

2019

International Student Advisor Handbook



Ministry of Education

International Student Advisor Handbook – Table of Contents

A

Studying in Taiwan

4

1. Enrollment

5

(1) Individual applications

5

1. Eligibility

5

2. Required documents

7

3. Recognition of academic records & credentials

8

(2) Channels for undertaking further education in Taiwan

12

2. Frequently asked questions

12

B

Visas and residency

13

1. Visas

14

(1) Types of visa

14

(2) Notations on visas

14

(3) Visa changes

15

2. Alien resident certificate (ARC)

16

(1) How to apply for an ARC

16

(2) Extending an ARC

17

(3) ARC expiry

17

(4) Replacing a lost ARC

18

(5) Changing ARC details

18

(6) Studying with an ARC based on being a family dependent

19

(7) Reminders

19

3. ARC application process flowchart

20

4. Frequently asked questions

20

(1) Visa related questions

21

(2) Resident certificate related questions

21

C

Registering student information & notification of changes

23

1. Registration & notification of changes

24

(1) Registration

24

(2) Notification of changes

24

2. Notification method

25

3. Liaison

25

D

National Health Insurance

26

1. General information about NHI cover

27

2. Insurance categories

27

3. NHI fees

28

4. Applying for an NHI card or a replacement or reissue card

28

5. Frequently asked questions

28

E**Work Permits****30**

1. Eligibility restrictions	31
(1) General information	31
(2) Special expertise	31
2. How to apply	31
3. Work permit expiry dates & restrictions on working hours	31
(1) Work permit expiry dates	31
(2) Restrictions on working hours	32
4. Replacing a lost work permit	32
5. Penalties	32
6. Deferral or abandonment of study	32
7. Frequently asked questions	33
(1) Applying for a work permit	33
(2) Working hours & term of employment related	33

F**Internships & employment****35**

1. Stay in Taiwan for an internship after graduating	36
(1) Eligibility criteria	36
(2) How to apply	37
(3) Duration	38
2. Foreign student internships in Taiwan	39
(1) How to apply	39
(2) Duration	39
(3) Foreign student internships in Taiwan – with other organizations and agencies	39
3. Stay in Taiwan for employment	40
(1) The job-seeking period	40
(2) Work categories	40
(3) After finding a job - apply for a work permit	41
(4) After getting a job - get a new ARC	42
(5) Reminders	42
(6) Point system assessment for employment form	43
4. Frequently asked questions	44

G**Campus regulations in English****45**

1. Student rights	46
2. Scholarships provided by the college/ university	46

This Handbook is for reference use only. Please refer to the appropriate official websites for authoritative details of regulations and procedures, and recent amendments to related laws and regulations.



Studying in Taiwan

1. Enrollment

(1) Individual applications

1. Eligibility

Legal basis: Articles 2, 3, 10 and 12 of the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan.

Article 2	<p>A person of foreign nationality who has never held Republic of China (ROC) nationality and who does not have overseas Chinese student status at the time of their application is permitted to apply for admission to an educational institution, in accordance with these Regulations.</p> <p>A person of foreign nationality who meets the following requirements and who in the immediate past has resided overseas continuously for at least six years is also permitted to apply for admission to an educational institution, in accordance with these Regulations. However, a person who plans to apply to study in a university department of medicine, dentistry or Chinese medicine must have resided overseas continuously for at least eight years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person who at the time of their application also holds dual ROC nationality shall have never had household registration in Taiwan. 2. A person who before the time of their application also held dual ROC nationality but no longer does at the time of their application shall have renounced their ROC nationality with the approval of the Ministry of the Interior on a date at least eight full years before making their application. 3. The persons referred to in the preceding two subparagraphs must have never previously undertaken studies in Taiwan as an overseas Chinese student nor have accepted a placement by the University Entrance Committee for Overseas Chinese Students in the current academic year. <p>A foreign national who was selected by a foreign government, organization, or educational institution to study in Taiwan in accordance with the Education Cooperation Framework Agreement, and who has never had household registration in Taiwan may be given an exemption from the restrictions set out in the preceding two paragraphs if the competent educational administrative authority gives approval.</p> <p>The periods of six years and eight years stipulated in Paragraph 2 shall be calculated using the starting date of the semester (February 1, or August 1) as the end date of the period.</p> <p>The term "overseas" used in Paragraph 2 refers to countries or regions other than the Mainland Area, Hong Kong, and Macau; the term "reside overseas continuously" means that an international student has stayed in Taiwan for no more than a total of 120 days in each calendar year. When calculating the number of consecutive years spent overseas, if the initial or final year of the period is not a complete calendar year, any time spent in Taiwan in the initial or final year must not exceed 120 days. However, the time that a person has spent in Taiwan is not subject to this restriction and it is not counted when calculating how long they were in Taiwan in a particular year if the person has documentary proof that they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attended an overseas youth training course organized by the Overseas Compatriot Affairs Council or a technical professional training program accredited by the Ministry of Education; 2. spent a total period of less than two years undertaking Chinese language classes at a Chinese language center at a university or tertiary college which has Ministry of Education approval to recruit students overseas; 3. spent a total period of less than two years in Taiwan as an exchange student; or 4. spent a total period of less than two years undertaking an internship that they came to Taiwan to undertake with the approval of the designated central competent authority. <p>A person who held both foreign and ROC nationalities and applied for annulment of their ROC nationality before the date of effect of the February 1, 2011 amendment to these Regulations may apply for admission as an international student in accordance with the provisions in place before the amendment and is not subject to the restrictions set out in Paragraph 2.</p>
Article 3	<p>An applicant of foreign nationality, who is eligible for permanent residence in Hong Kong or Macao, who has never had household registration in Taiwan, and who at the time of their application has resided in Hong Kong, Macao, or elsewhere overseas continuously for at least six years may apply for admission in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations. However, a person who plans to apply to study in a university department of medicine, dentistry or Chinese medicine must have resided overseas continuously for at least eight years.</p> <p>The term "resided [...] continuously" in the preceding paragraph means that a person did not spend more than a total of 120 days in Taiwan in each calendar year. However, this restriction does not apply if a person can present documentary proof that any of the circumstances listed in Paragraph 5, Subparagraphs 1 to 4 of the previous article apply. The time that they spent in Taiwan in the ways listed is not counted when calculating the period of continuous residence referred to in the previous paragraph.</p> <p>A person who was formerly from the Mainland Area and who has foreign nationality and has have never had household registration in Taiwan, and who at the time of their application has resided overseas continuously for at least six years may apply for admission to an educational institution,</p>

Article 3	<p>in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations. However, a person who plans to apply to study in a university department of medicine, dentistry or Chinese medicine must have resided overseas continuously for at least eight years.</p> <p>The term "resided [...] continuously" in the preceding paragraph means that a person did not spend more than a total of 120 days in Taiwan in each calendar year. However, this restriction does not apply if a person can present documentary proof that any of the circumstances listed in Paragraph 5, Subparagraphs 1 to 4 of the previous article apply. The time that they spent in Taiwan in the ways listed is not counted when calculating the period that they resided continuously overseas referred to in the previous paragraph.</p> <p>The periods of six years and eight years stipulated in Paragraph 1 and in Paragraph 3 shall be calculated using the starting date of the semester (February 1, or August 1) as the end date of the period.</p> <p>The definition of "overseas" given in Paragraph 5 of the previous article also applies, mutatis mutandis, to Paragraphs 1 to 4.</p>
Article 10	<p>An international student is not permitted to apply to study any recurrent or continuing education bachelor's degree program or an in-service master's degree program, or any other program which is only taught in the evening or during vacations, at a university or tertiary college in Taiwan.</p> <p>However, an international student who already has legitimate resident status or who is undertaking a program approved on a case by case basis by the Ministry of Education is not subject to this restriction.</p>
Article 12	<p>An international student who with Ministry of Education approval is undertaking an internship after graduating from a university in Taiwan may have their international student status extended for up to one year after their graduation.</p> <p>An international student who has been permitted to undertake initial household registration, resident registration, naturalization, or restoration of ROC nationality procedures during the course of their studies in Taiwan will forfeit their international student status and shall be dismissed by their educational institution.</p> <p>An international student who is dismissed from a university or tertiary college after admission as a result of unsatisfactory conduct, or poor academic performance, or a conviction in criminal case proceedings is not permitted to reapply for admission to an educational institution under these Regulations.</p> <p>Each university or tertiary college shall formulate its own regulations regarding transfers of international students, incorporate these into its admission regulations, and submit these to the Ministry of Education for approval. However, an international student who has been dismissed by the educational institution that admitted the student as a result of unsatisfactory conduct or of a conviction in criminal case proceedings is not permitted to transfer to another university or tertiary college.</p>

2. Required documents

Legal basis: Article 7 of the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan.

International students applying for admission to a university or tertiary college shall submit the following documents and apply directly with the university or college during its designated application period, and applicants who pass the review or screening process will be issued an admission notice:

Required documents

1. An enrollment application form.
2. Academic credentials:
 - (1) Academic credentials from the Mainland Area: shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations Regarding the Assessment and Recognition of Academic Credentials for the Mainland Area.
 - (2) Academic credentials from Hong Kong or Macao: shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations Governing the Examination and Recognition of Educational Qualifications from Hong Kong and Macao.
 - (3) Academic credentials from other areas:
 - A. Academic credentials issued by an Overseas Taiwan School or a school for Taiwan business people in the Mainland Area shall be regarded as equivalent to academic credentials issued by an educational institution of the same level in Taiwan.
 - B. Academic credentials from overseas other than those referred to the preceding two items shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations Regarding the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Academic Credentials for Institutions of Higher Education. However, academic credentials issued by a campus or branch that a foreign educational institution has established in the Mainland Area shall be notarized by a notary public there and authenticated by an agency established or designated by the Executive Yuan, or by a private organization commissioned by the Executive Yuan.
3. Proof of applicant's having sufficient funds to live on while studying in Taiwan, or proof of having a full scholarship or grant provided by a government, university, college, or private organization.
4. Other documents required by the educational institution being applied to.

When an educational institution reviews an international student's admission application, if any of the documents specified in Subparagraphs 2 and 4 of the preceding paragraph have not been authenticated by an overseas mission, or by an agency established or designated by the Executive Yuan, or by a private organization commissioned by the Executive Yuan, and the educational institution has any doubts about them, it may request authentication by an overseas agency. If documents that have already been authenticated raise any doubts, the educational institution may request examination of the documents.

3. Recognition of academic records & credentials

Legal basis: Articles 4, 6, 9, and 10 of the Regulations Governing the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Academic Records by Institutions of Higher Education; Articles 3, 4, 6, and 10 of the Regulations Governing the Assessment and Recognition of Educational Records from the Mainland Area, and Article 4 of the Regulations Governing the Examination and Recognition of Educational Records from Hong Kong and Macao.

