

# Study in Taiwan



The number of foreign students studying in Taiwan has grown from around 7,500 a decade ago to 19,376 this year, according to the latest statistics issued by the MOE for the SY 2009-2010. This includes those who have come to Taiwan to learn Mandarin, those undertaking a degree.

The MOE established the Bureau of International Cultural and Educational Relations (BICER) in 1947 to promote international academic and cultural exchange and provide foreign students wishing to study in Taiwan with services relating to government scholarship applications and information about Taiwan.

The MOE considers internationalisation to be a significant part of higher education and recruiting greater numbers of international students as a more conventional and direct approach for creating an internationalised environment on school campuses.

Academia Sinica, the foremost research institute in Taiwan, established the Taiwan International Graduate Programme (TIGP), a Ph.D. programme, in 2002 to promote international cooperation and scholarly exchange and to cultivate an intellectual environment to nurture young scholars.

TIGP students benefit from an entirely English teaching and research environment and enjoy access to a world-class faculty and state-of-the-art research facilities at Academia Sinica and partner universities. Currently, there are 318 students from 32 countries undertaking Ph.D. studies at TIGP. TIGP will offer nine programme options in 2010.

Meanwhile, the number of English-taught programmes and courses in Taiwan is on the increase, with most universities now offering such classes. For example, National Taiwan University, National Chengchi University, National Tsing Hua University, National Chiao Tung University and National Sun Yat-sen University have all put together programmes in a variety of subjects ranging from science and literature to the social sciences and other courses for foreign students to choose from.





The Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan (FICHET) touts Taiwan as an ideal study destination. Reasons for this include Taiwan being a highly democratic country in the Chinese-speaking world, as well as a society rich in both cultural heritage and advanced technology. Taiwan also boasts a convenient public transport network connecting the whole island.

Taiwan can be roughly divided into two geographic sections: the flat to gently rolling plains in the western third of the island, where 90 % of the population lives; and the mostly rugged, forest-covered mountains in the eastern two-thirds. There are eight national parks showcasing the diverse terrain, flora and fauna of the archipelago.

In addition, Taiwan is rich in terms of the diversity of its biological species, boasting more than 50,000 endemic species, or 2.5 percent of the world's total, according to a survey released by the Council of Agriculture.

The welcoming personality of the Taiwanese people is widely acknowledged by foreign students and visitors. Taiwanese hospitality is an unforgettable experience for those who have spent time in Taiwan.

The following pages introduce four of the major scholarships awarded and present stories from foreign students of different cultural backgrounds relating to the education they received in Taiwan.



## Scholarships

### Taiwan Scholarship

In 2010, three government agencies, MOE, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the National Science Council (NSC) jointly established the Scholarship Programme of Taiwan to encourage outstanding international students to undertake degree programmes in Taiwan.

### Types of Taiwan Scholarship

#### A. MOFA Scholarship (for undergraduate or postgraduate programmes)



\* Recipients are from countries which have diplomatic relations with the R.O.C (Taiwan), or from countries specified as diplomatically favourable by MOFA.

\* R.O.C. Embassies or Representative Offices can award a pre-degree Mandarin Language Enrichment Programme (LEP) Scholarship upon application by scholarship recipients.

\* International airfare for economy-class, direct-route and round-trip flights, plus a monthly stipend of NT\$ 30,000 .

#### B. MOE Scholarship (for undergraduate or postgraduate programmes)

\* Recipients are from countries other than those specified under the MOFA Scholarship.

\* R.O.C. Embassies or Representative Offices can award a pre-degree Mandarin LEP Scholarship upon application by scholarship recipients.

\* A monthly stipend of NT\$ 25,000 for undergraduate or LEP study, or NT\$ 30,000 for a postgraduate programme.

#### C. NSC Scholarship (for postgraduate programmes only)

\* Recipients are from countries other than those specified under the MOFA Scholarship.

\* A monthly stipend of NT\$ 30,000.



## Application

In principle, the yearly application period is from February 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. However, the actual application period will be in accordance with the general regulations of the local Taiwan Representative Offices.



