

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN AND TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

March 23, 2022 – The American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) is proud to announce a new partnership with Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) to expand the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program on Taiwan. This partnership will provide 55 additional scholarships for U.S. undergraduate students to study and/or intern for academic credit on Taiwan through the Gilman Program, including study of the Mandarin language under the Critical Need Language Award (CNLA) over the next five years. The award allows exceptional American students from accredited U.S. higher education institutions to strengthen their skills and expand their education experiences while living and learning on Taiwan.

The Gilman Program, funded by the U.S. Government, expands the U.S. population that studies and interns abroad by providing scholarships to approximately 3,000 outstanding U.S. undergraduate students annually who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise have this opportunity. Since the Gilman Program's inception in 2001, more than 34,000 Gilman Scholars, representing all U.S. states and territories, have studied or interned in over 155 countries and territories around the globe.

The additional funding for the Gilman-Taiwan partnership supports a wider effort between the United States and Taiwan to increase and diversify international student mobility among Taiwanese and American higher education institutions. Gilman Alumnus Daniel Oliveira, who studied on Taiwan in 2018 said, "There is a large international presence in Taiwan, and the people are kind, engaged, and considerate of foreigners."

"The opportunity to study abroad is transformational for the students and is also a critical way to build international understanding between cultures and people. I am proud that AIT is playing a role in helping the Gilman-Taiwan program grow, providing more students an opportunity to learn Mandarin and live on Taiwan," said Ingrid Larson, Managing Director of AIT's Washington headquarters.

"We are glad to expand the Gilman program and provide more opportunities for American students to study in Taiwan, which offers a free and culturally diverse environment. The exchanges between the young students will further strengthen the close ties between Taiwan and the United States," said Bi-Khim Hsiao, the Representative of TECRO.

Taiwan joins the German Academic Exchange Service, Portugal's Luso-American Development Foundation and the governments of New Zealand, Wales, France, and Israel, whose generous support for the Gilman Program increases and diversifies U.S. student mobility to these locations.

The Gilman Scholarship application will open in mid-August 2022 for applicants whose in-person programs or internships start between December 1, 2022, to October 31, 2023. Applications are due by October 4, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time. Visit <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/> for details. The Gilman Program is a

program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) with funding provided by the U.S. government and is supported in its implementation by IIE.

*The **American Institute in Taiwan** serves as a liaison with its counterpart organization, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO), as well as with U.S. government agencies.*

*The **U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' (ECA)** mission is to build relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, professional and private exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships and mentoring programs. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States. ECA programs, funding and other activities encourage the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Artists, educators, athletes, students, youth and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries around the globe participate in academic, cultural, sports and professional exchanges. For more information about ECA programs, initiatives and achievements, visit eca.state.gov.*

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