

AUA Scholars Award Program 2026

Application Guidelines

24 April 2026

The Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) launched the AUA Scholars Award Program (AUASAP) in March 2018 with the purpose of increasing mobility of scholars between AUA member universities and promoting research collaborations across Asia. The program provides financial support to scholars who conduct short-term academic visits at another overseas AUA member university. Through this program, many scholars have established connections with their peers in Asian universities, and developed extensive collaborations since then.

AUASAP has been successfully implemented for 4 cycles. This year, the program reopens for applications with the support from the United Arab Emirates University. Interested scholars are welcome to take this opportunity to advance research, share knowledge, and establish more academic connections within the AUA community.

1. General Information of AUASAP

- a) Applicants who are selected to AUASAP are known as AUA Scholar.
- b) 60 AUA Scholars will be awarded in the cycle of year 2026.
- c) An AUA Scholar is required to complete an academic visit at another overseas AUA member university for a minimum of 10 working days.
- d) AUA provides a grant of 2,500 USD to each AUA Scholar.

2. Benefits to AUA Scholars

- a) AUA Scholars will have the opportunity to broaden research horizons and establish international academic links with their overseas peers.
- b) AUA Scholars will have the opportunity to advance their research through access to needed facilities, unique data, or renowned scholars.
- c) AUA Scholars will gain international experience in teaching and research in a different academic environment.
- d) AUA Scholars will receive a grant of 2,500 USD (including tax and bank charges generated from the recipient's side) and a certificate after the visit.

3. Nomination for AUASAP 2026

AUASAP 2026 adopts a nomination-based selection process.

- a) Each AUA member university may nominate up to **four (4)** scholars for the program.

- b) All nominations must be submitted by the AUA Executives or the designated coordinators of the applicants' home universities.
- c) Nomination Deadline: **15 June 2026**.
- d) The nominating institution shall submit all application materials via email to aua_sec@163.com by the deadline.
- e) The subject line of the email shall follow the format: AUA Scholars Award 2026 – [University Name]
- f) An acknowledgement receipt will be sent to the nominating institution via email once the materials are received by the AUA Secretariat.
- g) Nomination Results will be released by the end of **June 2026**.

4. Eligibility of Applicants

AUASAP 2026 is open to scholars who meet the following requirements.

- a) Applicants must be employed as full-time faculty members or researchers of an AUA member university. The full list of AUA member universities can be found in **Appendix I: List of AUA member universities**. AUASAP 2026 is open to scholars of all disciplines and research areas. Applicants that had been already awarded by AUASAP in 2018–2019, 2019–2020, 2020–2021 or 2023–2024 are NOT eligible.
- b) Applicants shall have a detailed plan for the academic visit, including the purposes of the visit, the dates of the visit, the host professor, and a general schedule of academic activities, etc.
- c) An applicant is expected to find a host professor by themselves. The host professor must be a professor or a researcher employed by an AUA member university.
- d) All academic visits are required to be scheduled **between 15 July 2026 and 28 February 2027**, i.e., the first day of the visit is no earlier than 15 July 2026 and the last day of the visit is no later than 28 February 2027.
- e) The academic visit shall be no shorter than **10 working days**. Kindly note:
 - ♦ A working day means a **weekday** on which at least one academic activity is scheduled.
 - ♦ Weekends or public holidays are **NOT** considered as working days even if academic activities are scheduled on them.
 - ♦ Flight arrival or departure days are **NOT** considered as working days.For more details regarding the calculation of working days, please refer to **Appendix II: An Example of How to Calculate Working Days**.
- f) Applicants may plan activities like giving lectures or academic talks, meeting professors or students, attending courses or academic conferences, doing experiments, etc. during the visit. The academic activities scheduled for working days should take place at the host university. The whole academic visit plan shall be approved by the host professor.

5. Application Materials

To apply for AUASAP 2026, each applicant must complete and submit the *AUA Scholars Award Program 2026 Application Form* along with the required supporting documents.

- a) A completed *AUA Scholars Award Program 2026 Application Form* (without signature) in Microsoft Word format.
- b) A scan copy of the completed and signed *AUA Scholars Award Program 2026 Application Form*, duly signed by both the applicant and the host professor.
- c) A most updated curriculum vitae of the applicant.
- d) A scan copy of the *AUA Scholars Award Program 2026 Nomination Form* signed by the home university's AUA Executive. The nomination form shall be signed, dated, and stamped.

All application materials shall be written in English and follow the naming formats below.