The Regulations Governing the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Academic Records by Institutions of Higher Education:

Article 4	<p>Only foreign academic records that satisfy each of the following provisions may be assessed for recognition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The educational institution from which the applicant graduated or where they have been studying but have not yet graduated shall be listed in the reference list (*see Note 1). An educational institution not in the reference list shall have been accredited by the government authority responsible for such educational institutions or by the professional accreditation agency for education in the country where it is located. 2.The restrictions on the period spent undertaking a program, and the courses that must be completed shall be comparable to those prescribed for a comparable program at an educational institution in Taiwan of an equivalent academic level and nature.
Article 6	<p>The "restrictions on the period spent undertaking a program" in Article 4, Subparagraph 2 refers to the period that the applicant spent undertaking a program at a foreign educational institution and the following provisions apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.An applicant who has a senior secondary school academic credential shall have spent a total period undertaking the senior secondary program that satisfies the regulations of the education system in the country where the school they attended is located. 2.An applicant who has a bachelor's degree shall have spent a total period of at least 32 full months undertaking the bachelor's degree program. 3.An applicant who has a master's degree shall have spent a total period of at least eight full months undertaking the master's degree program. 4.An applicant who has a doctorate shall have spent a total period of at least 16 full months undertaking the doctorate program. 5.An applicant who concurrently completed the programs for and obtained both a master's degree and a doctorate at the same university (graduate institute) shall have spent a total period of at least 24 full months undertaking the master's degree and doctorate programs. 6.An applicant who has an academic credential after graduating from a junior college or who has an associate's degree and academic ability equivalent to having graduated from a junior college shall have spent a total period of at least 16 full months undertaking the associated program. <p>With regard to the restrictions on the period spent undertaking a program referred to in the preceding paragraph, each institution of higher education shall compare the domestic and foreign education systems at that level and make an overall determination taking into account the educational system in the country where the applicant obtained the foreign academic credential, the administrative calendar of the educational institution during the period the applicant was undertaking the program, and the applicant's cross-border entry and exit record. If a period that the applicant spent in that foreign locality is not consistent with the regular length of a program at that educational institution or the program schedule indicated on its administrative calendar, that period will not be counted.</p> <p>If an applicant had an outstanding performance during their study for a bachelor's degree, the educational institution to which they are applying may make a discretionary reduction to the required period spent undertaking their bachelor's degree program, taking into due consideration the regulations governing the length of programs at institutions of higher education in that particular foreign country, and the specific circumstances.</p> <p>If a person is categorized as having a physical or mental disability as defined in the Special Education Act, the educational institution to which they are applying may make a discretionary reduction to the required time which they spent undertaking their program, taking into due consideration the length of programs at institutions of higher education in that particular foreign country, the extent of their physical and/or mental disability, and other specific circumstances.</p> <p>If an applicant undertook a degree program that can be taken concurrently at the same level at a domestic institution of higher education and a foreign one under an international academic collaboration program, the applicant is not permitted to have completed the program entirely at the domestic institution. The total time the applicant spent undertaking the degree program at each of the institutions of higher education may be combined; it shall be subject to the following provisions, and the provisions of Paragraph 1 are not applicable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An applicant who has a bachelor's degree shall have spent a total period of at least 32 full months undertaking the bachelor's degree program.

Article 6	<p>2. An applicant who has a master's degree shall have spent a total period of at least 12 full months undertaking the master's degree program.</p> <p>3. An applicant who has a doctorate shall have spent a total period of at least 24 full months undertaking the doctorate program.</p> <p>The course credits earned by an applicant studying at the domestic institution of higher education and those earned at the foreign institution of higher education referred to in the preceding paragraph shall in each case be at least one-third of the total number of course credits required by each of the institutions for the conferral of such a degree.</p> <p>If the period that the applicant spent undertaking their program is at least two-thirds of the requirement stipulated in Paragraph 1 or in Paragraph 5, the institution of higher education may assess their foreign academic credential for recognition, after first making an overall determination of whether or not the applicant's educational level is equivalent to that required for admission to an institution of higher education, taking into account the educational system in the country where the applicant obtained their foreign credential, the administrative calendar of the educational institution during the period the applicant was undertaking the program, the applicant's cross-border entry and exit record, and the length of programs at a domestic educational institution of an equivalent academic level and nature.</p> <p>If an applicant for admission to a university has been awarded a foreign academic credential that, in accordance with the regulations of the foreign university, required courses to be undertaken abroad (including in the Mainland Area, Hong Kong, and Macao, but not including Taiwan), the period that the applicant spent undertaking courses abroad may be included when calculating whether or not they satisfy the requirement stipulated in Paragraph 1 if the applicant has submitted documentary evidence from the foreign university and the domestic university has undertaken verification and given approval. In addition, any educational institution(s) at which the courses abroad were undertaken shall satisfy the provisions of Article 4, the provisions of the Regulations Governing the Assessment and Recognition of Educational Records from the Mainland Area, or the provisions of the Regulations Governing the Examination and Recognition of Educational Records from Hong Kong and Macao.</p> <p>If an applicant being admitted has an academic credential obtained after undertaking a professional degree program offered by a collaborating domestic university and a foreign university that was approved by the Ministry of Education on a case by case basis, when calculating whether or not they satisfy the requirements stipulated in Paragraph 1 and in Paragraph 5, the period that they spent undertaking courses at the domestic university may also be included.</p>
Article 9	<p>When undertaking verification of foreign academic credentials, each university shall require the applicant to submit a letter of consent authorizing it to undertake verification, and related documents.</p> <p>The university may ask the foreign educational institution from which an applicant graduated to verify the following matters regarding the applicant's foreign academic credential(s), or send a written request to an overseas mission for assistance to do so:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Admission requirements. 2. The restrictions on the period spent undertaking a program. 3. The courses that must be completed. 4. The nature of the approval given to the educational institution by the government authority responsible for such educational institutions or by the professional accreditation agency for education in the country where it is located. 5. Any other matters that require verification.
Article 10	<p>The following academic credentials awarded in a foreign country are not eligible for assessment and recognition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An academic credential obtained by completing a program in correspondence mode. 2. Certificates awarded after undertaking attendance at any kind of training courses, seminars, or workshop. 3. Having obtained candidate status for a doctorate without having been awarded the doctorate. A person with this status may apply for assessment and recognition as having the equivalent of a master's degree. 4. A doctorate conferred only on the basis of having completed a dissertation, without having registered, been admitted, and undertaking any courses. 5. Honorary degrees. 6. An academic credential awarded for a program undertaken in a non-Chinese speaking country or region, with Chinese as the language of instruction. This, however, does not include any senior secondary academic credential. 7. An academic credential obtained from a foreign educational institution that has established a branch or a division and professional degree programs in Taiwan that do not have Ministry of Education approval, or obtained from an institution commissioned to recruit students and teach courses in Taiwan in the name of a foreign educational institution without Ministry of Education approval. 8. Any academic credential obtained in the distance learning mode which does not satisfy the provisions of Article 7.

The Regulations Governing the Assessment and Recognition of Academic Records from the Mainland Area:

Article 3	<p>A person meeting one of the following criteria who has academic record documents from the Mainland Area may apply in accordance with these Regulations to have their academic records assessed and recognized:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person from the Taiwan Area. 2. A person from the Mainland Area who is applying to undertake studies in Taiwan. 3. A person from the Mainland Area who is applying to enroll in a specific program offered offshore by a university or tertiary college in Taiwan in accordance with the statutory regulations. 4. A person from the Mainland Area who has been given permission to enter the Taiwan Area for a family reunion, residency as a dependent family member, or long-term residency. 5. A person from the Mainland Area who has been given permission to settle in the Taiwan Area. <p>Only persons who enrolled in a tertiary level educational institution in the Mainland Area during the semester when the amended Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area took effect on September 3, 2010, or afterwards may apply in accordance with these Regulations for recognition of their academic record from that tertiary level educational institution.</p>
Article 4	<p>A person from the Mainland Area who satisfies the provisions of the preceding paragraph and applies for recognition of their educational records shall submit the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educational records issued by secondary and lower level schools of all types: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Academic records (graduation certificates, or certificates of attendance) certified as genuine by a notary public in the Mainland Area and a photocopy of the notary public's certificate. If necessary, transcripts for each year of their studies shall also be submitted. (2) The photocopy of the notary public's certificate referred to in the preceding item, which has been authenticated by an agency established or designated by the Executive Yuan, or by a private organization commissioned by the Executive Yuan, and a photocopy of the duplicate issued by the notary public in the Mainland Area. 2. Educational records issued by a tertiary level educational institution: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To a person who did not complete a program: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Certificate of attendance, and transcripts for each year of their studies, all certified as genuine by a notary public in the Mainland Area, and a photocopy of the notary public's certificate. b. The photocopy of the notary public's certificate referred to immediately above, which has been authenticated by an agency established or designated by the Executive Yuan, or by a private organization commissioned by the Executive Yuan, and a photocopy of the duplicate issued by the notary public in the Mainland Area. (2) A person who has graduated: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Graduation certificate. b. Degree(s), and transcripts for each year of their studies. A degree issued by a tertiary level educational institution after completing a professional degree program does not need to be submitted. c. Documentary certification issued by a designated authentication agency in the Mainland Area that the documents referred to in Item 2a and 2b above are genuine. d. An applicant with a master's degree or higher academic credential must also submit a copy of their dissertation. <p>If any doubt arises regarding the authenticity of the documents referred to in the previous paragraph, Subparagraph 2, Items 2a to 2c when the Ministry of Education's examines them in accordance with the provisions of Article 6, the applicant must submit the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A photocopy of the notary public's certificate issued by a notary public in the Mainland Area for the documents referred to in the previous paragraph, Subparagraph 2, Item 2a, and Item 2b. 2. The notary public's certificate referred to in the preceding subparagraph, which has been authenticated by an agency established or designated by the Executive Yuan, or by a private organization commissioned by the Executive Yuan, and a photocopy of the duplicate issued by the notary public in the Mainland Area. <p>A person from the Mainland Area who has been given permission to temporarily reside in the Taiwan Area who is applying for recognition of their academic records shall submit their resident certificate, in addition to meeting the requirements stipulated in the preceding two paragraphs.</p> <p>A person from the Mainland Area who has been given permission to permanently reside in the Taiwan Area who is applying for recognition of their academic records, must also submit their national identification card, in addition to following the requirements stipulated in the Paragraph 1 and Paragraph 2.</p>

Article 6	<p>The recognition of academic records issued in the Mainland Area shall be conducted as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the exception of educational records referred to in Subparagraph 2, the assessment and recognition of the educational records of a person from the Taiwan Area or the Mainland Area issued by secondary and lower level schools of all types in the Mainland Area shall be undertaken by the special municipality, or city (county) level competent education administration. 2. If a person from the Taiwan Area or the Mainland Area who has educational records issued by a secondary school, or by a tertiary level educational institution in the Mainland Area for a vocational or professional studies program wants to enroll in a bachelor's degree program, or if a person from the Taiwan Area or the Mainland Area who has educational records issued by a secondary school in the Mainland Area wants to enroll in a two-year associate's degree program at a junior college, they must before submitting their academic records to the Ministry of Education for verification and recognition after the school or tertiary level educational institution where they obtained their academic records has authenticated them. 3. A person from the Mainland Area who is applying to be enrolled in a master's degree or doctorate program in Taiwan or in a professional degree program offered offshore by a university or tertiary college in Taiwan shall have the educational or academic institution where they obtained their academic records authenticate the records before submitting the academic records to the Ministry of Education for verification and recognition. 4. With the exception of the records referred to in the previous subparagraph, the educational records of a person from the Taiwan Area or the Mainland Area that were issued by a tertiary level educational institution in the Mainland Area shall be assessed and recognized by the Ministry of Education. <p>The term "special municipality, or city (county) level competent education administration" in Subparagraph 1 refers to the competent education administration authority for the locality where the person applying to have their records recognized has their registered address. If an applicant does not have a registered address, this term refers to the competent education administration authority for the place where the educational institution at which the applicant plans to enroll is located.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education will handle the verification and recognition referred to in Subparagraph 2 and Subparagraph 3 above and the assessment and recognition referred to in Subparagraph 4. When necessary, the Ministry may commission a college, university, institution (agency) or organization to undertake this.</p>
Article 10	<p>The provisions of these Regulations pertaining to applications for recognition of the educational records of people of the Mainland Area apply, mutatis mutandis, to the assessment and recognition of the educational records of foreigners and residents of Hong Kong or Macao that were issued in the Mainland Area.</p>

Regulations Governing the Examination and Recognition of Educational Records from Hong Kong and Macao:

Article 4	<p>A person applying for examination and recognition of educational records from an educational institution in Hong Kong or Macao at junior college level or higher shall personally submit the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic record documents which have been authenticated by an agency in Hong Kong or Macao established or designated by the Executive Yuan, or by a private organization in Hong Kong or Macao commissioned by the Executive Yuan (any documentation in a foreign language shall be accompanied by a Chinese translation). 2. Transcripts for each year of their previous studies which have been authenticated by an agency in Hong Kong or Macao established or designated by the Executive Yuan, or by a private organization in Hong Kong or Macao commissioned by the Executive Yuan (any documentation in a foreign language shall be accompanied by a Chinese translation.) 3. A photocopy of the person's identification document(s), and a record of their cross-border arrival and departure dates during the period from the beginning to the end of their studies there issued by the competent authority in Hong Kong or Macao. If, however, the applicant is a permanent resident of Hong Kong or Macao, they are not required to submit a record of their arrival and departure dates. 4. Other related documents
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*Note1: This refers to the list of the names and addresses of overseas tertiary educational institutions or institutes, compiled and published by the Ministry of Education.

