

Visa Application & Diploma Attestation

The 2018-2019 academic year of the Taiwan International Graduate Program (TIGP) will commence early September 2018. We look forward to the opportunity to welcome you to Academia Sinica if you will be joining us for the first time.

May we be among the first to congratulate you on your successful admission to TIGP. With the excitement of college graduation just behind you, and before you embark on a summer of work, travel, or leisure, it is, perhaps, time to plan your trip to Taiwan. It is not too early to start thinking about getting your traveling documents in order for your trip (passport, Taiwan visa, an attested copy of your degree diploma & transcript, airline reservation), before the summer months slip by you. We are also writing to remind you that although you have been admitted conditionally to TIGP, unless you can provide us with official and valid documents by late of August before the registration deadline, your conditional admission will be withdrawn. This requirement does not apply to applicants who have been admitted unconditionally to TIGP.

The following outlines procedures to obtain your entry visa to the Republic of China (Taiwan) if this will be your first trip to Taiwan, to amend your student visa status if you are already living or working in Taiwan, and certain specifics on the diploma & transcript attestation.

1. Foreign students not residing in Taiwan

All international students need a visa to enter Taiwan. Applications for the student visa should be made to Taiwanese Diplomatic Office (Office of the Consulate or the Taiwan Coordination Council of Culture, Trade and Commerce) in your Country after July 15th, and should be accompanied by (i) the acceptance letter signed by the TIGP Director, (ii) the official letter of acceptance issued by partner University, (iii) a valid passport, (iv) two recent passport/visa photos, and (v) attested diploma & transcript & Health Certificate for Residence Application done by a government hospital (no clinic). Please call the officer in charge to obtain the necessary information or instructions first before you visit their offices.

Prior to registration at the partner institution that you will be formally associated with, the University will also need an attested copy of the highest degree diploma & transcript issued by the degree-granting institution from which you obtained your college degree.

2. Amendment of student visa (Foreigners residing in Taiwan now)

If you are already working in Taiwan as a research assistant or other capacity, and are now admitted as a graduate student to TIGP, you need to leave Taiwan and apply abroad for an adjustment to your student resident status (student visa) at Taiwanese Diplomatic Office after July 15th. Before you leave Taiwan, please finish Health Certificate for Residence Application at designated hospital in Taiwan (Refer to <http://www.cdc.gov.tw/english/info.aspx?treeid=E79C7A9E1E9B1CDF&nowtreeid=11A5B455C34BB13D&tid=3A55BC8972235072>). All applicants requesting an amendment to the student visa should be prepared to provide (i) the TIGP acceptance letter signed by the TIGP Director, (ii) the official letter of acceptance by the partner University, (iii) a valid passport, (iv) two recent passport/visa photos, (v) attested diploma & transcript, and (vi) Health Certificate for Residence Application done by Taiwanese hospital.

If you are formally studying in Taiwanese University as a student (excluding an intern), and are now admitted as a graduate student to TIGP, you need to go to local National Immigration Agency instead of leaving Taiwan. All applicants requesting an amendment to the resident status should be prepared to provide (i) the TIGP acceptance letter signed by the TIGP Director, (ii) the official letter of acceptance by the partner University, (iii) a valid passport, (iv) one recent photo, (v) current alien resident certificate (ARC) card, and (vi) new address proof (such as housing lease).

3. Diploma & Transcript attestation

Our partner universities request that both international and domestic students with their highest degree obtained from foreign universities need to certify their diploma and transcript at Taiwanese Diplomatic Office, where in most cases you will apply the visa. A student who fails to provide the certification for his/her diploma & transcript to the university will not be permitted to register.

Moreover, according to Taiwanese Law, the documents to be attested are very strictly restricted to "where" you get these documents. If you obtained your diploma/transcripts in a country (ex. UK) other than your country of residence (ex. India), please note that you will need to attest your documents at Taiwanese Diplomatic Office located in the country where you obtained these documents (ex. UK). In other words, the attestation of your official documents and visa application will then take place at two different Taiwanese Diplomatic Office, respectively in the country where you obtained the diploma/transcripts and in your country of residence.

Note that different countries have different procedures, so we would suggest that you contact the officer in charge of visa and documents certification at Taiwanese Diplomatic Office in the country of your present residence and prepare all the necessary papers before going to Taiwanese Diplomatic Office for your visa application and diploma & transcript certification.

If a student gets highest degree from the People's Republic of China (Mainland China), attestation should follow a different procedure. Please attest (i) diploma at CHSI (<http://www.chsi.com.cn/en/>), (ii) bachelor's or master's degree at ChinaDegrees (<http://www.chinadegrees.cn/en/>), and (iii) transcript at either CHSI or ChinaDegrees.

4. Items Required for Health Certificate for Residence Application

Please fill out the Items Required for Health Certificate for Residence Application (Please check with attachment) and attested this form before you apply visa.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to send us a note. May we suggest that you contact us at the TIGP office immediately after receiving the letter of admission from TIGP. Please contact TIGP office (Ms. Huan-Yi Shen, Tel.: 886-2-2789-8050 or E-mail: huan-yishen@gate.sinica.edu.tw) immediately after receiving the TIGP admission letter.

Sincerely Yours,

TIGP Office

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