

STUDY IN TAIWAN



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

The number of international degree students, language students, and exchange students studying in Taiwan has increased to 44,165 in 2011, a significant increase from 2006, when international student enrolment was only 26,488.

The MOE established the Bureau of International Cultural and Educational Relations (BICER) in 1947 to promote international academic and cultural exchange, along with 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, Taiwan's foremost research institution, 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 Academic Sinica and partner universities. Currently, there are 340 international students representing 35 countries enrolled in TIGP, which offers nine programs to choose from.



Meanwhile, the number of programs and courses taught in English in Taiwan is on the increase. For example, National Taiwan University, National Chengchi University, National Tsing Hua University, National Chiao Tung University and 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 study destination for several reasons. According to the Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan (FICHET), these reasons include the fact that Taiwan has a highly democratic government within a Mandarin-Chinese environment, its rich



cultural heritage, its advanced technology and its 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 and the flora and fauna of the island.

In addition, Taiwan is rich in 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 the Taiwanese people is widely acknowledged by international students and visitors as this nation's unique international 'trademark'. On the following pages are two stories about international scholarship students currently studying in Taiwan.



Scholarships

The Taiwan Scholarship

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

* Recipients are from countries which have diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan), or from countries specified as diplomatically favorable by MOFA. The scholarship includes:

* Round-trip economy-class direct-route international airfare plus a monthly stipend of NT\$30,000.

B. MOE Scholarship

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

* Waiver of tuition and certain fees if a recipient studies in an "Association of Taiwan Scholarship Program School". Each recipient will receive a monthly stipend of NT\$15,000 for undergraduate degree studies and NT\$20,000 for postgraduate degree studies.

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 universities and colleges with affiliated Mandarin Chinese Language Training Centers, this program also aims to assist scholarship recipients in acquiring Mandarin Chinese language skills and competencies. This, in turn, will increase international students' appreciation of Taiwan. The Huayu Enrichment Scholarship is awarded by Republic of China (Taiwan) Representative Offices or Embassies based on merit. A monthly stipend of NT\$25,000 is offered to recipients for a maximum period of one year.

Friendliness and modern lifestyle makes Taiwan ideal for studying Mandarin



Having just finished her courses in the Mandarin Learning Center at National Taiwan Normal University, Jutta Wörnert is deeply impressed by the faculty's professional attitudes to teaching, the friendly local people, and the safe environment she has found in Taiwan and expresses the hope that she can come back again in the future.

Hailing from Germany, Wörnert has an educational background in banking and speaks fluent French and English. Her post at a European institution qualified her for the EU Officials Mandarin Training Programme in Taiwan offered each year by the Brussels Taiwan Office. Wörnert capitalized on the opportunity and took courses in Chinese spanning six months.

"Traditional Chinese characters are used in Taiwan," Wörnert points out, "and that is the most significant advantage compared with similar courses available elsewhere now."

The hospitality of the Taiwanese people is what Wörnert has cherished most, though, as she reflects on the six months she has spent

Jutta Wörnert, 44, Mandarin Training Center, National Taiwan Normal University

here. "From students on campus to even passers-by, they are all willing to help," she says.

Wörnert also observes that in Taiwan locals place a greater value on tradition than what she has seen in other places. "Religious belief seems to have an intensive correlation to daily life," says Wörnert, noting that she has gone with friends to temples several times.

Other advantages of studying in Taiwan, in Wörnert's opinion, are the safe environment and the modern conveniences available in daily life, as well as the local food and the exposure to calligraphy that one finds here.

Wörnert expresses the hope that she will be able to come back and advance her proficiency in Chinese, for a reason she repeats several times—"I do like Taiwan, because I have had so many wonderful experiences here."

Learning Mandarin while enjoying an independent life in Taiwan



Learning Mandarin while experiencing an independent life abroad was the driving force that took Juliana Gimenez, a 21-year-old Paraguayan, away from her homeland in South America to Taiwan.

After graduating from Colegio Nacional San Vicente Ferrer High School in 2008, Gimenez resolved to learn a third language in addition to her mother tongue Spanish and second language English. Now she is a sophomore in the Department of Business Administration at National Taipei University.

“I decided to study in Taiwan because I wanted to study Chinese and also learn more about Chinese culture,” says Gimenez. She goes on to say that “the advantage of studying here is that after finishing my studies, I will be able to speak one of the most widely spoken languages in the world.” With her edge in languages, Gimenez expects to gain access to more employment opportunities in the future.

Juliana Gimenez, 21, Department of Business Administration, National Taipei University

The business major enjoys the courses she is taking, as her professors assign report projects and give exams periodically, an approach which is very helpful in measuring her progress in classes.

In the meantime, living alone and being independent, learning how to manage money, and living abroad and meeting new friends are also what she considers worthwhile having spent a few years here.

“I like the life here because I have more opportunities to practice Chinese,” says Gimenez, adding that “no matter how hard it can be, you should always fight for your dreams and be willing to stand up again each time you fall.”