

Pacific Basin Research Center**PBRC Summer Grant 2013****Report**

I used the grant to contribute to the expenses of my Chinese studies during the summer break. I frequented the 2013 summer session program at the Mandarin Training Center (MTC) of National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei. The duration of the course was almost two months, classes from Monday to Friday with two hours of class each day. In addition to attending the daily class lectures, students were also required to study 15 hours per month in the library and 8 hours per month in the language laboratory where we practiced mainly comprehension and pronunciation of the Chinese language. The overall course grade I obtained was 95.6%. Challenging, yet also very rewarding was that the whole course was taught in traditional Chinese characters. At Soka University of America students study only simplified characters and so the first two weeks of the course were quite difficult for me. However, to be able to catch a glimpse of some of the similarities and differences between traditional and simplified characters was also a very satisfying experience.