

Amended Instructions on Document Submission for Alien Permanent Resident Certificate (Plum Blossom Card) Applications by Foreigners Who Have Made Special Contributions to Taiwan or Are Senior Professionals or Investment Immigrants

1. Legal Basis:

- (1) Article 25 of the Immigration Act.
- (2) Article 41 of the Enforcement Rules of the Immigration Act.
- (3) Articles 12 and 15 of the Regulations Governing Visiting, Residency, and Permanent Residency of Aliens.
- (4) Article 18 of the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals.

2. Eligibility:

- (1) Foreigners who have made a special contribution to Taiwan as follows:
 1. Having received an order awarded by the President under the provisions of the Orders Act.
 2. Having received an award from a government agency at ministerial level or above.
 3. Having received an award from an international organization or been placed in the top five in an important international competition, being beneficial to enhancing the development of related technology or talent within Taiwan.
 4. Having made an outstanding contribution to democracy, human rights, religion, national defense, diplomacy, education, culture, the arts, the economy,

finance, medicine, sport, or another domain in Taiwan.

5. Having contributed to enhancing Taiwan's international image.

6. Having made other special contribution to Taiwan.

(2) Foreigners who are senior professionals needed by Taiwan as follows:

1. Having professional skills in emerging industries, key technologies, or key components or products.

2. Having special and distinguishing talent for the technical R&D of a technical or scientific institution, as is rare in and outside Taiwan, or having notable achievement in micro/nano electromechanical technology, optoelectronic technology, information & communications technology, automation & systems integration technology, materials technology, high-precision sensor technology, biotechnology, resource development, or energy conservation technology and advanced basic research, the learning of which is definitely needed urgently or cannot easily be fostered within a short time in Taiwan.

3. Having distinguishing talent in management work, as is rare in and outside Taiwan, or having special achievement in highway, high-speed rail, MRT system, telecommunications, aviation, shipping, deep-water construction, meteorology, seismology, or other fields, the learning of which is definitely needed urgently or cannot easily be fostered within a short time in Taiwan.

4. Having special abilities in science, research, industry, business or teaching, sufficient to offer substantial

benefit to Taiwan's economy, industry, education or welfare, and currently employed in Taiwan due to his/her professional skills.

5. Being currently or formerly employed as a chair professor, professor, associate professor or assistant professor in a foreign university, and currently employed by an educational, academic or research institution in Taiwan.
6. Being currently or formerly employed as a researcher, associate researcher or assistant researcher of an overseas research institution, and currently employed by an educational, academic or research institution in Taiwan.
7. Having a doctoral degree, or having received an international academic award or having authored an important specialized work, and currently employed by an educational, academic or research institution in Taiwan.
8. Being currently or formerly engaged in research work in a research institution or engaged in science & technology R&D or management work in a science & technology institution for at least four years overseas, and currently employed by an educational, academic or research institution in Taiwan.
9. Having outstanding accomplishments and having gained international recognition in industrial technology, the R&D of which industrial technology can substantively further the upgrading of Taiwan's industry.
10. Having won a top-three placing in an Olympic Games or World Cup event, or top placing in an

intercontinental sports event, or having other special competitive achievement that can help enhance the competitive strength of Taiwan's athletes.

11. Having coached a national sports team whose members have won a top-five placing in an Olympic Games or World Cup event, or a top-three placing in an intercontinental sports event, or having other special competitive achievement that can help enhance the competitive strength of Taiwan's athletes.
 12. Having been invited or selected to participate in an internationally renowned competitive event in the realm of culture and the arts, and achieved an outstanding performance; or having been invited multiple times to participate in internationally renowned performances, exhibitions, related cultural activities or art festivals, and earned favourable reviews.
 13. Having outstanding professional knowledge of law, being currently or formerly employed for many years with excellent performance in a renowned domestic or foreign legal or commercial organization, having won a major domestic or international law-related award, having gained recognition in Taiwan and overseas for excellent research and publication in the field of law, or having performed outstandingly in international litigation.
 14. Other reasons for which recommendation has been furnished by the relevant central competent authority.
- (3) Foreigners who are investment immigrants as follows:
1. Having invested at least fifteen million NT dollars (NT\$15,000,000) in a for-profit enterprise in Taiwan,

and having created at least five jobs for ROC(Taiwan) nationals for three years.

