

Date: 2011-09-06

Revised Taiwan Scholarship Program Guidelines

This revised version was provided by the Ministry of Education on February 1, 2011, to be executed on January 1, 2012.

- I. In an effort to encourage outstanding international students (excluding students from Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau) to undertake degree studies in Taiwan so as to familiarize themselves with the academic environment in Taiwan and promote communication, understanding and friendship between Taiwan and countries around the world, the Ministry of Education (MOE) establishes the following guidelines for the Taiwan Scholarship Program.**
- II. The MOE awards outstanding international students undertaking undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Taiwan by awarding each recipient of the Taiwan scholarship the following:**
- (i) Tuition and payment of academic fees, including credit fees. Upon validation of tuition and above fees, the MOE awards each recipient per semester up to NTD 40,000. If the total amount of these fees should exceed NTD 40,000, the remainder of all costs shall be covered by either the recipient, or the recipient's college, whereas over NTD 40,000 are the sole responsibility of the recipient. Tuition and academic fees do not include any of the following: administration fees, thesis advising fees, insurance premiums, accommodation, Internet access, all of which are payable by the recipients.
 - (ii) Subsistence allowance:
The MOE offers each recipient undertaking undergraduate studies a monthly stipend of NTD15,000; it offers each recipient undertaking postgraduate studies a monthly stipend of NTD20,000.
- III. Duration of Scholarships:**
- (i) The maximum period of each scholarship is four years for undergraduate programs, two years for master programs, and four years for doctorate programs. The maximum length of the total awards for each recipient undertaking a combination of studies is five years.
 - (ii) Annual award periods begin on September 1st and continue until August 31st of the following year. Recipients must arrive in Taiwan and enroll at their admitting universities/colleges within this period

unless delays have been approved by the relevant institutions and the MOE. If recipients fail to arrive in Taiwan for registration during this period, their award will be revoked with no deferrals.

(iii) Subsistence allowances begin from the month of the recipients' registration at the universities/colleges and end when the award period expires or upon the recipients' graduation, withdrawal, suspension, expulsion, or revocation of the scholarship.

IV. Eligibility:

(i) Applicants must be a foreign national with a high-school diploma or post-secondary degree(s), with an excellent academic record, and be of good moral character.

(ii) Applicants are ineligible if they meet the following criteria:

1. Are R.O.C. nationals or overseas Chinese students
2. Are already registered or have obtained student status at any university/college in Taiwan. Graduating students pursuing further studies are exempt from this rule.
3. Have already studied in Taiwan for the same level of degree as the one in which they currently intend to enroll.
4. Are exchange or dual/joint degree students admitted in accordance with academic cooperation agreements between local universities/colleges and international universities/colleges.
5. Have been a recipient of the Taiwan Scholarship for over a total of five years.
6. Have had, in the past, their Taiwan Scholarship or Huayu Enrichment Scholarship from the MOE revoked.
7. Are recipients of any other scholarship or subsidy offered by the Taiwan government or education institutions in Taiwan. This excludes subsidies offered by universities/colleges to cover tuition and other fees exceeding the scholarship limit.

(iii) Applicants should apply directly for admission within the deadlines specified by each university/college listed in the "Association of Taiwan Scholarship Program Schools" (see Appendix 1).

Applications for admission outside of the universities/colleges participating in the Taiwan Scholarship Program are automatically disqualified and will not be returned.

V. Applicants should send the following document within the period specified enclosed with their application to the nearest Taiwan Embassy or Representative Office in their country. Failure to include any of these documents renders the application incomplete, and the applicant will not be further considered for the scholarship, without further notice:

(i) Taiwan Scholarship Application Form (available at the nearest Taiwan Embassy or Representative Office)

(ii) A copy of the applicant's passport or other nationality certificates.

(iii) A copy of the highest degree and academic transcripts. If issued by international educational institutions, these documents must be authenticated by an overseas Representative Office or be sealed and delivered by the awarding institutions. Documents in a language other than Chinese or English must be translated into Chinese or English and the translated documents must be authenticated.

(iv) A copy of admission application materials to universities/colleges in Taiwan (e.g., copies of application fee remittance, application form, receipt of application from universities/colleges, e-mails,).

(v) A copy of a language proficiency certificate:

1. A copy of results or certificate for the "Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language" (TOCFL) Basic or above.

2. For applications to all-English programs, a copy of TOEFL test scores or other recognized English language proficiency exams or degrees awarded in English must be submitted. English-speaking nationals are exempt from this rule.

(vi) Two letters of reference, signed and sealed in envelopes (i.e. from the principals, professors, or supervisors). Photo copies and email submissions of letters of recommendation will not be considered.

