

SINGAPORE- SOUTHEAST ASIA FELLOWSHIP (S-SEAF)

A Fellowship for Singapore-SEA
Research Collaboration

Tuesday, 19 May 2026

In collaboration with:



What is S-SEAF?

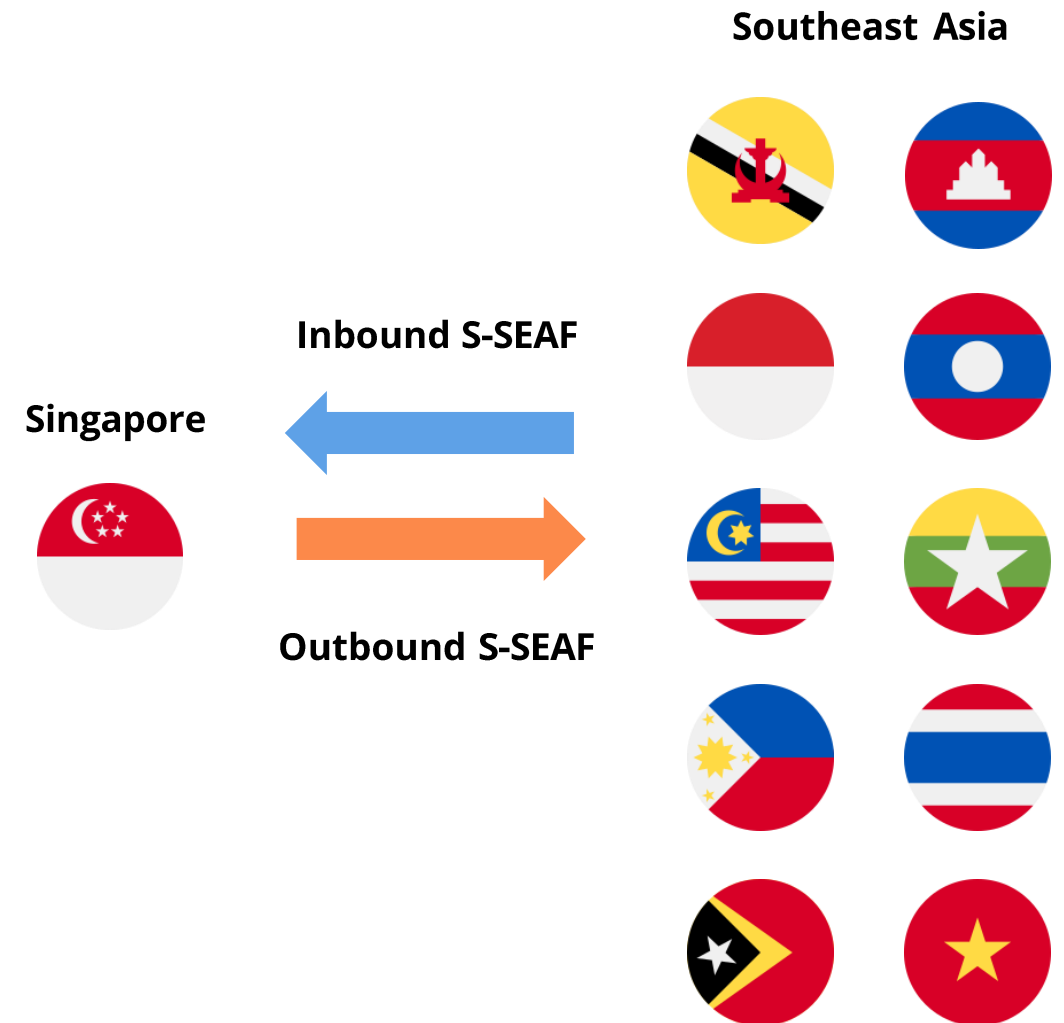
The Singapore-Southeast Asia Fellowship (S-SEAF) is an ecosystem fellowship programme that supports research talent mobility between Singapore and Southeast Asia.

Fellows receive up to two years of support, including salary, living allowance, and airfare.