(2) Channels for Undertaking Further Education in Taiwan

1. Article 4 of the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan states:

"An international student applying to study at an educational institution in Taiwan in accordance with the provisions of the two previous articles is limited to only applying once*. After completing the course of study at the educational institution to which they applied, unless the student is applying for admission to a program for a master's degree or a higher degree, which may be handled by each university in accordance with its regulations, if a student wants to continue studying in Taiwan, their application shall be handled in the same manner as the admission procedures for domestic students."

*English note: "limited to only applying once" means that a person is allowed to apply to more than one educational institution, but if one of their applications is successful and they then study in Taiwan, the person cannot subsequently apply to study at another educational institution to do a course at that level.

Admission through the standard channels for domestic students wanting to undertake further education: Such as the college and university entrance examinations taken by senior secondary school graduates and vocational high school graduates; an entrance examination for a master's degree or PhD program for graduates of tertiary colleges, universities, or technical universities in Taiwan; or an application by students currently undertaking a master's degree program at a university or technical university in Taiwan to undertake a PhD program.

2. Frequently asked questions

No.	Question	Answer provider	Answer
1	Is a person who applies for enrollment and is admitted to a university as a foreign student, allowed to then change their status and study in Taiwan as an overseas Chinese student?	Ministry of Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foreign student who has come to Taiwan to study and registered and enrolled is not permitted to change their student status on the grounds of the means of admission, graduating, or entering or leaving Taiwan. 2. If a person who applies as a foreign student decides to decline an admission offer and then reapply for enrollment to study in Taiwan as an overseas Chinese student instead, their application will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations Regarding Study and Counseling Assistance for Overseas Chinese Students in Taiwan.
2	If a person comes to study in Taiwan in accordance with the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan but is dismissed by their educational institution for any reason before they complete their course, will the person still be able to once again apply for admission to a university as a foreign student on the basis of these regulations?	Ministry of Education	If a foreign student who has been dismissed by a university intends to return to Taiwan to enroll in a bachelor's degree program, the person will be subject to the same rules for admission that apply to normal local students. If the person intends to return to Taiwan to enroll in a program at master's degree level or higher, the matter will be handled in accordance with the regulations of the educational institution to which the person wants to apply.



Visas and residency

1. Visas

(1) Types of visa

Legal basis: the Statute Governing the Issuance of ROC Visas to Foreign Passport Holders

There are four different types of visa available for a foreign passport holder to enter the ROC (Taiwan):

Visa Type	Description
Visitor Visa	For holders of valid foreign passport, or other legitimate identification intending to stay in Taiwan for up to 6 months.
Resident Visa	For holders of a valid foreign passport or other legitimate identification intending to stay in Taiwan for 6 months or more.
Diplomatic Visa	Issued to holders of diplomatic passports, or heads of state with laissez-passer travel documents.
Courtesy Visa	Issued to former heads of state, deputy heads of state, prime ministers, deputy prime ministers, ministers of foreign affairs and their dependents.

(2) Notations on visas

Notation	Purpose of visit or category of student	Details
P	Tourism, visits, family visits	To participate in non-paid, non-commercial activities, general social visits, tourism, or other activities that do not require a permit
FS	Foreign students	To undertake studies pursuant to the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan, at an educational institution approved by the Ministry of Education
FC	Overseas Chinese students	To undertake studies in the ROC (Taiwan), pursuant to the Regulations Regarding Study and Counseling Assistance for Overseas Chinese Students in Taiwan
FR	Study & training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chinese language study 2. To study religious teachings with the approval from the Ministry of Interior in accordance with the Directions Governing Applications by Religious Groups for a Foreigner to Study Religious Teachings in Taiwan. 3. Students in Vocational Training Programs for Overseas Youth. 4. Other permitted workshops and training activities.
FT	Internships, and stand-in services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students undertaking an internship at a diplomatic missions in Taiwan or persons whose applications have been approved by the competent authority for the activity associated with the purpose of the visit. 2. Applicants for stand-in services must be approved by the Investment Commission of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Directions Governing Handling of Applications by Domestic Manufacturers Making Overseas Investments or Adjusting Plant Equipment for Exports to Engage Foreign Training Personnel)

(3) Visa changes

A student or exchange student in Taiwan with a resident visa who needs to stay for more than 6 months must change their resident visa to an alien resident certificate (ARC) to maintain their legitimate resident status. A person who has a visitor visa must first go to a local service center the Bureau of Consular Affairs or an office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and apply to change their visitor visa to a resident visa, in order to then be able to apply for an ARC. Please note: once you have changed your visitor visa to a resident visa, you must go to a service center of the National Immigration Agency within 15 days and apply for an ARC. If a foreigner's visitor visa or resident visa has expired, the regulations require the person to leave the country and reapply for a visa.

	Details	Required items	
Changing a Visitor Visa to a Resident Visa	A foreigner who enters Taiwan with a visitor visa must apply at the Bureau of Consular Affairs or an office of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, to change this to a resident visa at least 8 working days prior to the expiry date indicated on the visitor visa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visa application form (this must be filled out online using the On-line Application Form) 2. Two 2-inch photos 3. Passport, and a photocopy of the passport (The passport must be valid for at least six months) 4. The admission letter issued by the educational institution and a photocopy 5. Satisfactory health certificate and a photocopy of the certificate (a health certificate issued overseas must be authenticated by an ROC (Taiwan) overseas mission) 6. A financial statement and a photocopy of the financial statement 7. Highest educational records and a photocopy of each (including graduation certificates and transcripts) (These must be authenticated by an ROC (Taiwan) overseas mission.) 8. Other related documents <p>Fees: Please refer to the Standard Fees for ROC (Taiwan) Visas in Foreign Passports issued by the Bureau of Consular Affairs. An additional fee of NTD 800 applies for people who enter the ROC (Taiwan) on a visitor visa and then apply for a resident visa.</p>	
FR Visa Notation	A holder of a visa with an FR notation who while undertaking a Chinese language program or an Overseas Youth Vocational Training Workshop program in Taiwan, received a formal admission notice for a degree program at a university or tertiary college in Taiwan, or an Overseas Chinese Students Notice of Assignment to such a degree program, and who has completed their registration may submit the required documents and apply at the Bureau of Consular Affairs or any office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to change the notation on their resident visa to "FS" on the grounds of their studies, without having to leave the country.	Chinese Language Learning Program	Overseas Youth Vocational Training Workshop (OYVTW)
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visa Application Form 2. Admission notice from a university 3. A certification that that the person is registered at a university and is a current student 4. Actual passport and a photocopy of the passport 5. Highest educational diploma or degree, authenticated by an ROC overseas mission, and a photocopy 6. Two passport-style photos 7. Student Status Certificate for their period as a student in the Chinese language learning program 8. Record of Attendance for a Chinese language program 9. Transcripts for the Chinese language program 10. Original medical examination report 11. Proof of financial means 12. Language proficiency certificate 13. Statement of Purpose 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visa Application Form 2. Admission notice from a university 3. A certification that the person is registered at a university and is a current student 4. Actual passport and a photocopy of the passport 5. Highest educational diploma or degree, authenticated by an ROC overseas mission, and a photocopy 6. Two passport-style photos 7. OYVTW program Completion Certificate 8. OYVTW transcripts 9. OYVTW Record of Attendance 10. Original medical examination report 11. Proof of financial means 12. Language proficiency certificate 13. Statement of Purpose
Visitor Visa	If a foreigner enters Taiwan with a visitor visa with the P notation, it is not permitted to change the visa notation to FS or FR in Taiwan because study was not the purpose of entry that was declared. To reside in Taiwan for the purpose of undertaking study, the person must leave the country and change their visa to be permitted to enter Taiwan to study.		
Visa-Exempt Entry and Landing Visa	A foreigner who enters Taiwan with Visa-Exempt Entry, Landing Visa, or some other type of visa not related to the purpose of study is not permitted to apply for a resident visa or for an extension of their stay on the grounds of undertaking study.		

2. Alien resident certificate (ARC)

Legal basis: Articles 22 to 35 of the Immigration Act, and the Regulations Governing Visiting, Residency, and Permanent Residency of Aliens.

The Alien Resident Certificate (ARC) is the identity document that serves as proof of the bearer's legal status in Taiwan. It is similar to the National Identification Card of citizens of Taiwan, and it reflects the bearer's status, and the rights they are entitled to in Taiwan and their obligations. The ARC records basic information about the bearer, such as their **duration of stay**, and includes their photograph.



(1) How to apply for an ARC

Legal basis: Articles 5 and 9 of the Regulations Governing Visiting, Residency, and Permanent Residency of Aliens

Any foreigner who enters Taiwan with a resident visa, or who has received their resident visa after changing their visa in Taiwan (details of how to do this are given in the section on visa changes), the applicant may submit the required documents, in person or through an agent, at any service center of the National Immigration Agency to apply for an ARC. If an applicant asks an agent to submit the documents on their behalf, their agent must have the applicant's written authorization to do so. Be sure to submit the application **within 15 days from the day following entry into Taiwan or from the date of being issued a resident visa**. A fine of between NTD 2,000 and NTD 10,000 will be imposed if a person fails to apply within this period.

To illustrate, if a foreigner enters Taiwan on March 16, 2019, March 17 is the first day, March 18 is the second, and so on. In this example, by March 31 2019 at the latest, the applicant must visit a service center of the National Immigration Agency to apply for an ARC, or visit the National Immigration Agency's official website and apply by clicking its **Online Application System** for Foreign students and Overseas Chinese students; Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao students; and Nationals without registered household in the Taiwan Area (Students).

Applicants must submit the following.

1. One application form
 2. Passport and resident visa, and a photocopy of each
 3. ARC (not required for initial application)
 4. One two- inch ID photo (the same specifications as for a National ID card)
 5. Student ID card or Current Student Status Certificate, and a photocopy of it (an applicant who hasn't yet registered may submit their admission notice)
 6. Proof of residence (e.g. a rental lease, or a certificate issued by the educational institution regarding having accommodation at a particular address)
 7. Application fee: NTD 1,000
- Processing time: approximately 10 days (not counting weekends and public holidays).

※A person who is applying for an ARC for the first time who hasn't yet registered at the educational institution may use their admission notice for their application. They will initially receive an ARC for an approved stay of 6 months. After completing their registration and before that 6-month period ends, they must submit documentary evidence that they are a current student to extend their ARC for another 6 months.

(2) Extending an ARC

Legal basis: Articles 3, 8 and 22-1 of the Regulations Governing Visiting, Residency, and Permanent Residency of Aliens.

A foreigner who needs to extend their residency must submit the required documents and items at any service center of the National Immigration Agency and apply for an extension of their ARC within **30 days of the date that their residency expires**.

Applicants must submit the following:

1. Application form
 2. Passport
 3. Their current ARC
 4. Student ID card or Current Student Status Certificate
 5. One two-inch ID photo (the same specifications as for a National ID card)
 6. Fee: NTD 1,000
 7. If the application is submitted by an agent, the applicant's written authority to do so.
- Processing time: approximately 10 days (not counting weekends and public holidays).

♦ If a person is not in Taiwan and their ARC will soon expire, how can it be extended?

The person must give their current ARC, passport (if they cannot submit the actual passport, a photocopy must be authenticated by an ROC overseas mission), a written authorization (must be authenticated by an ROC overseas mission), and other extension related documents to an agent the person has authorized to lodge the extension application at the National Immigration Agency of the Ministry of the Interior on their behalf before their residency expires. The person can also apply for an extension online using the Foreign students and Overseas Chinese students/Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao students/Nationals without registered household in the Taiwan Area (Students) Online Application System on the National Immigration Agency's website.