(vii) Additional documents as specified by the individual representative offices.

VI. Quotas for scholarships offered by the MOE are contingent upon the MOE's annual budget allotments for the coming year and each representative office's yearly performance. The MOE notifies all relevant offices of the available quotas for the new academic year by December 31st of each year.

VII. Application and Selection Process:

- (i) Taiwan Representative Offices provide application information and establish selection requirements in accordance with these guidelines and directly process applications in coordination with local government agencies, schools, educational and cultural institutions. Scholarship application information (including selection criteria, scholarship types and quotas, application process, application period,) is provided in both Chinese and the local languages by January 31st of each year.

- (ii) After Taiwan Representative Offices provide the aforementioned information, hard copies in Chinese and in the local languages and an electronic copy must be forwarded to the MOE's designated offices for archiving purposes.

- (iii) In principle, the application period is from February 1st through March 31st of each year. However, the actual application period will in accordance with dates provided by the local Taiwan Representative Offices.

- (iv) For the application, the applicant must send all completed documents to the nearest Taiwan Embassy or Representative Office in his/her home country.

VIII. Selection Criteria:

- (i) Recipients academic study goals should be consistent with Taiwan's national development plans so as to assist in the growth of industry, economy and education.

- (ii) Recipients should achieve an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above, and a postgraduate GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.5 scale). Where grade conversion calculation differs, Taiwan Representative Offices will base their conversion calculations on the aforementioned calculation guidelines to select outstanding applicants from prestigious universities/colleges.

- (iii) Interviews must be conducted in person or by video conferencing so as to interact with the applicants and better judge their demeanor and moral character.

- (iv) Priority will be given to applicants with a certificate in TOCFL-levels of: intermediate or above. For applications to all-English programs, a copy of TOEFL test scores or other recognized English language proficiency exams at the intermediate level or a test score of over 75% must be submitted.
- (v) Applications must be complete in full. All incomplete applications are ineligible for consideration, and persons submitting incomplete applications will be withdrawn from the selection process without further notice.

IX. Selection Notice:

- (i) Upon reviewing applications and conducting interviews, the Taiwan Representative Offices will select successful candidates and alternate candidates which will be placed on a waiting list. Candidates and their awarding universities/colleges are to be notified by May 31st of each year.
- (ii) Successful candidates should submit a copy of their letter of admission to their local Taiwan Representative Office for verification by June 30th of each year; should candidates fail to submit this letter within the specified time period, the candidates must submit a written explanation and request verification from their Representative Offices. Failure to be admitted into a university/college will result in a suspension from the Scholarship Program. Failure to submit documents within the specified time period will result in disqualification, and the candidates on the waiting list will be offered a scholarship. The list of recipients must be finalized no later than July 31st of each year.
- (iii) Taiwan Representative Offices should issue recipients with a certificate of scholarship (Appendix II) by July 31st of each year, and assign the Scholarship's study time table according to the recipients' level of study. Recipients' information should also be completed on the on-line Taiwan Scholarship Information Platform.

X. Upon completion of a degree program, recipients may reapply by February 28th of each year for the Taiwan Scholarship to undertake a higher degree program by following the application process as specified above. The maximum duration of each recipient's total award period is five years (see Provision IV, Section ii).

XI. The process for continuing scholarship benefits is as follows:

- (i) Each university/college should review recipients' award qualifications for the second semester of the academic year and evaluate each recipient's academic and conduct performances by February 28th of each year and notify the recipients and the MOE designated office within seven days. In addition, by September 10th of each year, universities/colleges should submit the renewal lists to the on-line Taiwan Scholarship Information Platform to secure funding.

(ii) Recipients shall be granted renewal if they have achieved the following results:

1. A minimum total average of 70% per semester's coursework for undergraduates and 80% for postgraduates; universities/colleges may set their own higher standards.

2. For recipients in the 3rd year of their doctoral programs, this evaluation should be conducted in accordance with the regulations of their individual institutions.

(iii) If recipients have been admitted to the next level of study by their attending universities/colleges prior to the expiration of their scholarships, the attending universities/colleges must submit the scholarship application forms filled out by the recipients, their academic transcripts in Taiwan, and proof of admission, to the MOE for change of scholarship levels and terms. The MOE will notify the universities/colleges, the MOE designated office and relevant representative offices.

XII. Transfer:

(i) After studying for a semester at a university/college, a recipient is allowed to transfer once to another university/college/department listed in the "Association of Taiwan Scholarship Program Schools" during the course of a degree program, if the pertinent educational institutions approve this request.