S-SEAF supports researchers of **ALL** career stages

Two Modalities:

- **Inbound** – Supports outstanding researchers from Southeast Asia to work on projects at Singapore host institutions
- **Outbound (New)** – Supports Singapore-based researchers to work on projects at host institutions in Southeast Asian countries outside Singapore



S-SEAF: Building Bridges Between Singapore and SEA

Our Goals:

- Advance a more connected and collaborative Southeast Asian research ecosystem, with a focus on high-priority areas such as Infectious Diseases
- Build regional research capability through meaningful knowledge and cross-border exchange partnerships
- Develop researchers by exposing them to the broader research across landscape and priorities Southeast Asia



Why Singapore

A Global Leader Recognised Across Key International Rankings

#1

Global
Innovation
Scorecard 2025

Source: Consumer
Technology Association
(CTA)

#9

Global **Smart**
City Ranking
2026

Source: Switzerland's
Institute for Management
Development (IMD)

#1

Asia-Pacific's
Best Cities*

Source: Resonance
*for liveability, lovability
and prosperity

#5

Global
Innovation
Index 2025

Source: World Intellectual
Property Organization

#4

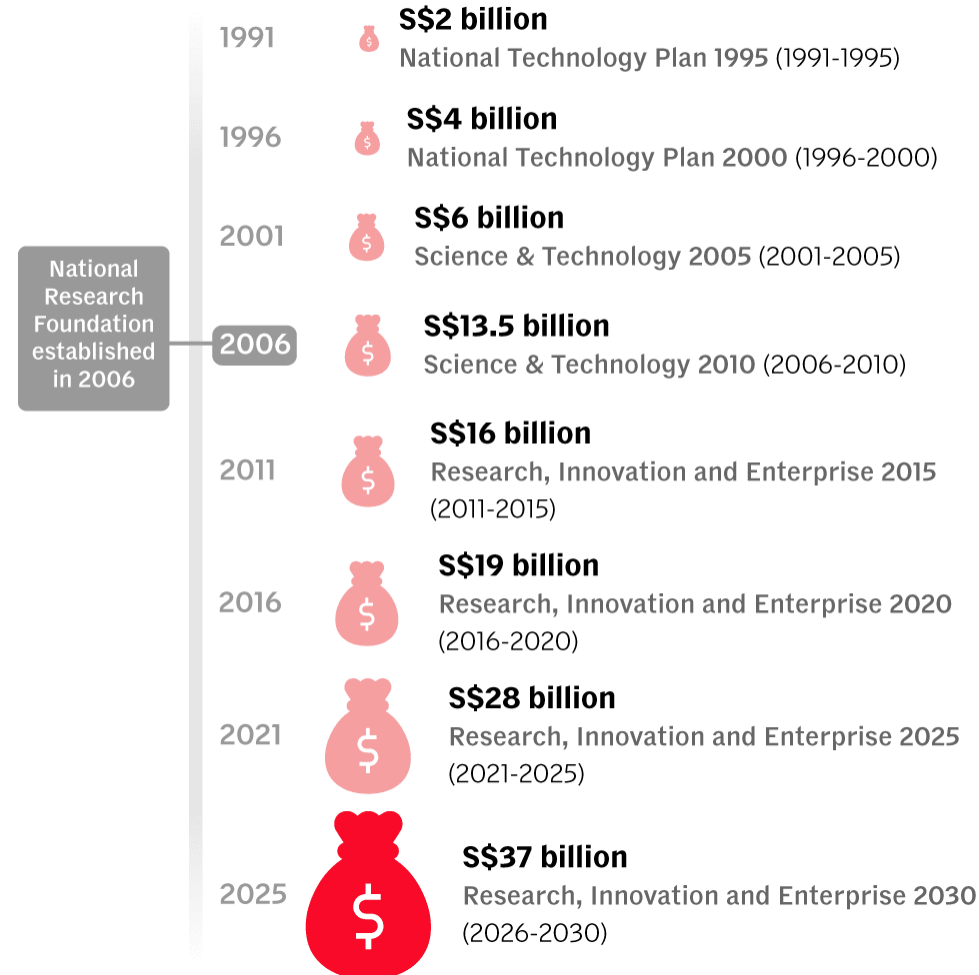
Global **Startup**
Ecosystem
Index 2025

Source: StartupBlink

..and it's close to home!