(3) ARC expiry

Legal basis: Articles 31 and 85 of the Immigration Act.

	Expiry within Taiwan		Expiry outside Taiwan
Details	If a foreigner overstays their period of residence for less than 30 days and the reason for their original residency application continues to exist, they may reapply for residency after paying a fine. A foreigner who overstays the period of their residence by 30 days or more is not permitted to reapply for residence and must reapply for a visa for entry.		If a person's resident certificate expires while they are outside of Taiwan, they must apply for a visa for entry and then reapply for a resident certificate at a service center. The person is not permitted to simply pay a fine and reapply for residence on the basis of their expired resident certificate.
Fines	Days Overstayed	Amount	Must reapply for an ARC.
	Up to 10 days	NTD 2,000	
	11–30 days	NTD 4,000	
	31–60 days	NTD 6,000	
	61–90 days	NTD 8,000	
	91 days or more	NTD 10,000	

(4) Replacing a lost ARC

Legal basis: Article 39 of the Enforcement Rules of the Immigration Act.

Please submit the required documents and visit the National Immigration Agency service center in your county or municipality to apply for a replacement to be issued.

Applicants must submit the following:

1. Application form
 2. Passport
 3. One two-inch ID photo
 4. Current Student Status Certificate
 5. Statement that ARC has been lost or evidence that the loss was reported to the police
 6. Fee: NTD 500
- Processing time: approximately 10 days (not counting weekends and public holidays).

(5) Changing ARC details

Legal basis: Article 31 of the Immigration Act.

	Change of address	Loss of passport, or passport replacement
Details	A foreigner who changes their residential address or their place of employment must assemble all the required documents and apply within 15 days to have this change recorded; failure to do so will result in a fine of between NTD 2,000 and NTD 10,000.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lost passport If a passport is lost, a person must first assemble the relevant documents and visit a National Immigration Agency service center in person and report the loss. After getting a new passport or travel documents, the person must go to their local National Immigration Agency service center to have their passport details updated. 2. Passport replacement If a passport needs to be replaced for any other reason, the passport-holder must take all the associated documents to their local National Immigration Agency service center in person to have their passport details updated.
Required items	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application letter 2. Passport, and a photocopy of the passport 3. ARC 4. A two-inch ID photo 5. A rental lease, or a certificate issued by the educational institution regarding having accommodation at a particular address 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application letter 2. Old passport and new passport, and a photocopy of each (if reporting the loss of a passport, provide a photocopy of the lost passport) 3. ARC 4. A two-inch ID photo
Failure to update your ARC information as required		
	No. of times	Penalty
	1st offense	NTD 2,000
	2nd offense	NTD 5,000
	3rd offense	NTD 10,000

(6) Studying with an ARC based on being a family dependent

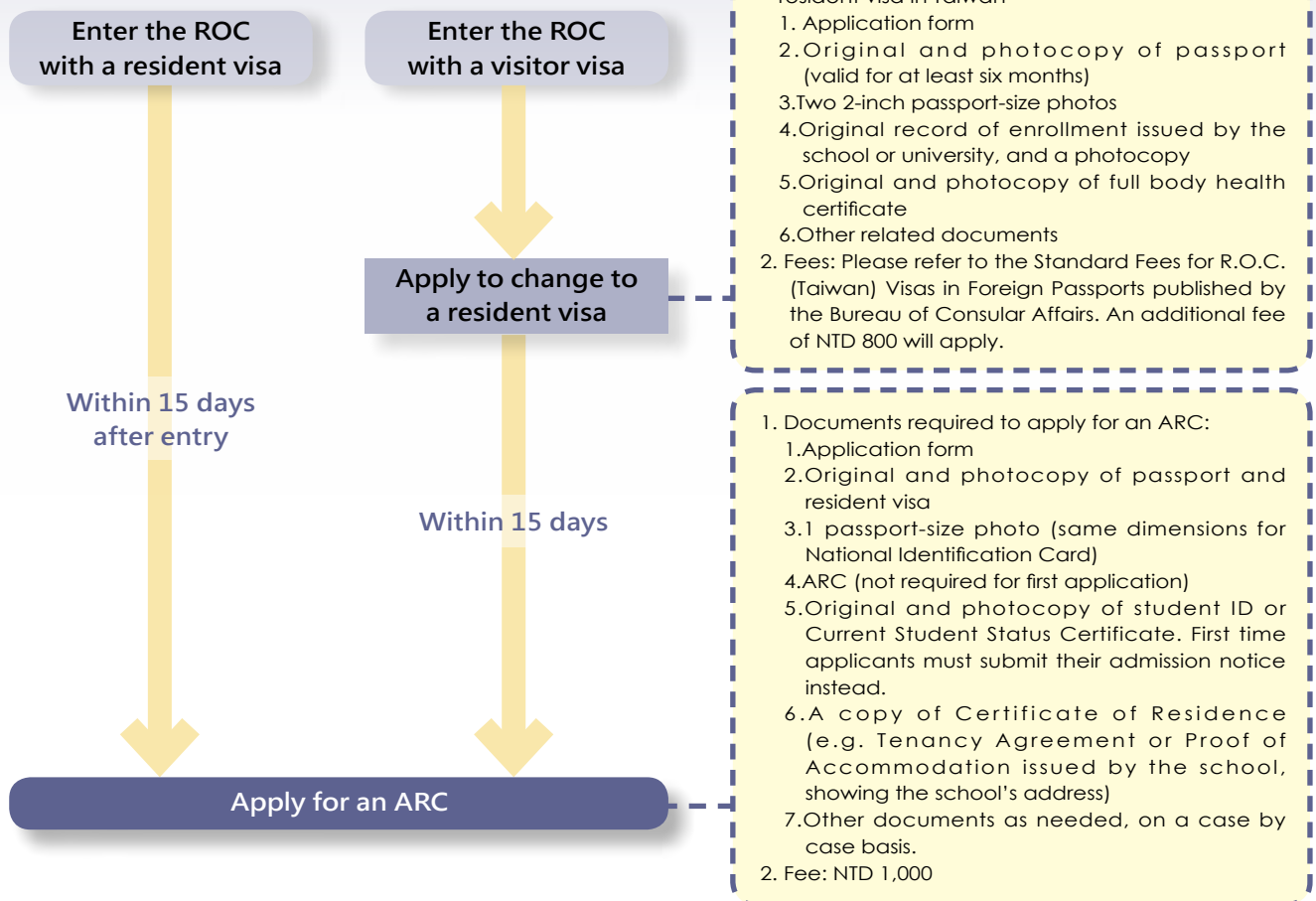
A foreigner in Taiwan with family dependent status who meets the eligibility and other requirements set out in the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan and related ordinances may take their admission notice and associated documents to the Bureau of Consular Affairs or an overseas mission and apply for a resident visa for a student, and then apply to the National Immigration Agency for an ARC on the grounds of studying.

But if a foreigner has already been granted residency on the grounds of being a family dependent and is already attending classes, the law stipulates that a foreigner is only permitted to continue to extend their residency on the grounds of being a family dependent until they reach the age of 20. If an applicant attended classes without interruption during their residency based on being a dependent and was not enrolled in a recurrent education program, they may assemble all the required documents and change their residency to one for the purpose of undertake study in Taiwan, and this change can be made without leaving Taiwan. If circumstances such as a divorce or some other reason make it impossible for a foreigner to continue to stay in Taiwan as a family dependent, it is not possible for that person to stay in Taiwan and change their residency to one with the purpose of undertaking of study, and the person must leave Taiwan to apply for a new ARC.

(7) Reminders

1. A foreigner who has an ARC may make multiple entries into Taiwan during their permitted stay, without having to apply for a new ARC.
2. During a residency period, if the purpose for a student's residency ceases to exist (e.g. a student defers or abandons their studies), their approval to stay will end and their ARC will be revoked. If such a situation occurs, the student's educational institution must report this within a prescribed period and must also inform the student to go to the National Immigration Agency service center in the area where they have been staying, with their plane ticket for departure, passport, resident certificate, and evidence that they have deferred or abandoned their studies to ask about the deadline for leaving Taiwan and hand back their resident certificate.
3. Illegal work is strictly forbidden; during their temporary or longer residency in Taiwan, a foreigner is not permitted to engage in activities or work that are not consistent with the reason that they have been allowed to stay or temporarily stay. Any violations will be subject to penalties in accordance with the pertinent regulations.

3. ARC application process flowchart



4. Frequently asked questions

No.	Question	Answer provider	Answer
(1) Visa related questions			
1	Is a student who applies for a visitor visa allowed to study in Taiwan?	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Consular Affairs	Foreign students applying to study in Taiwan must submit evidence of admission to a program to use to determine the length of applicants' intended stay in Taiwan. An applicant intending to stay less than 180 days may only apply for a visitor visa, at an overseas mission. Only applicants who intend to stay in Taiwan for more than 180 days may apply for a resident visa. A foreign student who intends to enroll in a degree course that goes for at least 180 days must assemble all the required documents and, before coming to Taiwan, apply at an overseas mission for a resident visa for the purpose of studying.
2	Are students from Thailand and Vietnam required to submit results of their Chinese proficiency test results when they apply for an entry visa for Taiwan?	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Consular Affairs	Given the practical reality that courses offered at colleges and universities in Taiwan are taught primarily in Chinese or in English, applicants must have adequate command of Chinese and/or English. The overseas missions will determine and announce the related language proficiency requirements for visa applications, taking into consideration the actual circumstances of the country where they are location. Thai and Vietnamese students who apply for a visa to study in Taiwan who plan to enroll in any courses taught in Chinese must submit Chinese proficiency test certificates. Applicants who plan to enroll in international courses or courses fully taught in English must submit English proficiency certificates.

No.	Question	Answer provider	Answer
(1) Visa related questions			
3	If a foreign student does not have adequate documentation to apply for a visa to be a student in Taiwan, will they be able to enter Taiwan on a visitor visa and then go to the Bureau of Consular Affairs or an office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and change that visa to a resident visa for the purpose of studying?	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Consular Affairs	Any foreign student who enters Taiwan with visa-exempt entry, a landing visa, or some other visa that was granted on grounds other than studying, instead of entering with a visitor visa or resident visa, will not be able to change their visa in Taiwan to a visa for the purpose of studying. In addition, if a person fails to provide all the documents required to apply for a student visa, an overseas mission will reject the application and will not issue a visa on some other grounds.
(2) Resident certificate related questions			
1	Does a person have to go to the National Immigration Agency service center in the area where their educational institution is located to apply for or to extend an ARC or a Taiwan Area Resident Certificate?	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Consular Affairs	A person can apply or extend an ARC or a Taiwan Area Resident Certificate ARC at any service center of the National Immigration Agency anywhere in Taiwan.
2	An ARC is valid for one year. Is it possible to extend its validity period to 3 years, similar to the validity period of a Taiwan Area Resident Certificate?	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Consular Affairs	Article 9 of the Regulations Governing Visiting, Residency, and Permanent Residency of Aliens stipulates that the validity period of an Alien Resident Certificate issued is not permitted to exceed one year. For this reason, such an extension is simply not possible.
3	Is the option to have a resident certificate mailed to a student's educational institution available if the person applies online?	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Consular Affairs	The National Immigration Agency policy is to provide applicants with the convenience of mail delivery of their resident certificate if an application is submitted at a counter and the applicant provides a return envelope. If an applicant applies online, it's not possible for them to provide a return envelope, and for this reason this service is not available.
4	If a foreign student defers or abandons their studies, how long are they allowed to stay in Taiwan before they are required to leave?	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Consular Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4, Article 31 of the Immigration Act, the National Immigration Agency will revoke a foreigner's residence permit and cancel their ARC if the reasons for that foreigner's residence cease to exist within the residency period. In addition, the provisions of Article 36, Paragraph 2, Subparagraph 7 of the Immigration Act indicate that a person to whom the circumstances cited above pertain, the National Immigration Agency may forcibly deport that person or order them to leave Taiwan within 10 days. 2. When an educational institution determines that a foreign student has deferred or abandoned their studies, it must immediately notify the Bureau of Consular Affairs and the National Immigration Agency; the National Immigration Agency will cancel the foreigner's ARC and the foreign student must leave Taiwan within 10 days after they receive written notification that their resident certificate has been revoked.

