



## 18. International Cultural and Educational Exchanges

International academic and cultural exchange programs are effective ways for promoting understandings between people of different nations. Such opportunities help cultivate the premise that education is the foundation of any nation and educated individuals are the cornerstones for national development.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) established the Bureau of International Cultural and Educational Relations (BICER) in 1947, to promote academic and cultural exchanges on the domestic and international levels. Since its establishment, BICER has set up five sections, together with the creation of a task force to oversee the examinations for overseas study and 22 cultural divisions, plus two special representatives to help enhance the Ministry's global educational and cultural goals.

To promote international cultural and educational cooperation, the government assists colleges and universities to enter into academic cooperation with foreign institutions of higher learning. It also sponsors international scholar exchange programs, organizes bilateral conferences on higher education, encourages ROC specialists, academics and doctoral students to participate in international academic conferences abroad, promotes the Southeast Asian Academic Association and participates in major international academic organizations such as: Asian

Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP), and Education International (EI).

Currently, BICER offers special and general scholarships to encourage exceptional foreign students to study and conduct research in Taiwan. BICER also actively works with governments, cultural and educational institutions and commercial enterprises to obtain scholarships for ROC students. The purpose is to cultivate highly specialized talent for the ROC and advance international academic and educational exchange. Japan is among the 17 nations that provide 160 scholarships to students from the ROC each year.

In order to help students with their overseas study plans, BICER has set up a website (<http://www.edu.tw/bicer>) which allows access to useful information.



## Number of Students Applying for Visa to Study Abroad in 2003

Country	No. of Students	Country	No. of Students	Country	No. of Students	Country	No. of Students
<b>ASIA:7</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>AMERICA:2</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>Europe :14</b>	<b>11,142</b>	<b>Africa :1</b>	<b>26</b>
C.I.S.	94	Canada	2,433	Belgium	34	South Africa	26
India	45	U.S.A.	13,767	Czechoslovakia	6		
Japan	1,745			Denmark	8	<b>Oceania :2</b>	<b>3,594</b>
Korea	75			Finland	11	Australia	2,894
Singapore	800			France	529	New Zealand	700
Thailand	70			Germany	400		
				Ireland	10		
				Italy	154		
				Netherlands	135		
				Spain	179		
				Sweden	20		
				Switzerland	100		
				Turkey	8		
				U.K.	9,548		
<b>TOTAL: 33,791</b>							

## Foreign Students Studying in the R.O.C in SY 2002-2003

Country	No. of Students	Country	No. of Students	Country	No. of Students	Country	No. of Students
<b>ASIA:29</b>	<b>5,116</b>	<b>AMERICA:24</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>EUROPE:31</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>OCEANIA:4</b>	<b>143</b>
Japan	1,832	U.S.A.	849	France	147	Australia	107
Korea	1,223	Canada	243	U.K.	131	New Zealand	33
Indonesia	961	Costa Rica	29	Germany	130	Others	3
Vietnam	260	Honduras	15	Italy	36		
Thailand	175	Brazil	14	Poland	31	<b>AFRICA:17</b>	<b>104</b>
Malaysia	146	Panama	14	Sweden	29	South Africa	56
Philippines	133	Paraguay	14	Netherlands	28	Malawi	6
India	111	Peru	14	Switzerland	23	Morocco	6
C.I.S	72	El Salvador	9	Austria	20	Senegal	5
Burma	49	Ecuador	6	Belgium	20	Ghana	4
Mongo	37	Chile	6	Spain	19	Liberia	4
Turkey	19	Mexio	5	Czechoslovakia	17	Nigeria	4
Jordan	17	Others	25	Slovakia	14	Others	19
Nepal	15			Hungary	13		
Others	66			Others	67		
<b>TOTAL: 7,331</b>							