Singapore's Commitment to Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE)

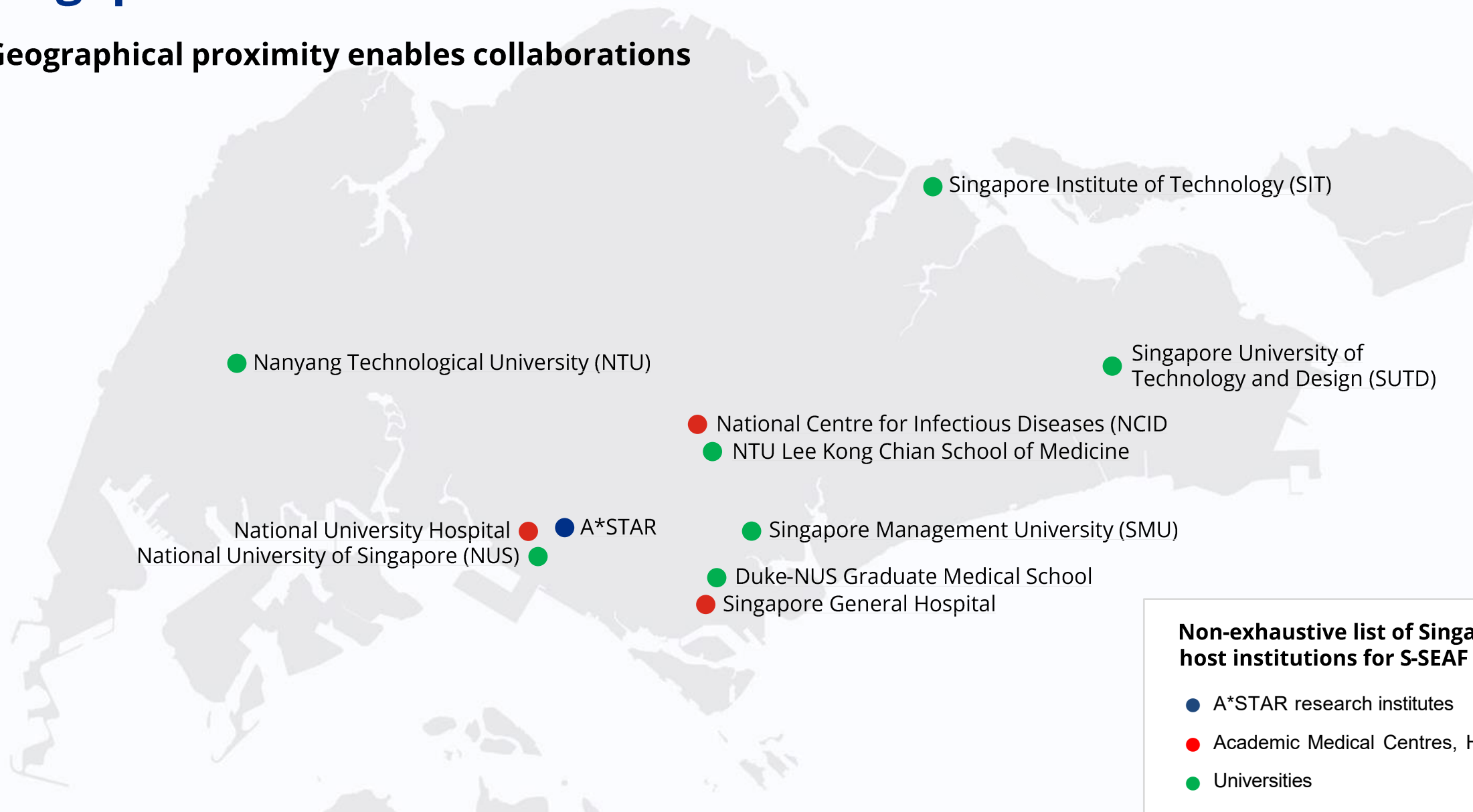
Funding for research, innovation and enterprise (RIE)



Source: Channel News Asia, Dec 2025

Singapore Research Performers

Geographical proximity enables collaborations



Non-exhaustive list of Singapore host institutions for S-SEAF

- A*STAR research institutes
- Academic Medical Centres, Hospitals
- Universities



How Researchers Benefit

Expand professional networks and build meaningful, lasting partnerships across Singapore and Southeast Asia.

