

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 116,416 in December 2016, a significant increase from the number in December 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 a newly established Department of International and Cross-strait Education which 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. A survey of international students carried out by the Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan (FICHET) found that these reasons include the following: Taiwan provides a high-quality academic environment, rich cultural heritage, excellent living circumstances, reasonable tuition, scholarships, and 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 tourist destinations 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. It has 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. According to a survey

released by the Council of Agriculture, Taiwan boasts more than 50,000 endemic species, which makes up 2.5% of the world total.

Taiwan and its people are renowned for their warmth, welcoming nature, and hospitality towards international visitors and students. This has become Taiwan's international "trademark." The experiences of some international scholarship students studying in Taiwan are outlined further below.



Scholarships

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

A

Taiwan Scholarship Program – Scholarships for degree studies

The Taiwan Scholarship Program was jointly initiated in 2004 by 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 – to encourage outstanding international students to undertake degree programs in Taiwan.

There are three different types of Taiwan Scholarships:

1 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.

2 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 Taiwan 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.

B Non-degree Scholarships to learn Chinese

MOE Huayu Enrichment Scholarships (HES)

“Huayu” is one of the names commonly used to refer to the Mandarin dialect of Chinese. 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. 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 include a combination of a short Chinese language-learning program, 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 TEEP internships will give the participating international students an enormously valuable opportunity to prepare themselves for future work 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 <http://www.studyintaiwan.org/teep>.

New Southbound Policy, Cooperation with Southeast Asia and Beyond for Skills Development and Intercultural Exchanges

Taiwan’s New Southbound Policy (NSP), launched by President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016, is a major new initiative to enhance relations with Southeast and South Asian countries, Australia, and New Zealand for regional social and economic cooperation. Taiwan already has longstanding and close relations with the New Southbound Policy countries, but the NSP shifts the focus towards establishing more people-oriented links and resource sharing to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the NSP countries.

Taiwan has made a successful transition from an agriculture-based, industrial society to a



knowledge-based economy with thriving high-tech and service industries. Taiwan has accumulated a great deal of experience in its economic and social development in such areas as agriculture, education, health care, small- and medium-sized enterprises, high technology, and urban living, dealing with problems and challenges that are very similar to those faced by developing countries in the New Southbound region, and it can provide assistance in the form of the transfer of know-how and workforce training.

The Ministry of Education has established a New Southbound Talent Development Program, in conjunction with the New Southbound Policy Guidelines launched on August 16, 2016, and set up a cross-departmental New Southbound Policy Task Force which has an earmarked budget of NT\$1 billion.

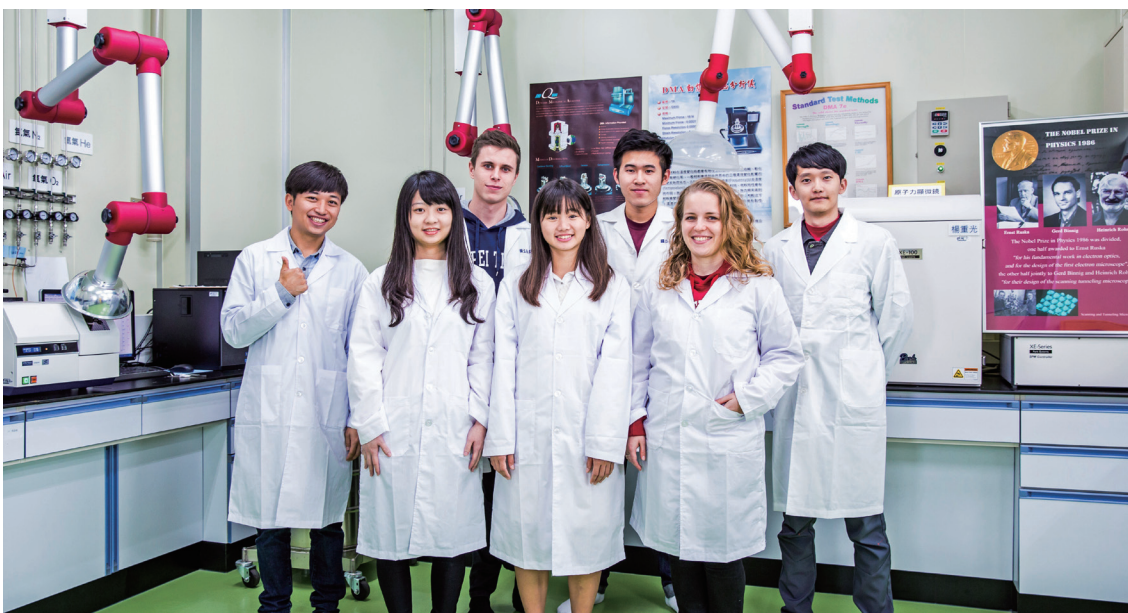
The task force is working to further expand and deepen exchanges and partnerships with NSP countries in three major strategic areas:

Interviewee /

Pham Minh Tri

Nationality / Vietnam
Bachelor of Global Business,
Chinese Culture University

“One of the Biggest Advantages of Studying in Taiwan is the People”



Market - focusing on skills cultivation: Taiwan can offer high quality vocational and professional training, higher education, and Chinese language courses to students from NSP countries. At the same time they can learn about Taiwan's development experience. Young people in Taiwan can improve their cultural literacy and study the languages of countries in Southeast Asia and strengthen their capacity to undertake economic and trade management there.

