

# APPLICATION GUIDE FOR YOUNG INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH GRANT (MANUFACTURING, TRADE AND CONNECTIVITY DOMAIN)

## OVERVIEW

1. Under the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2030, the Manufacturing, Trade and Connectivity (MTC) domain aims to strengthen Singapore's resilience and further grow our relevance as an advanced manufacturing, trade and connectivity node, through sustained, strategic investments in research and innovation. Details on the MTC domain's strategies and goals can be found at <https://file.go.gov.sg/rie2030factsheet.pdf>

2. The MTC **Young Individual Research Grant** (YIRG) aims to nurture Singapore-based young researchers<sup>1</sup> for independent, curiosity-driven research in physical sciences and engineering areas with a line of sight to further translation and adoption by MTC sectors. . Proposals are solicited through a ground-up mechanism across the research ecosystem and A\*STAR has been appointed as the Implementing Agency for the MTC YIRG.

## LAUNCH OF GRANT CALL

3. The 2026 grant call for the MTC YIRG Funding Initiative will only be open to MTC YIRG applicants and there is application quota imposed on each institute.

4. The 2026 MTC YIRG grant call will open on **5 May 2026** and close on **23 June 2026, 11.59 pm (Singapore Standard Time)**. Results are expected to be announced towards the end of Jan 2027.

5. The grant calls are open to all locally funded public sector research performers including the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs - including universities and polytechnics), A\*STAR Research Institutes (ARES), and non-defense-related public sector agencies (e.g., Ministries, Statutory Boards). Industry and non-local research performers can participate as collaborators but will not be eligible for any funding.

a) **Application quota:** Up to 15 MTC YIRG applications each can be submitted from NUS, NTU and ARES, and up to 2 applications for all other institutes, research/healthcare groups.

6. Proposals can focus on any research areas that fall under the MTC Domain Focus Areas identified for RIE2030 (refer to ***Annex A1 MTC Domain Focus Areas***).

7. Selection of successful proposals will be based on, but not limited to, the following evaluation criteria:

- a) The track record of the PI
- b) The novelty, intellectual and innovative merit of the proposal
- c) The competitive and comparative advantage of the proposal
- d) Potential scientific/technical impact based on the proposed deliverables
- e) The feasibility of implementing the proposed methodology and execution of the chosen approach

8. Notwithstanding the above criteria, the evaluation panel reserves the right to make a final decision based on other strategic considerations.

9. Each applicant is only allowed to submit one application as a Principal Investigator (PI) for the YIRG. Only one Lead PI is allowed per application. Applicants should not have any outstanding reports for all national grants currently or previously held.

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<sup>1</sup> "Young Researchers" are defined as researchers with up to 7 years of post-doctoral experience.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

10. Applicants are generally required to fulfil the following criteria **at the point of application**:

	<b>Requirement</b>
<b>Max. funding quantum<sup>2</sup></b>	Typically up to \$325k per project (inclusive of 30% indirect costs) over 3 years. Applicants are advised to budget their projects prudently.
<b>Age</b>	Any age
<b>Academic qualification</b>	PhD (not more than 7 years post-PhD)
<b>Employment</b>	PI must hold a primary appointment of <b>at least 75%</b> in a local publicly funded institute (E.g. Minimum of 9 months' employment per year with a local Singapore Institution <u>throughout</u> project duration)  Co-investigator (Co-I) must hold an appointment in a local publicly funded institution
<b>Past funding received</b>	Awardees of the following grants will not be eligible for MTC YIRG (non-exhaustive list) - NRF Fellowship - MOE Tier 2 and 3 grants - MOH/NMRC IRG-equivalent grants
<b>Mentorship support</b>	Applicants are required to work with a mentor for guidance in their research. Applicants' current supervisor can be the mentor for the proposal but not a Co-I or Collaborator. Applicants must indicate how the proposed area of work would be distinct from their current supervisors' existing research.

11. In addition to the above criteria, applicants should not have any outstanding report from previous A\*STAR grants, NMRC grants, and other national grants.

