

## Visa Application & Document Attestation

The Taiwan International Graduate Program (TIGP) for the academic year 2024-2025 will commence on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. We are excited to welcome all first-time students to Academia Sinica.

It is advisable to commence preparations for travel documents such as passport, Taiwan visa, an attested copy of your degree diploma & transcript, and airline reservation before the summer months elapse. We would like to remind applicants who have been conditionally admitted to TIGP to provide us with official and valid documents by late August, before the registration deadline, failure to which, conditional admission will be withdrawn. This requirement, however, does not apply to applicants who have been admitted unconditionally to TIGP.

Outlined below are the procedures for obtaining an entry visa to the Republic of China (Taiwan), including guidelines for people residing outside Taiwan, those already studying or working in Taiwan, and specific requirements for diploma and transcript attestation.

Please note that students of certain nationalities are required to apply for a visa solely at a designated Mission. For comprehensive information on this matter, kindly 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**

International students who are not residents of Taiwan must obtain a visa to enter the country. Applications for a student visa may be submitted to the Taiwanese Mission (either the Office of the Consulate or the Taiwan Coordination Council of Culture, Trade and Commerce) in their home country after July 8th. The application must be accompanied by (i) an acceptance letter signed by the TIGP Director, (ii) an official letter of acceptance issued by the partner university, (iii) a valid passport, (iv) two recent passport/visa photos, (v) an attested copy of their diploma and transcript, and (vi) an attested Health Certificate for Residence Application issued by a government hospital (not a clinic). Students are advised to contact the officer in charge at the Taiwanese Mission's office before visiting to obtain the necessary information or instructions.

The TIGP office will provide a sorted list of [Taiwanese Mission websites](#) based on students' **nationality**. For instance, an Indian student is default to apply for a visa at the Diplomatic Office of New Delhi or Chennai, India. In such a case, the student must select the visa office in system Option 2 "I don't intend to change my visa application office." If a student is currently studying or working in a country other than their nationality, they must 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.

Before enrolling at the partner institution, the university also requires an attested copy of the highest degree diploma and transcript issued by the degree-granting institution from which the student obtained their college degree.

### 2. **For foreigners residing in Taiwan**

If you are currently residing in Taiwan and have been admitted to TIGP as a graduate student, you must apply for a new student resident visa at the Bureau of Consular Affairs (BOCA). However, the BOCA's policy is to issue the new student visa only when you provide the university's enrollment certificate, which is around September during registration. To request an amendment to your student visa, you must prepare the following documents: (i) the TIGP 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) an attested diploma and transcript, (vi) Health Certificate for Residence Application obtained from a [Taiwanese government hospital](#), and (vii) enrollment certificate from your university. If you are a research assistant or in a similar capacity, 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 have been admitted as a graduate student to TIGP, you need to change status through the [student online system](#) by National Immigration Agency (using the "transfer"), instead of going to the BOCA. All applicants requesting an amendment to the resident status must prepare (i) the TIGP acceptance letter signed by the TIGP Director, (ii) the official letter of acceptance issued 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 a housing lease). If you are a student, please select the visa office in system Option 2 "I don't intend to change my visa application office."

### **3. Diploma and transcript attestation for international students**

Students who have earned their highest degree from foreign universities are required to have their diploma and transcript attested by a Taiwanese Mission. Our partner universities require students to certify their diploma and transcript at a Taiwanese Mission, where they may also apply for a visa in most cases. Failure to provide the attestation will result in the student being denied registration.

In accordance with Taiwanese Law, the documents to be attested are strictly based on "where" they were obtained. If a student obtained their diploma/transcripts in a country other than their current country of residence, they must attest to these documents at the Taiwanese Mission located in the country where they obtained them. Therefore, attestation of official documents and visa applications will take place at two different Taiwanese Missions- in the country where the diploma/transcripts were obtained and in the student's country of residence, respectively. If the student currently resides in a different country from where they obtained the diploma, they should check with the Taiwanese Missions whether the document attestation can be processed via courier delivery. Otherwise, they may seek help from their friends or thesis advisors.

As procedures may differ between countries, it is advisable to contact the officer in charge of visa and documents certification at the Taiwanese Mission in the student's present country of residence and prepare all the necessary papers beforehand. The closest Taiwanese Mission can be found on the [website](#).

If you obtained your highest degree from the People's Republic of China (Mainland China), the attestation should follow a different procedure and be divided into two parts. For the first part,

please attest (i) your higher education qualification certificate at CHSI (<https://www.chsi.com.cn/en/>), (ii) your master's degree at CHSI or ChinaDegrees (<https://www.chinadegrees.cn/>), and (iii) your transcript at either CHSI or ChinaDegrees. All procedures for the first part can be completed through an online process.

For the second part, which needs to be done in person or with a representative, please notarize three documents: higher education qualification certificate, master's degree, and transcript according to Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF). The notary public needs to be qualified to deal with Taiwan matters and should be located in the province where your master's university is. You can use Chrome or Edge to translate the SEF website. It is recommended to conduct both parts simultaneously, especially since the second part is time-consuming. It is better to start the process as early as possible.

#### **4. Health Certificate Requirements for Residence Application**

To apply for a visa, please complete your health check at a government hospital (not a clinic), and have the health certificate attested by the local Taiwanese Mission. 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. If you plan to complete health checks in countries such as Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, or Mongolia, please have them done at a designated hospital.

Note that documents obtained from a Taiwanese institution, such as transcripts from a university in Taiwan or a health certificate from a government hospital in Taiwan, need not be attested. However, the documents listed above must be attested by a Taiwanese Mission if they were not obtained from a Taiwanese institution.