

Encouraging International Students to Stay in Taiwan – Special Education Programs for International Industry Professionals (New Program) Implementation Plan

I. Purpose of the Initiative

To respond to Taiwan’s low birth rate, meet the increasing demand of industries for mid- and high-level technical talent, and enhance the structure of human resources in Taiwan, the Ministry of Education (the “MOE”) has launched the “Promoting International Students to Stay in Taiwan - International Industry Talents Education Special Program” (INTENSE Program) in support of the **“Strengthening Population and Immigration Policies”** program. Focusing on the demands of enterprises, this initiative aims to encourage colleges/universities to increase the enrollment of international students and enhance the incentives for top-tier international students to study and establish their careers in Taiwan after graduation. The goal is to facilitate the influx of high-caliber talent into Taiwan.

II. The INTENSE Program Benefits

The INTENSE Program is a new program launched to support Taiwan’s population policies and meet the increasing industry demand for talent. Regarding its mode of promotion and operational mechanism, it exhibits the following benefits:

1. **Industries and colleges/universities, oriented toward industry demand, collaboratively select and cultivate students.** The INTENSE Program was launched to meet the talent demands of Taiwan’s industries. By entering into an industry-university cooperation agreement, colleges/universities and enterprises travel abroad to select excellent local students. These students will be offered customized courses jointly developed by enterprises and colleges/universities. They will be taught jointly by teachers from colleges/universities and professionals from enterprises if necessary. The INTENSE Program ensures the active participation of enterprises throughout the entire process, ranging from student selection and admission, curriculum development, and teaching activities to internships. The goal is to collaboratively cultivate and retain talent.

2. **Government and industry collaboratively channel resources to increase incentives for international students to study and work in Taiwan.** To attract excellent students worldwide to Taiwan for further study and employment, **the National Development Fund, Executive Yuan**, offers an industry-university fellowship (“Fellowship”) to students enrolled in the INTENSE Program. The Fellowship covers necessary administrative expenses associated with students’ first arrival in Taiwan, a one-way plane ticket, and a maximum of two-year tuition and miscellaneous fees. Furthermore, enterprises will offer each student a monthly living allowance of more than NTD10,000.
3. **The INTENSE Program incorporates a mechanism for post-graduation employment in Taiwan for students to channel sufficient talent into the corresponding industries at a faster pace.** Being granted scholarships and grants from the government and enterprises throughout their studies, students enrolled in the two-year INTENSE Program shall fulfill a designated period of employment in Taiwan after graduation. Enterprises that have participated in the program shall be given priority in employing these students to meet their demands for mid- to high-level talent.

III. The INTENSE Program Fields and Types

1. Fields of operation

- 1) The INTENSE Program involves fields including science, technology, engineering, and math (“STEM”), finance, and semiconductors to support Taiwan’s population policies, industrial layout, and technological upgrades of Taiwan’s industries.
- 2) College/University departments and graduate schools that apply to offer the INTENSE Program shall be those specializing in STEM, finance, or semiconductors. The STEM field refers to disciplines classified under “05 Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics,” “06 Information and communication technologies,” and “07 Engineering, manufacturing and construction,” according to the “Standard Classification of Disciplines of Colleges and Universities” released by the Department of Statistics of the MOE (<https://stats.moe.gov.tw/bcode/>).

2. The INTENSE Program Types

Prospective students of the INTENSE Programs may include enrolled students from foreign universities, graduates from foreign colleges, and graduates from foreign universities. The types of INTENSE Programs are detailed as follows:

- 1) Joint bachelor's degree program: Prospective students of this program include students from partner institutions, who, upon one or two years of study at a university in Taiwan (internships included or added), will earn two bachelor's degrees, one from a foreign university and one from a university in Taiwan. This program's modes of operation may include:
 - (1) Two years of study at a foreign university + two years at a university in Taiwan.
 - (2) Three years of study at a foreign university + one year at a university in Taiwan.
- 2) Two-year bachelor's degree program: This program is open to graduates from foreign colleges and students who have already enrolled in a foreign university for two years. Upon two-year study in Taiwan (internships included or added), students will be awarded a bachelor's degree by a university in Taiwan. This program's modes of operation may include:
 - (1) Graduation from a foreign college + two-year study at a university in Taiwan (including two-year technical programs).
 - (2) Two-year study at a foreign university + two-year study at a university in Taiwan (including two-year technical programs).
- 3) Two-year postgraduate program: This program enrolls graduates from foreign universities, who, after two years of study at a university in Taiwan, will earn a bachelor's degree from a university in Taiwan. This program's modes of operation may include:

