



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





An island of biodiversity

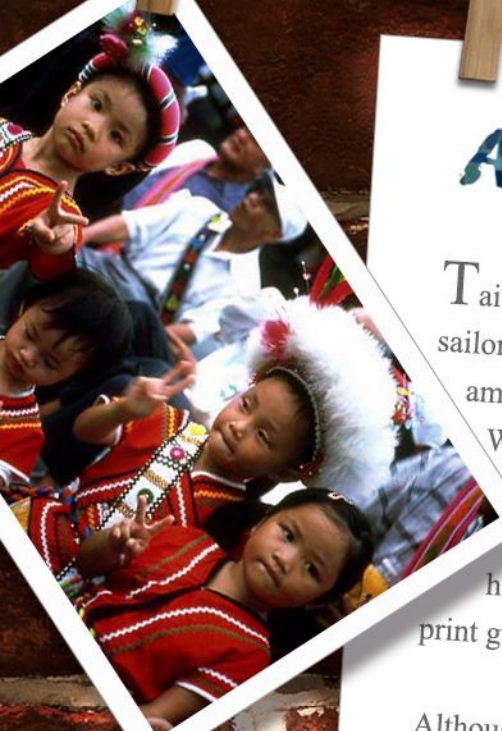
With an area of about 13,854 square miles (almost as large as the State of Maryland), the island of Taiwan lies off the southeastern coast of mainland China at the western edge of the Pacific Ocean. Surrounded by the East China Sea, the Philippine Sea, the Bashi Channel, and the South China Sea, Taiwan is covered to a great extent by rugged mountains that run from the northern to the southern tip. Noted for its rich biodiversity, this island state is home to many indigenous tribes and plays host to a wide variety of migratory birds during their winter travels.

A society of immigrants

Taiwan was named Ilha Formosa ("Beautiful Island") by Portuguese sailors who, on their way to Japan during the Age of Discovery, were amazed by this forest-cloaked land. It became better known to the Western world after the Dutch drove Spanish settlers away in 1642, and when Taiwan was later included in European maps after the Dutch occupation. Travelers and missionaries from many other countries have since set foot on the island, while Japan in particular has left its footprint given its 50-year colonial rule over Taiwan.

Although Taiwan's indigenous tribes are Austronesian, the influx of immigrants from mainland China from the seventeenth century means that people of Han Chinese origin today form the island's largest ethnic group. This trend was firmly cemented in 1949, when two million people relocated to Taiwan after the civil war. The various cultural elements they brought with them have been well preserved to this day.

The newest immigrants over the past couple of decades, who often intermarry with local citizens, largely consist of people from mainland China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines.





A diverse yet harmonious Taiwan

A democracy, Taiwan is considered to have the most open and progressive of ethnic Chinese societies. The diversity and friendliness of the people, who enjoy a high level of freedom, can be attributed to the rich tapestry of Taiwan's past. The same is true of the delicious cuisines on offer, as well as the entrepreneurship and cultural innovations that have ensured Taiwan's economic success.



From Taiwan to the world

Instigated by President Ma Ying-jeou, the policy of "viable diplomacy" has come to define Taiwan's desire to participate meaningfully in the international community. Through this policy, Taiwan seeks to play the role of a peacemaker, a provider of humanitarian aid, a promoter of cultural ties, a creator of new technologies and business opportunities, and a standard-bearer of Chinese culture. As part of this drive to make the world a better place, President Ma has highlighted the importance of youth exchanges. Mosaic Taiwan aims to serve as an effective route towards greater mutual understanding and cooperation among this demographic.





About the 2015 program

Mosaic Taiwan 2015 runs from June 14 to July 4. 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 museums in various cities, as well as indigenous reserves and sites of outstanding natural beauty around the island. The program is made even more immersive through homestays and community service activities. Fellows will also get to meet with government officials and young leaders in Taiwan to discuss issues of common concerns, with a focus on fostering cross-cultural connections and friendships.

Round-trip tickets, food, and lodging are all covered by sponsors.

Eligibility

*The fellowship program is only open to American and Canadian citizens aged 20-35.



Applications

- Applications are accepted from February 1 to 21 through e-mailing the application form and attachments to application@mosaictaiwan.net
- Interviews will be conducted by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the US, or the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada, or the relevant Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.
- The successful applicants will be listed on the www.mosaictaiwan.net website tentatively scheduled for March 31, 2015, but subject to change by the sponsor.
- A medical certificate and online registration are required for successful applicants.

