

移民到美國

Prepared by T.A. Archives

從 1950 年以來，到美國移民一直是許多台灣人追求的梦想，尤其早期經濟及政治情況非常低靡時，許多人用不同方法來到美國定居，成為美國人，這些人稱為台美人。其中最大多數是台灣的大學畢業生，申請到美國研究所就讀。1970 至 1990 年是高峰期，每年平均有 28,000 名台灣學生在美國就讀研究所。大約每年有 8000 新生，平均就讀三至四年。台灣曾是來美國留學人數最多的國家。大部分的學生在畢業後選擇留在美國，經由他們的專業能力獲得留在美國的合法身份。在 1971 年至 1991 年，只有約 20% 的學生畢業後就回台灣。

申請美國留學的學生必須通過托福和其他考試，如 GRE 等來證明英文及專科能力，如果沒有得到獎學金需要提供學費和生活費的財力證明。通過後，學校將發給資格證書（I-20 表格或 DS-2019）讓學生來申請 F-1 或其他簽證。理工科學生，尤其是直攻博士學位，較容易獲得美國學校提供的全額獎學金或助學金，就不需要保證金。在 1953 年至 1975 年，台灣政府要求沒有取得獎學金的學生要通過留學考試才能出國。。

在 1970 年代，獎學金的津貼約為 \$200 到 \$250 元左右，足以支付生活費用，如省吃簡用，還能匯錢給在台的家人。早期台灣與美國經濟落差很大，沒獎學金的，很少家庭有足夠的積蓄付得起美國的學費，許多學生從親戚或朋友借錢來做財力證明，來美國後，在學期間准許在校園裡打工，暑假期間，移民局給予在校外工作的許可證。許多人在餐館、渡假村等工作整個暑假，能夠賺夠支付他們一年的學費和生活費用，還可能寄錢回台灣償還他們出國前累積的債務。

台灣政府每年舉行政府獎學金考試，給幾個得分最高的學生全額獎學金，但需要畢業後回國服務。因此，大多數公費學生返台服務。1961 年，台灣行政院國家科學委員會，開始贊助大學和研究機構的學者到國外留學。從 1961 年到 1995 年，大約有 5000 學者得到這種補助金，大多數返回原來的機構服務。

在早期，台灣政府要求學生的配偶需等幾個月，甚至一、兩年才能申請依親到美國。有些學生因為家庭背景，政府刁難不准出國，或要求找擔保人簽署保證學生在國外的行為後，才准出國留學。早期（可能 1980 以前），台灣政府要求要有特定理由，如留學或公務等才能申請護照，觀光或探親是不准出國的，所以很多在台灣的父母無法來美國參加子女的婚禮。

移民的第二群是台美人的直系親屬。在美國給予台灣每年二萬移民名額後，很多配偶，父母，兄弟姐妹都能申請移居美國。由於中國共產黨的威脅，許多人對台灣的未來沒有安全感，也為了讓孩子得到更好的教育，許多人選擇放棄在台灣的工作，搬到不同語言和生活習慣的國家，從零開始非常艱苦的生活。這群人大多數在台灣已經有了自己的專業，但因為不是在美國接受訓練，和英語能力有限，許多人只能找到退而求其次的工作。許多人轉行經營旅館、餐廳、東方雜貨店、洗衣店或冰淇淋店。有些人為了保持在台灣的良好就業機會，只送單親來美國照顧孩子，過著一家兩地，空中飛人的生活。

第三群的移民是在台灣開放觀光護照後，用觀光簽證到美國小學或中學唸書的學生。這些人寄住在親戚、朋友家，或寄宿學校。在觀光簽證到期之後，如果選擇留在美國，這些人成為非法居留的外國人，不敢離開美國，因為美國不會准許他們再入境。根據台灣法律，所有男性需要服兵役。男孩超過 12 歲到服兵役前，不准離開台灣。許多男孩因此趕在 12 歲前到美國，面對語言、文化、生活習慣的調適，以及青春期的挑戰，如果沒有父母在身邊，是非常辛苦的。這些男生也怕服兵役而不敢回台灣。這些非

