Taiwan MOE - Washington University Fellowship Program
Partnering to Educate Doctoral Students Since 2012

Washington University in St. Louis and the Taiwan Ministry of Education (MOE) will be continuing their partnership to attract and educate highly talented students for their PhD.

Since 2012, the Taiwan MOE-WashU fellowship program has supported 52 PhD students in a range of programs such as biomedical sciences, engineering and applied sciences, and various social sciences. The Taiwan MOE has provided half of the tuition and fellowship funding, and Washington University has provided the other half. After graduation, the students have gone on to positions in academia, industry and government across the world.

The results?

Since the program started, the partnership led to a 40% increase in applications from Taiwanese students to attend Washington University to pursue PhD degrees.

The continued success of this program is reflected in the career trajectory of its alumni. Three graduates have already returned to academic positions in Taiwan. Wan-Jung Chueng, a McDonnell Scholar from National Taiwan University received her PhD in economics and is currently an assistant research fellow/assistant professor at the Institute of Economics at Academia Sinica in Taiwan. Washington University graduate student Chao Wang received his PhD in computer science and is an assistant professor in the department of computer science & information at National Taiwan Normal University. Other students have become faculty members and post docs at universities in the United States, including Harvard, California Institute of Technology, and Washington University. Alumni hold meaningful roles in industry and government. Kuan-Yu Michael Shen is a research engineer at Intel Corporation and Hsun-Chia Hsu is a scientist at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

One of the key impacts to the success of the program is the McDonnell International Scholars Academy. This unique institution was launched by Washington University in 2006 to support top international graduate students and to facilitate collaborations with international universities. Over its 15 year history, the McDonnell Academy has enrolled more than 25 students from Taiwan as McDonnell Scholars, and more than 20 of these students were also MOE fellows. The McDonnell Academy provides leadership training, along with the opportunity to develop relationships with students from across the globe. Beyond its support of students, the McDonnell Academy fosters strategic partnerships with international institutions, including National Taiwan University and National Chiao Tung University. Washington University faculty with deep ties to Taiwan, such as Prof. Tuan-Hua David Ho and Prof. Jr-Shin Li, serve as ‘ambassadors’ to help advance this mission.

The McDonnell Academy is a key mechanism developed by Washington University to support the success of international education and research.

We’ve grown our community of supporters and spread the word further about the importance of our mission. I can truly say we have new donors and champions out there now because of the sustained impact of our continued partnerships around the world.”

Vijay Ramani
Vice Provost for Graduate Education and International Affairs
Executive Director, McDonnell International Scholars Academy
Washington University in St. Louis
Stronger Partnerships

By the Numbers

Given the track record of success of the Taiwan MOE/WashU Fellowship, the program will be extended for five more years (2022-2027). This involves admitting up to 5 new fellows each year with students supported for up to 4 years. The MOE and WashU will share the cost of supporting the students' tuition and living expenses.

40% Increase
Taiwanese PhD Candidates to WashU from start of partnership

Tuition & Stipend Support
for 20 Students per Year

5 Year Extension
Taiwan MOE/WashU Fellowship Program