(ii) Recipients that wish to transfer to a different degree program at another university/college/department/graduate school, must re-apply to the original institute of the Taiwan Representative Offices.

(iii) When applying for a transfer, the original university/college must notify the recipient and its transferring university/college of the recipient's scholarship type, award period and transfer date. The transferring university/college must notify the recipient and the original university/college that it agrees to the transfer date. Both universities/colleges must send copies of the transfer to the MOE, relevant Taiwan Representative Offices, and the MOE designated office.

XIII. The university/college of the recipient should apply and verify the scholarship in accordance with the following time period and processes each year from the MOE designated office:

(i) After each semester's student enrollment, universities/colleges shall pay a monthly subsistence allowance to the recipients. The MOE will pay the universities/colleges in two installments: the first installment is for January through August, and universities/colleges should apply for appropriation by January 5th; the second installment is for their appropriation by January 5th ; the second installment is for September through December, and universities/colleges should apply for their appropriation by

September 30th. When applying for an appropriation, universities/colleges should submit a list of recipients and student-signed receipts. In cases where universities/colleges fail to apply for their appropriation in time, it is their responsibility to pay a monthly subsistence allowance to the recipients.

- (ii) Universities/colleges should submit three copies of their balance sheets statement and execution results form (form in Appendix III) to the university/college president, chief accountant and cashier for verification. The first deadline for verification is September 30th, and the second is December 20th. Remaining funds should be returned to the MOE. Universities/colleges should keep all original receipts for verification by the National Audit Office and other relevant offices.
- (iii) After each semester's student enrollment, universities/colleges must submit a list of recipients, along with a comprehensive statement of tuition and other fees (form in Appendix IV), statement of income and expenditures, and receipts to the MOE designated office to apply for appropriation and verification of tuition and other fees.
- (iv) The allocation, disbursement, and verification of funds are carried out in accordance with the MOE subsidy and commission expense verification guidelines.
- (v) Recipients that are suspended, withdrawn or expelled from universities/colleges shall have their scholarship revoked and subsistence allowance suspended. When this occurs after the 15th of the month, recipients will not be required to return that month's subsistence allowance. Tuition and other fees paid must be returned pro rata to the designated office by the MOE and processed and verified separately.

XIV. Other key provisions:

- (i) International students:
 1. Scholarship applicants should apply directly for admission to universities/colleges listed in the "Association of Taiwan Scholarship Program Schools" (see Appendix 1) within the application deadlines.
 2. Other than tuition and other fees, recipients are responsible for the payment of all other expenses. In case of financial hardship, recipients may apply to their registered universities/colleges for payments to be deducted from their subsistence allowances.

3. Should the recipients' academic and conduct performances or their attendance record fall below the required standard of their registered universities/colleges, their scholarships will be suspended or revoked in accordance with the rules and regulations of the universities/colleges.
4. Should recipients be in simultaneous receipt of any other award or subsidy granted by Taiwan government agencies or education institutions in Taiwan, upon verification, their scholarships will be revoked and any stipend and subsistence allowance given to them during the period of overlap shall be returned.
5. Recipients are required to join the National Health Insurance plan. They must purchase other forms of medical insurance before enrolling in the National Health Insurance plan according to National Law.
6. Upon enrollment at universities/colleges in Taiwan, recipients are not allowed to study in any other country as exchange or dual/joint degree students. Should such a case occur, the recipients' scholarships will be revoked and the remainder of the award period shall not be retained or deferred. Recipients on exchange as part of the degree program are exempt from this rule, but they shall not receive any tuition stipend and subsistence allowance during the time period outside of Taiwan.
7. Recipients are not allowed to work illegally (including part-time work) while in Taiwan. If recipients engage in any labor activity without the MOE's approval of award renewal or without notifying their universities/colleges, their scholarships will be revoked and they need to return any stipend and subsistence allowance given to them during the period of employment.