法居留的人，大多數能在移民律師的幫助下取得他們的移民身份。差不多是 1990 年以後，台灣政府允許學生只要他們獲得學生簽證，在兵役法允許的範圍內，可以出國上大學，高中或小學。

第四群為投資移民。這類的台灣人經濟條件比較好，大部分也是為子女的教育和擔心台灣的不穩定，配合美國投資移民的要求，要有一定數額的資金及提供美國人的就業機會。

第五群是移民到其他國家，並成為他們的公民。然後經由該國的移民配額或其他管道移民到美國。美國常是台灣人移民的第一志願，但它要求的條件相對較其他國家高。因為某些因素，有些台灣人想要在短時間移民到外國，常常退而求其次，申請到其他國家。有的等一段時間後，找到適當的機會，申請到美國。

第六群經由與美國人結婚，如台美人回台結婚，或與在台工作的美國人結婚。早期留學生多數是男性，在拿到學位，在美國找到工作後，要找台灣人結婚，只有回台灣找。那時，有許多人利用幾個星期的假期，事先要媒婆安排，每天一兩個相親，兩週內結婚。

第七群為美國需求的專業人士，如國際有名的學者、職業運動員或醫療專業人士，如醫生、護士，或是擁有在美國不容易找的特殊技能，像是東方飯店的廚師等。

第八群由台灣公司派遣到美國分公司工作。有些想留在美國的人，也可經由不同管道申請到合法居留權。

第九群是台灣政府在美國辦事處的工作人員。有些人也可用他們的公務申請到合法居留權。

第十群是政治難民。少數台灣人，因為政治理念不同，受台灣政府迫害，得以從美國政府獲得政治庇護。

第十一群是以出生在美國來得到美國公民權。有些父母為了要孩子取得美國籍，特地安排母親在小孩出生前以觀光簽證進入美國，讓出生的孩子自動獲得美國籍。

第十二群是以非法管道進入美國，如商業船隻的船員在美國港口跳船。非法居留的外國人，大都能夠經由移民律師的幫助取得居留權??。

Immigrant to America

Since 1950, Taiwanese have been coming to America and settled as Americans, called Taiwanese Americans. Emigration to America had been a big dream and with great efforts for lots of Taiwanese, especially during the earlier period in our history when the economy in Taiwan was depressed. There were many different reasons and routes for Taiwanese coming to America.

The first and largest group were students graduated from universities and colleges in Taiwan coming to America for graduate studies.

During the peak period, 1970 to 1990, there were about 28,000 Taiwanese students studying in the graduate school in America every year. There were about 8,000 new students coming per year, studying for three to four years in average. Taiwan had been the country with the highest number of students in the U. S. for many years. The majority of those students chose to stay in America after completed the advance studies, acquired legal status to stay in America thru their professions. During 1971 to 1991, there were only about 20% returned to Taiwan after graduated.

Most students applying to study in America had to pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or other tests required by the graduate schools in America. If accepted without scholarship, a proof of adequate financial support for studies and living expenses would be required. Many families borrowed money from relatives or friends to provide the adequate supports. The school would then issue a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or DS-2019) for applying Student Visa (F-1), Exchange Visitor Visa (J-1), Visitor's Visa (B-2) and Business Visitor (B-1). The majority got the F-1 Visa.

Many science and engineering students, especially Ph.D. candidates, were able to get full scholarship or assistantship from American schools which would pay their tuitions and living allowance. In the 1970's, the allowance was about \$250 per month, enough to pay living expense, and some even saved for sending back to their families.

During 1953-1975, Taiwanese government required students without scholarship to pass a Study Abroad Examination (留學考試). Most students without scholarship were allowed to work in campus during the school days, and had working permit during summer vacation when they could work off campus. Many worked in restaurants, resorts, etc. Most students were able to earn enough to pay their tuition and living expense, and save enough to pay their debt when their family borrowed money for their travel expense and the required financial support.

