

Operation Directions for the Issuance of the Academic and Business Travel Card and the Implementation of Expedited Immigration Clearance

1. The Directions is enacted by the Ministry of the Interior to process the applications for the Academic and Business Travel Card (hereinafter referred to as “the Card”) and to facilitate the expedited immigration clearance of the cardholders at the airports of entry in the R.O.C. (Taiwan).
2. Foreign nationals, who have entered the country for the main purposes other than employment, and meet one of the qualifications as prescribed in Item 3 of the Operation Regulations for the Review of Applications for Permanent Residency in Accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 25 of the Immigration Act or have one of the following qualifications, may apply for the Card:

- (1) Being the first prize winner of an internationally recognized contest, sports game, or appraisal; or being an academic or businessman with international prestige;

- (2) Being a national academician, or a highly qualified expert or scholar;
- (3) Being a tenured professor at a university and having received a lifetime achievement award;
- (4) Being the senior manager of a company with a foreign investment more than US\$100 million; or the senior manager of the overseas parent company or regional headquarters of the aforementioned company; or an investor, or his/her senior manager, who has the potential to make an investment more than US\$100 million.
- (5) Being an academic or businessman who has made special contributions to Taiwan's academic or economic development and has filed an ad hoc application.

The above-mentioned applications shall be filed by applicants in person, or by the competent authorities in charge of related business on behalf of the applicants.

3. The following documents shall be submitted to the National

Immigration Agency of the Ministry of the Interior

(hereinafter referred to as “the NIA”) to apply for the Card:

- (1) An application form;
- (2) A photocopy of the passport which is valid for at least 6 months, and relevant documentary proofs;
- (3) A recommendation letter;
- (4) Two half –length, color photographs with no hat which were taken within the past 12 months;
- (5) If the applicant is not qualified, his/her application shall be rejected and returned.

4. The NIA, after receiving an application for the Card, shall forward the photocopied application form and relevant documents to the competent authorities in charge of related business and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) respectively for review; unless the central competent authorities in charge of related business has filed the application on behalf of the applicant and has sent the carbon copies to the MOFA at the same time in accordance with sub-item 2 of Item 2 of the Directions.

5. The Card is valid for 3 years. Within the duration of its validity, the cardholder is entitled to multiple entry/exit, and the duration of stay is not longer than 30 days for each stay. During a stay, the cardholder can engage in academic and business activities such as performing contracts, giving speeches, or providing business know-how, etc.

The Card may not be extended when it expires. Cardholders shall apply for a new card, if it is still needed.

6. Cardholders may clear immigration inspection via the expedited immigration clearance scheme at the R.O.C international airports by presenting the Card and their valid passports. The accompanying spouses and lineal relatives by blood of the cardholders may also clear immigration inspection through the expedited immigration clearance scheme.

7. If the Card is missing or damaged when it is still valid, the cardholder may apply for a replacement.

The expiry date of the replacement shall be the same as that of the replaced Card.

