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[\[Education\]\[International Exchanges\] Foreign Student Numbers in Taiwan Almost Double since 2007](#)

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Taipei Times (2012/01/22) The number of foreign students pursuing formal academic degrees in Taiwan has increased significantly in the past four years, with the number of foreign undergraduates almost doubling, according to new statistics released by the Ministry of Education.

For foreign students, the most popular disciplines are banking and finance, business administration, information technology, science and engineering, the statistics show.

Bureau of International Cultural and Educational Relations director Wen-tong LIN (林文通) said students from India are the most noteworthy, as 90 percent of them were pursuing doctorates in chemistry or chemical engineering.

In the last academic year, more than 550 of the 1,497 foreign nationals pursuing doctorates in Taiwan were Indian and an overwhelming majority of them were chemistry or chemical engineering majors, LIN said.

According to the ministry's statistics, the number of foreign undergraduate students increased to 4,847 in the last academic year, from 2,454 in 2007, when figures for foreign students were last published.

The number of foreign students pursuing master's degrees also rose from 2,033 to 3,603 in the same period, while the number of doctoral degree candidates more than doubled to 1,497, from 743.

One of the government's major educational policies has been to try to attract more foreign students, LIN said, adding that the ministry looks forward to seeing the number of students who come from abroad to pursue academic degrees or conduct short-term study programs increase to 130,000 by 2020, from 48,000 in the last academic year.

At present, Southeast Asian nations are the top source of expatriate students pursuing formal academic degrees, while those from China form the bulk of exchange students in short-term study programs.

LIN said students from different countries tend to have different favorite academic disciplines. For instance, students from Southeast Asian nations mostly study banking, finance and business administration.

A breakdown by nationality showed that students from Vietnam tend to study international trade and Thais focus on -pursuing MBAs. Students from Indonesia and Malaysia are mostly ethnic Chinese who opt for the humanities, social sciences, journalism or mass communication.

In contrast, students from the US are mostly interested in studying Chinese language and culture. Japanese students also like to study the humanities and social sciences.

Because Taiwan plays an important role in the global information technology industry, LIN said, an increasing number of young students from eastern European countries such as Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic have traveled to Taiwan to pursue academic degrees.

Local tertiary education institutions recruited 200 students from Russia after they took part in an education fair in Moscow last year, LIN said.

"We are considering organizing a delegation of local universities to hold education fairs in major eastern European countries to attract more of their young people to study in Taiwan, as part of efforts to expand our education market," he added.

Reference:

[Taipei Times 2012/01/22](#)

[National Science Council International Cooperation Sci-Tech Newsbrief](#)

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