No.	Question	Answer provider	Answer
5	Will a foreign student be able to apply for an ARC extension in advance if their ARC is due to expire during the summer vacation when they will return to their country?	Ministry of the Interior National Immigration Agency	As outlined in the provisions of Article 8 of the Regulations Governing Visiting, Residency, and Permanent Residency of Aliens, a foreigner must apply for an ARC extension within the 30 days before their ARC expires. For example, an applicant may submit a copy of their roundtrip ticket (highlighting the dates and flight times on the copy is recommended) as evidence that they will not be in Taiwan during the specified period and are therefore asking to be allowed to apply for an ARC extension in advance. If the National Immigration Agency service center agrees, on an individual case basis, the person will then be able to extend their ARC.
6	If a foreign student in Taiwan graduates from a university and then plans to continue their studies in a graduate school (master's degree program), will they be able to apply for a resident certificate during the summer vacation with just an admission notice from the graduate school (when registration for the new semester hasn't yet started)?	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Consular Affairs	A foreign student or an overseas Chinese student who has completed their undergraduate studies and been accepted into a graduate school (for a master's degree program) but will be unable to register for enrollment during the summer vacation because their ARC is about to expire may submit their admission notice and other documentary evidence to the National Immigration Agency and apply for a residency extension.



Registering student
information &
notification of changes

Legal basis: Articles 9 and 24 of the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan

Article 9	A university or tertiary college that admits international students shall promptly register details of the following into the international student data management information system designated by the Ministry of Education: the international students admitted and registered, any transfer, deferral, or abandonment of studies, and any change to or loss of student status.
Article 24	If an international student defers or abandons their studies, or if there is any change to or loss of their student status, their educational institution shall notify the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, the service center(s) of the National Immigration Agency of the Ministry of the Interior where their educational institution is located, and send copies of these notifications to the Ministry of Education.

1. Registration & notification of changes

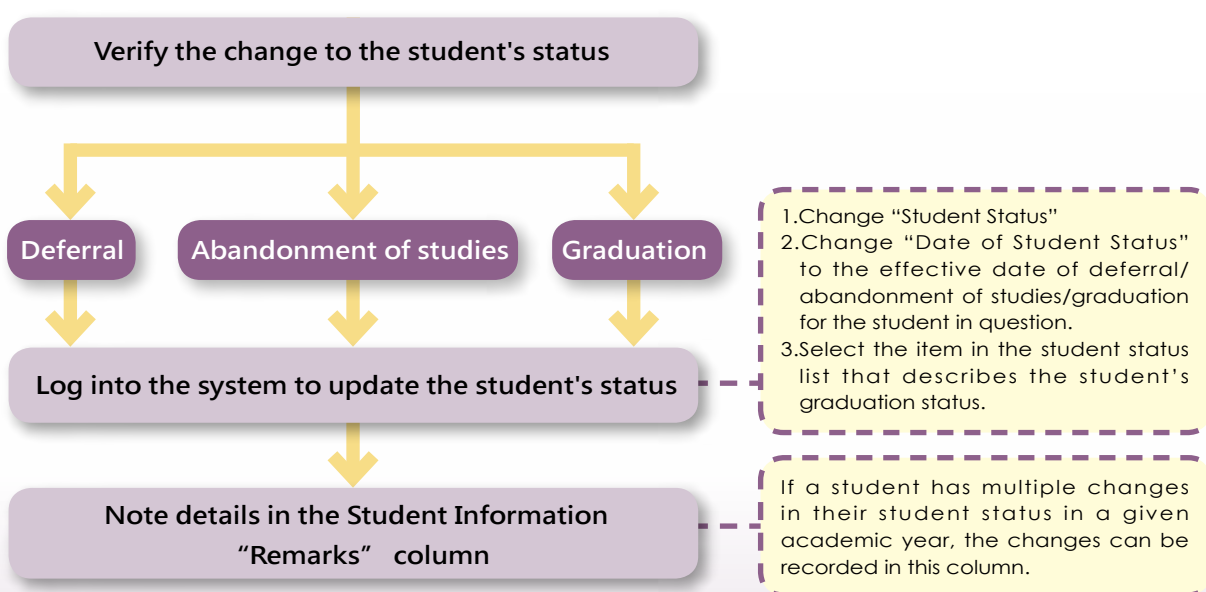
(1) Registration

Information about all new students who applied for enrollment in accordance with the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan or through the standard channels for domestic students wanting to undertake further education, and who have completed the registration process for the academic year and acquired student status must be entered into the National International College/University Student Data Management System. The date when the educational institution begins the semester may be used as the date when a student initially registers when a student's data is being in the system database for the academic year.

(2) Notification of changes

If a change in a student's status (e.g. deferral, resumption, or abandonment of studies, or graduation) involves a corresponding administrative process to be implemented, the change only becomes effective when that administrative process has been completed. In addition, the educational institution must verify the exact date of effect of the deferral, resumption, or abandonment of studies, or the graduation in order to ensure accurate management of the student data in the information system.

Details of the changes referred to in the previous paragraph will be reported to the Ministry of Education, the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and National Immigration Agency of the Ministry of the Interior so that these agencies can proceed with subsequent actions.





2. Notification method

After verifying that a student's data in the National International College/University Student Data Management System has been accurately updated (*Note 2), run the National Immigration Agency Notification Program.

*Note 2: Be sure to check that the information in the Resident Certificate Issuing Unit column is correct and that the changes that have been made in the "Student Status" and "Date of Student Status" (i.e. the effective date of the change of student status) fields are correct.

3. Liaison

For inquiries about using the National International College/University Student Data Management System, please contact the National International College/University Student Data Management System Project office.

Tel: 02-2236-8225 #84205



National Health Insurance

1. General information about NHI cover

Legal basis: Articles 1 and 9 of the National Health Insurance Act.

Article 1 states “This Act is enacted to promote the health of all nationals, to administer health insurance, and to provide health services. This insurance is compulsory social insurance. Benefits shall be provided during the insured term under the provisions of this Act, in the case of illness, injury, or maternity occurring to the beneficiary.”

In accordance with Article 9 of the National Health Insurance Act, any person in the Taiwan Area who has an ARC or other certificate of residence (*Note 3) and who has been in Taiwan for 6 consecutive months, or any person who has only been out of Taiwan once, for a period of 30 days or less, and the actual period spent in Taiwan amounts to 6 months after deducting any days spent out of Taiwan, must enroll in the National Health Insurance (NHI) program. If a person cannot determine the exact starting date to enroll for coverage, a query can be made using the NHI’ s online underwriting operations system. (The date will be determined by examining a foreigner’ s residence data, and the dates of all entries into and departures from Taiwan).

*Note 3: This refers to any certificate of residence referred to in Article 8 of the Enforcement Rules of the National Health Insurance Act.

2. Insurance categories

Legal basis: Article 10 of the National Health Insurance Act, and Article 24 of the Enforcement Rules of the National Health Insurance Act.

Period Studying Without Employment	Working Part-time	Industry-Academia Cooperation & Off-Campus Internship Programs
A foreigner who is not employed and not eligible to be covered as a dependent of another person who pays for NHI cover will be covered under Category 6, Item (2).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person who works for 12 hours or more each week is insured as a person in Category 1 (as an employee). 2. If a foreigner is employed at two or more different places for 12 hours or more each week, the person may choose which employer will handle their NHI premium, based on which employs them for the most hours each week, which pays the highest salary, or which one has a relatively dangerous workplace. 3. A foreigner who is employed short-term (for 3 months or less) is permitted to choose to be covered under the NHI on the basis of their status before being employed. 4. A foreigner who has been given permission to work in Taiwan and has just been employed by a business entity, must make sure they are no longer having their premiums handled by their former educational institution when their new employer enrolls them in the NHI, to prevent being enrolled twice. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a student engages, during an internship period, in actual labor affairs or work at the collaborating enterprise, apart from their internship training, then their industry-academe cooperation contract shall clearly state and establish the legal basis for their relationship employment (a formal employment relationship). 2. A student whose internship is within the scope of “course learning” determined by their educational institution may handle NHI matters in accordance with the internship contract for the internship formulated by the educational institution and the collaborating enterprise, without having to apply for a work permit. If their internship does not fall within the scope of course learning, their NHI premiums shall be handled in accordance with the Employment Service Act promulgated by the Ministry of Labor, and other pertinent regulations.
The categories into which insured people are classified:		
<p>Category 1: Civil servants and personnel in government agencies and public educational institutions, voluntary military service personnel, teaching and other staff of private educational institutions, employees of publicly owned enterprises or institutions, employers, independently operated business owners and independently practicing professionals and technicians.</p> <p>Category 2: Members of an occupational union</p> <p>Category 3: Members of the Farmers’ Association, the Fishers’ Association, or the Irrigation Association</p> <p>Category 4: Military personnel doing compulsory service or substitute service, and persons who are serving a sentence in a correctional institution, or receiving punishment after a police or military court-martial.</p> <p>Category 5: Members of a low-income family or household</p> <p>Category 6-1: Unemployed veterans, and the spouse or children of deceased veterans</p> <p>Category 6-2: Persons who do not fall into any of the categories (1 to 6-1) listed above</p>		



3. NHI fees

Class of contribution	Foreign students
Individual contribution	NTD 749
Government subsidy	NTD 500
Payment method	When students register for each semester, each educational institution will collect a lump-sum payment from each student for their national health insurance premium for six months. (The premium collected in the 1st semester covers the period September to the end of the following February; the premium collected in the 2nd semester, covers the period March to the end of August)

Note:

1. This table does not apply to foreign students who are not permitted to take out insurance through their educational institution.
2. The amounts shown in the table are subject to change if the NHI premiums are adjusted.

4. Applying for an NHI card or a replacement or reissue

First application	Replacement or re-issue
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply to the group insurance applicant that will handle the person's NHI to be enrolled in the NHI program Apply on the National Health Insurance Administration's online platform to be enrolled in the NHI program and have an NHI card issued 2. Already covered by NHI but have not yet received an NHI card <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Apply in person at a counter (2) Apply for an NHI card by mail 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply in person at a counter 2. Apply online 3. Apply at a local town, township, or city office (this is only possible if a person enrolled in the NHI at that office)

5. Frequently asked questions

No.	Question	Answer provider	Answer
1	Is it possible for the requirement for a foreigner who has documentary evidence that they have residency to enroll in the NHI program from the date that they have been in Taiwan for 6 full months (whether for 6 consecutive months or for a total period of six months without having left Taiwan for more than 30 days at any one time) to be relaxed?	Ministry of Health and Welfare National Health Insurance Administration	Apart from foreigners who are employed, all foreigners are eligible to and must enroll in the NHI program after residing in Taiwan for 6 months. The National Health Insurance Act currently imposes the same requirement to be enrolled in the NHI program on citizens of Taiwan, and the provisions governing coverage apply to all people without exception. Overseas Chinese students and foreign students are therefore reminded to be aware of the requirement that after they receive their resident certificate, they must reside in Taiwan for 6 full months, to ensure that they enjoy the benefits of the coverage.
2	If two different group insurance applicants enroll a student in the NHI program at different times, one after the other, will the student's initial enrollment through the first one automatically come to an end?	Ministry of Health and Welfare National Health Insurance Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provisions of Articles 10 and 11 of the National Health Insurance Act, specify how to determine that a person may legally enroll in the NHI program and into which category the insured is classified. The group insurance applicant shall enroll the person and any dependents within 3 days of the person to be insured meeting the requirements. An overseas Chinese student who is insured in Category 6 is employed for a short period (for up to 3 months) may continue their subscription in that category (Category 6) or they may opt to be insured in Category 1 by their employer instead. 2. If an insured person finds out that they are currently enrolled in the NHI program through two different group insurance applicants, they must contact the one that must withdraw (transfer) from that role and it must do so at the division of the National Health Insurance Administration in its area. The National Health Insurance Administration will refund any premium that was paid twice to the original group insurance applicant.

