Education inTaiwan 2016 ► 2017

Study in Taiwan



The Ministry of Education (MOE) 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 increased to 110,182 in 2015–2016, a significant increase from 2007, when international student enrollment was only 30,509.

The MOE established the Bureau of International Cultural and Educational Relations (BICER) in 1947 to promote international academic and cultural exchanges, and provide international students wishing to study in Taiwan with assistance, especially with their government scholarship applications and information







about Taiwan. The MOE re-organized its former Bureau of International Cultural and Educational Relations, its former Mainland Affairs Division, and the Overseas Chinese Education Affairs Commission into the newly established Department of International and Cross-strait Education. This began operating on January 1, 2013. It is responsible for promoting Taiwan's international education exchange programs and integrating cross-strait educational affairs.

Many efforts have been made to create an internationalized academic study environment in Taiwan, and Taiwan is an ideal study destination for several reasons. According to a survey of international students carried out by the Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan (FICHET), these reasons include the following: Taiwan provides a high-quality academic environment, rich cultural heritage, reasonable tuition, excellent living circumstances, scholarships, opportunities to learn Mandarin Chinese, and studying in Taiwan will be helpful for both further study and future careers. In addition, Taiwan's advanced technology, its friendly people, and its breath-taking 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 that showcase 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'. The experiences of international scholarship students currently studying in Taiwan are outlined below.

Scholarships



The government provides a range of scholarships to encourage outstanding people to come and study and/or do research in Taiwan.

Taiwan Scholarship Program – Scholarships for Degree Studies

In 2004, four government agencies – the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), formerly called the National Science Council of the Executive Yuan – jointly initiated the Taiwan Scholarship Program to encourage outstanding international students to undertake degree programs in Taiwan.

There are three different types of Taiwan Scholarships:

MOFA Taiwan Scholarships

These scholarships are offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to assist students from countries that have diplomatic relations with Taiwan to undertake degree programs and the non-degree Mandarin Language Enrichment Program (LEP). Special consideration may also be given to providing these scholarships to students from other countries.

- * The maximum scholarship periods for the * different program categories are:
- 1 Non-degree LEP: 1 year

2 Bachelor's degree programs: 4 years

- 3 Master's degree programs: 2 years.
- **4** Doctorate programs: 4 years.
- The MOFA Taiwan Scholarship provides recipients with an economy-class plane ticket for a flight to and from Taiwan by the most direct route, and a monthly stipend of NT\$25,000 for the LEP and NT\$30,000 for degree programs.
- Recipients are responsible for all their expenses during their stay in Taiwan. MOFA will not provide any other subsidies.

MOE Taiwan Scholarships

These scholarships are offered by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to students from countries whose citizens are not eligible to apply for a MOFA Taiwan Scholarship to undertake a degree program.

- * The maximum scholarship period for each degree level is:
- **1** Bachelor's degree programs: 4 years.
- 2 Master's degree programs: 2 years.
- 3 Doctorate programs: 4 years.
- The MOE Taiwan Scholarship provides a monthly stipend of NT\$15,000 for bachelor's degree students and NT\$20,000 for students undertaking a master's degree or doctorate. The scholarship recipients must pay their airfare to Taiwan.
- The scholarship provides up to NT\$40,000 each semester for each recipient's tuition and miscellaneous expenses. If these exceed



a total amount of NTD40,000, the remaining amount must be paid by the recipient. The "miscellaneous expenses" do not include any of the following: administration fees, thesis supervision fees, insurance premiums, accommodation, or internet access. These are all the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.

3 MOST Scholarships

These scholarships are offered by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to assist students to undertake a master's degree or doctorate program in Taiwan and to promote bilateral scientific and technological exchanges.

- * The maximum scholarship period for each degree level is:
- 1 Master's degree programs: 2 years.
- 2 Doctorate programs: 3 years.
- * The MOST Taiwan Scholarship Program provides a monthly stipend of NT\$30,000 to scholarship recipients.
- All other expenses, including the costs of tuition, accommodation, books, medical insurance, and airfare to Taiwan must be paid by the student.

Non-degree Scholarships to Learn Chinese

MOE Huayu Enrichment Scholarships (HES)

The MOE established the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (HES) program to encourage international students to come to Taiwan to study Chinese and learn about Chinese culture in Taiwan. "Huayu" is one of the names



commonly used to refer to the Mandarin dialect of Chinese.

