

Introduction

2016 Taiwan Tech Trek Introduction

Ministry of Science and Technology, in cooperation with Academia Sinica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Community Affairs Council, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Environmental Protection Administration, Youth Development Administration, Council of Agriculture, National Applied Research Laboratories, and Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, is pleased to announce an exciting internship program, Taiwan Tech Trek (TTT) 2016 for overseas Taiwanese youths interested in hands-on internship or research experiences in Taiwan. Opportunities will be available to interns at outstanding research institutes, famous science parks, national laboratories, universities, national museums, and high-tech companies.

This program is part of the Taiwan government's overall effort to recruit new generations of overseas Taiwanese for the purpose of raising Taiwan's overall competitiveness. This generation possesses the language abilities, professional expertise, and international savvy that are advantageous to Taiwan's S&T industries and manpower needs. Building a strategic liaison with this generation can create an academic and social network between Taiwan's industries and overseas Taiwanese youths, infuse fresh energy into Taiwan's workforce, and ultimately increase international participation for Taiwan.

Taiwan's advantages

Taiwan enjoys a vibrant economy and an excellent technological environment. As a major world player in manufacturing technology, Taiwan is one of the largest information hardware producers for semiconductors, optoelectronics, and information and communication products. Taiwan offers an excellent and dynamic environment for interns to gain hands-on experience.

Experience vibrant Taiwan

Apart from gaining valuable professional training, a summer in Taiwan provides an ideal opportunity for overseas Taiwanese to explore their roots, learn local culture, improve language skills, and even connect with relatives in Taiwan!

About the program

TTT 2016 is an eight-week program beginning late-June 2016. Around 230~280 youths of Taiwanese ancestry aged 18~30 will be recruited from various countries through a selective application process. Interns will participate in a six-day group orientation (Jun 19th 2016 to Jun 24th 2016) and thereafter proceed to their designated internship positions throughout Taiwan for seven weeks of internship (Jun 27th 2016 to Aug 11th 2016).

The orientation will take place from Jun 19th 2016 to Jun 24th 2016, and it is compulsory for all participants. **If there are any schedule complications, please do not apply.**

Every participant will be required to sign a letter of guarantee and confirmation back to the TTT Office via email to finalize the acceptance.

With the approval of host institutes, interns can apply for early commencement or extension of their internships. Interns, however, are responsible for the costs of extra days of their stay in Taiwan. Some hosts may provide interns with subsidies for their extension but it varies from different institutes. Interns shall initiate contact with their host institutes for the details in regard to extension and early commencement after getting accepted into the program. At the end of the program, interns will have to present the results of their work at the TTT Academic Conference.

Two types of internships are available:

- a. Individual internships: The TTT Program Office will arrange internship positions at various host institutes and

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companies in Taiwan based on participants' choices.

- b. Special group research projects: Interns will be teamed in groups of 4~8 people to conduct in-depth research into major issues in Taiwan such as future technology, Taiwan's international participation, etc.

2016 Application and Admission Guidelines

Taiwan Tech Trek is currently seeking approximately 230~280 domestic and overseas Taiwanese youths to participate in its summer internship program. Qualified candidates should complete and submit their application no later than **Feb 2nd 2016 (Taiwan time)**. Successful candidates will participate in a six-day orientation (Jun 19th 2016 to Jun 24th 2016) followed by a seven-week subsidized internship at host institutes in Taiwan (Jun 27th 2016 to Aug 11th 2016). At the end of the program, all participants must present the results of their work at the TTT 2016 Academic Conference on Aug 12th 2016.