No.	Question	Answer provider	Answer
3	<p>If a student's NHI cover ends when they defer their studies, when they resume their studies two years later they are required to re-enroll in the insurance program but aren't issued a new NHI card.</p> <p>Do they need to get a new NHI card issued?</p>	Ministry of Health and Welfare National Health Insurance Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person and any dependents who meets the eligibility requirements for NHI coverage does not have to pay a card issue fee the first time they apply for an NHI card. A person who withdraws from the insurance program is not required to return their NHI card to the National Health Insurance Administration of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. If the person subsequently re-enrolls in the NHI program, as soon as they have completed the enrollment procedure and paid the premium, they may use their original NHI card when they seek medical attention. 2. If an NHI card needs to be replaced or a person needs a new card issued because the original has been lost, damaged (physically damaged), or to change their photograph or personal details, they must pay a card issue fee of NTD 200.
4	<p>Newly enrolled overseas Chinese students and foreign students who have become eligible for NHI coverage need to wait 1 or 2 months to receive their NHI card. What medical insurance cover do they have during this waiting period?</p>	Ministry of Health and Welfare National Health Insurance Administration	<p>If an overseas Chinese student or foreign student needs to seek medical attention during the period between the date they become eligible to enroll in the NHI program and when they receive their NHI card they may take a photocopy of their enrollment form (if they applied online, the group insurance applicant must stamp a printout) and fill in the Special Circumstances Record at the hospital or clinic in order to receive medical attention covered by the program. A person may also first seek medical attention at any hospital or clinic that has a contract with the National Health Insurance Administration and pay the cost, then take the NHI card they have since received, and apply for a refund at the hospital or clinic they attended within 10 days of their visit there (not counting weekends and public holidays), or within 6 months from the date of their hospital or clinic visit they may submit the original copy of the itemized list of the fees charged, and of the receipt and apply to the National Health Insurance Administration to approve a refund of the fees incurred.</p>
5	<p>If a foreign student declares that they are already covered by insurance in their home country and therefore cannot accept being forced to enroll in the NHI program, is the student be allowed to not pay the NHI premium?</p>	Ministry of Health and Welfare National Health Insurance Administration	<p>Foreigners in Taiwan must comply with its laws and regulations, and exercise their rights and fulfill their obligations, just as people of this nation who visit a different country must comply with that country's laws and regulations. The National Health Insurance is compulsory social insurance, and every person who is eligible to enroll in it is required to do so, regardless of their nationality. The classification of eligibility for National Health Insurance coverage is a matter governed by Taiwan's law, and the law applies to all people. There are no provisions for special exceptions. An overseas Chinese student or foreign student who already has other health insurance in their home country is required to enroll in the NHI program while they are in Taiwan. Educational institutions are reminded to communicate with overseas Chinese students and foreign students and explain Taiwan's NHI regulations and assist them to enroll in the program.</p>
6	<p>If a student does an internship off-campus at a business enterprise and receives an allowance for their work, is the enterprise required to provide NHI cover for them?</p>	Ministry of Health and Welfare National Health Insurance Administration	<p>In accordance with the provisions of Articles 9, 10, 11, and 15 of the National Health Insurance Act, and of Articles 8, and 20, and Paragraph 3 of Article 24 of the Enforcement Rules of the National Health Insurance Act, during the period that overseas Chinese students and foreign students who are eligible for NHI coverage are studying in Taiwan, they must be enrolled in the NHI program as insured persons in Category 6-2, with their educational institution being their group insurance applicant. If such a student has been given permission to work in Taiwan and has been employed by a business enterprise where they work each work day, or for 12 hours each week, or for more than 12 hours each week, their employer must enroll the student in the NHI program in Category 1. At the same time, the educational institution must transfer the student out of its group insurance. However if an overseas Chinese student or foreign student has not lost their original eligibility and they are only working for a short period (no more than 3 months), they may continue to be enrolled in the NHI on the basis of their original eligibility.</p>



Work Permits

1. Eligibility restrictions

Legal basis: Article 50 of the Employment Service Act, and Articles 30 to 35 of the Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers.

(1) General information

Overseas Chinese students, students from Hong Kong or Macao, and foreign students who have come to Taiwan and officially enrolled in a course at a division, department, or graduate institute of an educational institution may apply for a work permit after they have enrolled. But a foreign student who came to Taiwan to take a language program must have done at least one year of the language program to be eligible to apply. One of the following must be submitted with the application:

1. Substantive evidence that the applicant does not have adequate finances to continue to provide for their studies and living costs; or
2. evidence that a teaching or research unit of the educational institution where the applicant is studying requires foreign students to assist with and participate in teaching or research work; or
3. evidence that the applicant has to engage in off-campus practical training related to the program they are taking.

(2) Special expertise

A foreign student who meets one of the following criteria is not subject to the restrictions referred to under the (1) General information heading above:

1. After they have enrolled, a foreign student with exceptional foreign language proficiency may work on a part-time basis as a teacher of that language at a language center affiliated with a university or tertiary college, or at a language center affiliated with a foreign culture and education organization located in the Republic of China, if the student has been given approval to do so by the Ministry of Education on a cases by case basis.
2. A foreign student at a graduate research institute who has been given approval by the educational institution where they are enrolled to engage in research work that is related to the program they are undertaking.

2. How to apply

Applications for a work permit are submitted online. Please visit the Workforce Development Agency's EZ Work Permit website, select User Manual, and follow the steps set out there to submit your application.

If you have any questions related to using the website, please call (02) 8995-6000. You can also download the User Manual from the EZ Work Taiwan website for reference.

3. Work permit expiry dates & restrictions on working hours

(1) Work permit expiry dates

Application Period	Period of validity
In the 1 st semester	The work permit is valid until March 31 of the 2nd semester
In the 2 nd semester	The work permit is valid until September 30 of that year
Other times (*Note 4)	The work permit is valid for a maximum of 6 months.

A work permit is valid for a maximum period of 6 months. If a student does not apply early, this might result in their being issued a work permit that is effective for less than 6 months.

(2) Restrictions on working hours

Legal basis: Article 50 of the Employment Service Act.

Companies may employ the students in the following categories to engage in work, without being subject to the restrictions set out in the provisions of Article 46, Paragraph 1 of the Employment Service Act. The students are permitted to work a maximum of 20 hours a week, except in the winter and summer vacations:

1. Foreign students at a public or registered private university or tertiary college; and
2. Overseas Chinese students and other foreign students of Chinese ancestry at a public or registered private senior secondary or higher level educational institution.

*Note 4:

Applications for a work permit made between semesters or academic years: The application period restriction referred to above do not apply for a student who submits a photocopy of their student ID that bears the stamp of the registrar's office of the educational institution for the semester following the application period or provide other evidence of having registered for that next semester. The work permit issued will be valid for a maximum period of 6 months.

4. Replacing a lost work permit

A student who has lost their work permit must prepare the required documents then visit their account in the login area of the Workforce Development Agency's EZ Work Permit website. They will be able to apply there for a reissue of their work permit.

Requirements	Notes
1. The original receipt for payment of the review fee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A receipt for a post office transfer; there is a fee of NTD 100 for each application. 2. It is not necessary to submit the original receipt if the details have been provided or uploaded. But if necessary for a particular case, the Ministry of Labor may still ask the employer to submit the receipt 3. Please make payments using an ATM as soon as possible after receiving the designated account number.
2. Application form	The permit application must be approved by the educational institution, and the application form must be stamped by the counseling unit of the educational institution and signed by the head of that unit.
3. Affidavit stating the reason for the reissue	This must be stamped by the counseling unit of the educational institution.
<p>Note: If a photocopy of any of the above documents is submitted, it must have the words "True copy" added and the stamp of the educational institution affixed. (Applicants who provide any false information or false document shall be held legally responsible.)</p>	

5. Penalties

Legal basis: Articles 43 and 68 of the Employment Service Act.

An international students who works for another person in Taiwan without applying for a work permit in accordance with the regulations is acting in violation of the provisions of Article 43 of the Employment Service Act. In accordance with Article 68, Subparagraph 1 of that Act, violators shall be fined an amount of between NTD 30,000 and NTD 150,000.

6. Deferral or abandonment of studies

If a student defers or abandons their studies and their work permit is still valid, the educational institution must inform the student to return their work permit to the educational institution.

7. Frequently asked questions

No.	Question	Answer provider	Answer
(1) Applying for a work permit			
1	Is it possible to set a consistent validity period for work permits regardless of when a student applies for one?	Ministry of Labor Workforce Development Agency	The provisions of the Operating Manual for Reviewing Applications for Work Permits for Foreign, Overseas Chinese and Ethnic Chinese Students Studying in Taiwan issued by the Ministry of Labor, state that if a work permit is applied for during the first semester it will be valid until March 31 of the following semester at the latest; for applications made in the second semester, the work permits issued will be valid until September 30 of the same year at the latest. However, some exceptions are made in the light of individual students' different specific needs. For example, students applying for a work permit for a shorter working period or for a period straddling two semesters may have their application for a work permit covering the requested period approved if they have stamped evidence from their educational institution that they are registered for the following semester that includes that period.
2	If a university student in their final semester before graduating has decided to continue their studies at a graduate school at the same university, and they will stay in Taiwan during the summer vacation, how does that student apply for a work permit?	Ministry of Labor Workforce Development Agency	The work permits for students in their final semester before graduating (and students deferring their graduation) is valid until June 30 of the same year, but a student in the following circumstances may apply to extend the validity of their work permit to September 30 of the same year: 1. Students in their final semester before graduating who intend to enroll in a summer program and students deferring their graduation who need to do so who submit relevant substantiating documents issued by their educational institution. 2. An overseas Chinese student or a foreign student who has been admitted to a graduate school must also submit documentary evidence that they have already completed the enrolment procedure that was issued by the educational institution that has admitted the student.
(2) Working hours & term of employment			
1	If a teacher at an educational institution wants to employ an overseas Chinese student or a foreign student at the same educational institution to work as an assistant (a learning assistant or working assistant) for a MOST project, is the student required to apply for a work permit and subject to the restriction of not working more than 20 hours a week?	Ministry of Labor Workforce Development Agency	1. Article 43 of the Employment Service Act states that a foreigner is not permitted to work within the Republic of China if an employer hasn't applied for a permit to employ them. Work undertaken by all foreigners in Taiwan is subject to the Employment Service Act, and any labor or work actually provided by a foreigner is categorized as work, even if there is no formal employment contract and regardless of whether or not the person receives any remuneration. For this reason, if a teacher at an educational institution wants to employ an overseas Chinese student or a foreign student to work providing services as an assistant for a MOST-subsidized project while they are still studying, the educational institution is required to apply to the Ministry of Labor for a permit to employ them. If the on-campus part-time work is approved, any student employed is subject to the restrictions on how many hours they are allowed to work stipulated in Article 50 of the Employment Service Act. 2. In addition, the provisions of Article 31 of the Qualifications and Criteria Standards for Foreigners Undertaking the Jobs Specified in Article 46, Paragraph 1, Subparagraphs 1 to 6 of the Employment Service Act stipulate that if an overseas Chinese student or a foreign student who has graduated from a university wants to be employed as an assistant to do research work in a MOST project, the research unit that intends to employ such a person must be a junior college or higher level educational institution to be eligible to apply to the Ministry of Labor for a permit to employ them. If the permit is approved, the person is then permitted to stay and work in Taiwan.

