

A close-up portrait of a middle-aged man with dark hair, a light beard, and a slight smile, looking directly at the camera. The background is softly blurred, showing hints of green foliage and warm indoor lighting.

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTEE
AND FAMILY SUPPORT
SERVICE (ICAFSS)

Relationships
AUSTRALIA · SA

MILITARY CONSCRIPTION FOR MALE ADOPTEES FROM TAIWAN

Based on the information provided by Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) Melbourne, the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC) in Taiwan and the Taipei Department of Compulsory Military Service in Taiwan, **any male recognised as a Taiwanese citizen and between the age of 19 (on the 1 January) and 36 (on the 31 December) is subject to military conscription in Taiwan. This includes adoptees with dual citizenship in Taiwan and Australia.**

If male adoptees travel on a foreign (Australian) passport to Taiwan, there is a chance they may be required to complete the compulsory military service before leaving Taiwan. The service duration in 2025 varied, depending on the year of birth and ranging from 4 - 12 months.

It should be noted that this requirement to complete military service, and the way it applies to Taiwanese citizens living overseas, is determined by the Taiwanese government. The Australian Office in Taiwan cannot confirm these requirements, and the TECO is the appropriate authority to engage with.

DO ALL TAIWANESE ADOPTEES HAVE TAIWANESE/AUSTRALIA DUAL CITIZENSHIP?

- + In the process of intercountry adoption from Taiwan, adoptees are supported to have their adoption registered with the Household Registration Office (similar to the BDM Offices in Australia). This procedure will lead to the 'cancellation' of adoptees' household registration if there is no activity in Taiwan for the adoptee in the next two years (after the adoptee's adoption and relocation to Australia). The cancellation of the household registration is NOT relevant to the status of the adoptees Taiwanese citizenship. This is often misunderstood by adoptive parents.
- + In Taiwan, revocation of a person's Taiwanese citizenship requires a formal application. The Child Welfare League Foundation (CWLF) and Christian Salvation Service (CSS) do NOT have a process to support adoptees apply for the revocation of their Taiwanese citizenship during their adoption. The underlying rationale is that it should be the adoptee's right to decide if they want to keep their Taiwanese citizenship or to when they come of legal age.
- + Chung Yi Social Welfare Foundation confirmed that their organisation has the procedure of supporting adoptees to apply for the revocation of Taiwanese citizenship during their adoption. The purpose is to pre-empt any risk of the male adoptees being detained for military conscription in future. Chung Yi advised that adoptees could apply for the restoration of their Taiwanese citizenship.

It is recommended that male adoptees from Taiwan check with their adoption organisation in Taiwan before their travelling to Taiwan to confirm if the organisation that finalised their adoption had supported the adoptive parents with an application for citizenship revocation or not during their adoption.

IF A MALE ADOPTEE HAS TAIWANESE CITIZENSHIP, WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE TO APPLY FOR EXEMPTION DURING THEIR TRAVEL TO TAIWAN?

- + Male adoptees can use the Overseas Compatriot Identity Endorsement as proof for exemption from military conscription during their travel in Taiwan.
- + OCAC is the responsible authority to issue the Overseas Compatriot Identity Endorsement. TECO Offices in Australia are authorised by OCAC authorised to issue this Endorsement.
- + The Overseas Compatriot Identity Endorsement needs to be stamped on a valid Taiwan passport. Therefore, male adoptees should apply for the renewal of their Taiwan passport and the Endorsement at the same time.
- + The Overseas Compatriot Identity Endorsement is not for permanent exemption. A Taiwan passport with Overseas Compatriot Identity Endorsement remains valid for the duration of the passport's validity period.
- + In June 2025, TECO Melbourne advised that the application process takes at least 6 weeks. This should be factored into any travel planning for male adoptees.

- + When providing supporting documents to TECO for the above applications, male adoptees need to provide documentation to confirm their identity and prove the link between their Taiwan passport and Australia passport due the different names on the passports (birth name and adoptive name) and the change of their appearance from child to adult. Such documents can include Household Registration Transcript from Taiwan or evidence document that is issued by the Taiwan court.
- + It should be notated that there are two types of Taiwan passport - E-Passport and the ordinary passport without the E-microchip, which is only valid for one year. Whilst an ordinary passport has a shorter process time by TECO, which is five workdays, male adoptees whose household registration was 'cancelled' for more than 2 years are NOT eligible to apply for ordinary passport. They need to apply for the E-Passport, which takes 6 weeks, to go with the Overseas Compatriot Identity Endorsement.
- + For more information please refer to the attached Q&A Booklet from the Department of Compulsory Military Service and the website of the OCAC: <https://english.ocac.gov.tw/OCAC/Eng/FAQ/List.aspx?nodeid=455>

Exception situations for military conscription even when the Overseas Compatriot Identification Endorsement is in place

Male adoptees who obtained the Overseas Compatriot Identification Endorsement will still need to be conscripted for military service if they are within the conscription age, and that they:

- + Continuously stay in Taiwan for over 12 months or
- + Stay in Taiwan for in total 183 days or more (despite the number of trips) within a period of two years.

*Relationships Australia SA acknowledges that this information was correct at the time of writing this, but that it is subject to change without notice.

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