

# STUDY IN TAIWAN

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER. TAIPEI ECONOMIC & CULTURAL OFFICE (TECO) IN AUSTRALIA  
AUGUST 2021



## TAIWAN'S FREE ONLINE MANDARIN LEARNING RESOURCES

BY EDUCATION DIVISION  
TECO IN AUSTRALIA

Do you want to learn Mandarin language? Difficult characters and pronunciation keeping you from improving? No worries. In Taiwan, there are many online Mandarin language resources open for global learners. All resources listed here are free and available to help you access high-quality, online Mandarin language lessons.

Online resources are not designed to replace the need for face-to-face language lessons. It is here to support anyone interested in studying in Taiwan. Lessons are designed for different levels of experience and approved by professionals to ensure the content is of high quality.

### coursera

#### Learning Chinese: Start From Scratch 零到一學中文

This is a six-week introductory course in Mandarin Chinese conversation. The main objective is to learn practical conversation. By watching videos showing various kinds of situations, learners will recognise and understand vocabulary, pair everyday words together with grammar to form short phrases, and learn the correct way to express words used in day-to-day life. Provider: The National Taiwan University [VIEW LESSON](#)

#### Adorable Taiwan - Intermediate Level

##### 是誰在說話--可愛的台灣

This course uses four scenic locations in Taiwan as the main topics. Besides an emphasis on teaching vocabulary, grammar and text comprehension, each lesson will feature a non-human protagonist, retelling the past and present of each location. Starting from the north and heading south, each lesson combines the historical, cultural and modern faces of these landmarks. Provider: The National Taiwan University [VIEW LESSON](#)

### Future Learn

#### Fall in Love with Mandarin

Learn everyday Chinese Mandarin and discover Taiwan culture in the process. This course will introduce you to the fundamentals of everyday speaking Mandarin, teaching you basic vocabulary for a range of daily situations. The course will also take you on a tour of Taiwanese culture, placing the Mandarin language in the context of the daily life of the island. Provider: The National Chiao Tung University [VIEW LESSON](#)



A selection of videos uploaded by the Office of Global Mandarin Education (OGME) to give easy access to global Mandarin learners exploring all possibilities to learn through Taiwan's enormous range of resources.

Provider: OGME [VIEW LESSON](#)

## IN THE VOLUME

*Taiwan's FREE Online Mandarin Learning Resources, 1, 2*

*My Mandarin Learning Tips from Beginner to TOCFL level 5, by Ben Fisher, 3*

*Highlights from Learning Mandarin plus A Taiwanese Cultural Experience, 4*

*TSA & Taiwan Alumni Network Meet up in June, 5*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Huayuworld.org website was established by the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC) for the purpose of assisting global learners with heritage background to learn Mandarin and its culture. It provides a rich variety of teaching resources, including Mandarin language and cultural resources.

The trick for new users will be registering an account. Though the content of website is mainly in Chinese, English-speaking users will have a basic entry point to work around opening an account.

### Let's Learn Chinese 學華語向前走

There are different textbooks offered by Huayuworld and a particularly good set for English-speaking learners would be "Let's Learn Chinese". It's entirely free but you're required to sign up first. With an account, you'll be able to download the textbooks and workbooks as mp3s. If you manage to complete the entire series, you will reach high intermediate level.

### Treasure Chest of Taiwanese Culture 文化百寶箱

The 'Chest' includes the following categories:

- Short clips on teaching folk art and dance
- Newsletters of learning Mandarin materials, which are uploaded fortnightly
- Digital books on supporting cultural learning
- Videos on Hakka culture
- Taiwan Panorama Magazine: published monthly, it showcases Taiwan's ongoing political, economic, social and cultural evolution with insightful writings
- Videos of animations/ songs to inspire children at K to year 2 to learn Mandarin language

Provider: Huayu World [VIEW LESSON](#)

### Podcast

A few podcasts selected for learners who are interested to familiarise themselves on the island's way of living and news.



### HUAYU 101 華語101

This lesson focuses on practical conversations designed for 12 learning scenarios such as greetings, shopping, ordering meals, asking for help, etc. You may like to learn before your departure to Taiwan. Provider: OGME [VIEW LESSON](#)



### FUN MANDARIN with WENWEN Laoshi

Wen Wen Laoshi came to Australia as a teaching assistant in 2014 under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education. She enjoyed her time at Melrose High School and made lifelong friends with the school community. Ever since her return, she has been delivering Mandarin classes at the National Chung Hsing University. Now she is going high-tech, turns to Youtube to deliver lessons on practical phases, cultural exchanges with her foreign students, and cultural tourism. If you ever wonder how a Mandarin course is delivered at one of Taiwan's 62 Mandarin language centres, it's worthwhile to give it a go. [VIEW LESSON](#)



TaiwanLIFE is a lifelong learning platform providing MOOCs from various academic institutions. It is generally for domestic users. For international users, it is an eye-opening experience to browse through what Taiwan can offer in education. There is a dedicated category for language learners in which of course includes Mandarin language.

