FAQ

International Students

Office of Global Affairs

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Before submitting an inquiry, please visit our office website and review our duties and responsibilities to confirm whether your question falls within our scope of services.

For inquiries unrelated to our office's responsibilities (e.g., academic or course-related matters), please contact the relevant office or department directly to ensure that you receive the correct information and assistance.

Before Application

1. Is there any requirement for English Proficiency Test for Prospective Students?

For prospective students applying for Master's or doctoral programs:
Applicants must have an English proficiency certificate of CEFR Level B2 or above (or equivalent), such as TOEFL iBT 72, TOEFL ITP 543, IELTS 5.5, or other equivalent tests.
For more information, please refer to the website of CMU admission: https://web81.cmu.edu.tw/Std_international/docs/Application_Guidelines.pdf

2. What are "reference letters"?

Reference letters are the two letters made and signed by your previous supervisors/ academic teachers that can explain your research performance, academic works, and English Language Skills.

3. Can I apply for scholarships in Taiwan?

You should plan and apply for the MOE, and MOFA scholarship at the beginning of every year, at the same time you apply for CMU (Fall intake only). Some countries have special scholarships for their students who plan to study in Taiwan. Otherwise, you will be automatically considered for CMU admission scholarship that is a dual support by university and advisor and depends upon the funding of your advisor and his / her lab (for PhD students).

4. Is it necessary to get the acceptance of professor for the admission in CMU?

Replied by Assistant Professor Peter Huang: We typically would not consider the students who have not received the Letter of Acceptances from CMU. In addition, please try to avoid sending spam email with the content like "I am interested in your research" without specific mentioning what you are interested in. PIs would consider that you just changed the title and sent it to multiple PIs for phishing. These things will decrease your chance to be accepted. Do ask for the funding situation of the professors, which directly relates to whether he/she can support your MS/PhD study.

Before Coming to Taiwan

1. What is the "financial statement" and how to get it?

Basically, two financial statements are requiring for the admission and VISA application. First statement needs to be submitted with the admission application, that can be received from your local bank and you can also download it from your app. Statement should contain your name and ID. Second statement is required during Visa process. The government of Taiwan needs this information to verify whether you have the basic financial support for your study in Taiwan.

Reference: Bureau of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Republic of China (TAIWAN): Resident Visas for Foreign Students (Full-time PhD, Master's, Bachelor's program, or senior high school Students and below): https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-166-283-c4da3-2.html

2. How much money do we need in addition to Visa, Ticket Charges?

For PhD students: You would need at least NT$ 50,000 - NT$ 100,000 for the initial survival before you get the first-month stipend from the university.

For Master students: If you are unable to secure a supervisor and financial support before arriving in Taiwan, it is strongly suggested that you prepare approximately NT$ 100,000 to NT$ 200,000 or look for other financial resources in advance.

3. Is there any interview during Visa process?

It depends on the updated regulations of each representative offices.

References:

Taiwan Student Visa - Obtaining a Visa to Study in Taiwan (Visa Guide. World): https://visaguide.world/asia/taiwan-visa/student/#can-i-work-with-a-taiwan-student-visa

Visa | Study in Taiwan: https://www.studyintaiwan.org/stay/visa

4. Do we need to do health check-up for Visa application?

Yes, please download the form from the website of Taiwan Centers for Disease Control:

https://www.cdc.gov.tw/File/Get/xoylyML75ggevoZmvA9FhQ

Students are required to complete another health check-up (different from the one required for the visa application) as mandated by the university. You may complete this health check-up after arriving in Taiwan, or in your

home country using the specific form, which can be downloaded here: https://cmuhc.cmu.edu.tw/sites/cmuhc.cmu.edu.tw/files/imce/u187/%E4%B8%AD%E5%9C%8B%E9%86%AB%E5%A4%A7%E6%96%B0%E7%94%9F%E9%AB%94%E6%AA%A2%E8%A1%A8.pdf
If you have already completed the university-required health examination form in your home country, please submit the completed form to our Clinic after your arrival in Taiwan. For more details, please refer to the link below: https://cmuhc.cmu.edu.tw/page/53

5. Is Taiwan safe?

Yes, Taiwan is relatively safe. Based on the Safety Index by City 2021 from Numbeo, Taipei, Taiwan is the 3rd safest city: https://www.numbeo.com/crime/rankings.jsp?title=2021&displayColumn=1.