The scholarships are awarded through Republic of China (Taiwan) embassies and overseas missions (Representative Offices), based on merit.

HES scholarship winners study at a Mandarin Chinese Language Training Center affiliated with a university or college in Taiwan for a period from as short as two months, up to a maximum period of one year.

They receive a monthly stipend of NTD 25,000.

Internships for International Students

Taiwan Experience Education Programs (TEEP)

In 2015, the Ministry of Education in Taiwan launched an exciting new initiative, the Taiwan Experience Education Programs (TEEP), in conjunction with a number of universities and colleges in Taiwan. Each offers a distinctive short-term program with a practical focus, in a particular field - for example, International Consulting, Electrical Engineering or Computer Science, Culture Studies, and Taiwan's Natural Environment. Some target undergraduates. others are more suitable for graduate students. All the programs offer a combination of short courses, Chinese language-learning, a cultural immersion program, and a short-term professional internship or research internship. The language-learning and cultural immersion components are designed to help participating international students learn some Chinese and understand Taiwanese culture to successfully undertake their internship. The internships will give the students opportunities to participate in a range of activities with their placement company or organization. The internships will give the international students participating in TEEP an enormously valuable opportunity to prepare themselves for their future life in the business or research world.

The TEEP gateway is an exciting chance to experience Taiwan's quality higher education and connect with the Asian job market. For more details about the various programs available, see <u>http://www.studyintaiwan.org/teep</u> III



Name: Sabrina Sayers Nation: Saint Lucia Senior, Department of Environmental Engineering, National Ilan University

Hailing from Saint Lucia, a country which is less familiar with Taiwanese people, Sabrina Sayers took the opportunity to hone her skills as a cultural ambassador while studying at the Department of Environmental Engineering, National Ilan University.



The role encourages her to explore deeper of her culture that she never knew before. "This also allowed me to develop my research skills even more and more importantly, it ignited a passion for my culture and others as well that I probably would not have developed if I had gone to a school in the Caribbean Region," said Sayers. Living in Yilan and going to a school which has a very small foreign student population has made Mandarin a requisite for communication. Sayers learned Mandarin at the Fu Jen Catholic University Language Centre that features small class and diverse cultural activities. After five years, she found learning and remembering characters and the different tones are the most difficult part.



"Taiwan is a truly unique place from its culture to its physical beauty, from its religion to its food," she said after years of observation. In her opinion, Taiwan is also an extremely safe country, "especially Yilan," said Sayers, who has never felt safer on her own, at night anywhere else.

Couldn't wait to return home to put all what she has learned in Taiwan into work in her hometown. "I do feel that being in Taiwan has made me a stronger and more well-rounded person," she said, adding that "I look forward to making my contribution toward the development of my country upon my return."



Safety, Convenience, and Rich Resources make Studying in Taiwan an Ideal Choice

Name: Tawonga Gondwe Nation: Swaziland Graduate, Department of Information Management, I-Shou University

A bright face with lively expression, Tawonga Gondwe is a graduate student at the Department of Information Management, I-Shou University.



Only 19 when Gondwe firstly arrived Taiwan to join the 1 year language enrichment scholarship program in 2010. It's not easy at the very beginning as culture shocks and challenges came together. But Gondwe took it as a driving force. "I used all these to learn the language and be the person that I am today," she said.

Beyond learning language itself, the school offered a range of intriguing courses. A film produced in Mandarin is one among the highlights. She and her team drew the inspiration from the TOCFL exam they were required to take and made a film titled "Super Students," which "shows how much we felt the pressure to have to do our best," she said.



After she got accepted to I-Shou University, she moved to Kaohsiung and it's the sixth year of her stay, which is long enough to enable her to identify some strengths of studying in Taiwan. First of all, it's safety. "Parents would be less worried and student would find it easier to adapt to the environment if it's safe," she said.

Convenience and accessibility are the other traits. The availability of resources like health insurance, online library, and other educational resources have made learning easier and more enjoyable, she added.

Gondwe considered that the work ethic in Taiwan is pretty good and the environment is wonderful, and therefore expects that in the future to create more connections between my country and Taiwan corporately.