A. Candidate Qualification

1. Foreign interns (for overseas Taiwanese applicants):

- (a) Must be of Taiwanese descent
- (b) Must not have received any formal education in Taiwan beyond elementary school (including American school or any other foreign schools in Taiwan)
- (c) Must have completed at least the first two years of university/college education in a foreign country before Jun 19th 2016. Must not have previously accepted full-time employment in Taiwan (internships are not considered full-time employment)
- (d) Must be between ages 18~30 (birth date between Aug 13th 1986 and Jun 19th 1998 inclusive)
- (e) Must be able to communicate in one of the following languages: English, Mandarin, or Taiwanese

2. Domestic interns:

- (a) Must have participated in MOST (formerly known as NSC) College Student Research Project from 2011~2015. [2011~2015 科技部（前國科會）大專學生專題研究計畫]
- (b) Must be between ages 18~30 (birth date between Aug 13th 1986 and Jun 19th 1998 inclusive)
- (c) Must possess excellent English speaking and writing skills, and meet one of the following minimum requirements: high-intermediate level of listening and reading on GEPT, 79 on TOEFL iBT, a 5.5 on IELTS, or 750 on TOEIC

B. Types of Internships

- 1. **Individual internships (available to foreign interns only):** The TTT Program Office has arranged individual internship positions at various host institutes all across Taiwan, including government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private companies. Early commencement or extension of internship is available with the approval of assigned host institute. **Interns are required to initiate contact with their hosts for the details if they would like to start earlier or extend their internships. MOST, however, does not provide extra subsidies for their extra stay in Taiwan.**
- 2. **Special Group Research Projects (available to foreign and domestic interns, job code: 4xxx.xx):** Special Group Research Projects are designed for in-depth research into major issues in Taiwan, such as future technology, Taiwan's international participation, etc. Each group project will consist of foreign interns teamed with domestic interns in groups of 4~8 people.

C. Restriction for Foreign Non-students

To avoid complications with work permits and labor regulations, there will be a restriction on the type of internships available to foreign non-students. **If you are not a Taiwanese national, and you are not a student, you may only apply for government agencies from the list of individual internships.**

D. Application Process

All foreign and domestic candidates must complete and submit an online application form, statement of purpose, and the following required documents between Jan 7th 2016 and Feb 2nd 2016 (Taiwan time). All applications and documentations must be submitted through our online application system. **Incomplete and late applications will not be processed.**

Required documents:

1. Identification document: For foreign interns: please submit a clear copy of your passport data page (showing name, passport number, expiration date); if you do not have a passport, please submit another photo ID such as a national ID card or driver's license. For domestic interns: please submit front and back copies of your ROC ID card.
2. Full and latest copy of an academic transcript. (from the first semester to the current one.)
3. Current resume.
4. For students: Clear, front and back copies of a current student ID.
5. A clear photo within 3 months. (don't upload a group photo.)
6. Optional: copies of any awards, achievements, academic certificates, letters of recommendation, a copy of English language proficiency (required for domestic candidates), or a copy of Chinese language proficiency (for foreign candidates); please combine all files into ONE file to upload.

E. Review Process

Foreign applications will be assigned to the applicant's nearest ROC embassy, consulate, or representative office for initial screening; domestic applications will be assigned to the TTT Program Office in Taipei. All qualified applications will then be forwarded to host institutes for a review process. Based on applicants' qualifications, job skill requirements, and other review factors, the host institutes will decide which applicants they wish to accept. **All decisions made by the hosts are final.** In addition, to enable more overseas Taiwanese youths to experience Taiwan and its culture, applicants who have never participated in TTT are the priority in the host institutes' selection process.

Each applicant may select up to **three** internships in order of preference (first choice, second choice, etc). A candidate who has been simultaneously selected by two or more host institutes will be assigned to the institute of his/her highest preference. For instance, if a candidate has been accepted by his/her first-choice and third-choice institutes, he/she will be assigned to the first-choice institute. **Applicants shall also indicate in the application forms if they have first to third-degree relatives working in their selected host institutes to prevent a conflict of interest.**

To provide fair opportunity to new participants, the proportion of returning TTT participants will not exceed one-third of all interns accepted into the program. Successful candidates will be notified by Mar 24th 2016, and candidates must confirm acceptance by Apr 7th 2016 (Taiwan time). Alternate (waitlisted) candidates will be selected and notified by Apr 22nd 2016 if deemed necessary.

