

Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP)

Reconnecting – Advancing – Inspiring

The Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP) is a flagship initiative launched in 2025 by the **Ministry of Education, Taiwan**. Developed as a key project of the University Academic Alliance in Taiwan (UAAT), it is created to strengthen global academic partnerships with scholars connected to Taiwan—whether through family, early education, or personal identity—and invite them to participate in high-level collaboration with Taiwan’s academic community.

UAAT is a strategic national initiative uniting 12 of the country’s top universities. Rooted in intergenerational and interdisciplinary excellence and a global outlook, UAAT is dedicated to tackling pressing global challenges—ranging from climate change and net-zero transitions to smart technologies, biomedical innovation, and cybersecurity resilience—through high-impact international collaboration. It is equally focused on **shaping the next generation** of academic leaders who can thrive in a fast-changing and interconnected world.

1. Program Vision

TAP aims to connect globally based scholars with Taiwanese backgrounds or prior collaboration experience. Through UAAT’s academic and talent network platform, TAP facilitates the integration of overseas perspectives into Taiwan’s academic ecosystem, supporting innovative discoveries of long-term global significance and pursuing them with far-reaching global impact while supporting the sustainable cultivation of talent.

2. Target Participants

TAP targets early- to mid-career scholars based overseas who demonstrate meaningful connections to Taiwan through their upbringing, education, academic or academic collaboration, and who are committed to innovative work addressing frontier interdisciplinary scientific questions.

Overseas scholars are positioned as key nodes within the UAAT global academic network, facilitating the connection of international resources with Taiwan’s academic ecosystem through forward-looking inquiry and evidence-based practice, thereby supporting the development of globally impactful academic outcomes.

3. Program Scope

TAP encourages applicants to propose innovative and strategic academic collaboration initiatives aligned with the program’s mission, with a focus on long-term, intergenerational talent cultivation. Proposals may be designed flexibly to leverage the applicant’s expertise, institutional strengths, or interdisciplinary background, and should highlight their potential to foster talent development, capacity building, international exposure, and sustained collaboration with UAAT members. Eligible forms of collaboration may include co-mentorship, training programs, exchange visits, learning communities, and the sharing of distinctive resources or facilities. Proposals that advance TAP’s core goal of deepening

collaboration between overseas scholars and UAAT partners, promoting knowledge exchange, and nurturing future talent will be considered and supported.

4. Application

Applicants are required to submit a pre-proposal by **30 April 2026, 23:59 (Taiwan Time, GMT+8)**.

The proposal file (both **.docx and .pdf formats**) should be submitted via email with the subject line:

2026 UAAT TAP Pre-Proposal_ Applicant Name_ Project Field

to:

UAAT Office of Strategic Planning (uaatosp.proj@gs.ncku.edu.tw)

Overview

Key Focus Areas

TAP aims to enhance our contribution to the broader advancement of science, innovation, and knowledge exchange. Selected projects are expected to address pressing global issues, generate high-impact academic outputs, and support capacity building between institutions.

TAP encourages proposals in the following fields:

- Emerging Technologies (e.g. semiconductors, AI, quantum computing)
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
- Public Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Social Innovation and Global Governance
- Humanities and Arts

Scholars We Aim to Connect

TAP seeks to connect globally based scholars who have ties to Taiwan or prior collaboration experience. The programme particularly encourages early-career scholars of Taiwanese origin who are currently developing their academic careers internationally and who are interested in establishing long-term, substantive collaboration with Taiwan's academic community.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Early- to mid-career scholars currently affiliated with an accredited overseas university or research institution.
- Applicants aged 45 or below at the time of application will be given priority consideration (calculated as of 1 January 2027; applicants born on or after 1 January 1982 are eligible under this criterion)
- At the initial stage, applicants (PI) may submit an individual pre-proposal. Shortlisted applicants will subsequently be required to form a project team that includes at least one scholar from a UAAT member university serving as Co-I.
Note: For applicants without existing connections, the UAAT Office of Strategic Planning could provide assistance in identifying and facilitating collaboration with suitable UAAT scholars.
- Proposals should present interdisciplinary academic and/or talent development collaboration derived from the TAP key focus areas.