2. Having invested at least thirty million NT dollars (NT\$30,000,000) in Taiwan central government bonds for three years.

3. **Required Documents:**

(1) Foreigners who have made a special contribution to Taiwan or who are senior professionals needed by Taiwan's industries or investment immigrants must all provide the following documents to apply for an APRC or Plum Blossom Card:

1) An application form:

- a. Please obtain the application form from the National Immigration Agency, Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as "the NIA") at an NIA Service Center in any special municipality, county or city, or download it from the NIA website (<http://www.immigration.gov.tw>) and print it on A4 paper.
- b. Attach a color photograph (the same specifications as required for an ROC(Taiwan) ID card) to the application form.

2) Original and one photocopy of passport (the original will be returned after inspection).

3) A satisfactory health examination certificate:

- a. The certificate must be issued by a hospital in Taiwan within the past three months, and must include all of the items of examination required in the health examination certificates of all main domestic medical institutions as currently

- announced by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.
- b. The health certificate may be submitted after the Immigration Review Committee has reviewed and approved the application.
 - c. The certificate of an overseas examination must be authenticated by an ROC(Taiwan) embassy or consulate, representative office, overseas office, or other entity authorized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter referred to as “an ROC(Taiwan) overseas mission”). If the certificate does not include all of the required items, it must be supplemented by an examination in Taiwan.
- 4) Applicants born in the Mainland Area and eligible for or have been granted citizenship of Mainland Area thereof, in addition to submitting documents to meet the requirements prescribed in Article 7 Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Enforcement Rules for the Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, shall also submit one of the following certifications:
- a. Original certification of non-establishment of Mainland household registration verified by the Straits Exchange Foundation.
 - b. Original notarial certification of cancellation of Mainland household registration verified by the Straits Exchange Foundation.
 - c. Documentary proof sufficient to prove renunciation of ID as a People of the Mainland Area, verified by an ROC(Taiwan) embassy or overseas mission.
 - d. Other documentary proof sufficient to prove renunciation of ID as a People of the Mainland Area.
- (2) Foreigners who have made a special contribution to Taiwan or who are senior professionals needed by

Taiwan's industries must also provide the following documents to apply for an APRC or Plum Blossom Card:

- 1) Supporting document(s) issued by the relevant central competent authority or an authorized organization.
 - 2) Supporting documents relevant to having made a special contribution to Taiwan or being a senior professional needed by an industry in Taiwan (including a CV or a self-recommendation letter in Mandarin and English).
 - 3) Other supporting document(s).
- (3) Foreigners applying for an APRC (Plum Blossom Card) as investment immigrants who have invested at least fifteen million NT dollars (NT\$15,000,000) in a for-profit enterprise in Taiwan and created at least five jobs for ROC(Taiwan) nationals for three years, must also furnish the following documents and fee:
- 1) Investment permission and reference letter(s) issued by the MOEA's Investment Commission, Science Park Administration, or Export Processing Zone Administration.
 - 2) Company Registration (Change) Form.
 - 3) Certificate of no tax arrears and financial statements of profit-seeking enterprise for last three years.
 - 4) An investor in an existing profit-seeking enterprise must submit a list of employees for the last four years.
 - 5) List of employees enrolled in labor insurance for the last three years.
 - 6) Other supporting documents.
 - 7) A fee of ten thousand NT dollars (NT\$10,000).
- (4) Foreigners applying for an APRC (Plum Blossom Card) as

investment immigrants who have invested at least thirty million NT dollars (NT\$30,000,000) in Taiwan central government bonds for three years must also provide the following documents and fee:

- 1) Certification proving the purchase of Taiwan central government bonds.
- 2) Other supporting documents.
- 3) A fee of ten thousand NT dollars (NT\$10,000).