2016 Program Requirements

A. Academic Conference and Award Night Banquet

At the end of the summer program, participants are required to present their work or research accomplishments either individually or in groups at the TTT Academic Conference. Each intern/group must prepare and submit an abstract/introduction of their presentation to TTT Program Office by Jul 22nd 2016. The conference will be held on Aug 12th 2016 during the day, followed by the Award Night Banquet in the evening of Aug 13th 2016. Awards will be conferred to the best three presentations by each field. It is also compulsory for all interns to attend the Academic Conference and Award Night Banquet. More details regarding Academic Conference and Award Night Banquet will be announced later.

B. Certificate of Achievement

At the end of the program, MOST will issue each participant with a certificate of achievement for their completion of the internship. Interns may not receive their certificate of achievement under the following circumstances:

- Taking leaves for more than 10 (inclusive) days.
- Failing to attend the Academic Conference.
- Receiving the score of 5 or below at the Academic Conference, with 10 being the highest score.
- Receiving the score below 70 from the review of host institutes, with 100 being the highest score.

C. Online Survey

After completion of the summer program, each participant will be required to complete an online survey describing their Taiwan experience, via TTT website by Aug 31st 2016. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from future programs in MOST. Instructions will be announced later.

2016 Subsidy, Insurance, and Others

A. Living subsidy:

During the six-day orientation, food and lodging will be provided for all interns. After orientation, MOST will provide each participant with a subsidy of NT\$600 per calendar day for the seven-week internship phase of the program (Jun 25th 2016 to Aug 13th 2016, NT\$30,000 in total). If an intern misses work, NT\$600 will be deducted per work day or NT\$75 per hour absent according to the Subsidy Chart.

B. Transportation subsidy (only available for foreign interns):

MOST will provide each foreign intern with a subsidy of NT\$10,000 for their travel to Taiwan. Interns may receive the transportation subsidy after Aug 8th 2016, Taiwan time.

C. Insurance coverage:

The TTT Program Office will provide limited accidental insurance for the duration of the internship, and **strongly suggest that all interns purchase travel insurance, including medical and accidental insurance, at their respective places of residence prior to attending the program.** (Please check with your insurance company if your current policy covers illnesses and accidents in Taiwan.) You are responsible for your own health conditions during the Orientation and internship. The sponsors will not be liable to pay any medical expenses incurred by interns.

D. Accommodations and Transportation:

The TTT Program Office will provide food, lodging, and transportation during orientation.

Participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodations and transportation for the remainder of the summer during Jun 24th 2016 to Aug 13th 2016. Thus, applicants should also consider their own accommodations and transportation arrangement while choosing their institutes. If the intern's institute provides the housing, he/she will need to fill in a housing application form and email the form back to TTT Program Office to finalize the housing; further details will be included in the confirmation letters.

The TTT Program Office may provide assistance in finding housing at local hostels or host dormitories **(if available)**, but participants are advised to stay with friends or relatives in Taiwan.

E. Advisory on Military Service:

1. Taiwanese males: Please be advised that male Taiwanese citizens of eligible age are subject to military conscription. If you are male, between ages 18 and 40 (inclusive), carrying a Taiwan passport, and *not currently enrolled in school*, you may be obligated to perform military service in Taiwan.
2. Foreign males of Taiwanese descent: Males of Taiwanese descent, between ages 18 and 40 (inclusive), and carrying foreign passports are not advised to stay in Taiwan for more than four months. If you participate in this program and decide to arrive earlier or leave later than the scheduled program dates, the total length of your stay in Taiwan should not exceed four months to avoid conscription problems.

For more details on military service, please check with your nearest ROC embassy, consulate or representative office, or with the Ministry of the Interior.