6. Does CMU provide a dormitory?

CMU provides dormitories for undergraduate students ONLY. Our university has three campuses, and two of them (Shuinan and Beigang) have student dormitories. For students whose programs require them to study in Beigang during their first year, staying in the Beigang dormitory is mandatory. For postgraduate students, CMU does not provide a dormitory.

7. Do we need to arrange a room for ourselves?

Due to the increasing number of international students, it is recommended if you can find the possible living place before arriving. Please note that there are two major campuses, Shui-Nan main Campus and Yingcai Campus. It takes about 15 minutes for taking shuttle bus to travel between two campuses. ISC will assist if you have trouble in find a living place, but there is no guarantee of the room availability and if the room meets your requirement.

8. What is the average expenditure for renting a room?

Average rent of a room is about NT$ 5,000 - NT$ 8000. Other extra fees may be charged (utility fees, internet charge, etc.)

9. Can I change the currency of my country to New Taiwan dollars in Taiwan?

Students should bring the money in USD and exchange some to New Taiwan dollars at the airport (please exchange enough cash at least for one-

month rent & two-month deposit & the living cost for the first month if possible). In Taiwan, foreign currency can only be exchanged in banks and not currencies from every country could be changed there.

10. Any mobile Apps that are necessary or helpful?

Install LINE (https://line.me/) and Google Translator (https://translate.google.com/) on your cell phone. Most of the people in Taiwan use LINE for the real-time message.

*Installing google translator in mobile can help you to talk, written translation and even prompt image translation into English.

Your browser should have translator extension to assist you to read Chinese websites by auto translation.

Right after You Arrive

1. How to apply for ARC?

ISC would guide you apply for ARC, and we highly recommend you apply for ARC by yourself as soon as you receive the contract of your living place to avoid the problems in opening the bank account and stipend transaction. It is online (https://coa.immigration.gov.tw/coa-frontend/student/entry) and very easy process you can consult with ISC and seniors during application process. Please keep in mind that you need to apply within 30 days of your arrival in Taiwan.

2. How to apply for a Taiwanese phone number?

You can apply for a temporary phone number at the airport using your passport, and later apply for a permanent Taiwanese phone number once you receive your ARC card. We also recommend applying for e-billing to simplify payment management and avoid receiving paper statements.

3. How to do the on-site registration?

For undergraduate students, please check the details through the links below:

Shuinan Campus: https://freshman.cmu.edu.tw/new/zh-hant/node/163

Beigang Campus: https://freshman.cmu.edu.tw/new/zh-hant/node/161

For International Foundation Program students, please bring the original authenticated diploma certificate and transcript to the Office of Global Affairs, located on the 11th floor of the Excellence Building, Shuinan Campus, for on-site registration.

For graduate students, please bring the original authenticated diploma certificate and transcript to the Graduate Academic Affairs Division, located on the 10th floor of the Excellence Building, Shuinan Campus, for on-site registration.

Later (School Related Information)

1. Is there any prayer room in the Campus? Or where should I get more information as a Muslim student in Taiwan?

There's a prayer room available on the Shuinan Campus (B2, Excellence Building) and another on the Yingcai Campus (B1, Huchu Building). If you'd like to use the room, please contact the Office of Global Affairs for access.
You may find more information about Muslim-friendly restaurants, hotels, and the location of mosque (musala)
https://www.taiwan.net.tw/m1.aspx?sNo=0020023
https://taiwanhalal.com/city/16/halal-list-in-taichung-city.html
https://eng.taiwan.net.tw/m1.aspx?sNo=0020323&keyString=%5E10019%5E

2. Is their shuttle bus service?

There is a free shuttle bus service between the Shuinan and Yingcai campuses, as well as to the Beigang campus (reservation through the web portal is required). Please refer to our student handbook for more information.

