

Entrance Requirements, Shipping and Customs Information

To enter Taiwan for a stay of more than ninety days, American citizens need a valid U.S. passport and a visa from Taiwan. Information about how to obtain those documents, and shipping and customs information, follows.

Passport

To obtain a passport you may write directly to the Passport Office, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20524 or consult any one of the passport agencies in major American cities. In smaller cities and towns, passport applications are usually available through post offices or city halls, although the issuing office will be in the closest major city.

For your passport you will need a birth certificate or previously issued passport for proof of citizenship and identification, and two 2" by 2" signed passport pictures with full face exposure, not over two years old, showing you as you currently look. It is possible for you to obtain a family passport, but it is advisable for each member of your family to have a separate passport. There will be a charge.

Processing a passport application can take up to six weeks so it is best to begin the procedure as soon as possible. When you have your passport pictures taken, order at least a dozen prints for each member of your family, either 2" x 2" or 1" x 1". Many governmental and business procedures in Taiwan require photographs. However, if you do not get extra pictures in the States, you may purchase a sitting and prints from a photographer in Taiwan at very reasonable prices. You need to have the pictures before the end of the first 10 days in Taiwan for your Alien Resident Certificate application.

Visas

After obtaining your passport, you must obtain a visa from Taiwan. The type of visa you should request (resident or visitor) depends upon your intended length of stay. We suggest that you read the descriptions of each type in the information below before deciding which kind is appropriate for you. Once you have decided, and have obtained your passport, you should contact the nearest branch of the **Taipei Economic & Cultural Office** to apply for your visa.

Visitor Visa

The visitor visa is good for a two-month stay, with a strong possibility of two extensions of two months each. Thus, if you are fairly positive that your stay will be short, whether you are student or professor, you may find this the simplest option.

The advantage of having a Visitor Visa is that you do not have to apply for an Alien Resident Certificate as you would with a resident visa. But this advantage may be outweighed by the time consumed in applying for two extensions. Also, without an Alien Resident Certificate it is difficult

and in some cases impossible to open a bank or post office account, and you will not be eligible for the Taiwan National Health Insurance plan.

If you expect friends or relatives to visit while you are in Taiwan, you may be interested to know that it is unnecessary to obtain a visa (American citizens are eligible for visa-exempt entry) for a stay of ninety days or less in Taiwan (but the passport must be valid for at least six months, and a visa and ticket for the next destination with a confirmed seat reservation must be shown).

Resident Visa

A resident visa is best for long-term residence (longer than six months). An application for a resident visa must be submitted through any of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices in the United States, and it is necessary to have a guarantor to file a letter of guaranty with the visa section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taipei after your application is referred to the Ministry for action. The Foundation for Scholarly Exchange acts as guarantor for Fulbright and Fulbright-Hays grantees and their families. Normally, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office can not act on your visa application until it receives notification from the Visa Section of MOFA that your application is approved. Though the usual cost of a resident visa to Taiwan is US\$160, the fee is waived for American Fulbright grantees

Most Fulbright faculty and student grantees will obtain a single-entry resident visa. After arrival in Taiwan, you may apply for a multiple Re-entry Permit to use if you take trips out of Taiwan over the holidays. It is a simple matter to apply for the Re-Entry Permit; it can be done at the same time you apply for the Alien Resident Certificate (ARC), and they are granted routinely. Please be aware that for the first two weeks after you enter Taiwan using your resident visas, you should not leave Taiwan, because you will not have a re-entry permit. Otherwise, you would have to begin the visa application process all over again.

Holders of resident visas must obtain an Alien Resident Certificate (cost at the present time is NT\$1,000) as soon as possible after arriving in Taiwan. For instructions on how to apply see the section on "Alien Resident Certificate (外僑居留證)".

Recommended Vaccinations

There are no required vaccinations for entrance to Taiwan.

Please be advised that health regulations are subject to change as conditions warrant. Further information about health requirements is available from <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia.htm>; country, public health agencies in the United States, or the branch offices of the Taipei Economic & Cultural Representative Office in U.S.A.

A vaccine against hepatitis B, a disease common in Taiwan, is available. The immunization is a series of 3 injections that span a period of six months. Although it is not required, many expatriates choose to have the series. If you want the immunization, it is recommended that you begin the series

as soon as possible in the States. You may complete (or begin) the series in Taiwan at the Adventist Hospital¹. Some grantees have also suggested that immunization against hepatitis A and Japanese encephalitis is advisable.

We wish to caution, however, that some types of vaccines, once started in the U.S., may not be available at the Adventist Hospital, so it may be necessary for you to check with other major hospitals in Taiwan. It is necessary, therefore, for you to keep a record of or remember or note the types of vaccine you took in the U.S. before coming to Taiwan.

Shipment of Baggage to Taiwan

Accompanying Baggage

If you are traveling lightly, it is best to bring all your baggage with you on the plane. Excess weight charges may be levied, but you can keep better track of things this way.

Shipping through the Post Office

Postal shipments are cheapest for books and printed material. Information about bulk mail, sack mail, and book rates can be obtained from your local post office. You may send these in care of the Foundation at its street address, but be sure that packages are addressed to : [your name], c/o Foundation for Scholarly Exchange.

Customs Regulations

The most recent Taiwan Customs regulations should be available from the nearest Taipei Economic and Cultural Office at the time you apply for your visa. However, below are some special items for your attention.

Forbidden Articles

Articles listed below shall not be imported:

- Marijuana, Heroin, morphine, opium, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamine, etc. prescribed in the "Act for the Control of Narcotics" and their derivatives and products.
- Arms (including shotguns, fishing guns, air guns, etc.), ammunition (including bombs, cartridges, and explosives), assault knives and other weapons of war prescribed in the "Act Governing the Control of Guns, Ammunition and Knives."
- Any wild animals, and endangered wildlife species or products thereof are not allowed to be imported, unless a permit issued by the BAPHIQ is obtained in advance; if the species is include in the list of CITES, the CITES import permit shall be required for Customs verification.
- Articles infringing upon the rights of patents, trademark and copyrights.

¹ No.424, Sec. 2, Bade Rd., Taipei Tel : (02) 2771-8151

- Fake or spurious currencies or securities, or moulds for printing counterfeit currency.
- All restricted substances and drugs of non-prescription or non-medicinal nature (including marijuana).
- Fruits, live animals, plants and their products. Please consult the BAPHIQ for the import and export of pets, plants and products thereof.
- Other articles prohibited by law from importation.

Used Personal Effects and Household Furnishings

These are generally non-dutiable except for certain electrical items, especially those of high marketable value such as color televisions, air-conditioners, new refrigerators, etc. Duty on new, expensive items may be required, but used items are generally exempt.