Immerse in a new research and cultural environment, while learning from diverse perspectives and expertise.

Gain fresh perspectives and approaches to research.

Open doors to future joint projects, publications, and mobility opportunities.

Be part of a growing Southeast Asian research community!

Reflections: Past S-SEAF Awardees

Research Topic: Leveraging modelling approaches to define the public health importance of dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis



**Dr Kartika
Saraswati**

Indonesia | NUS

“ Receiving the SASEAF Award was a transformative experience for me, both professionally and personally. Coming from a background in medicine and epidemiology, the fellowship allowed me to broaden my research skills by gaining practical experience in mathematical modelling and geospatial analysis — approaches that have since reshaped the direction of my work. Being embedded in an encouraging, international research environment at the National University of Singapore allowed me to learn from world-leading scientists, build lasting networks, and initiate international collaborations.

The award opened new research opportunities and strengthened my confidence to work across disciplines. Beyond the academics, I was inspired by Singapore’s rich culture and history, and the openness of its research community. I would strongly encourage other researchers in Southeast Asia to apply for SASEAF, as it offers an exceptional platform for career growth in a vibrant and supportive research setting.

”



**Broaden research
skills**



**Learn from world-
leading scientists**



**Vibrant and
supportive
research setting**



Reflections: Past S-SEAF Awardees

Research Topic: Leveraging modelling approaches to define the public health importance of dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis



**Dr Phung Khanh
Lam**

Vietnam | NUS

“ Receiving the SASEAF Award was a transformative milestone in my journey to becoming an independent researcher. It equipped me with new skills, vital resources, and the support needed to advance my work on using vaccination registries to predict outbreaks.

The fellowship also helped me secure my first investigator-led grant and build meaningful collaborations in Singapore, and throughout Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. I strongly encourage fellow Southeast Asian researchers to apply — it's an exceptional opportunity for mentorship, regional networking, and experiencing life and research in Singapore.

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**New skills, vital
resources**



**Investigator-led
grant**



**Mentorship,
regional
networking**

Research Themes

Key Themes for FY26:

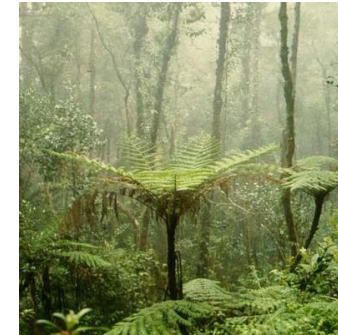
Each fellowship cycle features Infectious Diseases paired with a rotating focus area. Proposals that align with the key themes will be given priority.

Other Themes:

S-SEAF also welcomes proposals across all four of Singapore's Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) domains:



**Infectious
Diseases**



**Climate, Nature
& Environmental
Resilience**



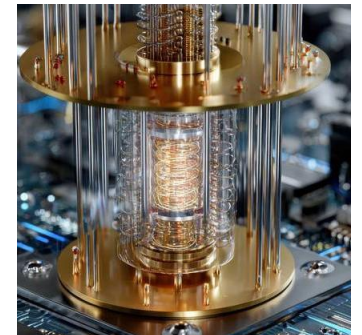
**Manufacturing,
Trade &
Connectivity**



**Urban
Solutions &
Sustainability**



**Human
Health &
Potential**



**Smart Nation
& Digital
Economy**



The Hive, Nanyang Technological University

Eligibility At A Glance

Open to researchers of ALL career stages

	Inbound	Outbound
	SEA researchers coming to Singapore	Singapore researchers going to SEA
Role of Singapore Institution*	Host institution	Host institution
Nationality	Citizens of ASEAN countries (excluding Singapore PRs)	Singapore citizens or Singapore PRs (PRs cannot pursue S-SEAF in their home country)
Academic Qualifications	Hold a PhD degree in a STEM discipline	
Language	Fluent in written and spoken English	

*Fellow must be employed by a Singapore institution for the entire duration of S-SEAF.

Inbound S-SEAF: Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously worked in Singapore.





