



Master of Arts in Political Economy

1. Overview

The mission of the TSE is to prepare talented students for leadership positions in international organizations, government, business and civil society institutions. Our MA program also help students to be better prepared for Ph.D. training and an academic career later on.

TSE's Master of Arts in Political Economy Program helps students to gain extensive knowledge of the dynamics of the Asian economies and the key trends underlying the global political economy and its transformation. Students are trained to analyze economic issues in their cultural, social and political contexts and from a variety of perspectives. Our program also helps them to develop an understanding of global issues such as the making of global order, the rise and fall of hegemony, globalization and inequality, multilateralism and global governance, financial crisis and structural imbalance as well as climate change, and more specifically how these global factors exert their impacts on Asian countries' national policy settings.

Our MA program draws on different theoretical approaches to political economy, such as positive, comparative and international political economy, development, international and institutional economics, economic history, cultural anthropology, and historical sociology. Most of our courses are taught by internationally-renowned scholars in the field and experts with experience in policy making in different parts of Asia. An extensive selection of optional courses that draws on expertise across University System of Taiwan (UST) is also available. Our students will also benefit from thematic special series of guest lectures from distinguished outside speakers, including leading scholars in the field, outstanding public intellectuals, business leaders and policymakers.

Program Details	
Faculty/University School:	Taipei School of Economics and Political Science
Degree type:	Master of Arts in Political Economy (M.A.)
Medium of Instruction:	English
Study mode:	Full time
Course work requirement:	24 credits, plus 4 credits of Mandarin courses for international students
Minimum residence:	2 years (4 semesters)
Admission:	Fall

Admission slots:	45 students (13 local students and 32 international students)
Admission requirements:	Proficiency in English and with sufficient social sciences background (but not necessarily social sciences majors)
Tuition:	Full-time: NT\$135,000 (per semester) Total cost for two-year program (four semesters): NT\$ 540,000 (equal to US\$ 18,000, at an exchange rate of US\$ 1 = NT\$ 30)
Financial Assistance:	TSE offers competitive scholarships, in the forms of full fellowship, including full tuition waiver and teaching/research assistantship, or half scholarship, including full tuition waiver, each year to outstanding incoming Master students.
Campus:	NTHU main campus, Hsinchu

2. Curriculum & Graduation Requirements

Students are required to complete the following:

- Minimum residence: 2 years
- Course work requirement: 24 credits (equivalent of 12 full courses); MED might require 30 credits for students without substantial prior training in economics
- Language requirement: 4 credits of Mandarin courses for international students
- M.A. thesis

A typical bundle of coursework (3+2+4+3 courses)

- Three TSE core courses for building up foundational knowledge
- Two to three courses for basic methodological training
- Four to six core courses for field specialization
- Three optional courses for field specialization
- M.A. thesis

Our MA program offers three areas of specialization: Asian Political Economy (MAPE), Global Political Economy and Asia (MGPEA), and Economic Development (MED). Students can make a preliminary choice of their areas of specialization at application/admission stage and make their final decision at the end of the first year. All three subprograms accept students from a wide range of academic backgrounds as well as mid-career professionals.

Specialization in Asian Political Economy (MAPE)

Co-conveners of MAPE Sub-Program: Professors Tun-jen Cheng and Yun-han Chu

Our MAPE sub-program provides a historically grounded, multi-disciplinary analysis of Asia's phenomenal economic transformation and significant political changes. The program places its emphasis on domestic structural changes, institutional development, and national strategies for economic growth, social protection, and sustainable development through the lens of an evolving state-market relationship. Students can take up elective courses to learn domestic policy challenges in specific domains, such as how these countries handle the development and diffusion of technology, how they manage trade and financial flows, how they balance the role of the state and the market, and

how they deal with problems of state-building and weak systems of law and accountability. Students will also have the opportunity to focus on particular Asian countries or sub-regions.

Specialization in Global Political Economy and Asia (MGPEA)

Co-conveners of MGPEA Sub-Program: Professors Yun-han Chu and Tun-jen Cheng

The MGPEA sub-program provides our students with high-quality post-graduate teaching and research training in the analysis of the role of emerging Asian economies in global political economy. It offers a distinctive approach to the study of global political economy by focusing on Asia's rising economic powers and some of the key questions surrounding their emergence as key players in different domains, from trade and investment, international finance, global supply chains, technological innovation and diffusion, global governance, ideological competition to international security. Our program draws on social scientific expertise from across many disciplines including world history, international politics, international political economy, international economics, development economics, and Asia studies. Our students will be able to choose from specialist courses on region-specific issues of international political economy including Asian regionalism, regional production network, monetary and financial stability, the construction of Asian identity, and geopolitical competition between China and the United States.