3. How can I apply for deferred payment of tuition fees?

Please refer to this link:
https://cmucia.cmu.edu.tw/doc/202607141314291.pdf

4. How do I apply for a leave of absence, resumption of studies, or withdrawal?

Please submit your application through the university's Student Information System (SIS). After submitting your application, you can check its approval status and progress directly in the system.
Please note that our office will only be able to track the approval progress after receiving your application form. Therefore, please check the application status in SIS regularly.

5. How can I transfer to another department?

Applications must be processed in accordance with the university's regulations regarding department transfers. Students who have completed at least one academic year of study may apply to transfer to another department before the beginning of the following academic year. Applicants must submit their application to the Office of Academic Affairs (undergraduates)/ Graduate Academic Affairs Division (Graduates) within the announced application period and follow the required procedures. Late applications will not be accepted.

The eligibility requirements and review criteria for department transfer applications are determined by each department based on academic performance and other evaluation standards. Students who are interested in applying for a department transfer are advised to maintain good academic standing and pay close attention to the latest announcements from the Office of Academic Affairs/ Graduate Academic Affairs Division to ensure a smooth application process.

Undergraduate Program:
https://regulation.cmu.edu.tw/statute_detail.php?sn=1332
https://adm06.cmu.edu.tw/news-cata/13
Graduate Program:
https://regulation.cmu.edu.tw/statute_detail.php?sn=1057
https://gsa.cmu.edu.tw/

6. If a student experiences sudden family hardship or a major personal emergency, is there any emergency financial aid available from the university?

If a student experiences sudden family hardship, financial difficulties, major accidents, injuries, illnesses, or other circumstances that affect their studies or daily life, they may apply for emergency financial aid from the Office of Student Affairs in accordance with the university's regulations.

Students are advised to first explain their situation to their academic advisor or military instructor, who can assist in evaluating the case and help process the subsequent application procedures and required supporting documents based on the student's actual needs.

7. I have received my work permit. How can I update the school system so that I can work on campus?

Please provide a copy of your work permit to the Office of Global Affairs through our official LINE account, and we will update your work permit validity period in the school system accordingly.

8. Could you provide the regulations for the government scholarship?

Please refer to this link:
https://cmucia.cmu.edu.tw/doc/202605251101421.pdf

Later (ARC)

***Please refer to our student handbook for more information. ***

Overseas Chinese, Hong Kong, and Macao Students:
https://cmucia.cmu.edu.tw/doc/202605281600.pdf
International Students:
https://cmucia.cmu.edu.tw/doc/202611020930241.pdf

1. My ARC is going to expire soon. How can I extend its validity?

Please apply through the National Immigration Agency's Student Online Application System:
https://coa.immigration.gov.tw/coa-frontend/foreign-student/individual
You may apply for an extension three months before your ARC expires (for Hong Kong and Macau students, one month before the expiration date). If you fail to extend your ARC on time, you will be subject to penalties in accordance with the regulations of the National Immigration Agency. If you overstay for more than 30 days, in addition to a fine, you may also face compulsory deportation and be subject to restrictions on re-entry into Taiwan. After you receive your new ARC, please send a copy to the Office of Global Affairs via our official LINE account so that we can update your information in the system.

2. I have moved to a new apartment. How can I update my address on my ARC?

If your residential address changes, you must apply for an update of your address on your ARC through the National Immigration Agency's Student Online Application System within 30 days of the actual change:
https://coa.immigration.gov.tw/coa-frontend/foreign-student/individual

3. I have changed my passport. How can I update my passport number

on my ARC?