No.	Question	Answer provider	Answer
(2) Working hours & term of employment			
2	If an international student has started their own business at a night market or sells specific products at one or more physical retail stores, are they subject to the restriction of spending a maximum of 20 hours a week doing such work?	Ministry of Labor Workforce Development Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The limitation of no more than 20 hours of work per week stipulated in Article 50 of the Employment Service Act applies to overseas Chinese students and international students working for an employer while studying in Taiwan. A foreigner who does not have a work permit who engages in running an online sales business or engages in selling products (e.g. by running a stall) but does not actually perform work that constitutes labor (such as working as a masseuse or as a language teacher) are not subject to the provisions of Article 43 of the Employment Service Act provided that are not hindering the opportunities for citizens of the ROC to find employment. And such a person is not required to apply to the Ministry of Labor for a work permit. 2. Moreover, any such conduct running their own business is required to not constitute providing services. The competent authority shall determine whether or not running their own business work is in conflict with the purpose for coming to Taiwan that the foreigner stated in their visa application and handle the matter based on the visa foreigner used to come to Taiwan and the purpose for the person's stay, and in accordance with the provisions of the Social Order Maintenance Act and other pertinent ordinances.
3	A work permit is valid for a maximum period of 6 months. Is there a way to apply for a work permit that is valid for a longer period?	Ministry of Labor Workforce Development Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provisions of Article 34 of the Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers stipulate that work permits issued to overseas Chinese students and foreign students undertaking studies in Taiwan are valid for a maximum period of 6 months. This maximum period is stipulated to ensure that such students will continue their studies in the subsequent semester. 2. The work permit of a person who applies in the 1st semester will be valid until March 31 of the following year. The work permit of a person who applies in the 2nd semester will be valid until September 30 of that same year. A work permit is valid for a maximum period of 6 months, so if a student does not apply early, this might result in their being issued a work permit that is effective for less than 6 months.
4	Are international students allowed to work as tour guides?	Ministry of Labor Workforce Development Agency	<p>Any student intending to work as a tour guide must be reminded that the law and regulations governing tour guides clearly stipulate that all persons who work as tour guides must have received training, passed qualifying examinations, and obtained a tour guide license.</p> <p>All overseas Chinese students and foreign students at each educational institution need to be fully informed about this to prevent violations of the law, and all such students who are interested in working as a foreign language tour guide must be encouraged to take the qualifying examination to obtain the necessary license, as required by law.</p>



F

Internships & employment

1. Stay in Taiwan for an internship after graduating

Legal basis: the Operation Directions Governing Applications from Overseas Chinese Students, Students from Hong Kong and Macao and International Students for Internships after Graduating from University/ College in Taiwan, and Article 12 of the Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan.

Overseas Chinese students and international students in Taiwan who want to do an internship following their graduation must submit an application to their university or college and it must notify the Ministry of Education in writing within the prescribed period. The internships that organizations provide for such students after they graduate are not permitted to violate public order or good ethics, jeopardize national security, public welfare and national health, nor pose any risks of serious occupational fatality or injury. The organizations must purchase accident and related insurance for any graduate doing an internship that is appropriate for what the internship entails and the responsibilities it involves. Each organization must sign an internship contract with any graduate student about to start an internship, and with the university or college from which they have graduated that specifies the rights and obligations of each of the parties.

(1) Eligibility criteria

Overseas Chinese students and international students in Taiwan who do not have household registration, who meet any of the criteria listed below, and who have obtained a letter of agreement to provide an internship (including details of what the internship entails, any financial allowance, and the duration) from an organization that is in accordance with the regulations where they propose to undertake the internship may submit an application to do an internship after they graduate. The application must be submitted to their university or college at least two months before their residence permit expires.

1. Students in their graduation semester who will be eligible to be awarded a master's degree or a higher degree, and who have never withdrawn from their academic studies during their program.
2. Students in their graduation semester who will be eligible to be awarded a university degree, who have never withdrawn from their academic studies during their degree program, and have maintained a grade point average of at least 70 each year; and have been given a written recommendation by the person in charge of the department or institute where they are studying.
3. Students in their graduation semester who will be eligible to be awarded a bachelor's degree or a higher degree, who have won a prize in any national or international skills contest or technology or science fair during their academic studies, or who have been outstanding in some other field, and their university or college or a creditable organization has submitted related documentary evidence and a written recommendation.
4. Students in their graduation semester who will be eligible to be awarded a bachelor's degree or a higher degree, who have never withdrawn from their academic studies during their program, and who have completed the first stage of the national Medical Licensing Examination and are applying to do post-graduate year (GPY) general medical training.

(2) How to apply

Applications submitted by eligible students must be reviewed by their university or college in accordance with the provisions of the Operation Directions Governing Applications from Overseas Chinese Students, Students from Hong Kong and Macao and International Students for Internships after Graduating from University/College in Taiwan. If their assessment finds that the organization where the proposed internship will be undertaken meets the criteria, and the scope and nature of the internship is related to the student's program or the department or graduate institute where they are studying, the university or college must immediately compile the following materials and submit them and an application for approval of the internship to the Ministry of Education:

Requirements

1. Application letter
2. A list of the overseas Chinese students, students from Hong Kong and Macao, and international students who have applied to do an internship
3. Graduating Overseas Chinese Student and Foreign Student Internship in Taiwan Application form; their full academic transcript; and a letter of agreement from the organization where the student plans to undertake the internship
4. Related documentary evidence from the internship organizations (see *Note 5)
5. Details of the associated review undertaken by the university or college

When necessary, the MOE may review an application lodged by a university or college in conjunction with the internship organization's competent industry authority and pertinent agencies.

The university or college must act in accordance with the result of the MOE review and assist its overseas Chinese graduates and foreign graduates whose applications have been approved with residency related application matters. Approval or denial of their residency shall be decided by the designated authority. Approval of residency cannot simply be based on an overseas Chinese graduate or a foreign graduate having a document issued by the MOE approving an internship.

***Note 5:**

1. An enterprise must provide: a photocopy of the company registration certificate or business registration certificate; a photocopy of its most recent annual Profit-seeking Enterprise Income Tax return or of documentary evidence of its actual procurements; and photocopies of other documents related to audits of its having adequate resources. However, a Taiwan representative office of a newly-established enterprise or a newly-established financial service provider does not have to provide a photocopy of their most recent annual income tax return.
2. A foundation which is a subsidiary of a government agency must submit photocopies of evidence that it is registered, its articles of association, and other documents related to audits of its having adequate resources.
3. A foreign chamber of commerce must submit a copy of the formal invitation it has issued.
4. An enterprise, legal person, or institution that provides off-campus internship programs for university and tertiary college students, or that has signed an industry-academic cooperation contract: must submit photocopies of the internship or industry-academic cooperation contract, and other related documents.
5. A hospital which has been approved and publicly identified by the Ministry of Health and Welfare as a key training hospital for the General Medical Training Program must submit a photocopy of the approval notification letter issued by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

(3) Duration

The maximum length of the internship permit for overseas Chinese graduates and foreign student graduates is one year. However, if the internship permit is for a period that ends less than one year from their graduation, a person who needs to extend their internship may apply for one extension. The maximum internship period is still restricted to one year from the date of their graduation, and they must submit an internship extension application form which has been approved and stamped by their internship organization to their educational institution one month before their internship is due to end. After the university or college approves the extension, the graduate student shall take their application form with the educational institution's official seal affixed to the local National Immigration Agency service center to extend their residency.

During their internship, every three months an overseas Chinese graduate or foreign graduate must submit an internship report which has been stamped by their internship organization to their educational institution. These reports are referred to by the educational institutions when it considers whether to approve or deny extension of an internship. If necessary, the university or college may inform the MOE to cancel a graduate's internship permit if a graduate has not submitted their reports in accordance with the regulations.

Please note:

1. Based on the provisions of Article 7 of the Operation Directions Governing Applications from Overseas Chinese Students, Students from Hong Kong and Macao, and International Students for Internships after Graduating from University/College in Taiwan, the maximum length of an extended internship that a graduate may apply for a permit for is one year from the date of their graduation. A graduate doing an internship is not a regular employee of their internship organization and they may take time to look for a job. The provisions formulated by the National Immigration Agency for extending residency for internships, and those for overseas Chinese students and foreign students to apply for a 6-month extension of residency after they graduate on other grounds (such as a job search) effectively serve the same purpose, and for this reason, if a person who has already successfully applied for a year-long internship, the National Immigration Agency will not accept an application from that person to extend their residency by 6 months.
2. If an overseas Chinese student or foreign student who has received MOE approval to do an internship is not able to graduate as scheduled and therefore does not comply with the eligibility criteria for internships, the university or college shall immediately inform the MOE, and the local National Immigration Agency service center to cancel their internship and the associated residency permit in accordance with the regulations.
3. Overseas Chinese graduates and foreign graduates shall comply fully with domestic laws, regulations, and ordinances during the period of their internship. They are not permitted to transfer to a different internship organization unless their university or college first requests and obtains the approval of the MOE, and they are not permitted to engage in work which is not consistent with the nature of their internship.

2. Foreign student internships in Taiwan

Legal basis: the Directions Governing Foreign Student Internships at Educational Institutions at all Levels and Educational Institutes in the Republic of China.

(1) How to apply

Applications by students to come to Taiwan to undertake a foreign student internship at an educational institution or educational institute are subject to substantive review by the educational institution or institute. If an application is assessed as meeting all the criteria, and if the proposed student internship will not violate public order or established custom, does not pose a threat to national security, the public interest, or the health of the general public, and does not give rise to any concern of some major occupational hazard occurring, the educational institution may submit all the related documents and information to the MOE at least one month before the proposed foreign student internship would begin.

Required documents	Notes
1. An official letter from the educational institution or the educational institute	★ An official letter from a graduate school, department, or center will not be accepted
2. From an educational institute: photocopies of their registration certificate, and articles of association.	★ Not required from a university or tertiary college
3. Basic details about the foreign student	These must provide the foreign student applicant's full name; gender; date of birth; nationality; passport number; the name of the overseas university or tertiary college, and the associated institute, faculty or department where they are studying; residential address in Taiwan; and residential address in their country of origin, or in another country that is not their country of origin.
4. Internship plan	This must set out in detail exactly what the proposed foreign student internship will consist of and how this is related to requirements of the program the student is enrolled in or their graduation requirements; where the internship will take place; the beginning and end dates; the internship supervisor; the internship fee; and the amount of any scholarship, financial aid, or living allowance the internship student would receive. ★ This must be written in Chinese or English (A plan written in any other language will not be accepted)
5. A photocopy of the foreign student's passport	The passport must be valid for at least 6 months
6. Certification or other documentary proof issued by the foreign student's overseas university or college that the student is currently enrolled and that their planned internship is a requirement of the program they are enrolled in, or is required for their graduation	The certification or other documentary proof must be signed by a representative of the university or college where the applicant is studying

(2) Duration

A foreign student may come to Taiwan to undertake a foreign student internship in Taiwan for up to 6 months. If necessary, an application may be lodged to extend the initial internship period, by submitting the necessary documents and information. The maximum extension allowed is for a period equivalent to half of the original period and only one extension is permitted. The total length of a foreign student internship, including any extension, is not permitted to exceed 6 months.

(3) Foreign student internships in Taiwan – with other organizations and agencies

For details about how to come to Taiwan to undertake an internship with other organizations and agencies, please refer to their respective directions as indicated below:

Ministry of Economic Affairs - Directions Governing Applications for Foreign Student Internships at Enterprises and Judicial Persons in the Republic of China

Ministry of Justice - Guidelines for Foreigners Doing Internships at ROC Law Firms

Financial Supervisory Commission - Directions Governing Applications by CPA Firms for Foreign Students to do Internships in the ROC

Ministry of the Interior - Architectural Firms Applying for Foreign Students to Undertake Internships in the Republic of China (official document)

3. Stay in Taiwan for employment

Legal basis: Article 18 of the Regulations Governing Applications by Nationals without Household Registration in the Taiwan Area for Entry, Temporary Residence, and Permanent Residence Permits, Article 22 of the Regulations Governing Visiting, Residency, and Permanent Residency of Aliens, and Chapter 5 of the Employment Service Act.