### Mandarin in 300 Sentences

There are 10 themes designed to relate to Taiwan's daily life, which will enable the learners to familiar themselves with useful phrases, and speak Mandarin naturally. Provider: The National Open University [VIEW LESSON](#)

*Do you want to learn Mandarin language? There are many open online Mandarin language courses designed for different levels of experience and approved by professional Mandarin language teachers to ensure the content is of high quality.*

# MY MANDARIN LEARNING TIPS FROM BEGINNER TO TOCFL LEVEL 5

BY BEN FISHER 胡鬱  
2021 MOE TAIWAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Learning Mandarin is a life-long pursuit. I have been studying Mandarin on-and-off since 2012, beginning with my very first university course, Chinese Introductory 1 at Monash University. Since then, I've studied Mandarin in Australia, China and Taiwan. I first came to Taiwan after graduating from Monash in 2018, on a brief stopover to Beijing. I ended up staying for four months, and never went to Beijing as planned.

In 2019 I was fortunate enough to receive a Ministry of Education Huayu Enrichment Scholarship to take full-time Mandarin classes in Taipei, and this year, 2021, have been awarded the Taiwan Scholarship to pursue a Master of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University. Taiwan is a great place to study Mandarin, for students of any level. Language schools are generally associated with universities, which offer their library services, clubs, social events, and often the opportunity to enrol in university courses for credits. Taiwanese people are incredibly friendly, and Taiwan's open, multicultural society feels familiar as an Australian.

We all learn best at our own pace, and in our own ways. I tend towards a more traditional approach to language learning: getting immersed in the native environment, speaking as much as possible, and not relying too much on technology. That can be hard in a digital age, but it's worth the effort. That said, some resources and strategies can be helpful to push you through to the next level.

For beginners, using flashcards will allow you to memorise and revise effectively, flashcard apps can help you keep track of your studying schedule. If you're still in Australia - or stuck in lockdown - but want to try out the native language environment, virtual worlds such as [Chinese Island](#), developed by the Chinese Studies Department at Monash University, can help you to do so.

For intermediate and advanced students, I found that using a Mandarin dictionary for native speakers helped me to start thinking in Mandarin, and understanding the language on its own terms, independent of my mother tongue. I use the [MOE Online Mengdian Dictionary \(萌典\)](#), as it is based on the Ministry of Education's Guoyu Dictionary and is easy to navigate.

If you're preparing for advanced exams such as the TOCFL Level 5-6, it's best to get a grasp of your strengths and weaknesses. If you're in Taiwan, register for the pre-test (預試) and see how you go. It's relatively inexpensive and you sometimes get a souvenir for completing it! While preparing for the Level 5 exam, I knew that my listening comprehension was not up to scratch, so each day after class I would listen to Taiwanese public news for an hour or two, without looking at any visual material, and after a few months the results were clear.

My first professor always stressed that learning Mandarin shouldn't be rushed, and it can't be crammed. The first record in the Analects, written by the disciples of Confucius, says: "To learn and then practice time and again, isn't that also a kind of joy?" (學而時習之，不亦說乎). Settling into your own learning pace, reflecting on your progress and balancing discipline with unbridled curiosity can be key in the long run.

**"Taiwan is a great place to study Mandarin, for students of any level. I tend towards a more traditional approach to language learning: getting immersed in the native environment, speaking as much as possible, and not relying too much on technology. That can be hard in a digital age, but it's worth the effort", said Ben Fisher.**





## HIGHLIGHTS FROM LEARNING MANDARIN PLUS A TAIWANESE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

BY EDUCATION DIVISION  
TECO IN AUSTRALIA

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia collaborates with the Taiwanese Association of Canberra, Australia (TACA) Mandarin School to host two sets of language and cultural experience classes for students and adults in August and October.

The first term is set on the theme of Taiwan's beloved food culture while the second term focuses on the way of everyday living. It's open for Mandarin language learners age 16 and up at beginner and intermediate levels in Canberra.

One of the highlights of this course is the pre-commercial cultural materials acquired through collaboration with Taiwan's young designers and Shang Hsin tea room in Dadaocheng.