Award Coverage

S-SEAF supports up to two years* of fellowship, including the following components:

Item	Details
Monthly Salary	Set by the host (for inbound fellows) or home (for outbound fellows) institution, funded by S-SEAF up to a specific cap
Monthly Living Allowance	S\$2,000
Airfare	One return economy-class ticket between the fellow's country of residence and the host institution's country, up to S\$4,000.

*Inbound S-SEAF: 2 years. Shorter-duration attachments (6 months) may be considered for proposals in Infectious Diseases.

*Outbound S-SEAF: 6 months to 2 years.





Evaluation Criteria

- Novelty, innovative merit, and feasibility
- Academic qualifications and track record
- Relevance of proposed research to Singapore and Southeast Asia
- Alignment with S-SEAF research theme(s)
- Leadership potential
- Research impact and potential for follow-on work



How to Apply

- 1 Find a host institution** in Singapore (for inbound) or Southeast Asia (for outbound).
- 2 Develop proposal** in consultation with your identified host institution and supervisor/ collaborator
- 3 Submit application** online via the S-SEAF Application Submission Portal, including the following:
 - Completed S-SEAF Application Form, endorsed by the proposed host institution and home institution (for outbound)
 - Two referee contacts familiar with your research and professional capabilities
 - Passport, CV, and academic transcripts/ degree certificates

Visit www.a-star.edu.sg/Research/sseaf





What S-SEAF Fellows Can Expect



A Warm Welcome

Induction programme to help inbound fellows settle in, navigate their new environment, and hit the ground running



An Exclusive Regional Community

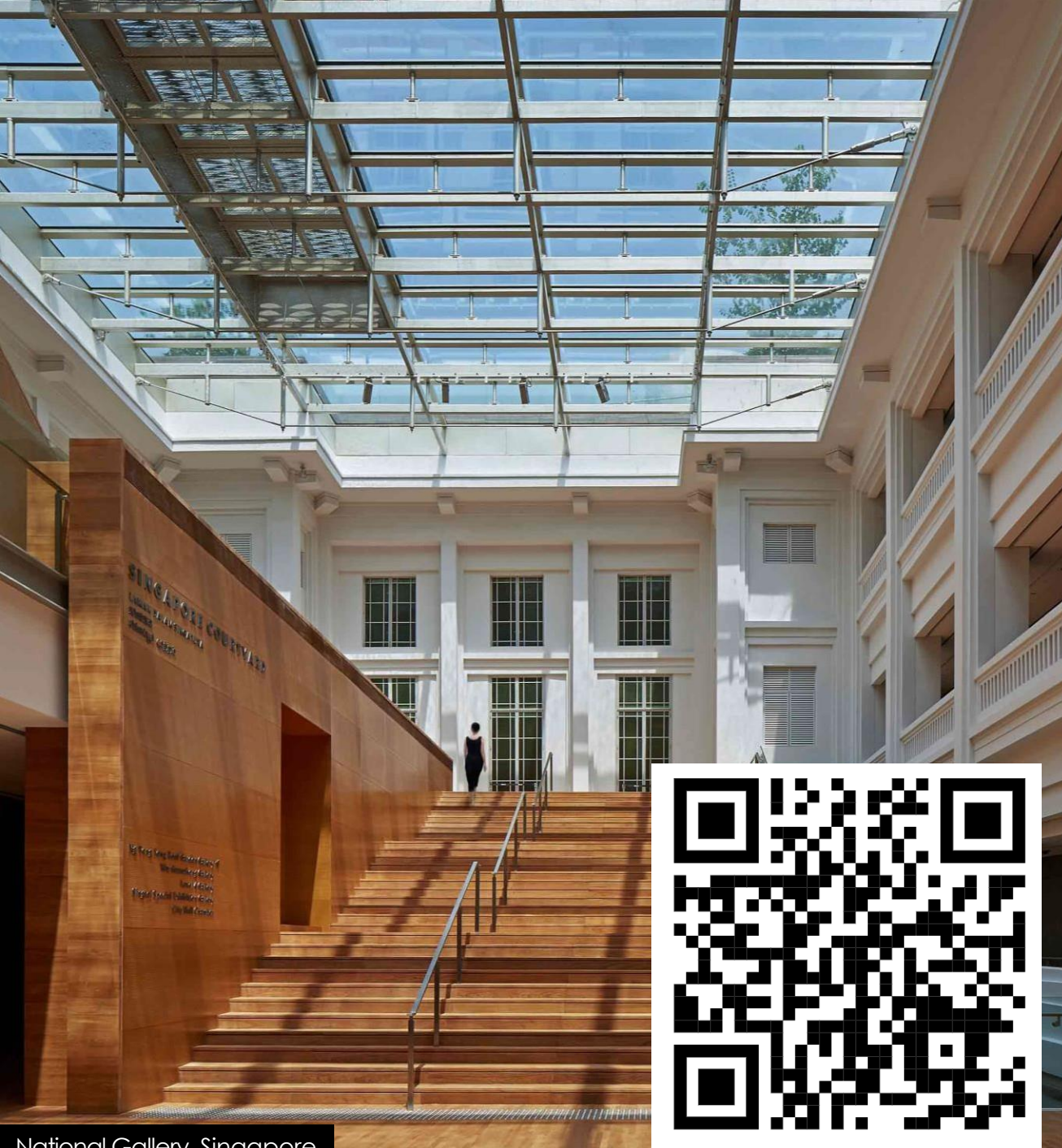
Annual gatherings that bring fellows together to exchange ideas, celebrate milestones, and grow their networks