Specialization in Economic Development (MED)

Co-conveners of MED Sub-Program: Professors Tain-jy Chen and Ping Wang

Our MED sub-program is a theory-based, policy-oriented study on economic development, drawing from the experience, mainly but not exclusively, of Japan, Four East Asian tigers (Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore), China, and India. The program's focus is on policies that lead to success, failure, and differences in path and pattern in economic development. Both macro-and micro-policies will be studied, and students are allowed to choose a portfolio of their interests from a wide range of policy courses offered by TSE, including tax, finance, trade, industry, labor, human resources, technology, innovation, and others. Our courses cover both theoretical foundation of the policy and its actual implementation. In addition to regular academic staff, TSE invites country experts to give lectures on specific policy fields to provide visions of policy in action.

3. Advantages of TSE and this program

Located in the Silicon Valley of Taiwan, Hsinchu City

Known as the "Silicon Valley of Taiwan", Hsinchu is a vibrant high-tech hub in northern Taiwan, just 30 minutes by high-speed rail from the capital Taipei.

Hsinchu has attracted more than 400 high-tech companies to the Hsinchu Science Park (HSP), mainly involved in the semiconductor, computer, telecommunication, and optoelectronics industries. It is also the home to Taiwan's two leading research universities, National Tsing Hua University and National Chiao-Tung University, and a world-leading technology research and development institution, Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI). ITRI has played a vital role in transforming Taiwan's economy from a labor-intensive industry to a high-tech industry. ITRI has set up and incubated over 280 companies, including listed companies such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), Taiwan Mask Corp., Epistar Corp., Mirle Automation Corp., and Taiwan Biomaterial Co. The high-tech corridor between Taipei and Hsinchu accounts for more than half of Taiwan's GDP and houses the headquarters of many Fortune Global 500 companies, such as Foxconn, Pegatron, TSMC, Quanta Computer, Compal Electronics and Wistron.

With a history of almost 400 years and a rich cultural heritage, Hsinchu is a highly livable city where ancient and modern meet. Hsinchu is also a charming destination for getaways, featuring a stunning 17-Kilometer Coastline Scenic Area and Hsinchu Chenghuang Temple lined with small stalls selling traditional snack including the famous Hsinchu Rice Noodles.

Independent Financial Resources and Autonomy in Recruitment

The initial endowment of the Taipei School of Economics and Political Science Foundation is \$3 billion NTD (equivalent to about \$100 million USD), and the annual investment return of the endowment will be appropriate to support the School in the form of block grants or project-specific grants. With the full support of the NTHU, the school enjoys supplemental independent financial resources and is given a high degree of autonomy in recruiting teaching faculty, research staff, and Ph.D. students. Not to be constrained by NTHU's regular pay-scale, TSE has sufficient resources to recruit international teachers and renowned scholars with competitive terms of appointment.

Dual Campuses

The University is located in the Hsinchu area, known as the Silicon Valley of Taiwan, and the area is adjacent to the metropolitan area of Taipei, the political, economic, and cultural center of Taiwan. In the future, the TSE Taipei campus will be built as the Yue-han Hall of the Taipei Office of the Tsing Hua University and its main building will be sited on the Hsinchu Campus. Having dual campuses combines the advantages of these two adjacent metropolitan areas.

The “School in School” Model

As a top research institution in Taiwan, NTHU has many years of experience in the practical implementation of combining teaching and research with interdisciplinary development, and the University has the capacity to assist the organizational operations of TSE, as other colleges at NTHU, provides its faculty and students a resourceful learning environment and a state-of-the-art infrastructure while respecting the autonomy of the School over academic policy and personnel decisions.

University-Industry Collaboration

NTHU has for many years had good cooperative relations with the Hsinchu Science Park and Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI). This connection with industry can facilitate the conquest of frontiers of knowledge and help TSE students to cultivate the power to analyze in industry, innovative thinking, and management measures in high-tech areas.

A Sustainable Development Model

TSE's operating model is conducted in real time according to “agile management” for internal deployment and adjustment in the college, in order to respond immediately to the challenges and issues brought by the rapidly changing international environment and technological developments. No independent graduate institute will be established within the college. The teaching is based on flexible teaching groupings and the research activities will be conducted within different research centers.

Language Advantage

The Taipei School of Economics and Political Science is one of the few colleges of higher education in Taiwan that uses English as its official language of communication. All lectures and conferences are conducted in English, and it expects to attract a large number of internationally renowned scholars and researchers to offer regular courses as well as short-term workshops and lectures.

Interdisciplinary Research

The Taipei School of Economics and Political Science is the first college in Taiwan that combines an interdisciplinary faculty and practical training to develop insight and sustainable international and interdisciplinary capabilities for future leaders.

4. Contact Information

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