



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 four sections, together with the creation of a task force to supervise 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 Taiwan specialists, academics and doctoral students to participate in international academic conferences abroad, promotes the South east 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 'Taiwan 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 Taiwan students. The purpose is to cultivate highly specialized talent for Taiwan and advance international academic and educational exchange. Japan is among the 17 nations that provide 100 scholarships to students from Taiwan 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 2004

Country	No.of Students	Country	No.of Students	Country	No.of Students	Country	No.of Students
Asia:7	2,301	America:2	12,137	Europe :14	8,470	Africa :1	16
C.I.S.	78	Canada	1,813	Austria	South Africa	16
India	29	U.S.A.	10,324	Belgium	28		
Japan	1,337			Czechoslovakia	5	Oceania:2	3,394
Korea	89			Denmark	13	Australia	2,823
Philippines	3			France	627	New Zealand	571
Singapore	700			Germany	442		
Thailand	65			Ireland	17		
				Italy	209		
				Netherlands	119		
				Spain	206		
				Sweden	56		
				Switzerland	85		
				Turkey	1		
				United Kingdom	6,662		
Total: 26,318							

Foreign Students Studying in Taiwan in SY 2003-2004

Country	No.of Students	Country	No.of Students	Country	No.of Students	Country	No.of Students
Asia:25	5,428	America:27	1,349	Europe:29	750	Africa:18	149
Burma	87	Brazil	21	Austria	17	Burkina Faso	8
India	121	Canada	304	Belgium	18	Chad	5
Indonesia	1,002	Chile	5	Czechoslovakia	18	Ghana	8
Japan	1,825	Costa Rica	28	France	160	Liberia	6
Jordan	16	Ecuador	4	Germany	126	Malawi	7
Korea	1,112	El Salvador	11	Hungary	13	Morocco	4
Malaysia	194	Honduras	17	Italy	38	Senegal	13
Mongo	71	Mexio	4	Netherlands	30	South Africa	75
Nepal	16	Panama	17	Poland	31	Swaziland	10
Philippines	140	Paraguay	13	Slovakia	15	Others	13
C.I.S	82	Peru	7	Spain	29		
Thailand	202	U.S.A.	862	Sweden	19	Oceania:5	168
Turkey	30	Others	56	Switzerland	24	Australia	118
Vietnam	438			United Kingdom	140	New Zealand	46
Others	92			Others	72	Others	4
Total: 7,844							