Graduation from a foreign university + two-year postgraduate study in Taiwan.
- 4) Master's and doctoral degree programs (or joint degree programs): Prospective students, including graduates and candidates for master's or doctoral degrees from foreign universities, are enrolled in special or mixed programs with local students. After completing their study at graduate schools in Taiwan, these students will earn a master's or doctoral degree from a university in Taiwan. This program's modes of operation may

include:

- (1) Graduation from a foreign university + a master's degree granted by a graduate school in Taiwan.
- (2) Graduation from a foreign master's degree program + a doctoral degree granted by a graduate school in Taiwan.
- (3) Enrolled candidates for a foreign master's/doctoral degree + a master's/doctoral degree granted by a graduate school in Taiwan (joint degrees).

IV. The INTENSE Program Application Requirements

1. Application requirements for colleges/universities

Public and private colleges/universities in Taiwan that meet the following conditions are eligible to apply:

- 1) Having established departments or graduate schools specializing in fields such as STEM, finance, or semiconductors.
- 2) Having established stable partnerships with foreign institutions while possessing extensive experience in overseas admissions and talent cultivation through industry-university cooperation.
- 3) Having entered into an industry-university cooperation agreement regarding talent cultivation with collaborating enterprises aligned with the industry demands for talent whereby the collaborating enterprises promise to provide each student within the INTENSE Program with a minimum monthly living allowance of NTD10,000 throughout their study and with an internship allowance no less than their basic salary throughout their internship.
- 4) Not included as colleges/universities under early warning or special guidance according to Articles 5 and 6 of the *Act Governing the Closure of Private Educational Institutions at Senior Secondary or Higher Level*, and not being fully or partially prohibited by the MOE from admitting foreign students.
- 5) "The admitting department or discipline (excluding graduate schools or degree programs) was established before the academic year 2023 (inclusive);" The college/university admissions quota has not been adjusted due to its failure to comply with the requirements for teacher qualifications in the *Standards for the Overall Scale and Resource Conditions of Junior*

Colleges and Institutions of Higher Education; The college/university is not under continuous supervision or has passed the inspection according to the *Directions Governing the Protection of Students' Right to Education by Junior Colleges and Institutions of Higher Education*.

- 6) The admitting department or graduate school has passed the most recent evaluation of the validity period.

2. Countries and sources of students regarding admission

- 1) The INTENSE Program is open to students from all countries. However, admitting colleges/universities shall prioritize countries that supply a continual source of international students, countries with which they have cooperated in specific programs, or countries with significant potential for student recruitment.
- 2) Regarding cooperation, admitting colleges/universities shall prioritize foreign colleges/universities recommended by the overseas missions of the MOE (see the attachment for details). If a student is not from any of the recommended colleges/universities, the admitting college/university shall provide proof, including the local rankings of the college/university it cooperates with, the rankings of the department or graduate school, the student's academic performance, and the high school where the student graduated. This proof will serve as a basis for the review and approval by the MOE of the Fellowship offered to the student by the National Development Fund.

3. Student enrollment qualifications

The prospective college/university shall set standards for selective admission for the INTENSE Program to ensure that the admitted students meet the government's requirements for recipients of scholarships and grants.

- 1) Students shall meet the requirements of the *Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan*, the *Regulations Regarding Study and Counseling Assistance for Overseas Chinese Students in Taiwan*, and the *Regulations Regarding Hong Kong and Macao Residents Undertaking Studies in Taiwan*.
- 2) Students and graduates from foreign colleges/universities recommended by the overseas missions of the MOE shall be given priority.
- 3) Admitted students shall exhibit above-average academic performance

throughout their university studies, including their performance during their studies, final academic results, and rankings in the class or department.

4) Language proficiency:

(1) Applicants for programs taught in Chinese shall pass the basic level of the Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (“TOCFL”) (Level 2, equivalent to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages [“CEFR”] A2), with their listening and reading skills reaching at least A2 (inclusive) (reaching at least B1 [inclusive] by the second year of enrollment).

(2) Applicants for programs taught in English shall pass at least the CEFR B1 (inclusive) (by the second year of their enrollment, the students shall pass the basic level of the TOCFL [Level 2, equivalent to CEFR A2], with their listening and reading skills reaching at least A2 [inclusive]).

