

GTI Taiwan Scholarship Program Frequently Asked Questions *(as of May 2023)*

Are researchers from outside the United States eligible to apply?

Currently, eligibility for the program is limited to US citizens and US legal residents. Non-US citizens engaged in a resident program of study leading to a degree with an accredited US university, or a resident fellowship with another recognized public policy institution, are eligible to apply.

Is a particular level of education required?

The program is conceived primarily for professional academics, graduate students, and policy professionals (think tank researchers, fellows, etc.). Most past applicants have been either PhDs, or PhD candidates. However, there is no strict education level requirement, and all potential applicants with promising ideas for illuminating public policy research related to Taiwan are encouraged to apply.

Is there a prescribed length for the application proposal?

There is no set length for the proposal document—which should describe the focus, methodology, and scope of the proposed research project—and submissions will be based on quality, rather than quantity. It is expected, however, that addressing the relevant points should require at least 2-3 pages. It is acceptable to include the project timeline and budget within the proposal.

Is there a required minimum time period for the period of field research in Taiwan?

There is no set time period required for the field research, and past applicants have conducted their field research over periods ranging from two weeks to a full year (with longer time windows often linked to another grant or institutional affiliation). A period of approximately two weeks would probably be the minimal time necessary to perform the level of field activities (interviews, documentary research, etc.) commensurate with the professional-level research standards expected from scholarship recipients.

Is there a required timetable for scholarship recipients to complete their projects?

The scholarship program is generally conceived for recipients to complete their projects (i.e., to deliver the required final project report) within one year. However, extensions are available on a case-by-case basis. GTI seeks to allow scholarship recipients flexibility, as necessary, to complete their projects—and we regard successful completion as more important than fixed deadlines. Many recipients since 2020 have required time extensions due to travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients who expect a need for extended timelines should keep in touch with GTI's Program Associate, Zoe Weaver-Lee.

Can GTI provide assistance with acquiring visas for travel to Taiwan?

Scholarship recipients will be responsible for arranging their own travel, to include necessary visas (either tourist or residential). For US passport holders, visas are not required for entry into Taiwan for 90 days. If necessary, once program participants have secured a partner institution in Taiwan, that institution can often provide documentation to support any necessary visa applications. This is not needed in most cases.

What is the current state of Taiwan travel restrictions, and how will that affect my plans for field research in Taiwan?

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been severe restrictions for would-be travelers seeking to enter Taiwan. As of recently, Taiwan does not have any requirements for or restrictions on travelers from the United States. Travelers are not required to present proof of vaccination, to quarantine, or to test after arrival. Instead, free take-home tests are provided at the airport and travelers are encouraged to self-monitor. It should be noted that, despite relaxed COVID-19 regulations in Taiwan, most of the domestic population still adheres to basic protocol such as social distancing and wearing face masks. Would-be travelers planning trips to Taiwan should check the Taiwan Foreign Ministry's website for COVID-related travel updates ([see link here](#)).

How is the scholarship funding disbursed?

The total scholarship funding of USD \$10,000 will be disbursed in three installments via wire transfer. The first installment of USD \$4000, intended primarily to allow for initial research costs and field research travel, will be provided upon selection and a signed acceptance of GTI's standard terms of agreement. The second installment, also of USD \$2000, will be provided upon submission (and GTI's acceptance) of a mid-term report describing the course of research and the project's findings to date, as well as a letter from a host institution in Taiwan. The final payment of USD \$4000 will be issued upon submission (and GTI's acceptance) of the 10,000 to 15,000-word final narrative report of their findings (which GTI shall reserve the right of first refusal to publish).

Is it necessary for me to publish my final research report through GTI?

An issue has emerged in the past wherein some scholarship recipients have resisted submitting a final report to GTI, on grounds that the research was intended to support a PhD dissertation, and that they did not want to publish this material in another format prior to submitting their dissertation. GTI expects that scholarship recipients will adhere to the terms of their agreement, and that any potential conflicts that graduate students may have regarding publication of their research will be worked out with their academic institution. GTI will not release the final program payment of USD \$4000 until the final report is submitted, reviewed, and accepted.