

2026 National Taiwan University- The University of Texas at Austin Joint Seed Fund Call for Proposals

National Taiwan University (NTU) and The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) have launched the Joint Seed Fund for university research scientists. This program aims to foster bilateral academic connections and facilitates mobility to NTU or UT Austin.

NTU and UT Austin have each committed to fund up to three selected proposals and offer **up to USD \$20,000 (NTD \$300,000) per selected proposal combined**. In other words, each university will offer up to USD \$10,000 (NTD \$300,000) per selected proposal. Applications should be jointly submitted by NTU and UT Austin faculty. NTU's Office of International Affairs (OIA) and UT Austin's Texas Global will administer the program.

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 Both NTU and UT Austin applicants must be full-time, tenure track faculty members for the duration of the funding period.
- 1.2 Each project must have at least one NTU principle investigator (PI) and one UT Austin PI.

2. Funding Information

- 2.1 Funding amount per selected proposal is up to USD \$20,000, approximately NTD \$600,000, and NTU and UT Austin will jointly fund up to three projects. In other words, each university will offer up to USD \$10,000, approximately NTD \$300,000, per selected proposal.
- 2.2 The actual amount of funding available and number of projects funded in each round will be jointly reviewed and determined annually by mutual agreement between NTU and UT Austin.
- 2.3 Funding period at UT Austin is 13 months, starting from February 1, 2026 and ending on March 1, 2027. At NTU, Funding period is 11 months, starting from February 1 to December 31, 2026. Unless jointly approved by the coordinator, there will be no extensions beyond this timeframe.
- 2.4 Funding not spent by the end of the funding period must be returned so that unspent balances can be re-allocated.
- 2.5 Funding covers international travel by the funding university's faculty members and students, hosting scholars from the other university (daily stipends in principle), and relevant international events.
- 2.6 Funding should only be utilized for the selected proposal and approved budget plan.
- 2.7 All expenses must comply with the guidelines of the respective universities to which reimbursement is to be sought.
- 2.8 NTU Eligible costs mainly include international travel expenses, relevant international collaboration expenses, and stipend for foreign, non-NTU scholars. Please find the regulations below:

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTU faculty, researchers, and graduate students research abroad • Hosting international conferences, workshops, or symposiums in Taiwan • Joint lecture or lecture series • Remuneration and living expenses for foreign scholars' work days in Taiwan • Foreign scholars' domestic travel in Taiwan • Costs for part-time assistants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumable supplies • Equipment for research • Personnel expenditure, including full-time assistants

2.9 UT Austin funds must comply with the [*Handbook of Business Procedures*](#). Eligible and ineligible costs include:

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting and planning meetings • Sponsoring guest speakers or public lectures • Organizing symposia • Supporting international travel • Supplies and equipment • Research Assistants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI salary

3. Application Information

3.1 All proposals must be jointly submitted by NTU faculty member(s) and UT Austin faculty member(s)

3.2 All proposals must include the following:

3.2.1 Applicant CV

3.2.2 A list of target collaborator(s) at the other university

3.2.3 Collaboration background and/or incentive

3.2.4 Project timeline and agenda (including proposed travel)

3.2.5 Collaboration prospect up to five pages (a description of the potential collaboration, the desired outcomes and impact of the collaboration)

3.3 All proposals must address the technical details and overall planning, the clarification of intellectual property rights that are likely to be generated (position and strategy), and plans for

securing funding for the project at the end of this seed grant and other forms of commercial discussion that are envisioned.

- 3.4 All proposals should clearly explain the motivation for holding the activity, including how the relevant NTU and UT Austin institutes or departments are involved and can benefit in the long term from this cooperation and what synergies can arise.
- 3.5 Proposed activities should have a clearly defined focus with scientific and technical merit, demonstrate innovation and economic impact, and serve as a catalyst for moving research forward to a path of commercialization (when relevant).
- 3.6 Proposed activities can take place either at NTU or UT Austin.
- 3.7 Proposed activities' inclusion of third parties is permitted; however, the additional costs must be covered by these parties themselves.
- 3.8 To apply, NTU and UT Austin PIs should only submit one joint proposal to UT Austin Texas Global's online application system, [InfoReady](#).
- 3.9 Late applications will not be considered.

4. Selection and Result Notification

- 4.1 Proposal selection will be made respectively by NTU and UT Austin selection committees, which reserve the final authority over the proposal selection taking into account university and faculty strategic priorities and the availability of funding.
- 4.2 Funding will be provided on a competitive basis, following the selection criteria below:

Quality of proposal	Breadth and depth of engagement and collaboration; significance, innovation, and relevance of the proposed research or activities; clarity, feasibility, and coherence of the project description, objectives, and intended outcomes
Relevance	Relevance to the NTU / UT Austin seed fund's objectives of fostering bilateral academic connections and facilitating mobility to NTU or UT Austin
Sustainability	Potential for the seed fund to have a lasting impact beyond the actual travel period; how the grantee intends to disseminate their learnings, continue the collaboration, and/or contribute to the broader community upon their return

- 4.3 Successful applicants will receive a letter of award outlining the process to accept the seed fund.
- 4.4 Feedback on individual applications will not be provided.

5. Recipient Obligation

- 5.1 Recipients must mention the funding in all appropriate media, including any events arising from activities supported by this funding should include an acknowledgement of "NTU-UT Austin Joint Seed Fund" and any publications/presentations arising from activities supported by this funding should include acknowledgement of "This publication/presentation is supported in part by the

Seed Fund Program between National Taiwan University and The University of Texas at Austin.”

- 5.2 Recipients must submit a final report within three months of the end of the funding period that details the project outcome, impact, and future collaboration plans.
- 5.3 Recipients must comply with all relevant laws and university regulations, including those relating to intellectual property, codes of conduct, etc.

6. Important Dates

For reference, the important dates of the 2026 round are as follows:

Milestones	Dates
Call for Proposals published	Sep. 22, 2025
Proposal submission deadline	Nov. 2, 2025
Announcement of awards	Jan. 2026
Proposed activities commence	Feb. 1, 2026

7. Coordinator

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