



2026 Call for proposals for joint initiatives in education and research

National Taiwan University – University of St Andrews

Purpose

The National Taiwan University and the University of St Andrews have established a joint seed funding scheme with the goal of facilitating cooperation in the framework of our partnership. The funding shall enable academic staff from all disciplines to identify complementary strengths, explore areas of synergy, and develop outstanding future projects in research and academic innovation. The joint seed funding aims to support the first steps of cooperation and is not meant as complete project funding.

Possible formats for cooperation may include but are not strictly limited to:

1. Intensive research seminars or workshops
2. Pedagogical workshops (e.g. exploring digital or other course collaboration)
3. Short-term research stays
4. Graduate summer/ winter programmes
5. Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects

Terms and conditions of open call

The supported activities should have a clearly defined focus and serve as a catalyst for the development of new joint projects. The activities can take place in Taipei or in St Andrews. The motivation for holding the activity should be clearly explained, including how the involved NTU and St Andrews faculties and schools can benefit long term from this cooperation.

- A project must be carried out by at least two applicants, one from each institution, who will work together to build a joint proposal. St Andrews applicants should be full-time or part-time academic staff with a contract of employment until at least the end of the project; NTU applicants should be tenure-track faculty and not on sabbatical leave for the duration of the project. It is strongly recommended that each institution include co-applicants (one or more); participation of early-stage researchers is also encouraged.
- All academic fields covered jointly by NTU and St Andrews are included in the present call, and interdisciplinary projects are encouraged, as long as the resulting project is beneficial for both universities.
- Projects aligning with the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) are particularly welcomed.
- Recipients of a grant under the previous call are eligible to apply. However, proposed projects must be entirely new and not a continuation, or further edition, of pre-existing initiatives. Moreover, applicants not having benefitted from funding under previous calls will be given priority in the selection process.
- Projects may also include the participation of self-funded external investigators or partner institutions where relevant.

In 2026, up to **two projects** will be jointly funded by NTU and St Andrews.

Key dates

- **Call opens:** Monday 18 August 2025
- **Applications close:** Monday 20 October 2025
(17:00 GMT+8, 10:00 GMT+1)
- **Outcomes announced:** by Monday 15 December 2025
- **Projects commence:** Thursday 1 January 2026
- **Projects complete:** Thursday 31 December 2026

Equality Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

Adherence to respective equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) policies are an important feature of this programme to ensure that all participants can do their best work, thrive and succeed. Applicant teams should consider how they can take meaningful steps in their future collaborations to foster an environment that values, supports and respects a diverse range of views, knowledge and experiences. Applicants should consider EDI as it applies to e.g., gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, (dis)ability, and career stages.

Sustainable travel

NTU and St Andrews recognise the importance of organising in-person meetings and events to support the development of collaborative partnerships. Therefore, both institutions encourage applicants to consider the environmental impact of their proposed research and travel. Please refer to the University of St Andrews' [Sustainable Research and Business Travel](#) webpage for more guidance.

Trusted Research (for St Andrews applicants)

Trusted Research, the term used by the UK Government and other bodies to refer to national security issues in the planning and undertaking of research, has been an increasingly prominent agenda since 2019. The University of St Andrews is required to put in place, and enforce, relevant provisions to ensure that it attends to this agenda. We have created guidance and a Trusted Research Tool to assist researchers and direct colleagues towards existing policy and process to ensure compliance where necessary. As part of your application to this scheme, you confirm that you have (or will) review/ed relevant guidance and complete/d a Trusted Research Tool submission including any required outcomes. Please see the [Trusted Research web page](#) for information and access to the Tool.

Selection criteria and process

Applications will be reviewed and scored by selection committees at NTU and St Andrews. The selection committees will evaluate each application using the following criteria:

- **Partnership and strategic relevance:** how the research or teaching project will be shared with the broader academic communities at each institution and how it will promote and consolidate the relationship between the two universities; how the project contributes to realising university strategies and supports the research or teaching priorities of the relevant Faculty, School, or Department.
- **Academic quality and innovation:** the academic quality of the proposed activities, the contribution to novel thinking and the ability to cut across disciplines.

- **Anticipated outcomes and scalability of the project:** a clearly formulated plan for the project and the likelihood that it will lead to a long-term, sustainable research or educational relationship and generate on-going collaboration; how the project can be transferred to other levels (local, regional, national, etc).
- **Impact and legacy:** how the work may gain wide recognition and/or have a legacy once completed; if relevant, the expected changes beyond the discipline(s) and academia.

The selection committees reserve the right to allocate less funding compared to the amount requested by the applicants. The selection shall take into consideration the project subject area and type, to encourage the widest possible range of activities.

