

## BILINGUAL EDUCATION

### Degrees taught in English

H1

ACT PLAN

TRACK

PARK

OPP

THR

NEU

Taiwan's education ministry is pushing forward with its goal of bilingual English-Chinese education in schools and more university degrees and postgraduate courses taught in English as part of an effort to attract foreign students to plug a demographic gap, improve the country's competitiveness and to compete head-on with universities in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Taiwan's goal is to become a bilingual nation, including at university level and attract more foreign students, particularly from Asian.

The ministry held meetings in late 2020 with the heads of top universities to select universities to move towards the goal of half of all undergraduate courses, 70% of masters courses and 90% of doctoral degree courses to be taught in English within a few years. This compares to fewer than a third of masters and doctoral courses taught in English at present.

The meetings come as the ministry last month earmarked TW\$3.61 billion (US\$127 million) over the next two years for bilingual education in all school grades before tertiary education.

The money will be for classes taught in English, subsidies for some subjects to be taught in both English and Mandarin Chinese, increased support for disadvantaged students and students in rural areas where there is already a shortage of teachers, and increasing teachers' English fluency by allocating funds for short-term study abroad programmes, Deputy Education Minister Tsai Ching-Hwa told local media on 4 October.

English-proficient high schoolers would then feed through to the universities.