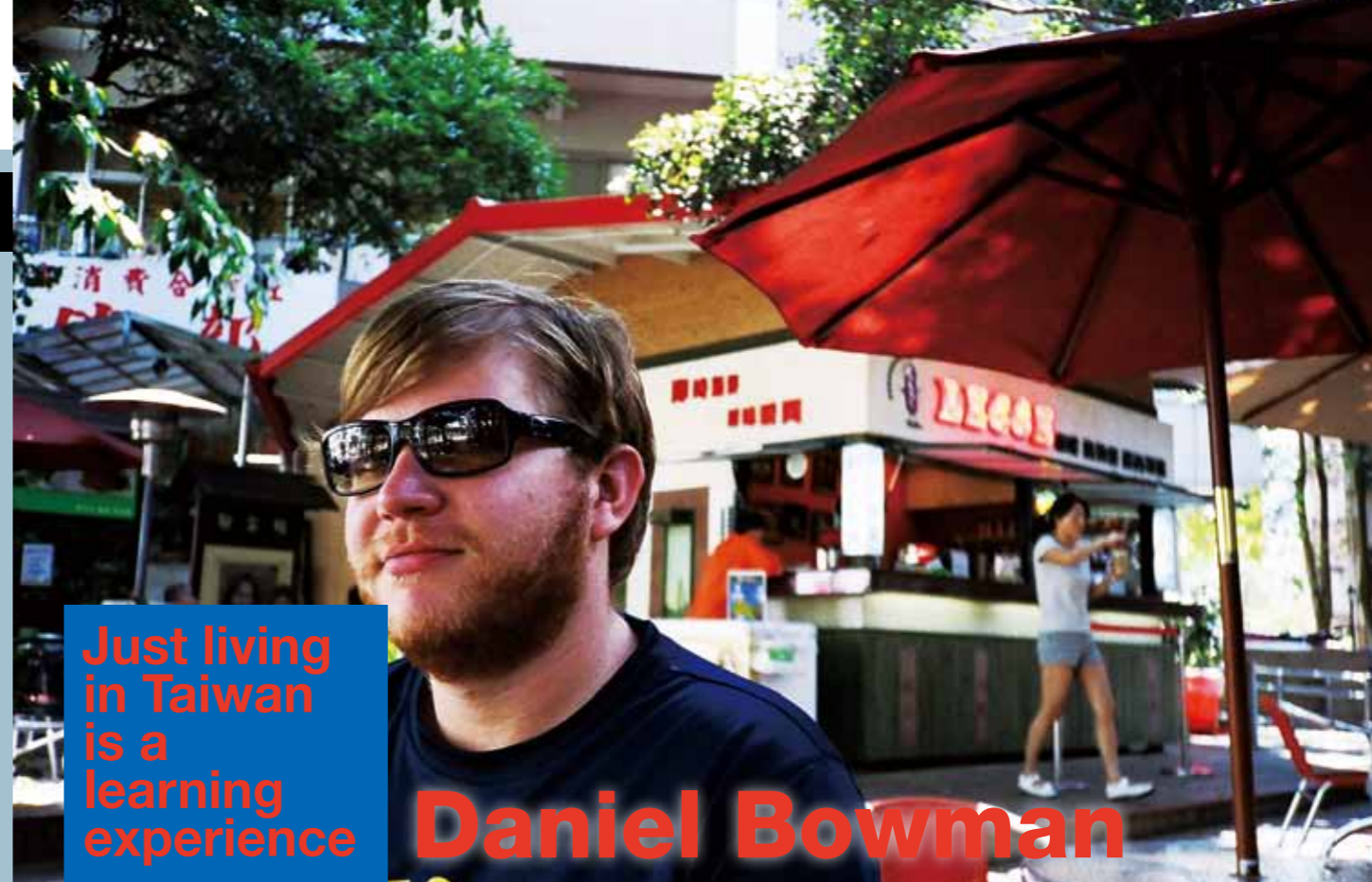
For application guidelines, forms, scholarship types and quotas, as well as information about the selection process and outcome announcements, applicants may contact a local Taiwan Representative Office directly by the end of January. Applicants must send their completed documents to the Taiwan Representative Office closest to the country of their permanent residence.



