

Global Immigration alert

January 2026

Taiwan

New measures to attract foreign talent

Executive summary

Effective 1 January 2026, Taiwan implemented measures to attract foreign talent, including relaxing work permit eligibility criteria, expanding access to permanent residence and increasing the permitted period of stay for digital nomads.

Background

The new measures are the result of amendments to the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals ("the Act") and aim to address local labor gaps and bolster Taiwan's competitive edge in the global talent market.

Key developments

The amendments introduced the following changes:

- *Extended stay and work permit exemption for foreign students:* Foreign students with an associate degree or higher obtained from an accredited institution in Taiwan may extend their stay for up to two years after completing their degree and may apply for jobs without a work permit. Previously, these individuals were granted authorization to remain in the jurisdiction for job-seeking purposes for up to two years, but they were required to obtain a work permit to work lawfully in Taiwan.
- *Individual work permits for top-tier talent:* Foreign nationals who graduated with a bachelor's degree or higher from one of the top 200 international universities (as listed by the Ministry of Education) within the five years prior to submitting the work permit application may apply for an individual work permit without being sponsored by an employer. The permit is valid for up to two years and cannot be extended.
- *Two-year work experience requirement waived for certain work permit applicants:* Foreign nationals who apply for a work permit and hold a bachelor's degree from one of the top 1,500 international universities are now exempt from the two-year work experience requirement (i.e., they can apply immediately following graduation and are no longer required to have worked for at least two years before becoming eligible to apply for a work permit). Previously, all bachelor's degree holders were required to meet the two-year work experience requirement before applying for a work permit. This requirement continues to apply to bachelor's graduates from universities outside the top 1,500.
- *Reduced stay requirement for Alien Permanent Resident Certificate (APRC):* International students and overseas compatriot students (i.e., Taiwan passport holders who were born and raised overseas) who graduate from an accredited institution in Taiwan may now become eligible for an APRC after remaining in Taiwan for one year (down from three years previously). Previously, only graduates with a master's degree or doctorate qualified for an APRC after one year of residence. In addition, highly qualified professionals may now apply for permanent residence after one year of residence in Taiwan.
- *Extension of stay for digital nomads:* Individuals who hold a Taiwanese digital nomad visa may now remain in Taiwan for up to two years, up from six months previously.
- *Eligibility for foreign nationals to participate in Labor Pension (New System) and Employment Insurance:* Foreign professionals and foreign special professionals (i.e.,



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those who hold a foreign special professional work permit in specific fields of expertise) may now participate in the new Labor Pension (system) and Employment Insurance system without obtaining permanent residence. The Act does not specify additional enrollment conditions. Additionally, foreign nationals, foreign special professionals and foreign senior nationals who hold a permanent residence permit are now eligible for unemployment benefits.

Impact on employers

Employers may review and update their internal processes, and inform impacted employees about the new requirements, to ensure compliance and mitigate delays and business disruptions.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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