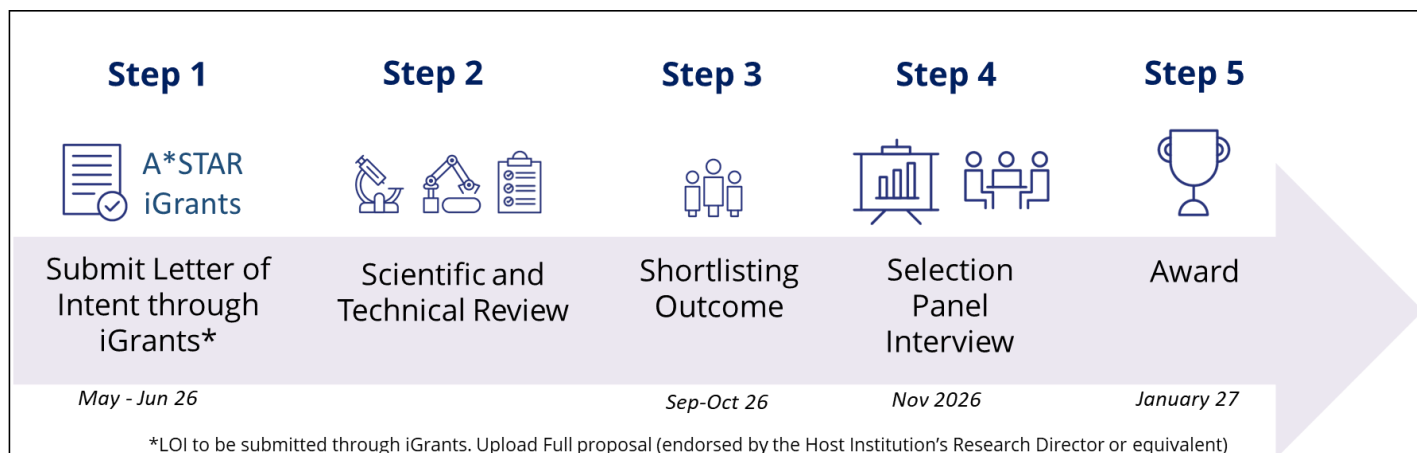
## REVIEW PROCESS

12. All proposals will be subject to scientific and technical review. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to present their proposals to a panel of reviewers. The entire review process is expected to take up to 6 months from the grant call closing date. As the decisions are final, we are unable to consider any appeals.

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<sup>2</sup> The funding supports eligible costs related to manpower, equipment, consumables, and travel, subject to A\*STAR's terms and conditions. It also supports indirect costs (IRC) capped at 30% of direct costs.

## GRANT CALL TIMELINE



### 13. Indicative Timeline:

Stage 1: Proposal Submission	
Opening of grant call on iGrants	5 May 2026
Deadline for submission on iGrants	23 June 2026
Shortlisting Outcome	September-October 2026
Stage 2: Presentation (For shortlisted applicants only)	
Deadline for submission of presentation deck	September-October 2026
Presentation to Review Panel	November 2026
Grant Award	January 2027

## APPLICATION PROCESS

14. All applications should be submitted through the A\*STAR's Grant Application and Grant Evaluation system (iGrants) (<https://igrants-app.a-star.edu.sg/>) by **23 June 2026s, 11.59 pm (Singapore Standard Time)**. Late and incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

15. The following completed document (using the requisite template) should be uploaded to the relevant sections in iGrants:

- a) Full proposal

16. Each proposal must be endorsed by the Host Institution's Research Director or equivalent prior to submission. This is to ensure that there is organisational support for the PI to participate in the grant call.

- a) Host Institute Office of Research is to submit the list of eligible proposals by grant call closure date for verification

17. For any clarification, please contact the Implementing Agency, A\*STAR, at [IRG\\_MTC@a-star.edu.sg](mailto:IRG_MTC@a-star.edu.sg).