The Taiwanese government held a government scholarship examination annually to give a few highest scored students full scholarship which requires homeland service after graduation. So, most of these students returned back to Taiwan. In 1961, Taiwan's National Science Council started sponsoring scholars from universities and research institutes to go abroad to study. From 1961 to 1995, there were about 5,000 scholars received these grants, mostly returned to their institutes to serve, too.

In the earlier years, the spouses of these students were not allowed to go aboard with them. There were a one to two year waiting period. The government also required some warrantors to sign a document to guarantee a student would behave according to its guidelines. Some students, because of their family background, were not allowed to study abroad.

The second group of immigrants were the direct relatives of Taiwanese Americans. With the immigration quota 20,000 a year, granted to the people with origin from Taiwan, many parents, siblings, wives, and husbands of Taiwanese Americans emigrated here. The primary reason for families to give up their comfortable lives in Taiwan and to start from ground zero with very hardship lives was for their children to get better education. Most people already had their profession trained in Taiwan. Finding a good job without being trained in America, and limited English proficiency, many ended up taking a less challenge/fulfillment job. In order to keep their good jobs in Taiwan, some sent one of the parents to America to take care of their children and began many years of family separation and lives of 空中飛人. Another main reason was the uncertainty of Taiwan's future, threatening by the Communist China.

The third group were young students coming to study in elementary or high schools via visiting visa. Some stayed with their family friends, relatives or boarding schools. After the expiration of their visiting visa, if they chose to stay in the U.S., they became illegal aliens and dared not to leave America because they may not be allowed to come back. According to Taiwanese law, all males are required to serve in the military. Boys older than 12 years old were not allowed to leave Taiwan without serving in the military. Many boys came to America right before age 12 and facing difficult life adjustment while going through critical adolescent years. Most of them eventually legalized their immigration status with the help from immigration lawyers. In the later years, maybe after 1990, Taiwanese government allowed students go aboard for colleges, high schools or elementary schools as long as they get a student Visa and fulfill the military requirements.

The fourth group were thru business investment. The well-to-do Taiwanese, also with the primary reasons for the education of their children and the political instability, invested in businesses that fulfill the requirements of certain investment amounts and number of jobs created for Americans. There had been some high tech companies set up from these, but mostly in business of hotels, restaurants,

The fifth group were emigrated to other countries where the immigration requirements were easier to meet and became their citizens. Then, immigrated to America under the quota of that country or other channels. There were very 盛行 during 1970? to 1990? when the economy and security conditions were worse.

The sixth group were thru the marriage with Americans, such as marrying to T. A. who returned to Taiwan for their wives after obtained their advance degrees or married to American students, diplomats and servicemen stationed in Taiwan. There were more Taiwanese male students than females in the earlier period, and most people feel more comfortable marrying to their own ethnicity . So during this period, many made trips back to Taiwan, arranging many match making appointments, some even top to hundred, and got married within weeks. The newly wed spouse would go through a waiting period before allowed to move out of Taiwan.

The seventh group were thru the shortage of professionals in America, such as medical professionals, doctors, nurses and special skills, like chefs for oriental restaurants.

The eighth group is sending by their companies to work in the subsidiaries of their companies in the U. S.. Then, some of those people decided to stay here, eventually obtaining their legal resident visa.

The ninth group is the people working for the oversea offices of Taiwan Government in the U. S.. Some of them decided to stay in the U. S. during their official duty period and eventually obtain their legal resident visa.

The tenth group is political refugees from Taiwan. They obtained political asylum from U. S. government

The eleventh group is the people born here while their mother coming to America with visitor's visa. They automatically obtain their citizenship.

The twelfth group is the people thru illegal channels entering to America, such as sailors or passengers, jumping from commercial ships in the U. S. seaports. Some of those illegal aliens were able to resolve their residual problem thru the help of immigration lawyers later.

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Photos:



Departing from Taiwan 要離開台灣



1960年，與同學黃東昇(左二)、陳隆志(右二)同班機離台，羅福全(中)前往日本早稻田大學，黃陳兩人遠赴美國留學。



Mei-Fun Tsai with her mother and sister in 松山機場

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