Expected Outcomes / Benefits

- Strengthen academic linkages between Taiwan and international institutions
- Foster impactful scholarly outcomes
- Lay the foundation for long-term institution-to-institution collaboration

- Promote cross-cultural exchange and collaborative engagement
- Build a sustainable platform for talent cultivation

Review and Selection Process

TAP adopts a two-stage selection process to ensure fairness, transparency, academic rigour, and alignment with programme objectives.

Stage 1

1. Application

- Applicants are required to submit a pre-proposal (maximum 2 pages) outlining the proposed collaboration, objectives, and relevance to the TAP key research areas.
- Curriculum vitae must be provided for the Principal Investigator (applicant) and all Co-Principal Investigators (maximum 2 pages per person).
- Applicants who have not yet established a collaboration with a UAAT partner may submit an individual application at the initial stage.
(Where appropriate, the Office of Strategic Planning may provide matchmaking support following Stage 1 to identify suitable UAAT collaborators.)

2. Review

- All submissions will be evaluated by the **2026 TAP Review Committee**, comprising senior academic and strategic experts.
 - Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.
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Stage 2

1. Full Proposal Submission

- Shortlisted teams must submit a **full proposal** (maximum 10 pages), including a detailed collaboration plan, expected outcomes, key milestones, budget, and team structure.

2. Final Review

- Final evaluation will be conducted based on the full proposal.
- Selected project teams will be formally notified by the Ministry of Education via official communication to the UAAT Co-Principal Investigator's host institution.

Timeline

Stage	Date
Call for applications opens	23 March 2026
Pre-proposal submission deadline	30 April 2026
Stage 1 review	May 2026
Stage 1 results notification	May–June 2026
Full proposal submission deadline	31 July 2026
Stage 2 review	August 2026
Announcement of selected projects	October 2026
Project start	1 December 2026
Interim report submission	31 July 2027
Final report and Result presentation	December 2027 – January 2028

Submission format requirements for each stage will be provided to selected applicants.

Obligations

- **Interim report:** A brief progress update is required at the halfway point to assess implementation and adjust support if needed (a template will be provided at due course).
- **Final report and Results presentation:** At project completion, teams must submit a full final report and share key outcomes (e.g., academic publications, datasets, policy briefs).
- **Acknowledgement:** All project outputs must acknowledge TAP support with the statement:

“This project is supported by the Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP).”

Review Criteria

All submitted proposals will be reviewed by the UAAT Advisory Board based on the following criteria:

- Innovation
- Growth potential and risk assessment
- Interdisciplinary integration
- Mentorship and talent development
- Academic reputation
- Connection to Taiwan

Funding Guidelines

Administration

All projects selected under the Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP) must comply with Taiwan's financial regulations and the TAP funding guidelines. Disbursement and financial administration will be coordinated through the Taiwan-based Co-Investigator (Co-I) at a UAAT member university.

The Co-Investigator will support annual budget planning, allocation, and expenditure implementation in coordination with the overseas Principal Investigator, while ensuring that all expenditures comply with applicable regulations and programme objectives.

Funding Amount

Each selected project may receive funding of up to **NTD 4.5 million**, subject to project scope.

Funding Period and Close-out

TAP funding must be fully utilised within **12 months**. Any unspent balance at the conclusion of the project may be recalled by UAAT.

Permitted Uses of TAP Funds

TAP funding may be used for the following categories:

1. Personnel Costs

- Employment of research assistants (full-time, part-time, or temporary)
- Monthly remuneration for the Principal Investigator

2. Operating Costs

- Budget items should follow the *MOE Budget Standards for Subsidised and Commissioned Projects*
- Travel expenses should comply with Taiwan's regulations for overseas travel reimbursement
- The programme may support the invitation of international scholars to Taiwan; related expenses should follow the relevant MOE operational guidelines for UAAT and international industry-academia collaboration programmes
- Items not explicitly listed may be budgeted under appropriate categories, subject to institutional review and approval by the UAAT member university

3. Equipment Costs

- Specialised equipment required for project implementation, in accordance with national budgeting standards issued by the Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS)

4. Administrative Costs

- Administrative expenses incurred by the Taiwan-based institution in supporting TAP implementation (up to **15% of operating costs**)
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Non-Eligible Costs

TAP funding may not be used for:

- Salaries or allowances already supported by other funding sources
 - Purchase or lease of land, buildings, vehicles, furniture, or similar assets
 - Personal gifts, honoraria unrelated to project work, or entertainment expenses
 - Catering or hospitality not directly related to project meetings
 - General administrative or indirect costs unrelated to the project
 - Travel not directly related to the project (including non-economy class airfare)
 - Depreciation or general-purpose equipment not directly required for the project
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Disbursement and Accountability

- All TAP funding will be disbursed to the institution of the Taiwan-based Co-Investigator.
- The Co-Investigator serves as the financial administrator and coordinates payments and reimbursements with the overseas Principal Investigator.
- All expenditures must be incurred within the approved project period and must be supported by appropriate documentation and reporting.

Contact Information

For enquiries regarding the Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP), please contact:

Office of Strategic Planning

University Academic Alliance in Taiwan (UAAT)

Email: uaatosp.proj@gs.ncku.edu.tw

Phone: +886 6 275 2459

University Academic Alliance in Taiwan (UAAT)

Taiwan Affinity Program 2026

Application Form – Stage 1: Initial Submission

Please ensure your application is written in English and formatted in 12-point Times New Roman and single-spaced. The application form (pre-proposal) must be merged into a single document and submitted in both .docx and .pdf formats. Submissions consisting of separate files will not be accepted.

This form is for the **initial submission** stage of the Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP). Applicants are required to submit a concise project concept (**maximum 2 pages**) that outlines their proposed collaboration, team composition, and alignment with TAP's mission and focus areas. This stage is intended to assess overall fit, potential impact, and strategic value. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to submit a full proposal in Stage 2.

Please note: Applicants **may submit a brief proposal individually at the initial stage.** Shortlisted applicants will subsequently be required to form a project team that includes at least one scholar from a **UAAT member institution** ([UAAT Member List](#)). For applicants without existing connections, the **UAAT Office of Strategic Planning** will provide assistance in identifying and facilitating collaboration with suitable UAAT scholars.

Please complete the following sections and submit along with required documents.

1. Applicant Information

- Project Title:
- Applicant Name:
- Affiliation & Position (Permanent/Tenure-track status required):
- Email Address:
- Phone Number:
- Country of Residence (Nationality):

2. Project Thematic Area

Please select the focus areas your proposal addresses (If multiple fields apply, please rank them by relevance).

- a. Emerging Technologies (e.g. semiconductors, AI, quantum computing)
- b. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
- c. Public Health and Biomedical Sciences
- d. Social Innovation and Global Governance
- e. Humanities and Arts

3. Collaboration Partners

Please complete the table below and attach CVs (max. 2 pages each) for all the members involved in the proposed project:

Name	Role (PI / Co-I)	Institution	Position/Title	Area of Expertise	CV attached?

4. Project Summary (max. 2 pages)

Please provide a concise summary of your proposed project. The summary should include the project's objectives, the nature of the collaboration, the mechanism for talent cultivation, project structure, and anticipated results or impacts.

2026 CALL FOR PROPOSAL

RECONNECTING ADVANCING INSPIRING

TAIWAN AFFINITY PROGRAM

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- supporting the sustainable cultivation of talent.

more info:



<https://reurl.cc/ppZnye>

SCHOLARS WE AIM TO CONNECT

TAP seeks to connect globally based scholars who have ties to Taiwan or prior collaboration experience. The programme particularly encourages early-career scholars of Taiwanese origin who are currently developing their academic careers internationally and who are interested in establishing long-term, substantive collaboration with

- Taiwan's academic community.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Emerging Technologies

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

Public Health and Biomedical Sciences

Humanities and Arts

Social Innovation and Global Governance

IMPORTANT DATE:

Applicants are required to submit a pre-proposal by 30 April 2026, 23:59 (Taiwan Time, GMT+8).

About University Academic Alliance in Taiwan (UAAT)

- #A national flagship initiative with special support from Taiwan's Ministry of Education
- #Including 12 top universities in Taiwan
- #Leveraging resources and talent from the member institutions
- #Cultivating Taiwan-linked talent
- #Creating Taiwan-linked overseas hubs
- #Aiming to deliver global impact through sustainable networking

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ACADEMIC ALLIANCE
IN TAIWAN