Please apply through the National Immigration Agency's Student Online Application System:
https://coa.immigration.gov.tw/coa-frontend/foreign-student/individual
Please also remember to update your passport number within 30 days after receiving your new passport. After you receive your new ARC, please send a copy to the Office of Global Affairs via our official LINE account so that we can update your information in the system.

4. I have applied for a leave of absence/withdrawal. Will this affect my ARC?

Once your application for a leave of absence or withdrawal is approved, our office will report your change of student status to the relevant authorities in accordance with regulations, and your ARC will become invalid.

According to the relevant regulations, you must leave Taiwan within 10 days after your leave of absence or withdrawal application is approved.

If you wish to resume your studies in the future, please wait until your resumption application is approved. You will then need to apply for a new visa in accordance with the relevant regulations and re-enter Taiwan. After arriving in Taiwan, you must apply for a new ARC.

Later (NHI)

***Please refer to our student handbook for more information. ***

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1. If I work part-time off campus and my employer enrolls me in insurance, will it affect my school health insurance?

For off-campus part-time work, the employer is required to enroll you in National Health Insurance. If you already have health insurance coverage and start working off campus, please inform the Office of Global Affairs. We will assist you in transferring your health insurance out of the university system. Otherwise, it may result in duplicate insurance enrollment.

2. Does NHI provide reimbursement/coverage for medical expenses?

National Health Insurance is a medical benefit system rather than an insurance reimbursement system. If you are covered by National Health Insurance, you must present your NHI card when seeking medical treatment. Medical expenses are partially covered by the insurance, and you only need to pay a co-payment for the remaining amount.

3. Can my family be included in the same insurance coverage as me through the university?

International students' children are eligible to join Taiwan's National Health Insurance once they have legally resided in Taiwan for six months.

However, since the university is not authorized to collect National Health Insurance premiums for non-university members, students are advised to apply for insurance through the local district office. If the children are still young and must be covered as dependents, the student will first need to transfer their own insurance out of the university system (the Office of Global Affairs will assist with this process), and then complete the insurance enrollment at the district office, including registering the child as a dependent under the policy.

4. If I apply for a leave of absence, will it affect my NHI coverage?

Once your leave of absence application is approved, our office will report your change of student status and process the cancellation of your NHI coverage in accordance with the relevant regulations.

After your application to resume your studies is approved, you will need to obtain a new visa, re-enter Taiwan, and apply for a new ARC. Once you meet the NHI eligibility requirements (i.e., after legally residing in Taiwan for six consecutive months), our office will assist you with re-enrollment in the NHI program. Please keep your NHI card issued before your leave of absence, as you may use it again after your NHI coverage is reinstated.

Later (Life)

1. Is Halal food available in Taiwan?

Yes, there are many Halal food and you can buy Halal meat from Mosque, online, also from Px Mart and Costco.

In Taichung City: https://taiwanhalal.com/city/16/halal-list-in-taichung-city.html

2. What might be the food related issues?

Food consumption has cultural diversity that is different from country to country. This will not be a major issue if you can contact and consult with the seniors. There are some supermarkets, vegetables market and grocery stores e.g., IKEA, Safe and Save and Costco (for Grocery), Shuinan and Yingcai vegetable market, Indian stores for traditional spices, wheat and rice. You can buy HALAL meat from Taichung Mosque. Clothing (Net, Safe and Save) has very affordable prices. There are some basement shops near either Shuinan or Yincai campus that have relative cheap stationary stuff.
All in all, diverse items are available at very affordable prices. You just need to consult with seniors at the beginning to get a better suggestion by their comparative analysis and experience according to the national trends.

