Home Ground for the Best-in-Industry

Science. It's at the heart of everything we do. At the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), we are focused on pushing boundaries to develop Singapore's scientific capabilities and ecosystem, as well as nurture the next generation of scientific leaders.

Home to a vibrant ecosystem, leverage A*STAR's resources and support to turn your research into industry-ready solutions.

At A*STAR Graduate Academy (A*GA), we believe that diversity fuels innovation and interdisciplinary research. With an opportunity to study and conduct research at top universities in Singapore and abroad, be a part of a community of curious minds dedicated to overcoming the challenges of tomorrow's science and research landscape.

One Scholarship. Endless Possibilities.

We understand your passion can sometimes bring you to the most interesting places. From spearheading research breakthroughs to founding your own startup, an A*STAR scholarship gives you the freedom and support to follow your passion, wherever it may take you.

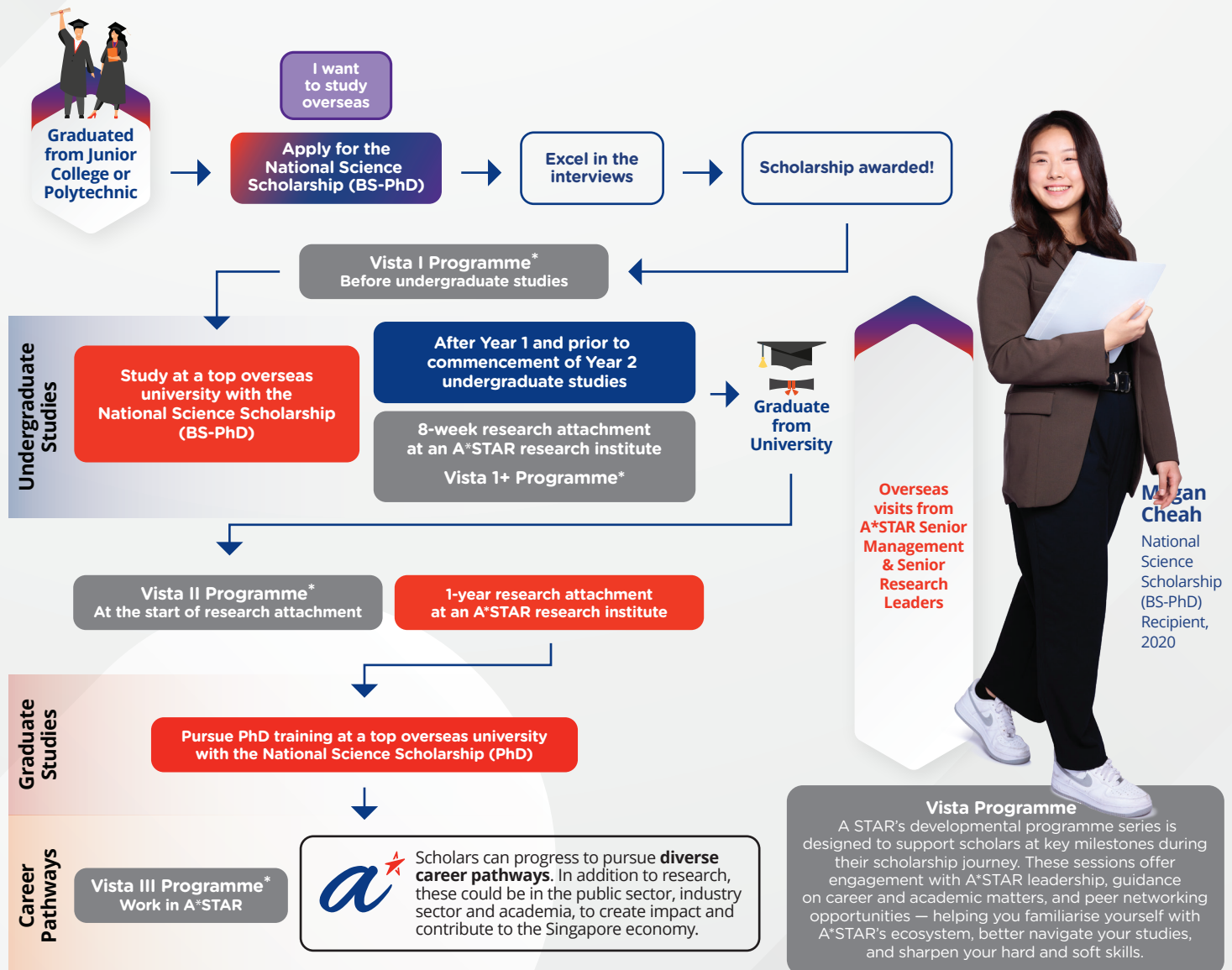## Your Growth Comes First, Always.