4. Requirements for collaborating enterprises: The collaborating enterprises shall not be Chinese-funded.

V. INTENSE Program Course Planning

1. Class size

- 1) To ensure high-quality instruction, each program is limited to a maximum of 30 students per class. The minimum class size is determined jointly by the college/university and the collaborating enterprise. However, students within the INTENSE Program shall not be placed with local students for instruction. Programs in different departments, graduate schools, or with different lengths must not be merged. **The master’s and doctoral degree programs (or joint degree programs) may choose not to operate as special programs but instead, merge with programs for local students.**
- 2) Students within each program may comprise talent desired by collaborating enterprises in the same field. Students may hold different nationalities, but the language used for instruction shall be the same and be specified in the admissions brochure.

2. Curriculum design

- 1) The college/university shall collaborate with the industry to plan customized courses. If necessary, the industry shall invite industry professionals to give lectures, ensuring students are equipped with skills

desired by the industry.

- 2) The college/university shall arrange Chinese language support courses to facilitate students' adaption to life in Taiwan and enhance their learning outcomes.
- 3) To equip students with the capabilities necessary for future career development, the college/university may partner with the collaborating enterprise to plan off-campus internship sessions. Students' performance shall be jointly assessed by the college/university and the collaborating enterprise:
 - (1) To ensure students' learning outcomes of the specialized courses, off-campus internship sessions shall begin during or after the third semester of enrollment and **be implemented in Taiwan.**
 - (2) The college/university shall negotiate with the collaborating enterprise regarding the content of the internship session, including the practical tasks and objectives and credits for developing corresponding skills. Sessions shall be planned in alignment with the development and teaching goals of the major of the department or graduate school.
 - (3) The college/university shall enter into a written contract with the collaborating enterprise in accordance with the *Implementation Measures for Collaboration of Junior Colleges and Institutions of Higher Education with Industries*. The contract shall specify the ceiling on the internship allowance provided by the enterprise during the internship, the assessment method for students' internship outcomes, and a range of rights and obligations, such as internship adaptation guidance for students and internship termination.

3. Credits required for graduation

- 1) Joint degree programs (including bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs): According to Article 4.2 of the *Regulations Regarding the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Academic Credentials for Institutions of Higher Education*, the assessment and recognition of foreign academic credentials require that the foreign college/university shall be consistent with its counterpart in Taiwan regarding length of study and course requirements. Furthermore, under Articles 6.5 and 6.6 of the regulations (summarized), for students enrolled in programs under the

international academic cooperation model, the total number of credits completed by students at universities in Taiwan and overseas shall exceed one-third of the total credits required for degree conferral.

- 2) Two-year bachelor's degree program: Upon completing the stipulated length of study, students shall complete 72 credits required. Those with internship sessions will be granted a bachelor's degree after accomplishing their internship, meeting the graduation requirements, and passing the assessment.
- 3) Master's and doctoral degree programs: Credit requirements shall be governed by the *Degree Conferral Act* and the relevant regulations of the college/university.

VI. Principles for the Fellowship Offered by the National Development Fund

If students meet the conditions for applying for the INTENSE Program and are selected and admitted by the college/university and the collaborating enterprise, they will be eligible for the Fellowship offered by the National Development Fund upon approval. However, recipients of other scholarships and grants the Taiwanese government offers shall not apply. The principles for subsidized items, ceilings, obligations of recipients, and principles for return are presented below:

1. Subsidized items and ceilings

- 1) Necessary administrative expenses associated with students' first arrival in Taiwan: A one-time subsidy covering the costs of health check-ups, visa fees, and document legalization fees incurred before students come to Taiwan; Ceilings on subsidies are granted in terms of region: NTD 10,000 for New Southbound countries and other countries and NTD 25,000 for countries in Europe and the US (verified before disbursement).
- 2) Colleges/universities shall verify the receipts with the students and calculate the amount based on the exchange rate of the New Taiwan dollar to the US dollar released by the Bank of Taiwan on the day the receipt was issued.
- 3) One-way plane ticket to Taiwan: A one-time subsidy, which shall be

claimed as the one-way economy class ticket for the most direct flight to Taiwan as proof; Ceilings: NTD 9,000 for New Southbound countries and NTD 35,000 for countries in Europe and the US (verified before disbursement). Colleges/universities shall verify the receipts with the students and calculate the amount based on the New Taiwan dollar exchange rate to the US dollar released by the Bank of Taiwan on the day the receipt was issued.