Opportunities to Learn & Grow

Workshops to sharpen practical research skills, covering topics such as grant writing, science communication, and presentation techniques





National Gallery, Singapore

Next Steps

Application Deadline: 1 August 2026, 1900 hrs SGT

Researchers

- Check eligibility and review S-SEAF research themes to find areas of fit
- Identify a potential host institution and make contact early
- For SG researchers: Confirm support from your home institution before applying

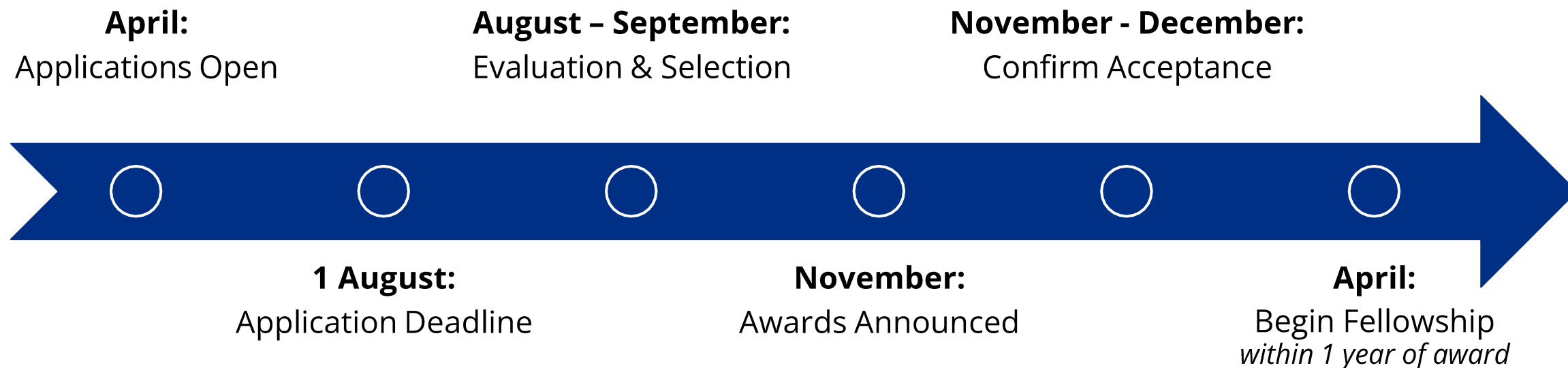
Hosts

- Share this opportunity with eligible staff and SEA collaborators
- Reach out to partner institutions to explore reciprocal hosting arrangements
- Designate a point of contact to support applicants through the endorsement process

Visit www.a-star.edu.sg/Research/sseaf
Please direct queries to SSEAF@a-star.edu.sg



Application to Award Timeline



April to August

Applicants to contact host institution, co-develop proposals, prepare documents for submission, contact referees

November to April

Host institutions to liaise with S-SEAF fellows for onboarding e.g. contract, visa application



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore

Thank You. Questions?