



Taiwan Ministry of Education Short Term Research Award (STRA) for Foreign Student Regulations

1. Purpose

To encourage international students (Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao SAR students are not eligible) to undertake short term research or Huayu courses in the Republic of China (Taiwan); in order to provide them with opportunities to increase their understanding of Taiwanese culture and society, and to promote mutual understanding and interactions between Taiwan and the international community.

2. Award Value

- a. A monthly research allowance of 25,000 NTD.
- b. A round trip economy airfare ticket that allows recipients from any of the following countries, Asia, Europe, America, Africa and Oceania to fly directly from recipient's home country to Taiwan and back. Expenses will be reimbursed after the recipient has arrived in Taiwan and has submitted to the research institute the original airfare ticket and all ticket stubs. The maximum allowance will be specified by the Ministry of Education and the recipients will have to cover their own extra expenses.

3. Duration

The short term research period will range from 2 to 6 months, beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st in compliance with the current fiscal year.

4. Availabilities

There will be approximately 20 to 40 openings available per annum, depending on the annual budget, for that fiscal year.

5. Eligibility

- a. Ph.D. candidates with ABD status (All but dissertation) or Post Doctoral fellows under 45 years of age and not of R.O.C nationality, that intend to undertake research in one of the following subject areas: Taiwanese culture, social science, culture, art and related comparative research.
- b. A Ph.D. candidate refers to a graduate student who has already completed all of the required courses and currently is in the process of writing a dissertation. A Postdoctoral fellow refers to a scholar with doctoral degree conducting research programs at a recognized academic institution or university. Research programs involving a thesis, a book, or related publications will have priority. Please note that the following individuals are not eligible:
 - i) Those doing research in the areas of natural science, medicine, engineering or related comparative research in Taiwan.
 - ii) Those that are currently residing or studying (including internship), teaching or doing research in Taiwan.
 - iii) Those that have received an award within the last 5 years.
 - iv) Those that are currently receiving financial benefits from a government agency or an educational institute in Taiwan.
 - v) Those that are exchange students to Taiwan during the Award period.

6. Application

Applicants that intend to apply to a research program from January to December of the following year at research universities or Ministry of Education (MOE) affiliated research institutes, such as The Center for Chinese Studies, the National Academy for the Educational Research Preparatory Office, will need to submit their applications before June 30th (the arrival date for mail). Universities and Ministry affiliates will report successful candidates to the MOE for further assessment. The MOE will notify candidates, universities, Ministry affiliates and embassies or missions in candidates' home countries of the results before September 30th.

Application required documents:

- a. Application form
- b. A photocopy of doctor degree credential. Or, doctoral candidates must provide a certificate of enrollment and a proof of completion for all required courses.
- c. At least two letters of recommendation: one from the head of university or institution where the candidate works or studies; another from scholars or professionals in the subject field applied. Doctoral candidates also need a letter of recommendation from his/her academic advisor.

7. Selection Procedure

- a. Universities or Ministry affiliates will accept applicants to undertake research after application document review. Applicants who pass the first screening will be short-listed for a second screening by the MOE. Three to five professionals as a committee in the related research areas will determine the final list based on potential, outstanding performances, the ability to execute plans (30%), language ability and the academic status of the research institute (30%), the completeness of the research project (including theme, structure, research methodology and analysis), availability, and the importance of the project to the applicant's home country and to Taiwan (40%).
- b. There will be a waiting list for the award after the official final list has been decided. If one of the successful candidates fails to come to Taiwan or withdraws from the program, the MOE will award this scholarship to the next qualified candidate on the waiting list and subsequently notify the new recipient, the related local research institute, and the local embassy or mission of this change.

8. Payment Procedure

Universities or Ministry affiliated research institutes where the recipients work at should apply for funding from MOE, and distribute to the recipients. After arriving Taiwan, the recipients should provide airfare invoice, ticket stub and purchase receipt for reimbursement. The monthly allowance will be granted to the recipient on the tenth of every month.

9. Terms and conditions

- a. The recipient should undertake research at a recognized university or a MOE affiliate. During the research period, the recipient should actively participate in related academic events in Taiwan.
- b. The recipient is not allowed to leave Taiwan throughout the period to which the award relates without the permission of the university or a MOE affiliate. Even with permission of the university or a MOE affiliate, a prolonged stay of over ten days will lead to the suspension of the scholarship for an entire month.
- c. The recipient should hand in a research report including a thesis or a publication to the university or a MOE affiliate before the end of the research period. The university or a MOE affiliate will then submit a report to the MOE.
- d. If the recipient arrived in Taiwan before the scheduled research period for

- purposes other than research and failed to obtain consent from the university or a MOE affiliate in advance, he/she will have to pay for the travel expenses to Taiwan.
- e. The recipient is prohibited to work for profit during the research period.
 - f. The recipient is not allowed to accept any other awards or subsidies from other government agencies or academic institutions.
 - g. The MOE does not provide housing or lab space.
 - h. The recipient must be covered by accident and medical insurance, which is effective throughout his/her stay in Taiwan. The recipient should either fax or email the insurance policy one month prior to the arrival in Taiwan for review purposes. If the recipient is not insured, he/ she will not receive any research grant or airfare reimbursement during his/her stay.
 - i. If the recipient acquires an alien resident certificate (ARC) during his/her stay and is qualified to join the National Health Insurance, he/she must join the insurance and pay the fees accordingly.
 - j. If the recipient has forged any information or documentation, he/she will not only be disqualified from the program, but will also be required to return all the research funding and airfare previously received.