- 4) A maximum of two-year tuition and miscellaneous fees after enrollment:
 - (1) Subsidies shall be granted based on tuition and miscellaneous fees students pay to the college/university and capped at NTD 100,000 (NTD 50,000 per semester).
 - (2) Students will be granted subsidies in their first year of enrollment for tuition and miscellaneous fees. For the second year, students enrolled in programs taught in Chinese must reach at least B1 (inclusive) in the TOCFL. Those admitted to programs taught in English shall reach at least A2 (inclusive) regarding their listening and reading skills in the CEFR. After passing the academic performance and conduct review by the college/university and the collaborating enterprise, students will be granted subsidies based on their overall performance.
 - (3) The college/university shall establish a specific and clear review mechanism for students' academic performance and conduct. For students ineligible for Fellowship renewal, the college/university shall provide them with enhanced academic guidance and seek alternative avenues to offer scholarships and aid, thereby facilitating their graduation.

2. Recipient obligations

- 1) Recipients of the Fellowship offered by the National Development Fund shall fulfill their obligations to work in Taiwan for a certain number of years based on the years of scholarship and aid they claim.
- 2) Those who claim the Fellowship for one year must work in Taiwan for one year. Those awarded the Fellowship for two years must fulfill a two-year employment obligation in Taiwan.

3. Principles for returning the Fellowship

- 1) If a student withdraws from the program midway or fails to fulfill their

employment obligation after graduation, they shall return the Fellowship claimed in accordance with the following principles:

- (1) Students need not return the Fellowship they have claimed in any of the circumstances attributable to reasons other than students themselves:
 - A. The original collaborating enterprise ceases to provide living allowances for the student during their study due to operational adjustments. Despite the college/university efforts to seek alternative arrangements, no other companies are willing to continue the financial support for the student. As a result, the student withdraws from the program midway.
 - B. Due to operational adjustments, the original collaborating enterprise has no openings available for the student upon graduation. Despite the college/university efforts to provide employment guidance and arrange job matching, the student can still not secure suitable employment opportunities.
 - C. The collaborating enterprise is, in any circumstances set out in Article 14.1 of the *Labor Standards Act*, during the student's employment, causing the student to terminate the contract. Despite the college/university efforts to provide employment guidance and arrange job matching, the student cannot find a suitable job at another company.
 - D. A student is unable to continue their studies or employment due to their passing or incapacitation caused by severe illness or accident, as certified by any teaching hospital or hospital at a higher level that has passed the new hospital accreditation by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, or due to significant family upheaval verified by the college/university.
- (2) Students shall return the Fellowship they have claimed due to their own reasons:
 - A. If a student withdraws from the program midway due to personal reasons, such as transferring to another college/university or department and taking a leave of absence to return home, and subsequently decides not to continue despite the counseling from the college/university, or if a student is expelled from academic status according to college/university regulations, **they shall fully**

return the Fellowship claimed.

- B. If a student demonstrates unsatisfactory academic performance, falls below the evaluation standards set by the college/university and the enterprise, and fails to improve despite the counseling from the college/university, resulting in expulsion from academic status per college/university regulations, the student shall **fully return** the Fellowship claimed.
 - C. **After graduation, if a student opts not to work for the collaborating enterprise or in the related industry or field and refuses to change their decision despite the counseling efforts of the college/university, the student shall fully return the Fellowship claimed.**
 - D. Upon graduation and subsequent employment, if a student breaches company regulations, leading to lawful termination of their employment contract, and fails to improve despite the college's/university's counseling, the student shall **return the Fellowship in proportion to the months of their unemployment; periods of less than one month shall be counted as one month.**
 - E. If the length of working at the collaborating enterprise falls short of the years of the Fellowship claimed, the student shall return the Fellowship in proportion to the months of their unemployment; periods of less than one month shall be counted as one month.
- 2) **During the employment obligation period upon graduation, students shall work for the collaborating enterprise in Taiwan. They shall not be seconded to the enterprise's overseas branch or work at any overseas Taiwanese enterprise. If a student is under any preceding circumstances where they fail to work in Taiwan, the student shall return the Fellowship in proportion to the months of their unemployment in Taiwan; Periods of less than one month shall be counted as one month.**