3. What is the weather condition in Taiwan?

Weather not too cold not too hot. The temperature dropped to 9 °C degrees and highest up to 35 °C degrees in Taichung City.
Some typhoons (hurricanes) would hit Taiwan during summer months (mostly from July-September), in this case, please store some food in your place in advance and avoid going out during that time.
How to prepare for a typhoon: https://communitycenter.org.tw/typhoon-preparedness/

Earthquakes happen sometimes in Taiwan as well, the best way to protect yourself is to DROP down onto your hands and knees; COVER your head and neck (and your entire body if possible) underneath a sturdy table or desk. HOLD ON to your shelter (or to your head and neck) until the shaking stops.
Earthquake preparedness: https://communitycenter.org.tw/earthquake-preparedness/

4. What is the expenditure of the month for food?

The average expenditure on food is NT$ 5,000 - NT$ 7,000.

5. How to get the accommodation/hostel/room at arrival and what are the ideal initial expenses?

Firstly, Taiwan has a language barrier more or less, but still, you can try to

find a suitable room (independent case) by the website and mobile app (https://rent.591.com.tw/list?region=8). If you successfully contact to the landlords or agents, you can inform the International Student Center (ISC). The cost of room lies between in the range of NT$ 5,000 - NT$ 8,000 according to the location and facilities. The security deposit is two months' rent. So, you have to pay for three months' rent at the beginning, and electricity bill is separate. Electricity bill could be around NT$ 500 - NT$ 700 per month (you have to pay once in two month) and some of the buildings also charge NT$ 300 - NT$ 500 for Natural Gas, Water, elevator and maintenance charges.

You may consider using the renting platform in Taiwan. Using this platform to find the candidates of renting rooms will be easier than relying on the agency. However, the website is Chinese only and you need to verify the information carefully. Moreover, signing the contract usually need a person who can read Chinese.

6. How to get the driver license in Taiwan?

The driver licenses for cars and for motorcycles are different in Taiwan. You should be able to apply for a driver license for motorcycle in the Motor Vehicles Office in Taichung. For students from certain countries, you may be able to swap foreign and international licenses for local licenses.

Swapping Foreign and International Licenses for Local Licenses: https://www.thb.gov.tw/en/cp.aspx?n=616

Apply to Register Your International Driving Permit (IDP) (the website is from Taipei City not Taichung): https://tpcmv.thb.gov.tw/en/cp.aspx?n=10288

Getting a Driver's License: https://www.thb.gov.tw/en/cl.aspx?n=787

Noah Buchan Dec 11, 2021: "How getting a driver's license in Taiwan drove me mad": https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/feat/archives/2021/12/11/2003769385

Later (Work)

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https://cmucia.cmu.edu.tw/doc/202605281600.pdf

International Students:
https://cmucia.cmu.edu.tw/doc/202611020930241.pdf

1. Is it allowed to work with Study legally? If yes then what kind of works do we get?

Very limiting works are legally allowed for a full-time student. International students who wish to work (as a TA, RA or tutor) or intern in Taiwan (either on campus or off campus) should apply and obtain the work permit before starting to work.
Office of Global Affairs: Work Permit:
https://cmucia.cmu.edu.tw/english/s_work.html
Application Steps:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1grMWZAdtAzwCk5dkB_nmcLL6V62gnQAH/view?usp=sharing

Later (After Graduation)

1. I plan to graduate next month. When should I apply to extend or change my ARC?

Once you have completed the university's checkout procedures, our office will report your change of student status to the relevant authorities in accordance with regulations, and your ARC will become invalid.

If you wish to remain in Taiwan (e.g., to seek employment or work), you must visit the National Immigration Agency within 15 days after completing the checkout procedures to apply for a change of the purpose of residence or other relevant residency procedures.

If you have been admitted to another university in Taiwan and plan to continue your studies, please use the National Immigration Agency's online system to update your ARC information, including your new university and other relevant details.

If you do not intend to remain in Taiwan, you must leave Taiwan within 10 days after completing the checkout procedures.

In addition, the university provides the "China Medical University Job Matching Platform" and a post-graduation stay-in-Taiwan information package for your reference. Graduating students are also encouraged to contact the Office of International Students Employment Counseling to submit their post-graduation information.