Start your journey of transformation with A*STAR, where your personal and professional development takes the fore. Tap into a network of the most exceptional minds in the industry and gain valuable insights from their mentorship as you partner with leading labs around the globe. More importantly, build and create connections for collaborations, as you explore new frontiers of science.

Our scholars at over 17 A*STAR research entities benefit from cross-disciplinary and multi-sectoral research opportunities, facilitating diverse career pathways in science, engineering, academia, technopreneurship, and industry. With access to state-of-the-art labs and collaboration with A*STAR's global talent pool of over 4,000 professionals from over 60 countries, scholars leverage diverse perspectives and best practices in research and development.

Through extensive outreach programmes and collaborations with international institutions, the A*STAR Graduate Academy (A*GA) actively fosters a vibrant and inclusive community, offering invaluable global exposure.

Your Scholarship Journey

Graduated from Junior College or Polytechnic

→

I want to study overseas

Apply for the National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD)

→

Excel in the interviews

→

Scholarship awarded!

Vista I Programme*
Before undergraduate studies

Undergraduate Studies

Study at a top overseas university with the National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD)

After Year 1 and prior to commencement of Year 2 undergraduate studies

8-week research attachment at an A*STAR research institute

Vista 1+ Programme*

→ **Graduate from University**

Overseas visits from A*STAR Senior Management & Senior Research Leaders

Megan Cheah

National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD) Recipient, 2020

Vista II Programme*
At the start of research attachment

1-year research attachment at an A*STAR research institute

Graduate Studies

Pursue PhD training at a top overseas university with the National Science Scholarship (PhD)

Career Pathways

Vista III Programme*
Work in A*STAR

Scholars can progress to pursue **diverse career pathways**. In addition to research, these could be in the public sector, industry sector and academia, to create impact and contribute to the Singapore economy.

Vista Programme
A STAR's developmental programme series is designed to support scholars at key milestones during their scholarship journey. These sessions offer engagement with A*STAR leadership, guidance on career and academic matters, and peer networking opportunities — helping you familiarise yourself with A*STAR's ecosystem, better navigate your studies, and sharpen your hard and soft skills.

Mapping Your Career Path

Career progression isn't always linear. Here's a combination of various pathways for you to choose from.

Graduation → **What's next?**

I'd like to pursue a career in research

I'd like to explore beyond research

I'd like to pursue a career in academia

Joint Appointment with A*STAR & an Autonomous University

A*STAR Research Institutes
Principal Investigator | Senior Scientist
Clinician Scientist | Early Career Researcher
Planning Director for Biomedical Research Council/
Science & Engineering Research Council

Industry
Chief Scientific Officer | Chief Innovation Officer
Tech Consultant | R&D Director
Tech & Manufacturing Director | Research & Lab Director
Product Life Cycle Manager
Founder/Co-Founder Start-up

**Public Sector
(Other Public Agencies)**
Strategic Planning Director
Policy & Planning Director | Data Analyst
Capability & Organisation Development Manager

University
Professor | Assistant Professor
Associate Professor

Note: Designations serve as a guide only. Actual positions and job titles may vary depending on the industry or organisation.

Paving the Path to Excellence

Singapore's only through-train science scholarship

Join Singapore's scientific ecosystem early

Learn from leading researchers and scientists in A*STAR and abroad

Unlock access to top overseas labs

The **National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD)** provides access to top global institutions, cutting-edge laboratories, and leading scientific mentors. Delve into diverse pathways for personal and professional development, gaining early immersion to the scientific ecosystem. Be a part of the next generation of trailblazers, poised to drive transformative change in the field of research.

Scholarship Facts

6-year Bond*

Study at an Overseas University

Undergraduate to PhD Scholarship

*5-year bond if scholars complete their Bachelor's and/or PhD in a country where English is not the official language.

How to Apply

Application Period: 1 December to 1 March

1
- Apply for a top university[†]
- Apply for the A*STAR scholarship while waiting for the university admission results.

[†]You may apply for university admission concurrently with your scholarship application or in the next admission period. University subject to A*STAR's approval.

2
Shortlisted applicants will be invited for two rounds of interviews.

3
Successful applicants will be given an offer, dependent on the university's admission results and A*STAR's approval.

4
Awarded individuals will be given two weeks to accept the scholarship.

Start Your Application Journey at for.edu.sg/scholarships-apply

Undergraduate Courses

Biomedical Sciences

Biochemistry
Biomedical Sciences
Bioscience & Biotechnology
Life Sciences
Microbiology

Computer & Information Sciences

Applied Mathematics
Bioinformatics
Computer Science
Computer & Software Engineering
Information Technology

Engineering & Technology

Food Science & Technology
Engineering:
- Aerospace
- Bioengineering
- Biomedical
- Chemical & Molecular
- Electrical
- Electronic & Electrical
- Environmental
- Manufacturing
- Materials
- Mechanical
- Production & Process

Physical Sciences

Chemistry
Mathematics
Natural Sciences
Physics

Applicants are welcome to apply if your field of interest is not listed above, and A*STAR will approve different research niches on a case-by-case basis. Please note that NSS (BS-PhD) does not support medical and veterinary degrees.