VII. Cooperation of Collaborating Enterprises in the INTENSE Program

1. Before the initiation of the program

- 1) Collaborating enterprises shall specify their talent demands and desired skills with which students shall be equipped. Furthermore, they shall seek out suitable colleges/universities, departments, and graduate schools and provide resources (monthly living allowances, internships, and job opportunities). Subsequently, they shall enter an **Industry-University Cooperation Contract** with the college/university. **This shall specify their employment requirements for students after graduation, living allowances, collaboratively planned curriculum for the program, and teaching resources and post-graduation career guidance they provide for students. The contract shall span from the student's arrival in Taiwan to fulfilling their employment obligation after graduation.**
- 2) The contract shall include a commitment to providing each student with a monthly living allowance of no less than NTD10,000 throughout their study.
- 3) The collaborating enterprise shall negotiate with the college/university regarding the content of the internship session and enter into a written contract with the college/university based on the *Implementation Measures for Collaboration of Junior Colleges and Institutions of Higher Education with Industries*.
- 4) The written contract shall specify the conditions for the internship allowance provided by the enterprise for students throughout their internship (equivalent to the minimum basic salary at least), including rights and obligations concerning internship adaptation guidance and internship termination.
- 5) Collaborating enterprises may participate in the student admissions of the colleges/universities they cooperate with to select outstanding students in advance. They shall also assess the students' conduct and academic performance with the colleges/universities offering the program.
- 6) Collaborating enterprises may collaborate with the colleges/universities they cooperate with in planning curricula, arranging lectures given by industry professionals, and determining the content of the internship.

2. During the operation of the program

- 1) Collaborating enterprises shall provide each student with a minimum monthly living allowance of NTD10,000.

- (1) Enterprises shall provide each student with a monthly living allowance of at least NTD10,000. Based on the student's enrollment in a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree program, language proficiency, and academic performance, they may offer additional subsidies or allowances.
 - (2) Students eligible for the living allowance shall enter into a contract with the enterprise, which shall specify the students' rights and obligations during their study and after graduation.
- 2) Collaborating enterprises shall offer students internship allowances no less than their basic salary.
- If the INTENSE Program curriculum plan includes an internship session, the internship session shall be initiated from the third semester of enrollment. The college/university shall negotiate with the enterprise to determine the internship session content. During the internship, the collaborating enterprise shall provide each student with internship allowances no less than their basic salary, which shall be specified in the written contract. Considerations for the internship contract include:
- (1) The college/university and the collaborating enterprise shall enter into a written contract in accordance with the *Implementation Measures for Collaboration of Junior Colleges and Institutions of Higher Education with Industries* regarding the off-campus internship they offer. The enterprise shall execute an internship contract with individual students. The term of such contract shall last a maximum of one semester. The contract shall be made in Chinese and English or the country's official language and be signed by the student.
 - (2) The internship contract shall stipulate the rights and obligations of the college/university, students, and the institution providing the internship, including the environment, content, allowances, and guidance mechanism regarding the internship (including intern role transitions), evaluation systems for internship performance, internship dispute resolution, and internship insurance.
- 3) **Collaborating enterprises shall participate in assessing students' learning outcomes.**
- To ensure high-quality learning outcomes for the students enrolled in the INTENSE Program, students eligible for the subsidies for tuition and

miscellaneous fees offered by the National Development Fund for the second academic year shall be determined based on the academic performance and conduct review of the students conducted by the college/university and the collaborating enterprise. The living allowance offered to students by the collaborating enterprise shall depend upon the student's language proficiency and academic performance, as do the additional subsidies or allowances. Therefore, collaborating enterprises shall stay informed about and actively track students' academic progress and participate in the assessment of their learning outcomes.

3. After student graduation from the program

- 1) **Collaborating enterprises shall employ students according to the contract.** If a student passes the assessment by both the college/university and the enterprise, accomplishes their study, and earns the degree, the collaborating enterprise, with the right to employ the student, shall offer a suitable position and compensation no less than the average salary in the same field.
- 2) **The employment obligation duration for an employed student shall be consistent with the duration of the living allowance the student claims from the enterprise.** For example, if a student claims a living allowance from the enterprise for two years, they shall be obliged to work for the enterprise for the same duration. However, if the enterprise fails to provide the monthly living allowance as stipulated in the contract during the program's operation due to reasons that shall not be attributed to the student, it shall be deemed to have waived its priority in the student's subsequent employment and shall not recover the living allowance from the student for their unemployment.
- 3) **Students, for specific reasons, do not work for the enterprise they have entered into a contract with.** Students who, due to particular reasons, do not work for the enterprise with which they have entered into a contract after graduation shall return, or need not return the living allowance, they have claimed based on whether the cause is attributable to the student.

