

14 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 92,685 in 2014, 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 high quality academic environment, offers many scholarships, exists in a convenient location,

requests for reasonable tuition, provides a good Mandarin Chinese learning and living environment, and studying in Taiwan will be helpful for further study and career. Besides, Taiwan's rich cultural heritage, its advanced technology and its breath-taking travel destinations and sights are all attractive to international students.

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 nine 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 renown 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 2004, four government agencies, the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), and the National Science Council (NSC) of the Executive Yuan 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

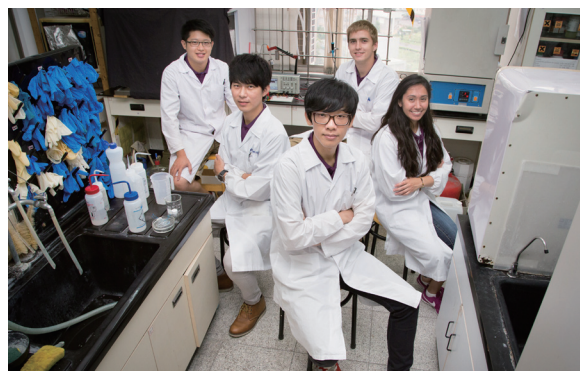
* Recipients are from countries which have diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan), or from countries specified as diplomatically favorable by MOFA. The scholarship includes:

* 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". The MOE awards each recipient per semester up to NT\$40,000. If the total amount of these fees exceeds NT\$40,000, the remainder of all costs shall be covered by either the recipient, or the recipient's college, whereas over NT\$40,000 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.

C MOST Scholarship

This scholarship is offered by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Republic of China (Taiwan) to pursue a Master or Doctoral Degree in Taiwan.

*The award period for each study program varies as follows:

- 1 Master program: maximum 2 years, monthly stipends NT\$30,000.
- 2 Doctoral program: maximum 3 years, monthly stipends NT\$30,000.

*The MOST Taiwan Scholarship Program provides only monthly stipends to scholarship recipients. The costs of tuition, housing, books, medical insurance, airfare to Taiwan and other expenses will be defrayed by themselves.

Scholarships

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. 🇹🇼

Rewarding Experience Gained Through Studying in Taiwan

Diahyani Putri, 27, International Master of Business Administration (IMBA) Master Program, National University of Kaohsiung (NUK)

Outstanding higher education system, hospitable people, a society where modern and ancient culture harmoniously coexist were among other appeals that have drawn Diahyani Putri to Taiwan.

Hailing from Indonesia, Putri is now in her second year of the IMBA program, which is fully funded by the scholarship provided by the Ministry of Education. In her opinion, NUK is a well-organized university and advances in technology, in addition to supportive personnel and knowledgeable professors.

The talented young woman also studies Mandarin here. Despite it's quite a challenge for a foreigner, Putri has managed to master it for she believes that "Mandarin is a great



tool that you can use in your life, because it's the language of the future and the most commonly spoken language in the world after English."

Living in Taiwan for two years now, Putri has performed a keen observation and founded Taiwan "an extravagant mix of technological innovation and traditional Chinese, and is one of the only places on earth where ancient religious and cultural practices still thrive in an overwhelmingly modern landscape."

Besides academic pursuit, Putri is also satisfied with her choice as she enjoys much the natural beauty of Taiwan, learning Taiwanese culture, and making new friends around. "Taiwanese people are surprisingly welcoming and always ready to lend a hand when you need one, the food offers an adventure in itself, and the places to travel are diverse," she said. 🇹🇼

A Small Island Yet Accommodates Rich Ethnic Cultures: Taiwan

Richard Ericson, 27, Junior, Department of Business Management, National Sun Yat-sen University

Richard Ericson may surprise many Taiwanese upon first meeting with his fluent Mandarin. Very outgoing and expressive, Richard is a once-of-a-while guest in TV shows that explore cultural differences upon various topics.

"Practice did great help to improve proficiency," said Richard, who comes from Sweden and is currently a junior studying at the Department of Business Management, National Sun Yat-sen University.

NSYSU and Kaohsiung have been the main living circle for Richard since he came to Taiwan more than four years ago. Hailing from Gothenburg, the second largest city in Sweden, Richard accustomed just very well to the life in Kaohsiung. "I think it's much more comfortable living in Kaohsiung than in Taipei as the pace is slower and the weather is usually sunny here," he compared. In his free time, the young man enjoys going to night markets, visiting scenic spots, and meeting friends.

Having received education in both Sweden and Taiwan, Richard offered a comparison based on his keen observation. In his opinion, Sweden education system focuses on students' academic prowess in an earlier period, while Taiwan provides a more loose and active atmosphere, such as clubs appearing in a wide selection in college.



From a broader picture, Richard also shared his opinion of the country he has already stayed for more than four years. He recalled a visit to Sandimen in Pingtung, one of the main regions where resides the Paiwan tribe, and surprised to find that he couldn't understand anything an aboriginal woman said to him. "Taiwan is a small island, yet accommodates rich ethnic cultures," said the keen observer. 🌈

