

Visa Application & Document Attestation

With the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not too early to start thinking about getting your traveling documents for the 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 if you have been admitted conditionally to TIGP, please make sure to provide us with official and valid documents by late August before the registration deadline, or your conditional admission will be withdrawn.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). These include the guidelines for people not residing in Taiwan, people already living or working in Taiwan, and certain specifics on the diploma & transcript attestation.

Note: Students of the following nationalities can only apply for a visa at a designated Mission. For detailed information, please refer to the [website](#).

Nepal & India (Identity Certificate only) → Taiwanese Mission in New Delhi

Nigeria & Ghana → Taiwanese Mission in Nigeria

1. **For international students not residing in Taiwan**

All international students need a visa to enter Taiwan. Applications for the student visa can go to the Taiwanese Mission (Office of the Consulate or the Taiwan Coordination Council of Culture, Trade and Commerce) in your country upon notice from the international affairs office of universities. They should be accompanied by (i) the acceptance letter signed by the TIGP Director, (ii) the official letter of acceptance issued by the partner university, (iii) a valid passport, (iv) two recent passport/visa photos, (v) attested diploma & transcript, (vi) attested Health Certificate for Residence Application done by a government hospital (no clinic), and (vii) an entry permit from the university. Before visiting the Taiwanese Mission's office, please call the officer in charge to obtain the necessary information or instructions.

TIGP office will sort the [Taiwanese Mission website](#) according to students' **nationality**. For example, an Indian default to apply visa is the Diplomatic Office of New Delhi or Chennai, India. In this case, please select the visa office in system Option 2 "I don't intend to change my visa application office." If you are currently studying/working abroad (different from your nationality), please select the visa office in system Option 3 "I intend to change my visa application office, and I will apply at:" and specify the visa office. Please don't select your visa office in Taiwan, because student visas should be applied in the overseas Taiwanese Mission.

Before 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 and transcript issued by the degree-granting institution from which you obtained the college degree.

2. **For 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, according to the original visa regulation (when there's no COVID-19 pandemic), you need to leave Taiwan and apply abroad for an adjustment to your student resident status (student visa) at a Taiwanese Mission. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of Consular Affairs (BOCA) agrees to re-issue you a new student resident visa within Taiwan (i.e., no need to go aboard). However, the BOCA's policy is to re-issue the new student visa only when you provide the university's enrollment certificate, i.e., around September when registration. All applicants requesting an amendment to the student visa should prepare (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, (vi) Health Certificate for Residence Application done by a Taiwanese hospital, and (vii) enrollment certificate from your university. You may (1) ask the university to let you process registration as early as possible, (2) ask your PI (or boss) to extend your employment duration to cover your current legal residency until registration, or (3) go to the local National Immigration Agency with your resignation certificate to get a new ARC with the purpose of "other." If you are in the group of "research assistants," please select the visa office in system Option 3 "I intend to change my visa application office, and I will apply at:" and choose one of the visa offices in Taiwan.

If you are formally studying at a Taiwanese university as a student (excluding an intern) and are now admitted as a graduate student to TIGP, you need to go to the local National Immigration Agency instead of leaving Taiwan. All applicants requesting an amendment to the resident status should prepare (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). If you are in the group of "student," please select the visa office in system Option 2 "I don't intend to change my visa application office."

We will also notify the BOCA about a list containing the information of admitted applicants currently residing in Taiwan. Please let the program secretary know if you are in the above category.

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 a Taiwanese Mission, where in most cases, you will apply for a visa. The students who fail to provide such diploma and transcript certification to the university will not be permitted to register.

Moreover, according to Taiwanese Law, the documents to be attested are strictly restricted to "where" you get these documents. If you obtained your diploma/transcripts in a country (e.g., the UK) other than your country of current residence (e.g., India), you need to attest these documents at the Taiwanese Mission located in the country where you obtained them (e.g., the UK). In other words, the attestation of your official documents and visa application will then take place at two different Taiwanese Missions—in the country where you obtained the diploma/transcripts and in your country of residence, respectively.

As different countries may have other procedures, we suggest that you should contact the officer in charge of visa and documents certification at the Taiwanese Mission in the country of your present residence and prepare all the necessary papers beforehand. Your closest Taiwanese Mission is shown on this [website](#).

If a student gets the highest degree from the People's Republic of China (Mainland China), attestation should follow a different procedure and be divided into two parts. In the first part, please attest (i) higher education qualification certificate at CHSI (<https://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. All procedures of the first part can be completed through an online process. In the second part, which needs to be in person or with a representative, please notarize three documents, i.e., higher education qualification certificate, master's degree, and transcript, according to [Straits Exchange Foundation \(SEF\)](#) (use Chrome or Edge to translate). The [notary public](#) needs to be qualified to deal with Taiwan matters and locate in the province where your master's university is. The first and second parts can be conducted simultaneously, especially since the second part is time-consuming, and it's better to start as early as possible.

4. Items Required for Health Certificate for Residence Application

Please complete your health check at a government hospital (no clinic), and have the health certificate attested by the local Taiwanese Mission before you apply for the visa. As a health certificate is valid for only three months, be sure to do your health check within three months before the date of the visa application. Please do a health check at a [Taiwanese government hospital](#) if you are currently working in Taiwan. If you intend to complete health checks in such countries as Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, or Mongolia, please do it at a [designated hospital](#).

The above documents need to be attested by a Taiwanese Mission if not obtained from a Taiwanese institution. In other words, documents obtained from a Taiwanese institution (e.g., transcripts from a university in Taiwan or a health certificate from a government hospital in Taiwan) need not be attested.