As the oldest district in Taipei city known for gathering talents of local artisans, Dadaocheng remains an inspiration to young creators that many old fashion stores are keen to renew their products and services to be more approachable.

*Beauty's New Trick* (美人新計) was originally created in 2019 an award winning Taiwan design for tea packaging. Young designers used anime/manga style to tell the story of Formosa tea. Yet it integrates a sense of modernity into Taiwan's tea-drinking traditions with a twist to refashion the healing power of Chinese herbs.

Manga, the Japanese illustration style popularised by animations has seeped into the pop culture of Taiwanese youngsters over the last 5 decades. The use of animated characters as product mascots has been a growing trend, for instance, Taiwan's historical city Tainan used manga icons - Xiaoman & Sway-Shin to take tourists sightseeing its historical landmarks and heritage sites.

Here in Canberra you will see that signature manga style applied to tea packaging. To combine the tea packaging and enjoyment of selected tea as a unique cultural and visual experience, participants will have the chance to taste the freshness of Taiwanese tea accompanying a demonstration of tea serving and etiquette.

Apart from tea tasting, 5 classes of term 1 will gradually introduce Taiwan's food culture from traditional eateries to convenience store; recipes will be shared to learners to recreate authentic tastes at home. Participants will learn how to communicate in Mandarin on the Taiwanese food culture and everyday life through activities such as tea tasting, trying snacks, making flip books, tile coasters etc.

To conclude term 1 in September during the mid-autumn festival celebration, stories of the moon festival will be presented with a variety of cakes to enjoy which are custom baked by a Canberra based Taiwanese bakery.

For more information and register at the QR code or the link <https://sites.google.com/view/learning-mandarin-with-taca>

Photo credit: Islander Design Taiwan  
Designers of *Beauty's New Trick*: Zhang Chen-Yu, Chen Ying-Ting, Xu Ya-Xiong, Chung Yu-Huan.



Register

**Experiential language classes for people who want to learn Taiwanese culture and have conversations on selected topics in Mandarin in a small class. It is scheduled to take place every Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm from 21 Aug. to 6 Nov. at the Alliance Francaise, 66 McCaughey St, Turner ACT 2612.**



The upcoming August meetup is scheduled to take place on 25 August at ANU campus. "Cultural Shocks experienced in Taiwan" written by Sam Wade (HES alumni 2019) was shared for discussion.

## TSA & TAIWAN ALUMNI NETWORK MEETUP IN JUNE

BY EDUCATION DIVISION  
TECO IN AUSTRALIA

On 25th June, Taiwan and HES alumni network meetup was held by ANU Taiwanese Students Association (TSA). In total 12 took part, 8 TSA members and 4 alumni.

The article *10 REASONS WHY FOREIGNERS LOVE TAIWAN* by Wes Davies, a Canadian educator living in Taiwan, was selected by alumni Alex Green as a reading piece before our meet up. A bilingually subtitled video clip came with the article by [Davies's Youtube channel](#) which took us into Taiwan's daily life from a foreign national's point of view.

There're 10 reasons listed by Davies included: motorcycles, the beauty of natural scenery, various markets and food culture, rich heritage, economic living cost, safety, the hospitality of Taiwanese people, the convenience of transportation, convenience stores and a free space where everyone can be themselves.

Both TSA members and alumni shared their personal journeys in learning Mandarin language and the cultural differences they observed between Australia and Taiwan, with a particular interest on the topic of Australia's Aboriginal people, Taiwan's Indigenous people, history and their livelihood.

In 2019, as a college graduate, Sam Wade received MOE Huayu Enrichment Scholarship and spent his gap year on a language learning journey to Taiwan. "I really value that I have had that life experience; being able to see the world before my study at the ANU" he said. "On my very first day in Taipei, I walked down the street and noticed people were conversing in an unfamiliar language - Taiwanese, for which I was overwhelmed by how diverse the culture and society were."

Many recipients who arrive in Taiwan are not knowledgeable about its culture. *Cultural Shocks Experienced in Taiwan* written by Sam certainly sums up his navigation of the island and many encounters with the locals.

Sam's article will be the next piece for everyone to read before the August's network meetup.



**The task of the Education Division of TECO in Australia is to facilitate cooperation between Taiwan and Australia in the areas of education.**

Education Division  
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office  
(TECO) in Australia  
Address: Unit 5, 40 Blackall Street,  
Barton, ACT 2600, Australia  
Phone: +61 (0) 2 6120 1021/  
6120 1022/6120 1023  
Email: Australia@mail.moe.gov.tw