(ii) Universities and colleges:

1. Universities/colleges shall refer to their respective guidelines for admitting international students and notify applicants of their final decision no later than June 15th of each year.
2. Universities/colleges are required to establish their own regulations in relation to financial aid for recipients so that recipients may apply for payments they are responsible for to be deducted from their subsistence allowances.
3. The suspension and revocation of this scholarship is under the provisions of the recipients' universities/colleges of enrollment and the MOE. In case of withdrawal, suspension, expulsion, or

any other violation, universities/colleges must immediately suspend or revoke the recipients' scholarships, note the reason, period of suspension or revocation, and notify the MOE, the Bureau of Consular Affairs, the National Immigration Agency, and the MOE relevant Taiwan representative offices, the recipients and the designated office. In addition to the provisions of universities/colleges, scholarships may be suspended or revoked if one the following situations arise:

- 1) Recipients are absent for more than one-thirds of a single month excluding school breaks. Upon verification, the recipients' subsistence allowances for that month shall be suspended with the recipients' scholarships subject to revocation.
 - 2) Recipients' scholarships are revoked if they study in any other country as exchange or dual/joint degree students while in receipt of their Taiwan scholarships. Recipients on exchange as part of a degree program will not receive any tuition stipend and subsistence allowance during the time period outside of Taiwan.
 - 3) Recipients who violate Taiwan laws, are imposed with any major demerit at the university/college, or withdraw or be expelled from the university/college shall have their scholarships revoked. In case of transfer to another university/college or department or voluntary withdraw from their original universities/colleges, recipients' scholarship will not be revoked.
 - 4) Failure to submit at the time of enrollment for each study term an Alien Resident Certificate (ARC) with "pursuing studies" as the reason for stay by the deadlines specified by the recipients' universities/colleges, or altering the reason of stay while in receipt of the scholarships.
 - 5) Recipients found working illegally or engaging in any labor activity without the MOE's approval of award renewal or without notifying their universities/colleges shall have their scholarships revoked. Any stipend and subsistence allowances given to them during the period of employment must be returned.
 - 6) Recipients whose academic average for the semester is below the passing standard set by their universities/colleges will have their scholarships suspended for a month; recipients whose academic average for the semester is below the passing standard for two consecutive semesters will have their scholarship revoked starting the next semester.
4. Relevant institutions wishing to employ recipients on a part-time basis should apply for employment permit in accordance with the Employment Service Act (ESA). Recipients' universities/colleges should, in accordance with this guideline, review each case, and upon approval, state the proposed

period of employment, nature of employment, and total working hours. A copy of the recipients' academic transcript for two consecutive semesters must be submitted to the MOE for the evaluation of the renewal of the recipients' scholarships.

5. Upon recipients' arrival and enrollment, each university/college is required to organize orientations for recipients in order to inform them of the rules and regulations regarding scholarship renewal, grade calculation and award, and scholarship issuing, suspension and revocation. Each university/college should also issue the scholarship monthly, monitor scholarship suspension and revocation, and process scholarship renewal.
6. Universities/colleges should set up a specific unit and personnel to liaise with recipients, provide academic and student support, and encourage recipients to actively participate in school activities and national volunteer work during their stay in Taiwan.

(iii) Taiwan representative offices:

1. Shall inform local government agencies, universities/colleges, and students of the Taiwan Scholarship Program, provide information about studying in Taiwan, process scholarship applications and selections, and ensure that recipients sign the Taiwan Scholarship Program Terms of Agreement (form in Appendix V), agreeing to abide by the laws of Taiwan.
2. Are responsible for validating that the universities/colleges in which scholarship applicants have been admitted are listed in the "Association of Taiwan Scholarship Program Schools".
3. Are required to submit their lists of recipients (Appendix VI) to the MOE for review by July 31st. A copy of the lists with all appendices should also be sent to the Bureau of Consular Affairs, the National Immigration Agency, the recipients' universities/colleges, and the MOE designated office. The local office of Consular Affairs should also be notified.
4. In accordance with Provision III, shall issue recipients who have been admitted to universities/colleges with a certificate of scholarship, stating the exact period of the scholarship.
5. Shall organize orientations for recipients before they travel to Taiwan in order to explain the guidelines for the scholarship, the application process for residency in Taiwan, the barring of illegal labor activities, and relevant information regarding living and studying in Taiwan.

6. When the recipients return to their homelands, shall maintain contact with them and organize post-study presentations and seminars so that the recipients may share their experiences of studying and living in Taiwan with others.

XV. Taiwan Scholarships granted before and for the 2011 academic year are subject to the following:

(i) Undergraduates will be awarded a monthly stipend of NTD25,000, and postgraduate students a monthly stipend of NTD30,000.

(ii) Recipients will pay their own tuition fees and other fees from the beginning of the award period until the expiration of their award, graduation, withdrawal, or expulsion. Other than the differences in the stipend, any regulations in relation to scholarship suspension and revocation are subject to these revised guidelines.

Recipients that pre-enrolled for the 2011 academic year for Chinese language sessions are subject to the Ministry of Education Short Term Research Award (STRA) and Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (HES) International Student Directions.

Beginning from the 2012 academic year, new recipients of the Taiwan Scholarship must abide by these revised guidelines.