

NSTC Graduate Research Fellowship Pilot Program-- NSTC Selection

(announced on NSTC Official Document NO. 1130082776 Nov. 29, 2024)

The program is established by the National Science and Technology Council (hereinafter referred to as NSTC), aiming to build a solid foundation of research talents and reserve talents for core strategic industries. The program awards outstanding Ph.D. students who have demonstrated their potential for significant research contributions and supports them to pursue full-time doctoral degree. (This pilot program is called this fellowship hereinafter.)

For those who want to apply for the unfilled positions (88, maximum), please read the following information.

1. Eligibility for Application :

Those who were enrolled and registered in public or private universities in Taiwan (here-in-after referred to as the enrolled schools) and obtain 1st year doctoral student status before the end of Sep. 2024.

2. Number of Award :

Applicants must select key research areas and submit their own application materials on line. NSTC then will conduct academic reviews to select 88 awardees (maximum) in accordance with national development and talent cultivation needs.

3. Amount and Duration :

Each fellowship recipient will be granted a monthly stipend of NT\$40,000 for a period of up to 3 years, starting from Sep. 1, 2024. Stipend for those who graduate less than three years shall last until the month of graduation. The entire stipend is offered by NSTC.

4. Eligibility to Claim the Fellowship:

- (1) Applicants will receive a confirmation letter from the NSTC once their applications are accepted through academic reviews and they need to matriculate and finalize their enrollment in the first year of the PhD program in the specific time required by their respective colleges/universities.

The recipients will be awarded “NSTC Graduate Research Fellowship (NSTC-GRF)” title and certificate and their respective colleges/universities will submit receipts of fund withdrawal in accordance with NSTC’s instruction.

- (2) The following individuals are not eligible to receive this fellowship:
 - a. Those who are engaged in full-time paid employment in public or private sectors or who are part-time students.
 - b. Students from Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China.
 - c. Those who have applied for leave of absence and retained their admission eligibility or have not completed registration after admission.
 - d. Those who are concurrently in receipt of scholarship or subsidy offered by the ROC government.

5. Application documents Required and the Procedure :

Applicants should log in and upload the required documents on the NSTC website (<https://arspb.nstc.gov.tw/NSCWeb/slogin.jsp>) within the specified period. Incomplete submission will be given a limited time for correction after the online submission. Failure to correct within the given time or incomplete corrections will result in rejection:

- (1) Information form
- (2) Application Forms(Less than 10 pages)
 - a. Personal Resume
 - (i). Your motive for studying in the PhD program, reasons for doing researches in specific fields and career planning during your PhD studying years.

- (ii). An Introduction of your research history, including your publications (dissertation, journal articles and seminar papers, books, technical reports) and research results (Number and amount of patent approvals, authorizations, IPR and technology transfers)
- b. Research Proposal
 - (i). Your research topic in doing the PhD program
 - (ii). Research goals and background
 - (iii). Research methods and steps
 - (iv). Anticipated research findings
 - (v). References
- (3) Documents to certify that you were enrolled as a 1st year doctoral student in 2024.
- (4) Transcripts from undergraduate or higher
- (5) Other favorable review materials (Certificates of Language Proficiency Test or Recommendation letters).

6. Review Process

- (1) Evaluation criteria include the applicant's academic performance, future potential, research experience, and research topic, as reviewed by experts in relevant fields. The review Scoring items are as follows :
 - a. Your motive for studying in the PhD program, reasons for doing researches in specific fields, and your career plan while pursuing the PhD program. (40%).
 - b. The innovativeness of your research topic for the doctoral degree, the completeness and feasibility of the research proposal, and its significance for Taiwan 's future development (40%).
 - c. Correlation between research capability, research expertise, and key research area (20%).
- (2) After the evaluation process being completed within four months from the day of the submission deadline, the selection list will be finalized and announced. The process may be extended if necessary.

7. Fellowship Disbursement :

The fellowship is disbursed in two installments each academic year, starting from Sep. 2024. The enrolled schools should submit a list of awardees along with receipts of fund withdrawal in accordance with NSTC's instruction.

8. Performance Assessment :

NSTC reserves the right to retrieve funds from the enrolled schools if the recipient is found to be ineligible.

Recipients' eligibility for fellowship renewal in each academic year is subject to review according to the regulations set by the applicant institutions. Recipients must continue to cooperate with NSTC to track their academic progress at school and professional accomplishment after graduation within three years.

9. Implementation Schedule :

This pilot program will be reviewed annually in a rolling manner to adjust its content as needed to align with policy requirements and fully realize its anticipated benefits.