious and nervous, you are facing the unfamiliar and the unknown. Luckily, you've already chosen a great major! A month from now you'll be surrounded with new friends, teachers, and you will start to ponder your goals about life here at Fu-Jen University.

I will offer you some background and advice to help you make this transition. First of all, the background. An English major will join a tradition of liberal arts education dating back to the first medieval European universities almost a thousand years ago. In this tradition, the study of language and literature develops our ability to express ourselves, to understand our common humanity, to think critically and to understand different values and cultures. The FJU English curriculum is built on these fundamentals, with basic training in English literature and linguistics, composition and conversation, critical thinking, and global culture. To help make bridge to a career, the English Department offers varieties of professional training courses and chances for you to use English in many practical activities.

Now, the advice. Prepare for changes in college life. College will challenge you to think and act differently; you will take responsibility for what and how to learn. It is unlikely that learning will happen if you sit passively and doing no preparation. To make learning happen, you are encouraged to ask questions, participate in discussion, and relate your studies to your life.

In addition, explore your potentials via experimenting with different courses, programs, service learning, internship, student clubs, and career paths. Try options for a minor, a double major, and/or a cross-disciplinary program, and opportunities for study abroad. Develop your short-term and long-term goals and be flexible in making adjustment.

College life is your golden age; you will taste much freedom but takes on more responsibilities as well. While enjoy your freedom in college and try different activities, you learn to properly make time arrangements and manage relationships. Think of your priority and make balance of your academic, personal and family life. Additionally, make exercise a habit to release pressure, and relax on vacation.

Your life is about to get very interesting. Our teachers, staff, and students are here to help you. I believe our years together will be filled with discovery, unforgettable experiences and joy. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Bi-Chu Chen
Associate Professor and Chair, English Department