

## 2020-2021 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Research Program for U.S. Teachers (Fulbright DA)

### Taiwan Country Profile

**Partner organization:** [Fulbright Taiwan, Foundation for Scholarly Exchange](#)

**Eligible program dates:** It is recommended that teachers going to Taiwan arrive by early September or mid-January. Program lengths vary from 3 to 6 months. For having National Health Insurance coverage, teachers are suggested to have at least a 6-month grant.

**Language requirement:** None

**Host institution:** American teachers will be based in universities with teacher training programs, depending on area of interest.

**Dependent Information:** An allowance of \$2,000 per eligible dependent will be provided as part of the Fulbright DA grant. For dependents to be eligible for school enrollment, teachers are suggested to have at least a 6-month grant.



### Taiwan Overview

Taiwan features a foreigner-friendly environment with increasing in-bound travel and immigration, thriving international trade, and democratic institutions and freedoms. While Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language, Taiwan citizens are capable in basic English. Taiwan places emphasis on education, with an adult literacy rate over 98%.

### Educational System Overview

Taiwan's school system is renowned for producing exceptionally high levels of attainment with some of the highest scores in the world on comparative international tests, especially in mathematics and science. In the 2018 administration of the PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) test, Taiwan's students scored well above OECD averages. Over 95% of high school graduates go on to institutions of higher education. Taiwan's impressive educational performance has been attributed to its Confucian cultural values, sustained public investment in education at all levels, and active participation in the global economy.

Currently, the main issues which Taiwan is addressing include:

- Demographic changes resulting in school consolidation and pressures on private tertiary education
- Bi-lingual immersion programs beginning in elementary school
- Greater emphasis on two-way educational exchange (more foreign students studying in Taiwan and more Taiwan students studying overseas)





English learning is a key focus of education in Taiwan. English education is treated as a tool to keep up with the rapid globalization of the world economy. In 2018 the Premier announced to extend English learning to pre-K schools and to extend content learning in English from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. Taiwan has announced a goal of bi-lingual fluency by 2030.

In developing English education in Taiwan, there are some issues to be faced:

- the shortage of qualified English teachers, especially in remote areas
- divergence of textbooks
- large classes of students with mixed proficiency
- need for more native speakers of English in teaching roles

### *U.S. Teacher Specializations for Taiwan*

All specializations welcome, those below are particularly appropriate:

- Elementary School Teachers (K-6)
- English Teachers (K-12)
- TEFL Teachers (K-12)
- Chinese Teachers (K-12)
- Math and Science Teachers (K-12)

### **Possible topics of interest to U.S. educators**

Topics of potential interest to U.S. teachers may include any topic within the scope of the specializations above. Taiwan provides an opportunity for U.S. teachers to learn “best practices” including but not limited to:

- Cooperation and collaboration between schools
- School leadership
- Behavior management
- Subject knowledge in English, Math, Science, Chinese
- Curriculum development
- Bilingual education
- Teaching of English as a Foreign Language
- Teacher training
- Teacher recruitment and retention

### *Additional Resources*

Universities in Taiwan: [http://www.studyintaiwan.org/classify\\_universities.html](http://www.studyintaiwan.org/classify_universities.html)

Living in Taiwan: [http://www.studyintaiwan.org/living\\_why.html](http://www.studyintaiwan.org/living_why.html)

Chinese Learning: [http://www.studyintaiwan.org/learning\\_why\\_chinese.html](http://www.studyintaiwan.org/learning_why_chinese.html)

