

# Qualifying Criteria for Foreign Special Professionals

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Good day, everyone. In the following, I shall present a summary report on the criteria for qualification as a foreign special professional. The Act is intended as a means by which Taiwan can compete for talent with the rest of the world. Besides ordinary foreign professionals, we particularly hope to be able to speed up the recruitment of those kinds of international talent needed for our country's industrial upgrading, in order to help our economy transition toward a high-technology and high value-added orientation. Therefore, each of the relevant competent authorities has stipulated particular qualifying conditions and fields according to the characteristics and needs of each industry, aiming to recruit foreign special professionals to come to Taiwan.

Since we want to lock our sights on drawing foreign special professionals to Taiwan, of course we need to offer them more especially favorable treatment. Therefore, in addition to the various relaxations in this Act that apply to foreign professionals in general, we have also provided four extra kinds of privilege particularly for foreign special professionals. The first of these is the issuance of Employment Gold Cards to such professionals. These 4-in-1 certificates are a kind of personal work pass that enable the holder to freely change employment and to freely take up part-time work, without needing the help of an employer to apply for a work permit each time. This is the relatively special part of the privileges accorded to these individuals.

We also offer foreign special professionals the longest duration of permission to work in Taiwan, with the maximum limit extended from three years to five. Plus, we have made provision for longer family visits by the lineal ascendants of foreign special professionals and their spouses, who may now stay in Taiwan for up to a year instead of the previous limit of six months. Plus, we have provided them with a special tax concession, to heighten their incentive for coming to work in Taiwan.

Next, I will introduce the eight fields of expertise, and the particular qualifications in each field, as must be matched for eligibility as a foreign special professional.

In the field of science and technology: Is currently earning or has previously earned, in Taiwan or overseas, an average monthly salary of at least NT\$160,000; or

has gained outstanding achievement in R&D, design or innovation in such areas as software applications, software technology, nanoelectromechanics, biology, national defense & military strategy, artificial intelligence, the Internet of things, and so on; or is the winner of a Nobel Prize or other such international award.

Also, if a national academician or national academy level scholar, has also been a university chair professor, has written an important work, or has within the past three years achieved research results that have earned international recognition. Or, after obtaining a doctoral degree, has at least four years of work experience in science and technology R&D or management, or has conducted R&D in an area of science & technology that is rare and lacking in Taiwan. All persons thus qualified can apply for an Employment Gold Card in the field of science and technology.

In the field of the economy, qualifying conditions include a monthly salary of at least NT\$160,000, or holding a high executive position in an R&D center, operations HQ or transnational corporation in Taiwan. Also, possessing a doctoral degree or above in a field related to key components or service models of industries, and having won an international invention or innovation award, or having at least four years work experience; or if not possessing a doctoral degree, having instead held a cross-field integrating position in a semiconductor, optoelectronics, ICT, precision machinery, or other such enterprise, and having at least eight years related work experience; or recognized by the relevant central competent authority as a talent that is urgently needed in Taiwan.

In the field of education, the main qualifying conditions are having obtained a doctoral degree from one of the world's 200 top-ranking universities, or having engaged in teaching or research for at least five years at one of the world's 500 top-ranking universities. Also, having received a Yushan Young Scholar award, and having earned a monthly salary of at least NT\$160,000.

In the field of culture and arts, qualifiers can be divided into roughly six main categories. Firstly, in the twin categories of the performing arts and visual arts, are those who have played an important part in an international arts event, or who have won an award or served as a judge in an internationally or domestically recognized competition. In the publishing category, those with at least ten years' experience in the industry, or professors in relevant university departments, or winners of international literary prizes, or those who have earned the highest publishing-related awards, and curators in related fields.

In the category of film, TV and popular music, qualifiers include those who have been nominated for or have won international film, TV or music awards. In the handicrafts category, award winners in international competitions, and those who have been recognized as preservers of handicraft skills. And in the category of

cultural administration, those who have performed outstandingly and have gained recognition of their qualification.

In the field of sports, qualifiers include those who have gained top-three placing in international sports competitions, or who have abilities that can help raise Taiwan's sports competitiveness, or who have coached another country's national team, or who have served as a referee of an international sports contest.

In the financial field, qualifying criteria include a monthly salary of at least NT\$160,000, or possessing transnational experience needed by Taiwan, or being recommended by a finance-related association or guild, or having served in a senior executive position in the financial industry, or possessing expertise in a finance-related area such as fintech or e-commerce.

In the field of law, there are five conditions that must be met: first, a monthly salary of at least NT\$160,000, plus having obtained a Taiwan or foreign attorney license, and having held a professorship, associate professorship, or chair professorship, and having held a management position in a law firm, and having been recommended by the Taiwan Bar Association.

In the field of architectural design, a monthly salary of at least NT\$160,000 is required, plus possession of an ROC or foreign architect's license, and at least five years work experience.

Foreign special professionals can apply for an Employment Gold Card via the Ministry of the Interior's online application platform. Before applying, if you have any doubt or query about the qualifying criteria, you can seek clarification from the contact window of the agency concerned.

My report concludes here. Thank you.