

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	2,647	America:2	16,203	Europe :14	10,895	Africa :1	0
Russia	171	Canada	2,149	Austria	...	South Africa	...
India	34	U.S.A.	14,054	Belgium	39		
Japan	1,556			Czechoslovakia	...	Oceania:2	2,780
Korea	113			Denmark	15	Australia	2,246
Philippines	...			France	580	New Zealand	534
Singapore	700			Germany	402		
Thailand	73			Ireland	...		
				Italy	226		
				Netherlands	147		
				Spain	179		
				Sweden	...		
				Switzerland	98		
				Turkey	2		
				United Kingdom	9,207		
Total: 32,525							

Foreign Students Studying in Taiwan in SY 2004-2005

Country	No.of Students	Country	No.of Students	Country	No.of Students	Country	No.of Students
Asia:33	6,359	America:27	1,892	Europe:32	940	Africa:21	227
Burma	87	Brazil	24	Austria	36	Burkina Faso	16
India	176	Canada	361	Belgium	23	Chad	12
Indonesia	1,391	Chile	10	Czechoslovakia	18	Ghana	8
Japan	1,879	Costa Rica	36	France	169	Malawi	8
Korea	1,115	Ecuador	4	Germany	163	Morocco	6
Malaysia	332	El Salvador	16	Hungary	14	Senegal	28
Mongo	123	Honduras	23	Italy	33	South Africa	82
Nepal	20	Mexio	6	Netherlands	43	Swaziland	9
Philippines	207	Panama	27	Poland	51	Others	58
Russia	82	Paraguay	32	Slovakia	25		
Singapore	30	Peru	11	Spain	34	Oceania:9	198
Thailand	279	U.S.A.	1,252	Sweden	26	Australia	116
Turkey	34	Others	90	Switzerland	35	New Zealand	50
Vietnam	503			United Kingdom	178	Solomon	10
Others	101			Others	92	Others	22
Total: 9,616							