Duration and funding arrangements

Project timelines should be clearly outlined in the application and may not exceed 12 months from the project start date. It is expected that projects will start no later than Thursday 1 January 2026. Projects must be concluded, and funding must be spent before Thursday 31 December 2026.

Each application will receive up to £12,000 (GBP)/\$480,000 (NTD) in total or £6,000/\$240,000 from each institution. Up to 2 projects will be awarded in the 2026 call of the scheme.

Co-funding of projects by a faculty, department, school, institute, centre, or external body, is welcomed.

St Andrews allowable expenses include:

- costs linked to organisation of joint meetings, seminars or workshops
- cost of developing shared online resources, e.g., video editing
- consumables needed for the implementation of the project
- travel, accommodation and reasonable expenses incurred during international travel, which are covered by the University's [expense policy](#)
- costs related to publication/dissemination of results

NTU allowable expenses include:

- costs linked to organisation of joint meetings, seminars or workshops
- cost of developing shared online resources, e.g., video editing
- travel, accommodation and meal costs
- daily stipends of foreign scholars

St Andrews and NTU non-allowable expenses include:

- salaries or salary supplementation of any kind, except for COIL tutors and learning technologists/facilitators
- indirect and overhead costs
- course fees, stipends or scholarships for students
- infrastructure and equipment purchases, such as computers, including laptops and basic computing facilities such as printers, word processing and other standard software
- conference registrations, unless specifically related to the dissemination of results
- costs already incurred prior to submission of the proposal

How to apply

Proposals will be reviewed by selection committee members from multiple disciplines and must be written for such an audience. Each proposal must include the following items in the order listed below. Please use the 2026 application form for sections 1-7 below.

- 1) Names, titles, departments, schools and emails of NTU and St Andrews Principal Investigators and any other academic staff involved in the activities.
- 2) Type of collaborative activity
- 3) List of UN Sustainable Development Goals that align with proposed project (optional)
- 4) Project title and layperson abstract of the proposed project (up to 250 words)
- 5) Narrative description of the proposed project for a multi-school, multidisciplinary audience using the following sub-headings (maximum 1000 words in total):
 - a. Project objectives
 - b. Background and previous work as appropriate
 - c. Specific outputs expected
 - d. Explanation of how you will evaluate the success of your project
 - e. Anticipated schedule for completion
- 6) Brief description of how the project will address the selection criteria using the following subheadings:
 - a. **Partnership and strategic relevance** (maximum 150 words)
 - b. **Academic quality and innovation** (maximum 150 words)
 - c. **Anticipated outcomes and scalability of the project** (maximum 150 words)
 - d. **Impact and legacy** (maximum 150 words)
- 7) Budget and budget justification, with one section for NTU budget and one section for St Andrews budget, explaining in detail all anticipated expenditures
- 8) Short curriculum vitae (2 pages maximum) of Principal Investigators
- 9) Brief endorsement letters from respective heads of department (NTU) and school (St Andrews).

One joint application, in the form of a single pdf file, must be submitted by **Monday 20 October 2025 (17:00 GMT+8, 10:00 GMT+1)** using the [online submission link](#).

Results

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by Monday 25 December 2025. Successful applicants will receive a joint letter of confirmation from both institutions, as well as an Acceptance of Award letter that must be signed and returned by the specified due date.

Change of investigator

If circumstances change – for example, the principal investigator or a team member leaves the project – awardees must provide notification to the Global Office at the University of St Andrews and the Office of International Affairs at National Taiwan University. All changes must be approved in writing.

Publications

Any publications or dissemination arising from activities supported by this joint seed funding

should acknowledge financial assistance received from National Taiwan University and the University of St Andrews. The name for the said acknowledgment is 'Joint Seed Funding provided by the National Taiwan University and the University of St Andrews'.

Forfeiture of grants

Grants not spent by the project end date will be transferred back either to the National Taiwan University or the University of St Andrews as applicable so that unspent balances can be re-allocated.

Financial and reporting obligations

Recipients will be required to submit a final report within one month of completion of the project. The report should include an outline of the outcomes of the project, an indication of the project's possible continuation, a summary of lessons learned in undertaking the project and a detailed accounting of funds as required by university policy. Recipients who fail to submit a final report may be excluded from future internationalisation funding schemes. In addition to submitting a final report at the end of the project, Principal Investigators may be asked to share a brief mid-project progress update, engage with NTU-St Andrews strategic partnership events and opportunities, and notify the Office of International Affairs at National Taiwan University and the Global Office at the University of St Andrews of visits that take place in either location.

Further information

This call for proposals will be available on the [NTU website](#) and on the [St Andrews website](#). For further information, please contact:

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