4. Principles for returning the living allowances offered by the enterprise

If a student withdraws from the program midway or fails to fulfill their

employment obligation after graduation, they shall return the living allowance claimed from the enterprise in accordance with the following principles:

- 1) A student need not return the living allowance claimed in any of the circumstances attributable to reasons other than the student themselves:
 - (1) The enterprise ceases to provide living allowances for the student during their study due to operational adjustments, which shall not be attributed to the student. Hence, the enterprise shall not recover the living allowances the student has claimed.
 - (2) Due to operational adjustments, the enterprise has no openings for the student.
 - (3) The collaborating enterprise is in any circumstances set out in Article 14.1 of the *Labor Standards Act* during the student's employment, causing the student to terminate the contract. In this circumstance, the student need not return the living allowances claimed.
 - (4) A student is unable to continue their studies or employment due to their passing or incapacitation caused by severe illness or accident, as certified by a teaching hospital or hospital at a higher level that has passed the new hospital accreditation by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, or due to significant family upheaval verified by the college/university and notified to the enterprise. In this circumstance, the student shall be exempt from the employment obligation, and the return of the living allowances claimed.
- 2) In any of the following circumstances attributable to the student, the enterprise may recover the living allowance it has offered, provided that the conditions for such recovery are specified in the contract:
 - (1) The student withdraws from the program midway due to personal reasons, such as transferring to another college/university or department and taking a leave of absence to return home, and subsequently decides not to continue despite the counseling offered by the college or university or a student is expelled from academic status according to college/university regulations.
 - (2) The student demonstrates unsatisfactory academic performance, falls below the evaluation standards set by the college/university and the enterprise, and fails to improve despite the counseling offered by the

college or university, ultimately being rejected by the enterprise.

- (3) The student fails to find a job at the collaborating enterprise within three months of graduating.
- (4) If the length of working at the collaborating enterprise falls short of the years of the living allowance claimed, the student shall return the living allowance in proportion to the months of their unemployment; periods of less than one month shall be counted as one month.

VIII. The INTENSE Program Application and Review Procedures

1. Eligible colleges/universities may submit a proposal to the MOE for offering the INTENSE Program. The proposal shall specify the following details (refer to Attachment 1 for format):

- 1) The INTENSE Program overview
- 2) Collaborating enterprise profile
- 3) The INTENSE Program curriculum plan
- 4) The INTENSE Program admissions plan
- 5) Criteria for tuition and miscellaneous fees for students enrolled in the INTENSE Program and scholarship plan

2. Review procedures:

After colleges/universities submit their applications for the INTENSE Program before the deadline, the MOE conducts a thorough review of the qualification documents, and the applications are categorized as approved, conditionally approved, and rejected applications. Rejected colleges/universities may request a review. Conditionally approved colleges/universities may submit additional documents within the specified period for review. The results will be sent to the colleges/universities by the MOE via letters.

3. The list of colleges/universities approved by the MOE for offering the INTENSE Program will be notified to the National Development Council and overseas missions via letters. Upon approval, the colleges/universities may release the admissions brochure and initiate the admissions process.

IX. Review, Application, and Return Procedures for the Fellowship Offered by the National Development Fund

1. Review procedures

- 1) After completing the admissions for the INTENSE Program, colleges/universities shall submit the admissions list and qualification documents to the MOE via letters.
- 2) The MOE will hold a meeting to review the Fellowship for the INTENSE Program. Units including the National Development Council, the National Development Fund, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, R.O.C. will be invited to participate in the review. A list of eligible students for the Fellowship for each INTENSE Program will be finalized based on the review results.