Pipeline - Skill Development Exchanges: The objective is to increase the number and range of two-way exchanges between young scholars and students, by attracting outstanding students from NSP countries to Taiwan to study or do research, and sending students from Taiwan to NSP countries to gain a deeper understanding of those countries, and their languages, and to engage with the local community.

Platform - for Communication: The objective is to establish and promote a Taiwan Connection platform to facilitate bilateral educational cooperation with NSP countries. The Taiwan Connection will provide online and local access to facilitate bilateral alliances between universities, academic research bodies, and higher education institutions in Taiwan and overseas in NSP

countries, and actively encourage a more diverse range of skill development and research collaborations, exchanges, and interactions. We also want to enhance cultural and sport-related exchanges with NSP countries, through cultural and sporting events and related academic collaborations.

The Ministry of Education's New Southbound Talent Development Program takes a people-oriented approach with the aim of fostering bilateral exchanges and creating more avenues for resource sharing, and exchange and collaboration and partnerships are all central components. For more details about the extensive range of New Southbound Policy programs please see http://www.edunbsp.tw/index_en.html. ■



“I couldn't speak a word in Mandarin when I first came to Taiwan,” said Pham Minh Tri, 24, a student who studied Global Business at Chinese Culture University (PCCU). Just graduating this June, he is different from when he first arrived.

Being a fan of Taiwan's popular culture, Pham learned about Taiwanese culture from music and TV series and has been influenced by it since he was little. He decided to leave Vietnam for Taiwan to pursue higher education and chose to study in Taipei. He applied for three universities that provide all-English programs in the city and made his decision to attend PCCU after receiving their scholarship. However, in his first year he found the all-Chinese environment a bit of a barrier.

“It was really hard at first. I wanted to make friends with my Taiwanese classmates but we ended up using body languages,” said Pham, talking about how he knew his Taiwanese friends in the first semester.

He said that everyone wanted to know one another desperately and made efforts to communicate. They have all become good friends even until now.

Pham has started to learn Chinese since his second year in college. He took classes in the Mandarin Training Center in National Taiwan Normal University for three semesters and now manages to speak fluently in Chinese. He met international students who were also trying to

learn Mandarin and teachers who not only taught him the language but also Taiwanese culture. The teachers he met in Taiwan, he said, helped him in a lot of ways.

“They really care about us international students,” he said. “There was one time I didn't pass an exam and a teacher came to ask if anything had happened to me; I couldn't forget that because he was really concerned about what I was going through.”

His advices to those who hope to study in Taiwan include understanding the education in Taiwan and getting used to the language. He said having basic knowledge to Chinese is important.

“Of course they will need to think about what and where they want to study. But the language – it would be easier if students had learned Chinese before coming here,” he said.

Besides learning Chinese, Pham also participated in school activities. In his sophomore year, he joined the largest foreign student associations on campus and later became the president of PCCU Vietnamese Student Association. Along with fellow international students, Pham held events such as singing competition and culture weeks to introduce Vietnamese culture to local students. In addition, he has worked as a host for travel channel in Taiwan and lecturer in youth camp organized by the government.

To him, one of the biggest advantages of studying in Taiwan is the people. The composition of the population is diverse and he is able to meet students from around the globe. Also, he said that Taiwanese people are generally friendly and he has never encountered discrimination during his time here.

Pham hasn't decided where to start his career, but he said he's definitely staying in Taiwan for now.

“It's a place that I want to stay to gain more experiences,” he said. ■

“Studying in Taiwan Has Influenced Me in A Lot of Ways”

“Because I like theatres and plays,” said Lana Low, a student from Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA), when asked about her choice of higher education. Coming from Seremban, Malaysia, she has known where her passion is since her teenage years.

“At first I didn’t think that much. I just liked it. To perform and how everyone was collaborating with one another,” said Low, referring to the time when she was in high school learning acting and performing from teachers back in Malaysia.

The decision to study in Taiwan was made based on several influences. Besides her love for Taiwanese popular culture and her acting teachers’ recommendation of the school, “Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land,” the play she watched a few years ago and fell in love with, was also part of why she chose to study in TNUA.

“I found that one of the main performers, Chin Shih-chieh, was teaching in the university, and that added to the reason,” said Low.

Knowing what she wants and what she needs to achieve, she



put effort into everything she was doing. She worked hard and took part in a variety of competitions in Malaysia to be able to study abroad. She later earned the scholarship from the Taiwan government and has been supported financially on both college tuition fee and living expenses for four years.

When she first arrived, she was eager to meet new people and spent her first year traveling around in Taiwan. She described living in Taiwan as an experience that has opened her mind.

“Democracy... Growing up in a place that is relatively deprived of such idea, I didn’t know what liberation and freedom are like,” said her.

Not only has the environment but also the university had an impact on her. She said she learned to understand people and the characters in her first year of university. She learned to observe and stand in others’ shoes. What she has been through here is beyond academic experiences. She sees the society and the people

from a humanity perspective.

“I feel like Taiwan, more specifically, my school, has shaped the way I think and see things,” she said.

However, there are also difficulties and cultural shock. Low said the essential differences between Taiwan and Malaysia can be challenging. She compared two societies with characteristics of individualism and collectivism, trying to adjust herself from the latter to the former. She said it takes understanding and open-minded attitude to study in a new environment.

Low chose to focus on directing in the third year and hopes to become a theatre director in Taiwan one day. With huge passion for directing, she is going to start her career from working as an assistant and trying various characters to build up experiences for her future goal.

“I like plays and theatres more, but I won’t limit myself and I’m open to any opportunity,” she said. ■

