

Higher Education



A An Overview

1 Higher Education System

Taiwan has excellent global competitiveness in spite of limited land and natural resources. The key reason is its quality human resources and higher education. Higher education institutions in Taiwan include two-year junior colleges, five-year junior colleges, and universities. Like most countries, the study period is four years for

an undergraduate university degree, one to a maximum of four years for a master's degree, and two to a maximum of seven years for a doctoral degree.

2 Faculty and Students

The popularization of education has led to a rapid increase in the number of universities, colleges and students, although the figure has leveled off in recent decades. In SY2022, there were 148 universities, colleges and junior colleges, totaling 1,140,089 students. Reforms in teacher training have played an important part in the popularization of higher education.



Significant improvements in teacher quality can be attributed to policy adaptations and the newly implemented evaluation system. Currently, PhD degree holders account for over 80% of faculty in universities.

B Expenditure

To maintain competitiveness, Taiwan's government has invested more than US\$700 million in higher education annually over the past five years to encourage universities to enhance the quality of research and teaching. The results have been remarkable.

C Major Objectives

26 of Taiwan's universities were listed in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2022, with 10 listed among the top 500. Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking 2022 listed 43 universities in Taiwan, with seven universities ranking in top 500 in the past five years. According to the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) rankings in 2022, 52 universities in Taiwan entered the list of the world's top

1% of institutions (accounting for 32.7% of universities and colleges in Taiwan), spanning 20 research areas, which demonstrates that higher education in Taiwan is world-class.

To spur universities to develop their individual characteristics, the MOE has actively promoted diversity and flexibility in higher education. Universities must cultivate, retain, and recruit top talent. Our international competitiveness will be increased by improving the quality of higher education and make great effort to diversify research areas. Bridging the gap between industry and academia and connection with local communities will enhance universities' competence in R&D and encourage them to adhere to their social responsibilities. With the more flexible multiple entrance program in place, higher education is an extension of the 12-year Basic Education. The entrance program has been adjusted in order to adapt to self-directed and diversified learning. As the international competition for talent intensifies, the MOE has launched several projects to raise the overall quality of higher education and encourage the diversified development of universities:

- 1 Higher Education Sprout Project, equal emphasis on teaching and research: The government plans to invest NT\$97 billion over five years in the second phase (2023-2027) as a way to encourage universities to develop their own characteristics and innovative teaching techniques. This will assist universities to establish first-class research centers, become more reputable in the global academic community within their forte, and enjoy wider-reaching influence internationally.
- 2 Plan to Improve the Remuneration of Research and Teaching Staff, an incentive for top talent: The three projects include "Yushan Fellows," "Flexible Salary Program," and "15% Research Pay Raise for Full-time Professors." This Project offers