Benefits

Successful applicants will be given support for their undergraduate studies, comprising of:

- Full tuition fees
- Monthly overseas allowance
- Annual return airfare
- Pre-studies allowance
- Research attachment opportunities at A*STAR research institutes
- Language programme fees
  (for scholars studying in a country where English is not the official language)

All rates/allowances are subject to adjustments by A*STAR.

NSS (BS-PhD) scholars pursuing a Master of Research or 4-year integrated Master's may receive an extra year of funding if:

- The Master's degree is a prerequisite for your desired PhD programme in a diverse postgraduate training location.

- If you proceed to pursue a PhD programme that does not require a Master's degree for admission, your total NSS (BS-PhD) funding will be capped at 8 years.

Eligibility

- Singaporean. Applicants of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore citizenship. Non-Singaporeans are required to have obtained minimally Singapore Permanent Residence prior to the commencement of their studies.

- Excellent GCE 'A' Level, polytechnic diploma (preferably with Merit) or equivalent.

- Applicants who are in the last semester of their final year of studies are welcome to apply; however, successful applicants will only be awarded the scholarship if they obtain GCE 'A' Level or equivalent results that meet A*STAR's requirements.

- Applicants have applied or will be applying for an undergraduate programme listed under "Undergraduate Courses".

The above eligibility criteria are not exhaustive. A*STAR may include additional selection criteria based on prevailing scholarship policies. These policies may be amended from time to time without notice.

Other Requirements

- Preference will be given to applicants with experience and notable achievements in science or math-related projects.

- Male scholars are required to serve National Service prior to commencement of undergraduate studies.

6 years Bond

NSS (BS-PhD) scholars are required to fulfil a 6-year bond, inclusive of a compulsory 1-year research attachment prior to PhD studies.

Scholars who complete their Bachelor's and/or PhD in a country where English is not the official language would serve a 5-year bond instead.

Mid-Term NSS (BS-PhD)

For Singaporean undergraduates studying overseas.

Mid-term NSS (BS-PhD) scholars will receive the same level of support as the full-term NSS (BS-PhD) scholars from the point of the award. This includes retroactively covering all tuition fees and mandatory fees from Year 1 of study onwards.

Apply for the Scholarship at
for.edu.sg/scholarships-apply

Meet Dr Rosa So

Division Head for Healthcare and Medtech
Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R)
National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD)
Recipient, 2003

2003 – 2006
Undergraduate

Dr So graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 2006 via the National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD).

2006 – 2007
Research Attachment

Dr So did a 1-year research attachment at the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN), where she participated in a project related to tissue engineering.

2007 – 2012
PhD Studies

Dr So pursued her PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Duke University, focusing on investigating deep brain stimulation mechanisms for Parkinson's disease using computational and animal models.

2013 – 2019
Starting Her Journey as a Scientist

After her PhD, Dr So was deployed at the Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R) and contributed significantly to the Neurodevice Programme at A*STAR, pioneering the development of implantable brain machine interface systems.

2019 – Present
Current Role

In recent years, Dr So has stepped up in various leadership roles, including the Head for Healthcare and Medtech division at Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R) (2019-present), Lead for Artificial Intelligence, Analytics and Informatics Horizontal Technology Coordinating Office (2022-2023), and as part of the A*CRUSE taskforce (2020-2022) to help coordinate A*STAR's response to support national priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic. She continues to lead research projects in the area of neurotechnology and digital health.