F. Visa:

1. Foreign nationals are responsible for applying their own visas before arrival in Taiwan. Participants are responsible for their own ground and transportation expenses should they arrive earlier or leave later than the scheduled program dates.
2. For TTT participants who are required to apply for a visa, they will now have the additional choice of a 90-day visa. If you wish to apply for a 90-day visa, please put "attending Taiwan Tech Trek [TTT] 2016 program (科技部 2016 科技台灣探索候鳥計畫學員)" as your purpose of visit. **The application time will be after all visa offices receive our official candidate list (around mid-May). Applications will not be processed before the official candidate list being sent to the visa offices.** It is suggested that you call at your local visa office first to see if they have received the candidate list from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before applying. Interns do not need to apply for a visa if they intend to enter Taiwan with their Taiwanese passport.
3. It is suggested that you contact your nearest ROC embassy or consulate or representative office, for the detailed information of “the countries are eligible for the visa exemption program, which permits a duration of stay up to 90 days.”
4. **MOST and TTT Office are not in charge of issuing or extending visas. If any who needs to extend the visa after they arrive in Taiwan, please contact TTT Office for the proof letter of participation first, and then contact Ministry of Foreign Affairs or National Immigration Agency for the further procedures.**

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Subsidy Chart			
Case	Remarks	Amount deducted from TTT subsidy	Dismissal
Absence due to illness	Notify your work supervisor immediately. A doctor's notes and a leave form needed.	With doctor's notes: No deduction for the first accumulative three days, NT\$600/day (NT\$75/hour) from the fourth day forth. Without doctor's notes: No deduction for the first accumulative two days, NT\$600/day (NT\$75/hour) from the third day forth. (No more than four times and no less than four hours each time.)	N/A
Absence due to important personal matter	You must obtain prior approval from your work supervisor. Accumulative absences over three days will not be accepted	NT\$600/day or NT\$75/hour.	N/A
Absence due to funeral matter	You must obtain prior approval from your work supervisor and TTT Office, and proof of absence needs to be provided.	No deduction with 3 days; NT\$600/day after 3 days.	N/A
No show	If you are absent from work without a valid reason and have not notified your supervisor in advance, your supervisor should notify MOST immediately, also you will not receive further subsidy and may be dismissed from the program.	Subsidy rights removed	Dismissal from program
Other (inappropriate conduct, etc.)	Other cases will be reviewed by your supervisor and the TTT Program Office on an individual basis. Proof of absence will be needed.	By case	By case

2016 TIME TABLE

TTT Program Office reserves the right to change these terms and conditions at any time without prior notice.

Jan 7 th to Feb 2 nd	Application period
Mar 24 th	MOST notifies successful candidates by E-mail
Mar 24 th to Apr 7 th	Candidates confirm acceptance
Apr 22 nd	MOST notifies alternative candidates (if necessary)
Apr 22 nd to Apr 29 th	Alternative candidates confirm acceptance (if necessary)
May 18 th	MOST sends instruction letters to interns by E-mail
Jun 19 th to Jun 24 th	The summer-term orientation
Jun 27 th	The summer-term internship begins
Jul 11 th to Jul 15 th	Registration for Academic Conference and Award Night Banquet
Jul 18 th to Jul 22 nd	Uploading abstracts for Academic Conference
Aug 11 th	Last day at host institute
Aug 12 th	Internship ends: Academic Conference
Aug 13 th	Award Night Banquet
Aug 14 th to Aug 31 st	Online survey

2016 Regulations

A. Conduct and disciplinary guidelines

After successful candidates have been accepted into the program, all interns / participants are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior and to show respect to other interns, TTT staff, supervisors, and coworkers. Inappropriate conduct will be reviewed by the TTT Program Office based on these guidelines.