2. Application procedures

- 1) Based on the list of students eligible for the Fellowship determined by the MOE, colleges/universities shall submit the list of enrollees and the funding application summary form (refer to Attachment 2 for format) to the MOE via letters after the semester begins. The MOE will review and transfer the funds for the Fellowship allocated by the National Development Fund to colleges/universities.
- 2) The college/university shall enter into a contract with students for claiming the Fellowship for the first academic year, which shall specify relevant rights and obligations. For the second year, **students enrolled in programs taught in Chinese must reach at least B1 (inclusive) in the TOCFL. Those admitted to programs taught in English shall reach at least A2 (inclusive) regarding their listening and reading skills in the CEFR.** After passing the academic performance and conduct review by the college/university and the collaborating enterprise, students will be granted subsidies based on their overall performance.
- 3) Before the Fellowship is disbursed by the MOE, the college/university shall offer students a reduction or exemption from tuition and miscellaneous fees. After receiving the funds for the Fellowship from the MOE, the college/university shall promptly pay the funds to students to cover their airfare and administrative expenses incurred by them before they arrive in Taiwan. The college/university may advance these funds to the students if necessary.

3. Return procedures (consolidation)

- 1) Students who withdraw from the program midway or fail to fulfill their

employment obligations after graduation shall return the Fellowship claimed. The college/university shall initiate the recovery process from these students and return the recovered funds to the MOE.

- 2) Colleges/universities shall establish an employment guidance mechanism and **be responsible for recovering the Fellowship that students shall return**. However, colleges/universities may be exempt from the obligation to recover the Fellowship claimed by students if they have diligently attempted to track student performance and guide student decisions.

X. Administrative Support and Auxiliary Measures for the INTENSE Program

1. Establishment of a university alliance and overseas bases

To assist colleges/universities in expanding admissions, the MOE encourages approved colleges/universities to offer the INTENSE Program to establish a university alliance. The alliance will pool resources to organize educational fairs and admission promotion activities. It will also enter into agreements with local colleges/universities (including letters of intent, memorandums of understanding [“MOUs”], and memorandums of agreement [“MOAs”]) to secure future student sources. Overseas bases will be established in Europe, the US, and countries in the New Southbound region. These bases will undertake Chinese language promotion and preparatory courses and facilitate international cooperation and exchanges, assisting in student admissions and **talent attraction** for the INTENSE Program. Three overseas bases are expected to be established by 2024, with priority given to countries in the New Southbound region, including Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Additional overseas bases will be planned in 2024 based on industry demands and the admissions status.

2. Provision of free Chinese language preparatory courses

The INTENSE Program is intended for enrolled students from foreign colleges/universities. For students applying for INTENSE Programs taught in Chinese, they shall reach the basic level of TOCFL at the time of enrollment (Level 2, equivalent to CEFR A2), with their listening and reading both at A2 or a higher level. In 2024, the MOE will establish overseas bases and centers in Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines to

offer free Chinese language preparatory courses. This will provide prospective students of the INTENSE Program with an opportunity to learn the Chinese language in advance, enhancing their interest in studying in Taiwan.

3. Short-term trial courses

Partner colleges/universities in the alliance may raise funds to offer short-term trial courses at overseas bases and centers. These courses enhance students' understanding of the teaching quality, curriculum characteristics, and fields of expertise offered by colleges/universities in Taiwan, offering them clear and complete information on their future studies and employment in Taiwan.

XI. Miscellaneous

1. Colleges/universities admitting students to the INTENSE Program shall observe relevant regulations such as the *Regulations Regarding International Students Undertaking Studies in Taiwan*. They shall not engage employment agencies for admissions purposes. Colleges/universities identified as committing violations, including entrusting admissions to employment agencies or carrying out improper publicity, shall be severely punished in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Penalties include reducing or suspending admissions, withholding subsidies, disclosing the name of the college/university involved in the violation, placing the college/university under special guidance, and referring it to relevant prosecutorial and investigative authorities.
2. Colleges/universities shall register the enrollment, leaves of absence, withdrawals or status changes, and loss of student status regarding the students of the INTENSE Program in the Information System for Data Management of Foreign Students of Colleges and Universities in Taiwan.
3. The teaching quality of the INTENSE Program shall be included in the assessment of junior colleges and institutions of higher education in safeguarding the rights of foreign students to education.
4. Departments and graduate schools that have offered programs for students from New Southbound countries and for international students may still apply for the INTENSE Program. However, they shall consolidate their

teaching resources and capabilities to expand enrollment.

5. The enrollment quota for the INTENSE Program shall be determined through additional allocation. The student-to-faculty ratio shall be calculated concerning flexible measures for enrollment of departments and graduate schools specializing in key industries.
6. Overseas Chinese and foreign students already enrolled in a Taiwan college/university shall not transfer to the INTENSE Program.
7. Colleges/universities and collaborating enterprises shall determine whether to impose age restrictions on students enrolled in the INTENSE Program.