

# STUDY IN TAIWAN

OCT 2025

## AUSTRALIA-TAIWAN EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

By the Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Australia



Test of  
Chinese as  
a Foreign  
Language  
(TOCFL)

STAY UP TO DATE!



The task of the Education Division of TECO in Australia is to facilitate cooperation between Taiwan and Australia in areas of education.



Education Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Australia  
Address: Unit 5, 40 Blackall Street, Barton, ACT, 2600, Australia  
E: Australia@mail.moe.gov.tw

### In this edition:

- **Pg.2** All you need to know: Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL)
- **Pg.3** A TOCFL journey by Samuel D. Wade
- **Pg.4** 2025 TOCFL in Australia

# All you need to know: Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL)



## What is the TOCFL?

The Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL) is Taiwan's official Mandarin proficiency test for non-native speakers run by the Steering Committee for the Test Of Proficiency-Huayu.

## Proficiency Levels

The TOCFL has six levels from beginner to native-equivalent. Level-3 or above is required to work and study in most Mandarin speaking environments in Taiwan (see 'TOCFL Proficiency Levels').

## Test types

There are three test types with both traditional and simplified character options: Listening & Reading, Speaking, and Writing. Many test takers begin with Listening & Reading as this is the minimum requirement for most scholarships and university courses, and add Speaking and Writing as needed.

Many Listening & Reading tests use a Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT) format, which is open to all levels and adjusts difficulty according to performance. TOCFL also offers a free Listening & Reading '[speedy screening](#)' mock test on their website. It goes for about 30min and allows you to gauge your level and prepare for a formal test.

## Where can you sit the TOCFL?

The Steering Committee for the Test of Proficiency-Huayu runs regular TOCFL sessions in Taiwan and around the world. In Australia, TOCFLs are held annually in Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth around Sept-Oct with test dates announced on the [TECO website](#) every year around June. General and children test fees are \$45 and \$20 respectively.

## Online TOCFL

The TOCFL 'home edition' is available for those who cannot make the in-person tests. It is held virtually for about 2.5 hours and cost a flat fee of NTD\$3,000. The home edition covers Listening & Reading bands A, B and C. Test slots are published monthly on the [TOCFL website](#).

## What can you use TOCFL for?

A TOCFL certificate is accepted in Taiwan for study, work and scholarships language requirements (e.g. Taiwan Scholarship, Huayu Enrichment Scholarship). Beyond this, TOCFL is a credible way to benchmark your progress, set learning goals, and communicate your level to schools and employers worldwide.

**TOCFL Proficiency Levels**

Level		CEFR Equivalent	Indicative Hours		Vocabulary Base
			Chinese speaking areas	Non-Chinese speaking areas	
Band A	Level 1	A1	120-240	240-480	500
	Level 2	A2	240-360	480-720	1000
Band B	Level 3	B1	360-480	720-960	2500
	Level 4	B2	480-960	960-1920	5000
Band C	Level 5	C1	960-1920	1920-3840	8000
	Level 6	C2	>1920	>3840	>8000



An illustration at the top of the page shows a man with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt and blue pants, walking towards the left. He is holding a white sign with the Chinese characters '考試' (Exam) written on it. To his right, a high-speed train is moving along a track. The background features green mountains under a blue sky with white clouds. In the top left corner, there is a red rectangular box with white text that reads 'Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL)'.

## Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL)

# A TOCFL Journey

Samuel D. Wade

I took the Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL) in 2023 at Providence University while I was on exchange in Taiwan. I had been learning Mandarin for 5 years and wanted to see how I performed on a formal test as well as attain credentials for my language abilities.

Providence University is in western Taichung, a fair way from where I was staying in Taipei. However, since all the test sessions were booked up in Taipei (be sure to book early), I decided to make a weekend of it and head south for some adventure.

I made my way to Taichung on the High Speed Rail, which took me a cool 300km/h through the verdant mountains of Taipei surrounds to the central plains of Taichung. Upon arrival, I enjoyed a glowing red sunset atop Dakeng Mountain, taking in the beauty before my big test on the morrow.

I woke the next morning to the sound of half-a-hundred scooters criss-crossing the thoroughfare below my lodgings. A wild gale was billowing in from the coast when I arrived at the university, sending up a cloud of dust as I stepped off the bus.

As I made my way across campus to the test site, a slow trickle of international students started to appear, and I soon ran into a whole crowd of them outside the test site. Hearing the call for my group, I lined up along my fellow Chinese learners and had myself ticked off into the test room.

We were to sit a Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT), a reading and listening test which alters the difficulty of questions based on performance. All the questions are multiple choice, asking you to pick from one of five answers based on stimulus. The first few questions were basic conversation scenarios that I brushed off with ease. But the questions soon grew in difficulty, until I was overwhelmed with lectures on biology and bodies of characters packed with chengyu idioms. I spent a little under 2 hours doing the test before the system told me I was finished, feeling tired but accomplished as I walked from the test room.

A month or so later I received my test results – Level 4 listening and reading at B2 CEFR! My reading scored slightly higher than listening, which was understandable considering I could read the text several times and infer meaning from radicals; a luxury one doesn't have with listening.

Two years later, TOCFL has helped me in securing employment relevant to my area of study and continues to act as my proof of Mandarin proficiency. I wholly recommend taking the TOCFL to anyone looking to test and attain formal recognition of their Mandarin proficiency. The certificate is a valuable credential, widely recognised by universities, government agencies and employers in Taiwan and abroad. Beyond certification, preparing for the TOCFL also deepens one's grasp of Chinese, a skill that extends far beyond the test itself.



佛光山西澳中華學校  
FO GUANG SHAN CHINESE SCHOOL W.A.



## 2025 TOCFL in Australia

The Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia oversaw three major sittings of the Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL) in September to October 2025, giving Mandarin learners in Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria the opportunity to measure their language proficiency through Taiwan's official standardised test.

Across the three locations—Brisbane (21 September), Perth (27 September) and Melbourne (19 October)—the TOCFL provided candidates with the chance to sit all six proficiency levels, alongside the Children's TOCFL, which includes the Sprouting, Seedling and Blossoming levels for younger learners. The sessions were hosted respectively at Fo Guang Shan Chung Tian Chinese School in Brisbane, Fo Guang Shan Chinese School WA, and Formosa Chinese School in Melbourne. Many students, from schoolchildren to adult learners, participated in these sittings—some taking a formal Mandarin test for the first time. Candidates could choose between Traditional and Simplified character versions depending on their study background, making the tests accessible to diverse learners across Australia.

Participants who passed the examinations shall receive certificates issued by Taiwan's Ministry of Education, recognising their Chinese proficiency for study, scholarship, or future career purposes.

