

## VISA INSTRUCTIONS

*This memo explains the procedures for applying for a resident visa to enter Taiwan. We hope you will read it carefully. But the most important point of this memo is to request that you send us a copy of the pages in your passport that include your photo and passport number and those of your dependents as soon as possible, preferably by April 30th, 2012. You may send a scanned copy by email to Charlie Cheng ([ccheng@fulbright.org.tw](mailto:ccheng@fulbright.org.tw)).*

### VISA TYPES

There are two types of visas available for entry into Taiwan: visitor and resident. The visitor visa permits a stay of two months, renewable twice for a total of six months.

The resident visa permits a much longer stay, and you would be eligible for the national health insurance. Therefore, in almost all cases, we recommend that you apply for a resident visa. To do so, you will need sponsorship in the form of a letter to the appropriate Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) (see the following list of TECO addresses, and the areas they cover) along with your passport and other documents. The Foundation will arrange for this letter to be sent, but we need your cooperation.

**Note:** *The TECO offices usually only provide a single-entry resident visa, but about ten to fifteen days after you actually arrive in Taiwan you will be able to receive an Alien Resident Certificate (ARC), which also includes a **multiple re-entry permit**. It will be valid as long as the ARC is valid. However, please be aware that for the first ten days or two weeks after you enter Taiwan using your resident visa, you should not leave Taiwan, because you will not have a re-entry permit, and would have to begin the visa application process all over again.*

### INFORMATION WE NEED FROM YOU

In order for the Foundation to arrange for the letter to be sent, we must send a list of all 2012-2013 U.S. Fulbright grantees, **and accompanying dependents**, along with estimated dates of arrival and departure, and copies of the pages from passports which include names, birth dates, passport numbers, and photographs, as well as those of accompanying dependents, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taiwan.

## **VISA APPLICATION: PROCEDURE AND TIMING**

After we receive the letter of sponsorship, we will send you its file number. You should then contact the appropriate TECO office (a list of the offices and the areas they serve is below) to inquire about its resident visa application procedures, and provide them with the file number of the sponsorship letter. If all goes smoothly, you may receive your visa within a few days, but this varies from one TECO office to another. ***The visa application fee of US\$132 will be waived (not including the return mail fee, medical form review, etc.) for Fulbright grantees and their accompanying dependents.***

### ***Early Departure from the U.S.***

If you are planning to leave the U.S. earlier, before your grant begins (for example, if you will be traveling in another country or coming here earlier for language study) you may not have time to apply for a resident visa before you leave the U.S. In that case, we suggest that you go ahead and apply for a visitor's visa from whatever country you are in, and we can help you change to a resident visa after your arrival, though it will require more paperwork, possibly an **additional fee**, and time, to process while you are in Taiwan, and cause you and FSE some inconvenience. ***Even in such cases, your name must be on the list, and the other materials requested will be needed, to facilitate the change after your arrival.***

### ***Visa Validity***

Please be aware that the validity of the visa is usually for just two months. Thus, for example, if your visa is dated September 1, you will not be able to use it to enter Taiwan after November 1. Therefore, please carefully consider the appropriate time to apply for the visa.

### ***Physical Exam***

Some TECO offices (but not all) require a physical exam before issuing a residence visa.

### ***Other***

- ◆ As a Fulbright grantee, you must enter Taiwan using your U.S. Passport.
- ◆ If you are an overseas Chinese and/or born in Taiwan, or have a Chinese father, there may be additional procedures and delays in obtaining your visa.
- ◆ If you are planning a stay of less than six months, the TECRO office may decline to give you a resident visa. Instead, they will provide a multiple entry visitor's visa.

- ◆ If you are married and your spouse will also be applying for a resident visa, please be prepared to produce your marriage certificate. (If you will be changing your visa after arrival in Taiwan, please bring the marriage certificate, *certified by the appropriate TECRO office*, with you.) Birth certificates of children may also be required, so bring those with you also.
- ◆ If your accompanying spouse is a citizen of the PRC, and is not a U.S. citizen, please notify us as soon as possible, since special conditions apply, and the procedure can be somewhat time-consuming.

#### **SUMMARY**

To facilitate your visa application, we would like to have the following from all of you by April 30th, 2012

- ❖ Copies of the page (s) from your passport and of ***each accompanying family member***, showing your photo, birth date, and passport number.
- ❖ Your schedule, showing the approximate dates you expect to arrive in and depart from Taiwan.