

2026 NTU–TU Joint Seed Fund Call for Proposals – Guidelines

As part of the strategic partnership between National Taiwan University (NTU) and Tohoku University (TU), the universities established the NTU-TU Joint Seed Funding to foster initial partnership projects that are sustainable in the long term and support bilateral international collaboration activities, including research abroad, seminars, conferences, workshops, and associated travel (including accommodation and daily allowance).

NTU and TU have together committed to fund up to 5 selected proposals and offer **up to NTD \$400,000 /JPY ¥2,000,000 numbers per selected proposal combined**. In other words, each university will offer **up to NTD \$200,000 /JPY ¥1,000,000 numbers per selected proposal**. Applications should be jointly prepared and submitted separately by NTU and TU faculty. NTU Office of International Affairs (OIA) and TU Global Strategy Office (GSO) will administer the program.

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 Each project must have at least 1 NTU principal investigator (PI) and 1 TU PI.
- 1.2 At NTU, PI should be full-time faculty members for the duration of the funding period and not on sabbatical leave for the duration of the funding period.
- 1.3 At TU, PI should be tenured or tenure-track faculty.
- 1.4 Collaborators from other institutions besides NTU and TU are welcomed to participate in the projects but are not eligible for direct financial support from NTU and TU.

2. Funding Information

- 2.1 Funding period is one year from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 at NTU and from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027 at TU, due to the different financial years of Taiwanese and Japanese universities.
- 2.2 Funding covers:
 - 2.2.1 Costs of travel, including accommodation and daily allowance
 - 2.2.2 Costs for hosting seminar, conference, or workshop at NTU and/or TU
 - 2.2.3 Assistant cost for graduate students working on the project
- 2.3 All expenses must comply with the guidelines of the respective universities to which reimbursement is to be sought.

3. Application Information

3.1 Application Period is from September 25, 2025 to November 17, 2025, by 17:00 (Taiwan time)/18:00 (Japan time).

Project start at NTU: January1, 2026 (ending in December 31, 2026)

Project start at TU: April 2026– (ending in March 2027)

3.2 Proposals are to be prepared jointly and submitted separately. Each proposal must be submitted by the PI to his/her own home institution by the deadline. Applications will only be accepted via email in either PDF or Word format for NTU and TU:

- NTU applicants: Office of International Affairs, ntuglobalea@ntu.edu.tw
- TU applicants: Global Strategy Office, kokusai-c@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

Only applications submitted to these email addresses, and before the deadline, will be considered.

3.3 One proposal per PI per call is permitted.

Review and Selection of Applications

NTU and TU will then jointly review applications to make a final decision on which applications will receive funding.

Applications will be ranked on:

- Overall design and rationale – how feasible is the proposal? (10 points)
- Excellence of the research – what is the quality of the proposed project? (10 points)
- Value for money (10 points)
- Impact the award would bring to the applicants based on their career stage and existing networks (10 points)
- Potential strategic value of the partnership – to what extent will the proposal lead to future, sustainable collaboration? (10 points)

4. Recipient Obligation

4.1 Recipients must mention the funding in all appropriate media. Any events or publication arising from activities supported by this funding should include an acknowledgement mentioning “NTU-TU Joint Seed Funding” and any publications/presentations arising from activities supported by this funding should include acknowledgement of “This publication/presentation is supported in part by the Joint Seed Funding between National Taiwan University and Tohoku University.”

4.2 Recipients must submit a final report within three months of the end of the funding period at NTU

and at the end of the funding period at TU, describing the results of the funding project (including actions taken, contacts made, challenges or difficulties met, and upcoming strategy and activities to materialize or strengthen the cooperation) and future projects related thereto

4.3 < Fund Release Conditions-Recommended Outcomes>

To ensure meaningful outcomes from the project, we encourage teams to aim for at least one of the following within the project period:

- Submission of a joint, peer-reviewed research paper to an SCI(E) journal — ideally within the top 10% of the field — within one year from the project start date.
- Submission of a proposal for an international joint research grant within one year from the project start date.

While these outcomes are not mandatory, achieving them will be viewed as a strong indicator of success and will facilitate the smooth release of remaining project funds.

4.4 Important Dates

Application period	September 25, 2025 to November 17, 2025
Result notification	Mid December 2025
Funding period	NTU: January 2026 to December 2026 TU: April 2026 to March 2027
Final report due	By March 31, 2027

5. Coordinators

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