(1) The job-seeking period

An overseas Chinese student or foreign student who would like to stay in Taiwan to seek employment after their graduation must prepare relevant documents and apply for an extension of their ARC before it expires. If a residency extension is approved their ARC will be valid for a further 6 months (starting from the day following the original expiry date of their ARC). If necessary, an applicant may apply for one more extension before their extended residency expires. The maximum total extension period is one year. Taking a part-time job while job seeking is strictly prohibited.

Required items
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form 2. Actual passport and a photocopy of the passport 3. One two-inch photo 4. Graduation certificate 5. Current ARC or resident certificate (this must be returned) 6. If their residential address details need to be changed, proof of having a new address must be submitted 7. Other related documents

(2) Work categories

Foreign students who graduate in Taiwan may apply to stay and engage in specialized or technical work (*see Note 6) on the basis of their eligibility determined using standard wage, and work experience criteria, or based on the point system for overseas Chinese and foreign students to stay and work in Taiwan. Details of each are set out in the table below.

	Standard Salary and Work Experience Criteria	Point System for Overseas Chinese Students and Foreign Students
Eligibility criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a certificate or qualifications to practice as a professional, as stipulated by the Professionals and Technologists Examination Act (e.g. medical doctors, and lawyers). 2. Have worked for two years or more after completing a bachelor's degree, or have a master's degree or a higher degree. 3. Have worked for an international corporation for a year and have been assigned to work in Taiwan. 4. Have had specific professional training or independent study, and 5 or more years of work experience, and have original ideas and/or exemplary accomplishments. <p>※ A person must meet any one of the above criteria. In addition, the salary or remuneration offered for a position is not permitted to be lower than an amount stipulated by the Ministry of Labor (currently NTD 47,971 per month)</p>	<p>Foreign students and overseas Chinese students who have completed a bachelor's degree or a higher degree in Taiwan are assessed by awarding points in accordance with their educational record, salary, special expertise, language proficiency, personal background, and accordance with current government industry development policies. An applicant who scores at least 70 points when their score is reviewed by the Ministry of Labor is eligible to work in Taiwan.</p>

* Note 6: The specialized and technical work categories are listed below. The associated regulations, please visit the Ministry of Labor's EZ Work Taiwan website.

Specialized and Technical Work Categories	
A01. Construction and maintenance engineering, or architectural technology	A09. Environmental protection
A02. Transportation	A10. Cultural, sports, and recreational services
A03. Finance and taxation	A11. Academic research
A04. Real estate	A12. Veterinary work
A05. Immigration services	A13. Manufacturing
A06. Law or patent law	A14. Wholesale
A07. Technical work	A15. Other work categories designated after consultation between the Ministry of Labor and the associated central supervisory authority
A08. Healthcare	

(3) After finding a job - apply for a work permit

After finding a job, foreigners and overseas Chinese must prepare related documents and submit an application for a work permit online by selecting Work Permit for Foreign Professional Worker on the Ministry of Labor website. The required application documents and materials can also be mailed to: 10F, No. 39, Zhonghua Road Section 1, Zhongzheng District, Taipei City.

Documents Required for Point System	Note
1. Original receipt for payment of the review fee	1. Receipt for a post office remittance; the fee is NTD 500 for each application. 2. It is not necessary to submit the original receipt if the details have been provided or uploaded. But if necessary for any particular case, the Ministry of Labor may still ask the employer to submit the receipt.
2. Written application	
3. A list of the foreigners in employment	
4. The point system assessment form and any documentation required for the assessment items	
5. A photocopy of the passport or ARC of the foreigner being employed	
6. A photocopy of the degree (a bachelor's degree or higher) awarded in Taiwan to the foreigner being employed	
7. A photocopy or duplicate copy of the employment contract	This must clearly record the name of the employed foreigner, their nationality, their job title, job description, salary, employment term, and have been signed by both parties.
8. A photocopy of the National ID or passport, or of the ARC of the responsible person at the applicant unit	
9. A photocopy of the applicant unit's registration certificate or business registration certificate	
10. A photocopy of an applicant unit's special operating permit	If necessary for an application for a particular occupation in Category A, please submit additional documentation.
11. A photocopy of a statement of turnover from the applicant unit	If necessary for an application for a particular occupation in Category A, please submit additional documentation.

Note: 1. If a foreigner is younger than 20 years of age is offered employment, the application must also include a statement from the foreigner's legal representative giving consent to their employment, and a photocopy of their legal representative's passport

2. If a written application is submitted that includes any photocopies of the items and documentary evidence listed in the table above, each photocopy must show the words "True copy" and have the stamp of the educational institution and the signature of a person in charge affixed (An applicant who provide any false information or false document will be held legally responsible.)

(4) After getting a job - get a new ARC

A foreigner who has found a job needs to get a new ARC. They, or a person who has their signed have authorization, can do this by taking the required items listed to any National Immigration Agency service center.

Required items

1. Current ARC
2. Passport and entry visa
3. Documentary evidence of the purpose of the residency being applied for (e.g. a letter of approval issued by the competent authority, and a certificate of current employment)
4. A two-inch upper body photo, looking straight forward (not wearing a cap or hat)
5. Fee: NTD 1,000

(5) Reminders

1. A foreign student or overseas Chinese student is not permitted to do any work during an extended residency period after they graduate. Such a student's work permit automatically becomes invalid on the day they receive their graduation certificate and for this reason a foreigner is not allowed to work until a work permit has been issued for them to take up a full-time job. They must wait until they find a job and get a work permit before they are allowed to start working.
2. If a person in breach of the regulations by working before getting a work permit the Ministry of Labor may impose a penalty in accordance with the law, and the person will not be permitted to work in Taiwan for the next 3 years.
3. After foreign students and overseas Chinese students graduate, their NHI cover provided through their university or college is only effective until the end of August. From the beginning of September, a student who has just graduated may enroll in the NHI program at their nearest District Office or at the National Health Insurance Administration. If they want to wait and enroll after receiving their work permit, their employer will enroll them in the NHI but they will have to pay the premium for the period during which they were not yet covered in arrears.
4. If an international student fails to find a job, apply for a work permit, and change their ARC before their residency expires, that person must leave Taiwan as required by law.

(6) Point system assessment for employment form

Foreigner's name: _____ (please write in block letters)

Status: ☐ Overseas Chinese Student

☐ Student from Hong Kong or Macao

☐ Foreign Student

(select just one)

Item	Prospective employee's profile	Points	Tick one (to be completed by the person or unit applying)	Tick (confirmed by agency handling application)
1. Education (mandatory field)	Doctorate Master's degree Bachelor's degree	30 20 10	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Salary	Average monthly salary: NTD 47,971 or more NTD 40,000 – NTD 47,970 NTD 35,000 – NTD 39,999 NTD 31,520 – NTD 34,999	40 30 20 10	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Work experience	More than 2 years More than 1 year, less than 2 years	20 10	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Qualified to serve in relevant capacity	Have the special expertise required for the vacant position	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Chinese language proficiency	Chinese Proficiency Test Level: Fluent, or higher Advanced Intermediate	30 25 20	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Foreign language proficiency	Proficiency in two foreign languages, in addition to Chinese Proficiency in one foreign language in addition to Chinese	20 10	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Overseas personal development	Have resided in a foreign country for six years or more	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Alignment with government policy	The prospective employment is in alignment with related government industry development policies	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Qualifying Score: 70 Total			_____ Points	_____ Points

4. Frequently asked questions

No.	Question	Answer provider	Answer
1	During the 6-month job-seeking period after they graduate, are students allowed to take do temporary work to cover their living expenses before they become formally employed?	Ministry of Labor Workforce Development Agency	<p>Article 43 of the Employment Service Act stipulates that if an employer has not applied for a work permit for a foreigner, that foreigner is not permitted to engage in work in Taiwan. As soon as a foreign student or overseas Chinese student graduates, they no longer have the status of any student referred to in Article 50 of the Employment Service Act, and before their residency expires, they are allowed to apply for to expend their residency for the\ purpose of seeking employment, to encourage them to remain in Taiwan after their graduation and contribute their services. The current legislation does not permit any foreign student or overseas Chinese student to engage in any work while they are looking for a job after they graduate.</p> <p>A foreign student or overseas Chinese student who wants to engage in specialized or technical work in Taiwan after graduating may apply for a work permit using the standard salary and work experience criteria, or using the point system for assessment of foreign students and overseas Chinese students for employment. The point system gives candidates points for eight items, including level of education. The prospective employer makes the initial assessment and if the candidate has a total point score of 70 points or higher, submits an application for a work permit to employ the candidate.</p>
2	If a foreign student or overseas Chinese student has to leave Taiwan for a period of time for any reason after they graduate, will they be able to apply for a work permit using the point system if they return to Taiwan in the future?	Ministry of Labor Workforce Development Agency	<p>To help to achieve the goal of nurturing and then retaining highly skilled professional people, on July 1 2014 the Ministry of Labor launched the Point System to Assess Overseas Chinese and Foreign Students for Employment after Graduation. The system helps prospective employers to assess foreign graduate students by giving points for each of eight items: education, salary, work experience, qualifications to serve in a particular capacity, Chinese language proficiency, foreign language proficiency, personal development overseas, and alignment with government policy. The prospective employer makes the initial assessment and if the candidate has a total point score of 70 points or higher, submits an application for a work permit to employ that former overseas Chinese student or foreign student for a specialized or technical job in Taiwan. If an overseas Chinese student or foreign student leaves Taiwan after graduating but wants to return to Taiwan to work in future, any prospective employer will still be able to use the point system described above to apply for a work permit for them.</p>



Campus regulations in English



Links to the English language regulations of National Cheng Kung University and Tamkang University are provided below. Student advisors should also look for similar models published by other universities and colleges.

1. Student rights

1. Study Regulations

National Cheng Kung University:

http://reg.acad.ncku.edu.tw/var/file/41/1041/img/3064/a1_e.pdf

Tamkang University:

[http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/ddbb23567b46862148257bc700079df8/\\$FILE/5-1.pdf](http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/ddbb23567b46862148257bc700079df8/$FILE/5-1.pdf)

2. Regulations on Student Rewards and Sanctions

National Cheng Kung University:

<http://www.cc.ncku.edu.tw/rule/content.php?sn=249>

Tamkang University:

[http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/bd3a8ca4814cbc6448257bc7000b0276/\\$FILE/6-2_20181120.pdf](http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/bd3a8ca4814cbc6448257bc7000b0276/$FILE/6-2_20181120.pdf)

3. Regulations on Student Leave of Absence

National Cheng Kung University:

<http://www.cc.ncku.edu.tw/rule/content.php?sn=248>

Tamkang University:

[http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/59cdcc8f2c90ee4948257bc7000b5514/\\$FILE/6-23\(1031105\).pdf](http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/59cdcc8f2c90ee4948257bc7000b5514/$FILE/6-23(1031105).pdf)

2. Scholarships provided by the university or college

1. The Guidelines of Emergency Allowance for International Students of National Cheng Kung University

<http://www.cc.ncku.edu.tw/rule/content.php?sn=1844>

2. National Cheng Kung University Implementation Guidelines for

Distinguished International Student Scholarships

<http://www.cc.ncku.edu.tw/rule/content.php?sn=2121>

3. Tamkang University Guidelines for On-campus Scholarship Application

[http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/65df5087780703c248257d5d00056371/\\$FILE/6-33.pdf](http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/65df5087780703c248257d5d00056371/$FILE/6-33.pdf)

4. Tamkang University Implementation Guidelines for scholarships for low income students

[http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/ac5090ee10b08ffb48257d8d0022d6c3/\\$FILE/6-34.pdf](http://oa.tku.edu.tw/Law.nsf/8a19663a9342a6a748256e6b00446781/ac5090ee10b08ffb48257d8d0022d6c3/$FILE/6-34.pdf)

Please refer to the regulations posted on the official websites of the university or college for any amendments and the standard procedures to be followed.

National Cheng Kung University: <http://www.cc.ncku.edu.tw/rule/>

Tamkang University: <http://www.ac.tku.edu.tw/web/url.php?class=201>