

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 78,261 in 2013, a significant increase from 2006, when international student enrollment 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 order to promote Taiwan's international education exchange programs and to integrate the cross-strait educational affairs, the MOE has re-organized its former Bureau of International Cultural and Educational Relations, the Mainland Affairs Division and the Commission of Overseas Chinese Education Affairs to become the Department of International and Cross-strait Education as of January 1, 2013.



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.

Taiwan and its people are renowned for their warm, welcoming and hospitable nature towards international visitors and students. This has become Taiwan's 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.

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

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". The MOE awards each recipient per semester up to NTD40,000. If the total amount of these fees exceeds NTD40,000, the remainder of all costs shall be covered by either the recipient, or the recipient's college, whereas over NTD40,000 are the sole responsibility of the recipient. Tuition and academic fees do not include any of the following: administration fees, thesis advising fees, insurance premiums, accommodation, Internet access, all of which are payable by the recipients.

* Each recipient will receive a monthly stipend of NT\$15,000 for undergraduate degree studies and NT\$20,000 for postgraduate degree studies.

(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. ●



A Great Learning Environment for International Students

Claudy Fleurant, 28,
International Tourism
and Hospitality,
I-Shou University



Art-like Chinese characters, Taiwanese culture, the rapid industrialization and growth of Taiwan, and ultimately, the hospitable and accommodating Taiwanese people are among the main reasons driving Claudy Fleurant to pursue further studies in International Tourism and Hospitality at I-Shou University in southern Taiwan.



"From my personal experience, Taiwanese universities are able to provide high quality education in a pleasant learning atmosphere," says the 28-year-old Haitian. He considers Taiwanese students to be very friendly, humble, honest and helpful. There is also good communication between teachers and students.

Taiwan is a great place full of very warm and friendly people. It's a place where you can encounter people from different

cultural backgrounds. In addition, it boasts breathtaking landscape and seascape, great restaurants, and a large variety of delicious food and fruits.

Fleurant said he really enjoys writing art-like Chinese characters and will devote time to studying them if he has a chance to stay longer in Taiwan. He is also considering staying in Taiwan after graduation for

a graduate program. Overall, Taiwan is a great place to study, says the student.

"Furthermore, Taiwan is one of the most peaceful and happiest countries in the world," he concludes. "For international students who are considering coming to Taiwan to study, my message for you is that you will experience a great learning environment," he says. ●

A Friendly Environment and Reasonable Tuition Attract Foreign Students

Chui Ming Cheuk, 26,
Department of Asia-Pacific Industrial
and Business Management,
National University of Kaohsiung



“Reasonable tuition and friendly people are the two main things that attracted me to seek my college education in Taiwan,” says Chui Ming Cheuk, currently a senior at the Department of Asia-Pacific Industrial and Business Management at National University of Kaohsiung.

“I love Taiwan, the Taiwanese treat non-Taiwanese very well. It made me feel warm every time I came to Taiwan before I began my pursuit of studies here,” says Chui, adding that tuition is also very reasonable compared to many other countries.

In addition, the learning environment was also a cause that drew Chui here. “The learning environment in Taiwan is a strength that enables students to choose what they are actually interested in, and I think it is good for younger people,” he says.

Chui considers Taiwan a beautiful, passionate and mysterious place. “Beautiful means that everything you saw in Taiwan is amazing. Passionate refers to the nice Taiwanese people; while mysterious means that I need to find out more about Formosa.”

The young Hong Kong student is showing his passion for Taiwanese culture by learning the Taiwanese dialect of Chinese. Though he is not that familiar with it now, Chui has resolved to practice more so that he will be able to chat with friends in the local dialect one day.

Soon to graduate from the university, Chui says he has decided to stay in Taiwan to find out more about Taiwan. “I will find a job related to accounting, because I am interested in the field, and would love to settle down here if I can find my Miss Right.” ☉