Awards

2023
Singapore 100 Women in Tech (SG100WIT)

2022
National Awards (COVID-19) Commendation Medal

Find out more about Dr Rosa So

Take the Global Stage

From learning a new language to experiencing the rich culture abroad, studying overseas offers invaluable opportunities for personal and academic growth.
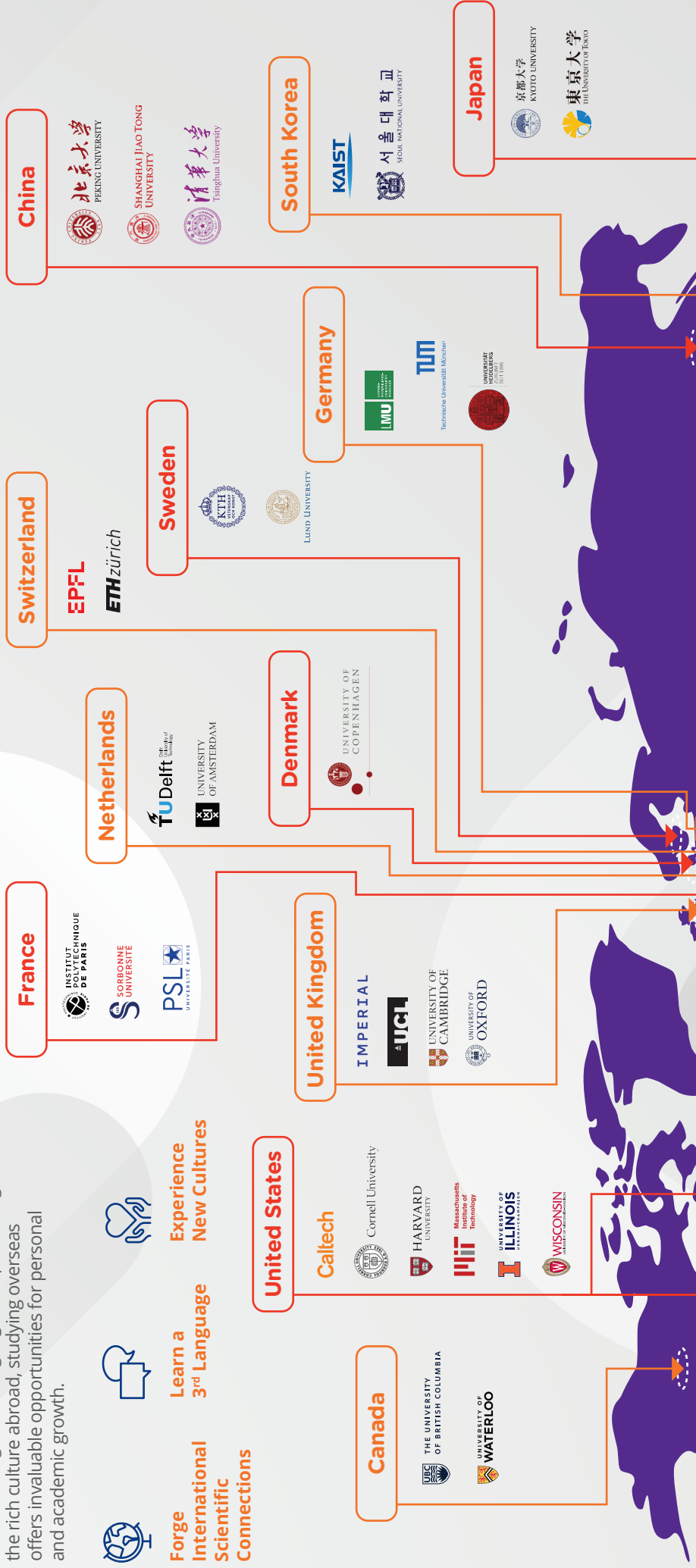
Forge International Scientific Connections

Learn a 3rd Language

Experience New Cultures

Here's Where You Can Go!

We like our scholars to come from diverse backgrounds, you can consider these universities too

China
- 北京大学 PEKING UNIVERSITY
- SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY
- 清华大学 Tsinghua University

South Korea
- KAIST
- 서울대학교 SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Japan
- 京都大学 KYOTO UNIVERSITY
- 東京大学 THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

Germany
- LMU
- TUM Technische Universität München
- UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG

Switzerland
- EPFL
- ETH zürich

Sweden
- KTH
- LUND UNIVERSITY

Denmark
- UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

Netherlands
- TU Delft Delft University of Technology
- UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

France
- INSTITUT POLYTECHNIQUE DE PARIS
- SORBONNE UNIVERSITÉ
- PSL UNIVERSITÉ PARIS

United Kingdom
- IMPERIAL
- UCL
- UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
- UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

United States
- Caltech
- Cornell University
- HARVARD UNIVERSITY
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
- WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Canada
- THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
- UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Note: List of universities on this page are not exhaustive.

The A*STAR Story

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) is Singapore's lead public sector R&D agency.

Through open innovation, we collaborate with our partners in both the public and private sectors to benefit the economy and society. As a Science and Technology Organisation, A*STAR bridges the gap between academia and industry. Our research creates economic growth and jobs for Singapore, and enhances lives by improving societal outcomes in healthcare, urban living, and sustainability. A*STAR plays a key role in nurturing scientific talent and leaders for the wider research community and industry. A*STAR's R&D activities span biomedical sciences to physical sciences and engineering, with research entities primarily located in Biopolis and Fusionopolis.

For ongoing news, visit www.a-star.edu.sg.

Have a question?
Drop us an email at
Student_Services@hq.a-star.edu.sg

Apply for the scholarship

Scan to view FAQs

Information is accurate as of 1 March 2025.