### Huayu Enrichment Scholarship(HES)

The MOE established the HES Scholarship in 2005 to encourage students and individuals to learn Mandarin in Taiwan. Whilst offering language study opportunities for Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese culture at university- or college-affiliated Mandarin training centres, this programme also aims to help scholarship recipients acquire a better command of Mandarin and hence a greater understanding and appreciation of Taiwanese culture.

The HES is awarded by R.O.C. Embassies or Representative Offices upon application. A monthly stipend of NT\$ 25,000 is offered to recipients for a maximum of one year. Application period and procedures are the same as above.



Just living in Taiwan is a learning experience

**Daniel Bowman**

### National Chengchi University

Daniel Bowman has just received his master's degree from National Chengchi University in August 2010. His thesis looks at human rights in Taiwan, comparing the policies of Chen Shui-bian with Ma Ying-jeou.

**"I think it is very promising that Taiwan has a dedicated group of academics researching this area," Bowman says.**

**"Taiwan is very fortunate that its human rights situation can be analysed and critiqued and this can only be beneficial to its development," he observes.**

**In carrying out his research, he examined many policy documents and draft laws and also spoke to various people involved in Taiwan's human rights organisations.**

**Writing a thesis in Taiwan has been both demanding and rewarding for Bowman, as he has had to contend with some unfamiliar customs. "I have learned a great deal from my experience as a master student in Taiwan, not just from my classes but also from living in a foreign country," he says.**

**Bowman first visited Taiwan in 2007. After nearly two years of living in Shandong, China, he says he really wanted to live in a big, modern city with Western conveniences, an international outlook and strong Asian roots. He was attracted by Taiwan's free society and democracy and fell in love with the island when he came to study at NCCU two years ago.**

**Studying in Taiwan, Bowman says, has several advantages. Taiwan offers generous scholarships to attract foreigners and, for this, he is very appreciative. Bowman receives a monthly stipend of NT\$ 30,000 from the Ministry of Education.**

**Bowman claims he would love to get out of Taipei more often, but Taipei has so much going on and so many weekend activities that it is actually harder than it seems. "I think Taipei living is up there with living in any city; I really enjoy meeting new people and visiting new places and Taiwan continues to offer me the opportunity to do both."**

A portrait of Tobias Off, a young man with dark hair, smiling. In the background, the Taipei skyline is visible, including the prominent Taipei 101 skyscraper. The image has a light blue overlay.

**Focus on  
Chinese  
study whilst  
in Taiwan,  
says foreign  
student**

## **Tobias Off**

**Global MBA Programme, National Taiwan University**

Tobias Off has been studying for one year under the Global MBA Programme at National Taiwan University. He still has another year to go.

He first visited Taiwan six years ago and found the island to be a good place to live. After completing his undergraduate studies, he wanted a change in his life and to keep on learning Chinese.

“Taiwan is a great country,” Off says. “People are so friendly and you never run into trouble, especially as a foreigner.”

He says the fact Taiwan is a democratic country is important to him. “I would probably feel uncomfortable on the mainland.”

One of the biggest advantages of studying at NTU, Off says, is that he can study Business Administration and learn Chinese at the same time.

NTU’s MBA programme is more about practical management and less about research in that area, according to Off. In the first year, students work on a number of case studies from Harvard Business School and consider real life examples. “I think that makes sense for us, as we get trained for management positions in the corporate world.”

In his free time, Off likes to travel around the island, to places where tourists usually do not visit. In Taipei he often goes to some nearby hills for a walk, or travels to Yilan on the weekends to go surfing.

He has some advice to give to international students considering undertaking degrees in Taiwan. The first piece of advice would be to focus on learning Chinese.

“A foreign student’s life in Taiwan is quite convenient and sometimes it is easy to get a little lazy about Chinese,” Off says, “but after all, learning Chinese is probably one of the main reasons to study in Taiwan, so it should not be neglected, even if it takes a lot of effort.”

He suggests that those interested in studying in Taiwan could try writing an e-mail or finding somebody already studying the subject they are interested in, as talking to insiders can help ensure they will not be disappointed later on.