

Short-Term Tutorial School Teachers and Freelance Artists

Presented by Senior Specialist Chuang Kuo-Liang from the Ministry of Labor

Good day to everyone. Below is a summary explanation from the Ministry of Labor concerning short-term tutorial school (*buxiban*) teachers and freelance artists.

First I will speak about *buxiban* teachers.

Taking account of the overall needs of industrial development, the government included provision in this Act for opening teaching in *buxibans* in subjects as announced by the competent central authorities after consulting with the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Economic Affairs has already thus consulted with the Ministry of Education about teaching needs for the digital content industry, and in the future, appropriately qualified foreign nationals will be able to work in *buxibans* as teachers of subjects related to the digital content industry.

The scope of such digital content industry subjects includes digital games (including home-use software, gaming software, computer game software, and mobile phone software), computer animation and anime, and somatosensory technology (virtual reality, augmented reality, and mixed reality). We are also maintaining flexibility toward recruitment, and where a substantive contribution can be made to nurturing do-it-yourself talent, the range of such opening can be increased through consultation between competent authorities as prescribed.

A school that proposes to employ a foreign professional as a digital content teacher must meet the following requirements: First, it must be a lawfully established short-term tutorial school registered in accordance with the Supplementary Education Act. Secondly, it must be a lawfully registered corporate juridical person. And thirdly, it must have a cooperation agreement with an international teaching institution.

The qualifying requirements for the foreign teacher are as follows: Their annual monthly salary in Taiwan must be at least NT\$47,971, and they must meet one of the following conditions: (1) be recorded as having earned a significant international income; (2) have at least four years work experience in the digital content industry, or at least two years teaching experience in an international teaching institution; (3) be recognized as qualified through a flexible consultation mechanism.

The applicant is required to submit an application form, the responsible person's proof of identity, the school's company registration, the employment contract, the application processing fee, and other prescribed documentation. If the documentation is fully in order and the application approved, a work permit for a maximum duration of three years will be issued.

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Now, I will speak about freelance artists.

In order to enhance Taiwan's arts and culture environment, the Act made liberal provision for foreign artists to apply direct to the Ministry of Labor for a work permit without needing to apply through an employer.

There are four main categories of work that foreign freelance artists can under Taiwan:

The first category is performing and visual arts, which encompasses creative critical review, workshops, and other related work in the spheres of music, dance, film and so on. The second category is publishing, which essentially means creative commentative work relating to culture and the arts in newspapers, magazines, and media. The third category is film, radio, television and popular music, meaning related to creation and production in those spheres. The final category is crafts, means the creation or teaching of craftwork in leather, ceramics, and other materials.

Foreign nationals who come to Taiwan to work as freelance artists must meet qualifying criteria for one of these categories before they can submit a work application.

For work in the performing and visual arts, they must demonstrate that they have at least ten years work experience in their field and have achieved extraordinary creative success, or have a master's or doctoral degree plus a corresponding number of years related work experience, or have been recommended by a national body.

For work in the publishing category, they must demonstrate that they have worked as chief editor or senior manager of a major international newspaper, or have won a home-nation or international award related to literature or comics, or have been recommended by a national body.

For work in the film, radio, television and popular music category, they must demonstrate that they have been nominated for an award in an important Taiwan international film festival, or have held a related professorship or associate professorship, or have served as the responsible person of a major film company or institution.

Lastly, for work in the craft category, they must demonstrate that they have been nominated for an award in a relevant domestic or internationally recognized contest.

An applicant for a freelance artist work permit must submit an application form, passport copy, processing fee receipt, and other stipulated documents. If the documents are fully in order and the application approved, a work permit for a maximum duration of three years will be issued, and may be extended unlimited times.

Other things to specially mention:

At present, applications can only be made on paper, not online. The applicant

either deliver the application in person, or send it by mail,

Applications must be directed to the Zhonghua Road Cross-Border Workforce Center of the Ministry of Labor's Workforce Development Agency. If the documents are fully in order, a permit will be issued within 12 working days. The processing fee is NT\$500 per application. Foreign-language documents should be accompanied by a Chinese translation to facilitate the screening process.

Related information can be found on the Workforce Development Agency's EZ Taiwan website.

This briefing is concluded. Thank you.