1. Applicants who have special medical conditions (including heart problems, diabetes, hypertension, epilepsy, pregnancy, psychological, contagions, etc.) that may affect their ability to serve are not encouraged to participate in this TTT program. If they do, applicants will be personally responsible for taking care of their own medical conditions while participating in the TTT program. The sponsors will not be held liable for any damages or accidents that occur as a result of applicants' health conditions.
2. Interns / participants will be subject to all the laws of the Republic of China.
3. Interns / Participants are personally responsible for any accidents that occur as a result of not following the advice, rules, and regulations stipulated by the TTT program. The sponsors will not be held in any way liable for any negligence on the part of the interns / participants. If there are any disputes which may arise, the laws of the Republic of China will prevail.
4. Any infractions of the laws of the Republic of China or evidence of contribution to such infractions, resulting in punitive actions by the Republic of China government and/or law enforcement officials toward TTT program interns / participants, will be left as intern's / participant's own responsibility. The organizers will not be held responsible or liable for any such actions. In addition, the sponsors reserve the right to request for compensations from the participant, the participant's family and/or relatives, for any inconveniences or damages caused by the individual.
5. Written notice warnings: Any intern / participant engaging in inappropriate or irresponsible behavior will receive a written notice warning. Instances include disruptive behavior, excessive tardiness, unethical work conduct, etc. Three written warnings will result in dismissal and disqualification from future programs in MOST. Please note that host institutes also have the authority to issue written notice warnings.
6. Dismissal from program: In severe cases an intern / participant may be dismissed immediately for unapproved absences from orientation activities or work, endangering the safety of others, illegal drug use, or other inappropriate acts as reviewed by the TTT Program Office. MOST and TTT Program Office reserve the right to inform the intern's / participant's parents, guardians, or relatives if such circumstances occur. Interns / Participants expelled from TTT will also be disqualified from future programs in MOST. Once being dismissed, interns will no longer receive the rest of their subsidies.
7. The TTT Program Office will provide limited travel insurance for the duration of the internship, and strongly suggest that all interns / participants purchase accidental and medical insurance, at their respective places of residence prior to attending the program.
8. The sponsors will not be held liable, nor be willing, to pay for any medical expenses incurred by its interns / participants. Also, any requests for financial compensation for medical costs from the participants or their parents will be denied.
9. The interns / participants must take full responsibility for his/her own expenses of accommodations and ground transportation if he/she arrives earlier or leaves later.
10. Interns / Participants are expected to attend every scheduled activity of the program and comply with the regulations of the sponsors, the organizers and the assigned institutions. Only sickness and approvable personal leaves will be accepted to excuse the participant's absence from institutions, lectures, or any other mandatory activities. Otherwise, the intern / participant will be denied continued participation in the rest of the program and receiving the Certificate of Achievement.

B. Orientation section

1. Interns / Participants are required to attend all orientation activities. In case of illness or important personal matters, please notify TTT staff immediately. Failure to participate without a valid reason and unapproved departure from orientation premises may result in program dismissal and the TTT Program Office will notify your designated host institution/supervisors of your dismissal.
2. Interns / Participants are expected to be on time for each scheduled activity. Excessive lateness by individuals will hold up hundreds of people and delay the entire day's schedule, therefore, please be mindful of other people's time. Tardiness of more than 20 minutes without a valid reason will result in a written notice warning.
3. **Interns / Participants will be dismissed by the following actions during orientation, alcohol beverages, gambling, and illegal drugs.**

C. Internship section

1. Interns / Participants are expected to demonstrate professional conduct at their designated internship posts and report to work during designated working hours.
2. For excessive tardiness without valid reason or other inappropriate conduct, your supervisor may issue written notice warnings and notify the TTT Program Office.
3. Interns / Participants must obtain prior approval from host institutes/supervisors for absences from work. Please see Subsidy Chart.
4. Interns / Participants are strongly expected and encouraged to initiate communication regarding internship works with their host institutes once any problem arises before/during the internship.

D. Academic Conference and Award Night Banquet

1. Interns / Participants are required to attend all scheduled activities and prepare a presentation on their work or research from the internship phase. Failure to participate in the conference and presentation will result in termination of the last subsidy payment and disqualification from future programs in MOST.
2. Interns / Participants must notify the TTT Program Office immediately in the case of illness as well as important personal matters. Excessive tardiness or unapproved absence will result in termination of the last subsidy payment and disqualification from future programs in MOST.
3. Interns who fail to attend the Academic Conference may result in not receiving their certificates of achievement.

E. Dress code

1. Interns / Participants may wear casual clothing for orientation week. Flip-flops are not allowed.
2. Interns / Participants should demonstrate professional behavior at work by dressing in casual business attire, or as appropriate for their particular work environment. Flip-flops, slippers, and shorts are usually not permitted.
3. Interns / Participants are encouraged to dress in casual business attire for the Academic Conference and Award Night Banquet.