



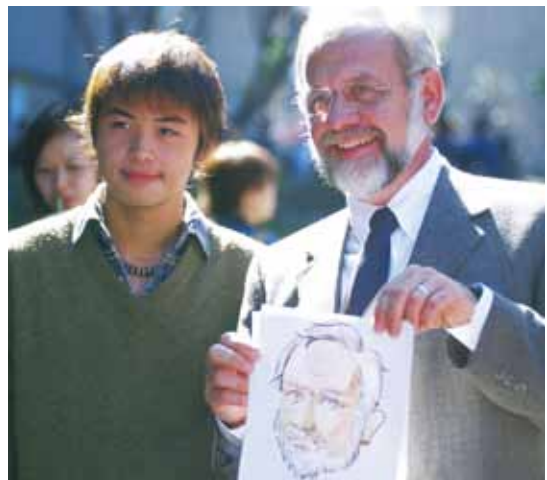
## STUDY IN TAIWAN

The Ministry of Education considers international cooperation and collaboration as a cornerstone to its efforts to embrace internationalization, especially to institutions of higher education.

The number of international students studying in Taiwan for their degree programs, study of Mandarin Chinese or exchange programs has increased to 44,165, in 2011 a significant increase from SY 2006, when international student enrolment was 26,488.

The MOE established the Bureau of International Cultural and Educational Relations (BICER), in 1947 to promote international academic and cultural exchange, along providing international students wishing to study in Taiwan with assistance, especially with their government scholarship applications and information about Taiwan.

In 2002, the Academia Sinica, the foremost research institute in Taiwan, established the Taiwan International Graduate Program (TIGP), a Ph.D. program promoting international cooperation and scholarly exchange, along with cultivating an intellectual environment for promising young scholars.



TIGP students benefit from an entirely English teaching and research environment, while enjoying access to top scholars, teaching faculty and state-of-the-art research facilities at the Academia Sinica and partner universities. Currently, there are 340 international students representing 35 countries that are enrolled in TIGP, which offers nine programs to choose from.

Meanwhile, the number of English taught programs and courses, in Taiwan is on the increase. For example, the National Taiwan University, the National Chengchi University,

the National Tsing Hua University, the National Chiao Tung University and the National Sun Yat-sen University, all offer programs for international students, on a variety of subjects ranging from science to the social sciences.

In addition to efforts made to create an internationalized environment for academic study, Taiwan is an ideal destination for several reasons. According to the Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan (FICHET), these reasons include the fact that Taiwan is an ideal study destination due to its highly democratic government within a Mandarin-Chinese environment, its rich cultural heritage, advanced technology and breath-taking travel destinations and sights.

Taiwan can be roughly divided into two geographic sections; the flat, gently rolling hills to the west, where 90% of the population lives and the rugged, forest-covered mountains to the east. 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%



of the world's total, according to a survey released by the Council of Agriculture.

The warm, welcoming personality of Taiwan people is widely acknowledged by international students and visitors, as this nation's special international 'trade mark'. The following pages will introduce two stories of international scholarship students currently studying in Taiwan.

### Scholarships The Taiwan Scholarship

In 2011, two government agencies, MOE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

provide the Taiwan Scholarship Program to encourage outstanding international students to undertake degree programs in Taiwan.

The different types of Taiwan Scholarships include:

A. MOFA Scholarship (for undergraduate or postgraduate programs)

\* Recipients are from countries which have diplomatic relations with the ROC (Taiwan), or from countries specified as diplomatically favorable by MOFA.

\* 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 programs)

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

\* A monthly stipend of NT\$25,000 (approximately US\$775) for undergraduate or LEP (Language Enrichment Program) study, and NT\$30,000 for a postgraduate degree program.

### Application

In principle, the yearly application period is from February 1st 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, application forms, scholarship types and quotes, as well as information about the selection process and outcome announcements, applicants may contact a local ROC (Taiwan) Representative Office or Embassy directly, by the end of January. Applicants must send their documents to the nearest ROC (Taiwan)





Representative Office or Embassy, closest to the country of their permanent residence.

### Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (HES)

The Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (HES) was established by the MOE, to encourage international students to learn Mandarin Chinese in Taiwan. While offering language and culture study opportunities for Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese cultures, at university/college affiliated Mandarin Chinese Language Training Centers, this program also, aims to assist scholarship recipients to acquire suitable Mandarin Chinese language skills and competencies. This, in turn, will increase international students' appreciation for Taiwan.

The Huayu Enrichment Scholarship is awarded by Republic of China (Taiwan) Representative Offices or Embassies upon application merit. A monthly stipend of NT\$25,000 is offered to recipients for a maximum period of one year. The application period and procedures are the same as the above.



## Taiwan – the Bridge to Asia

### Gregoire Legault International Chinese Language Program, National Taiwan University

Gregoire Legault, a student from Canada who is currently enrolled in the International Chinese Language Program at National Taiwan University.

As a beginning learner of Chinese with only one year of study so far, Legault expressed his expectations for the course by saying, “I believe the program here is very good since National Taiwan University is a very good school.”

Back in Canada, Legault majored in Economics and East Asian Studies -- covering history, international relations and the Chinese language -- at McGill University. He developed an interest in world history at a very young age and later focused his attention on the Asian region.

“Primary and secondary education in Canada put more emphasis on North American and European history,” said Legault. He therefore resolved to travel to Asia and to deepen his knowledge of Oriental cultures.

In recent years, the young man has left his footprints in many Asian nations including China, Japan, India, South Korea, North Korea, Cambodia, Singapore, and now Taiwan.

“I think it’s a good opportunity for me to live in Asia so I can do a bit of research here.” Taiwan is one place that satisfies his needs, and Legault comments that “cultural difference is the main reason I’m here.”

Studying in Taiwan, Legault says, has several advantages. Taiwan offers generous scholarships to attract foreigners and he receives the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship from the Ministry of Education.

While many foreigners who change environments going from China to Taiwan or vice versa may be confused with the two different writing systems of traditional and simplified Chinese, Legault feels no trouble in switching between the two, saying that “it simply requires more practice.”

Legault also looks at the current world situation and says he believes the establishment of diplomatic or other ties between his motherland and Asian countries is a good thing.

Bearing that in mind, Legault says he will consider the possibility of entering a graduate program in Taiwan, at the same time continuing to refine his speaking skills.



## Traditional Chinese Characters Facilitate Systematic Learning

**Richard F. Benes**  
**International Chinese Language Program,**  
**National Taiwan University**

Richard F. Benes is now studying Chinese, local culture, and history in the International Chinese Language Program (ICLP) at National Taiwan University (NTU).

“Language reflects the culture of a people,” said Benes when he was a neuroscience major in his home country of the US. He developed a strong interest in Chinese culture after a brief visit to Taiwan in 2008. “I am interested in sociology and love to learn about different cultures and ways of thinking.”

Benes began studying Chinese in 2009 and felt the need to refine his skill. He took the advice of his teacher to continue learning Chinese in Taiwan while getting closer to the culture. “My teacher told me that the ICLP offered by NTU is one of the top-tier Chinese courses currently available worldwide,” said Benes, who is scheduled to complete the course in March 2012.

One of the biggest advantages of studying in Taiwan, in Benes’ opinion, is that he can learn

traditional Chinese while enjoying Western conveniences in daily life.

“The shapes of traditional Chinese make sense, and there are rules governing pronunciation and meanings, therefore people can pick up other similar and related characters quickly” he said.

Benes spent five months in Beijing and found that in the capital city of China, modernism seems to dominate traditional culture, while in Taiwan locals place a greater value on tradition.

In light of the mounting significance of the Chinese language in the world, Benes claimed he would like to continue study the language. “So far, I have learned Chinese for no specific purpose,” said Benes. He continued, “But I would like to be prepared in case one day I wish to work in Taiwan or China.”