

Foreign Teacher Work Permits

Presented by Section Chief Tseng Hsin-Yuan from the Ministry of Education

Good day, everyone. My main purpose here today is to explain about work permits for foreign teachers. The foreign teachers referred to here essentially serve in schools, so their work permit applications are from the schools.

This Act has transferred matters pertaining to the issuance of teacher work permits from the Ministry of Labor to the Ministry of Education, which is revising the handling thereof in several directions. First, we will simplify the documentary requirements and streamline the process. Besides this, since foreign teachers are hired by schools as part of their school operation, then insofar as laws and regulations allow, we will not collect processing fees.

Applicant schools can be divided into four types. The first type is ordinary public and private universities and colleges. Then there are schools at the senior high level and below, which consist of two types: One type is ordinary schools in which foreign teachers only teach foreign languages, such as English, Japanese or German; in the other type, such as the bilingual part of experimental high schools or bilingual schools, foreign teachers can teach subjects such as earth science or physics and chemistry as well as foreign languages. There is also one another type, which is schools for foreign residents. Any of these four types of schools can apply to hire foreign teachers.

The required application documents include an application form, an employment contract, a certificate of the teacher's highest educational attainment, and a photocopy of the teacher's passport. The Ministry of Education will then review the application, and if there is no problem, will issue a work permit. If any document is lacking, we will request the requisite supplementation through the school.

The qualification requirements are divided into several types. First, to teach in a public or private university or college, a foreign teacher must meet the requirements stipulated by the Act Governing the Appointment of Educators. For example, to be an assistant professor in a university, this act requires possession of a doctoral degree, or else a master's degree plus at least four years' work in a particular field. These requirements do not apply to appointment just as a language teacher in a school's language center, but the language taught must be the official language of the teacher's

passport country.

Schools for foreign residents, or what we might call international schools, are foreign established schools – for example, Taipei Japanese School and Taipei American School. The hiring of teachers for these schools is governed by their home country regulations – so the hiring of teachers by the Taipei Japanese School is subject to Japanese regulations, and the hiring of teachers by the Taipei American School is subject to U.S. regulations.

Apart from the above, teachers in schools at the senior high level and below, including both language and subject teachers in bilingual schools, besides being required to possess a bachelor degree, must also be passport holders of a country where the official language corresponds to the language they will teach or teach in.

As prescribed by law, the maximum duration of a foreign teacher's work permit is three years. When it expires, a new work permit can be applied for, and this can be repeated until the employment contract with the school is terminated.

Because the administration of foreign teachers has been transferred to the Ministry of Education, some handling and protections will come under education laws and regulations. If a teacher previously obtained a work permit from the Ministry of Labor, this will continue the same until it expires. The provisions of this act will apply *mutatis mutandis* to residents of Hong Kong and Macau who are employed as school teachers. Other matters relating to employment administration that are not governed by provisions in this sphere will be handled in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Employment Services Act and the Immigration Act.

This explanation is concluded. Thank you.