





Mosaic Taiwan is a fellowship exchange program for promising US and Canadian individuals wishing to gain firsthand experience of the Republic of China (Taiwan), a vibrant Asian democracy in which traditional Chinese culture has prospered. Set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the program provides young students and professionals with an interest in global affairs the opportunity to better understand its culture and society through extensive exchanges with local leaders in various fields and to explore the beauty of Taiwan's natural environment, and it also gives young leaders from Taiwan international exposure by fostering dialogue with their overseas counterparts.



The background is a dark red brick wall. A white string with four wooden clothespins is stretched across the top. Three photographs are pinned to the string. The leftmost photo shows a beach with many yellow birds (likely cormorants) standing on the shore, with the ocean and a cloudy sky in the background. The middle photo shows a tropical beach with turquoise water, white sand, and green hills in the background. The rightmost photo shows a snowy mountain peak with a red and white striped fence or path leading up to it.

An island of great beauty

The Republic of China, popularly known as Taiwan, is situated in the Western Pacific between Japan and the Philippines. The total area of Taiwan proper and its outlying islands is 36,193.6 square kilometers, equivalent to the size of the State of Maryland. It has more than its share of nature splendor. Forested foothills occupy more than half of Taiwan; other physiographic regions include volcanic mountains, tablelands, coastal plains, and basins. Taiwan's tropical-to-temperate spectrum of climatic zones and wide range of topographies have made the island a paradise of flora and fauna.



An open society

While more than 95 percent of the population in Taiwan claims Han ancestry, Taiwan's heritage is actually much more complex than such a generalization implies. The successive waves of Chinese immigrants that began arriving in the 17th century belonged to a variety of subgroups speaking mutually unintelligible languages and practicing different customs. In fact, Taiwan has been a melting pot, not only of diverse Han subgroups, but also of indigenous Austronesian peoples and immigrants from all over the world. The most recent wave of immigrants is largely from Southeast Asia and mainland China through intermarriage. This convergence and interplay of currents of humanity in Taiwan have helped transform it into an open society.



A vibrant democracy

Taiwan is one of the most open, progressive democracies in Asia, and the only democracy in the Chinese-speaking world. Taiwan respects human rights, which comprise an integral part of everyday life from gender empowerment to comprehensive national health insurance. Legislation to enhance the people's welfare, promote social equality, and safeguard labor rights is a manifestation of the government's staunch commitment to its people. For example, in 2012, the government released the first National Report on Human Rights, which was drafted in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in the United Nations' stipulated format.



Reaching out to the world

The R.O.C. government's viable diplomacy policy has come to define Taiwan's desire to participate meaningfully in the international community. Under this policy, Taiwan serves as a peace-maker, provider of humanitarian aid, promoter of cultural ties, creator of new technologies and business opportunities, and standard-bearer of Chinese culture. As part of this drive to make the world a better place, the R.O.C. government has highlighted the importance of youth exchanges. Mosaic Taiwan aims to serve as an effective route to greater mutual understanding and cooperation among this demographic.





About the 2016 program

Mosaic Taiwan 2016 will run from June 6 to June 24. Fellows will take part in team-building and leadership development exercises, as well as workshops and lectures on topics involving Taiwan. There will also be visits to businesses and NGOs in various cities, as well as indigenous areas and sites of outstanding natural beauty around the island. Fellows will also meet with government officials and some of their peers to discuss issues of common concern. Travel and living arrangements in Taiwan will be covered by the sponsor.

Eligibility

*The fellowship program is only open to US and Canadian citizens age 20-35 who have never before visited Taiwan.



Applications

- The application form (and its attachments) will be accepted from February 1 to 29, 2016, via e-mail mosaictaiwan@mofa.gov.tw
- Interviews will be conducted by the foreign offices of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the United States (TECRO or TECO) and Canada (TECO).
- Successful applicants will be informed by TECRO or TECO.
- Required documents
 - *Application form
 - *Brief bio and CV
 - *Minimum of 2 recommendation letters
 - *Academic transcript
 - *Essay
 - *Award certificate(s) (if any)
- A medical certificate will be required of successful applicants.

