

BACS Taiwan Huayu Enrichment Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Those who are over 18 years of age, hold a full UK passport but are not currently studying Mandarin in Taiwan during the scholarship application period; and do not hold or have not held in the past any form of government scholarship in Taiwan. Anybody studying on a Mandarin course in Taiwan, whether at an officially recognised institution or not, during the scholarship application period will not be eligible to apply for the HES. However, they would be considered eligible to apply for the scholarship if their studies in Taiwan had ended before the official start of the application period. The application period runs from 1st February to 31st March each year, so applicants must not be engaged in study at a Taiwanese institution at any point during those two months to be eligible for the HES.

Q: Can I apply if I am currently studying at a UK university but hold a foreign passport?

A: No, you cannot. Non-UK citizens may be able to apply for the scholarship via the Taipei Representative Office in the capital city of their country of citizenship. Those who are unsure how to locate the appropriate office should contact the Scholarships Office: taiwanscholarship@mail.moe.gov.tw.

Q: Can I apply if I have not studied Chinese formally at a university?

A: Yes, you are eligible to apply. However, please note that recipients of the nine-month scholarship are required to pass the Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL) at Band B or higher during their period of study. A high standard of Mandarin in all disciplines is necessary to achieve a pass at the Band B level. As failure to achieve a pass at Band B or higher will result in the withdrawal of one month's stipend, all applicants for the nine-month scholarship should be confident in their abilities to reach the required standard of Mandarin within the stipulated timeframe.

Where to email my application

Q: I am not a student in a Chinese or East Asian Studies department but am studying another subject at a university. Do I apply through my university or as an independent student?

A: If you are currently registered at one of the universities on the list below, you must apply through the BACS-coordinator in your university.

Durham University, Heriot-Watt University, Open University, SOAS, University of Birmingham, University of Cambridge, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, University of Hull, University of Leeds, University of Manchester, University of Newcastle,

University of Oxford, University of Sheffield, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and University of Westminster.

Q: Where do I email my application as I am an independent applicant?

A: Please see 'BACS Notes for Applicants' for the email address.

Language centres

Q: Where do I find the information about the Language Centres recognised by the MoE in Taiwan?

A: Please visit the following website for a list of language centres recognised by the MoE in Taiwan: <https://english.moe.gov.tw/cp-23-17677-b4bb4-1.html>

Q: Can I apply to more than one recognised language centre?

A: Yes, you can. You only need to provide evidence of your application to one language centre.

Q: Can I apply to a language centre that provides only 10 hours of Chinese classes per week?

A: No, you will not qualify. The Huayu Enrichment Scholarship administered by BACS is awarded by the Ministry of Education (MoE). For the MoE award, the requirement is for at least 15 hours of classes per week. When you apply to a centre, explain that you are applying for the MoE Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, and request confirmation that their language programme provides 15 hours of classes per week.

Q: Do I need to be admitted to one of the language centres before applying for the scholarship?

A: No. You only need to provide an email confirmation from a recognised language centre acknowledging the receipt of your application.

TOCFL related

Q: Do I need to take the TOCFL test?

A: If you have studied Mandarin but have no formal qualifications, you may wish to take the TOCFL in order to provide evidence of the standard you have reached. However, it is not mandatory to sit the TOCFL test when applying for the scholarship. TOCFL enquiries should be directed to the Education Division.

References

Q: Can I supply more than two references?

A: No. Please choose two referees who you think will provide you with the most relevant references. The referees should, between them, be able to comment on your language-learning ability, academic achievement and promise, and commitment to studying Chinese.

Q: As I have not been in any form of degree or course related to learning the Chinese language, do my referees still have to use the Reference form provided?

A: Yes, they must use the Confidential reference form provided and fill in Section 7 only. Please ensure your referees are aware of the deadline and name their reference letters properly. Each reference filename MUST include the applicant's and the referee's names: <WALEY Arthur HES reference GILES>

Q: Can my referees fill out the form in Chinese?

A: Yes, they may use either Chinese or English.

Q: As I graduated from university a long time ago, can I provide references from my current and past employers?

A: Yes, you can, but we prefer at least one academic reference.

Q: Should I wait for my references to be ready and then email my application?

A: No, you can email your application first if you like. Ask your referees to email their references directly to the department if you apply through a university, or directly to bacs.huayuscholarship@gmail.com if you are an independent applicant.

Supporting documents

Q: What supporting documents do I need to provide?

A: Please see 'BACS Notes for Applicants'.

Q: What shall I do if I cannot insert the photo into the space provided in the application form?

A: Scan your photo as one of the supporting documents.

Other issues

Q: I want to begin studying in a term starting in December/March/June. Would I still be eligible for the scholarship?

A: Yes. There are different options. See 'Foreign Student Information for UK Applicants'.

Q: When is the deadline?

A: If applying through university departments, email your application to your department by the deadline set by the department. For independent applicants, the deadline is 27th March 2019 (17:00 GMT).

Q: How do I put all documents into one file?

A: Use either Adobe Acrobat or free online software such as "PDF Merge" to merge PDF files.