4. Application Process:

- (1) Applicants in the Taiwan Area: The application must be made in person or by an authorized agent or immigration business agency at the local NIA Service Center.
- (2) Overseas applicants: The application must be submitted to an ROC(Taiwan) overseas mission, which will pass it on to the NIA.
- (3) Applicants in Hong Kong or Macau: The application must be submitted to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Hong Kong or Macau, which will pass it on to the NIA.
- (4) Applicants in the Mainland Area: The application must be submitted to a branch entity of the institution specified in Article 4 Paragraph 1 of the Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area or a private organization as specified in Paragraph 2 of the same Article of said Act, which will pass it on to the NIA. If there is no such branch entity, the application must be submitted to the NIA by the applicant's relative or spouse in the Taiwan Area or by

a duly authorized immigration business agency or Class-A travel agency acting on behalf of the applicant.

5. Matters for Attention:

- (1) Foreigners applying for an APRC as having made a special contribution to Taiwan or as a senior professional or investment immigrant shall not be subject to the requirement of residence of 183 days each year.
- (2) The supporting document(s) issued by the relevant central competent authority or an authorized organization as specified in Article 3 Subparagraph 2 Item 1 refers to a certificate or employment approval letter issued by a government authority, a certificate issued by an academic institution, or document(s) supporting recognition of outstanding achievement or special ability in the sphere of science, research, industry, or commerce.
- (3) The supporting documents relevant to having made a special contribution to Taiwan or being a senior professional needed by an industry in Taiwan as specified in Article 3 Subparagraph 2 Item 2 refers to one of the following:
 - 1) Having made a special contribution to Taiwan: Refers to materials such as newspaper and magazine reports, or documents issued by government agencies, attesting to the degree of personal contribution to the nation and society, demonstrating accomplishments that have contributed positively to the nation, to society, or in other spheres.
 - 2) Being a senior professional needed by Taiwan: Refers to information attesting to personal expertise, such as certification of professional credentials, R&D patents,

profession-related works, or profession-related qualifications (such as proof of appointment as a chair professor, professor, associate professor, or assistant professor).

- (4) The other supporting documents as specified in Article 3 Subparagraph 2 Item 3 refers to graduation certificates, letters of appointment, letters of recommendation, etc.
- (5) If a document required for submission is produced overseas, it must be authenticated by an ROC(Taiwan) overseas mission; if produced in Taiwan by a foreign mission or its authorized institution, it must be reauthenticated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; if produced in the Mainland Area, it must be authenticated by the Straits Exchange Foundation.
- (6) If a document required for submission is in a foreign language, the NIA may request the applicant to provide a Chinese translation authenticated by an ROC(Taiwan) overseas mission or notarized by a notary public in Taiwan; if the applicant omits to submit such translation, and having been notified of a time limit for correcting this omission, has still not done so when that time limit expires, their application shall be rejected.
- (7) The authentication of foreign public documents to which Article 15-1 of the Document Legalization Act for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Missions applies shall be handled in accordance with the provisions thereof.
- (8) Foreigners who concurrently hold ROC(Taiwan) citizenship may not apply for permanent residency.
- (9) If, starting from the next year after the issuance of an APRC, the holder does not reside in Taiwan for at least 183 days in a year, the APRC will be revoked. However,

this shall not apply where approval has been obtained from the competent authority, or to foreign professionals as defined by the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals. (The calculation of “year” for this purpose shall commence on January 1 from the year following that in which the APRC is issued). A person who still qualifies to reside in Taiwan after the revocation of their APRC may apply for residency within thirty (30) days of the revocation.

- (10) Where a foreign senior professional’s permanent residence permit is revoked or cancelled in accordance with the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals or Article 33 of the Immigration Act, the permanent residence permits of said person’s spouse, minor children, and children over twenty years old who are unable to live independently due to physical or mental disability, shall be revoked or cancelled together therewith.