File	Naming Format	Example
Application Form	<i>Name_Application Form</i>	Ivy Yong_Application Form.pdf
Curriculum Vitae	<i>Name_CV</i>	Ivy Yong_CV.pdf
Nomination Form	<i>University Name_Nomination Form</i>	THU_Nomination Form.pdf

6. Reception of Grant

- a) Successful applicants will receive an *Offer Letter* along with the *Policies and Regulations for AUA Scholars 2026*. Scholars must confirm acceptance of the offer and agree to comply with the policies and regulations before proceeding further.
- b) Each AUA Scholar is required to contact the AUA Secretariat to confirm the details of grant remittance about one month ahead of the academic visit. The grant will be remitted to an AUA Scholar directly or via the AUA Scholar's home university.
- c) In most cases, the grant is remitted within one month after the scholar has completed the academic visit and submitted the *AUA Scholar Award Program 2026 Academic Visit Summary & Review*. In the event that any delay occurs, the AUA Secretariat will contact the scholar in advance.
- d) The grant shall be returned to the AUA Secretariat if the visit is cancelled or lasts less than 10 working days.

7. Requirements for Visit

- a) AUA Scholars are expected to conduct the academic visit as stated in the application form. Each AUA Scholar is permitted to change the visiting dates for ONLY ONCE. Once awarded, AUA Scholars are NOT allowed to change the host professor or the host university.
- b) Each AUA Scholar is required to submit the *AUA Scholar Award Program 2026*

Academic Visit Summary & Review within 15 working days since the end of the visit.

- c) A certificate of the AUA Scholars Award Program will be emailed to the AUA Scholars who have successfully completed the academic visit and submitted the *AUA Scholar Award Program 2026 Academic Visit Summary & Review* to the AUA Secretariat.

8. Contact

Interested applicants may contact the AUA Secretariat at aua_sec@163.com if having any questions about the program when applying for AUASAP.

Appendix I. List of AUA Members (as of April, 2026)

University Name	Location	Abbreviation
Chulalongkorn University	Bangkok, Thailand	CU
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hong Kong, China	HKUST
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	Mumbai, India	IITB
King Saud University	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	KSU
National University of Singapore	Singapore	NUS
Nazarbayev University	Astana, Kazakhstan	NU
Peking University	Beijing, China	PKU
Seoul National University	Seoul, South Korea	SNU
Tsinghua University	Beijing, China	THU
United Arab Emirates University	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates	UAEU
Universitas Indonesia	Jakarta, Indonesia	UI
Universiti Malaya	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	UM
University of Colombo	Colombo, Sri Lanka	UoC
The University of Tokyo	Tokyo, Japan	UTokyo
University of Yangon	Yangon, Myanmar	UY

Appendix II. An Example of How to Calculate Working Days

For example, a professor from Tsinghua University will visit Universiti Malaya from 31 May to 18 June 2024. His schedule is as follows. Please refer to the columns of “Any Academic Activities Scheduled?” and “Whether Considered a Working Day” for the calculation of working days.

Date	Activity	Any Academic Activities Scheduled?	Whether Considered a Working Day
31 May 2024 (Fri)	Depart from Beijing and arrive in Kuala Lumpur	No	No. Flight arrival day is not considered a working day.
1-2 Jun 2024 (Sat-Sun)	Rest at the hotel	No	No. Weekends are not considered working days.
3-7 Jun 2024 (Mon-Fri)	Give lectures to students at UM, meet with UM professors and conduct lab-based research at UM	Yes	Yes. Working Days 1-5
8 Jun 2024 (Sat)	Visit another university	No	No. Weekends are not considered working days.
9 Jun 2024 (Sun)	Meet with UM professors and discuss of possible research collaboration	Yes	No. AUA Scholars could schedule academic activities on weekends, but weekends are not considered working days.
10-11 Jun 2024 (Mon-Tue)	Attend academic conferences	Yes	Yes. Working Days 6-7
12 Jun 2024 (Wed)	Rest at the hotel	No	No. AUA Scholars may choose not to schedule academic activities on a weekday. In that case, the weekday is not considered a working day.
13-14 Jun 2024 (Thu-Fri)	Meet with postgraduates and give presentations	Yes	Yes. Working Days 8-9
15-16 Jun 2024 (Sat-Sun)	Sightsee	No	No. Weekends are not considered working days.
17 Jun 2024 (Mon)	Meet with host professor and discuss of working papers	Yes	Yes. Working Day 10
18 Jun 2024 (Tue)	Meet with host professor, discuss of working papers, and depart from Kuala Lumpur	Yes	No. Flight departure day is not considered a working day, even if it is scheduled with academic activities.