

# Teachers' Qualifications



The policy guidelines of diversified education, fostering creativity and lively teaching style are implemented primarily through teacher training.

## Teachers training education

Teachers training education in Taiwan traditionally falls into two categories. The first type is normal college, preparing teachers for primary schools and kindergarten. The second type is normal university, preparing teachers for middle schools. Both types of institutes accept senior high school graduates for a four-year education. In addition, some other universities also offer teacher training program to prepare teachers for primary and middle schools. Graduate courses (especially for the doctorate level) are the main training ground for teachers of colleges and universities.

"The Teacher Education Law" revised and released in 1994, allowed all public and private universities to take part in training teachers. Besides, some normal colleges have already begun training teachers for primary schools.

In order to meet the demands of a more diversified society, more special education teachers are needed.

Tuition and fees for teacher training education programs are basically paid by the trainees themselves. However, full or partial financial assistance are available for some students.

Full programs of teacher training include common courses, discipline courses, education specialization courses, and a half-year of teaching practicum. Those who complete the program obtain a certificate. They must also pass a qualification exam given by the MOE to finally qualify as a teacher.

## Chinese Language Teaching

To deal with the surplus of teachers and given the worldwide popularity of the Chinese language, the MOE offers subsidies for domestic universities to establish post-graduate programs in Chinese language teaching. To-date, about ten universities in Taiwan have Chinese language teaching departments. Eight of those universities just started offering the programs within the past two years.