AUA Scholars Award Program 2023-2024
Application Guidelines

Asian Universities Alliance
20 August 2023

    The Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) set up the "AUA Scholars Award" in March 2018 with the purpose of increasing mobility of scholars between member universities and promoting research collaborations across Asia. The program provides financial support to scholars who conduct short-term academic visits at another overseas AUA university. Through this program, many scholars established connections with their peers in Asian universities, and developed extensive collaborations since then.

    The AUA Scholars Award Program (**AUASAP**) was successfully implemented for three years before being suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the program reopens for applications after an upgrade in funding and application process. Interested scholars are welcome to take this opportunity to advance research, share knowledge, and establish more academic connections with the AUA community.

1. **General Information of AUASAP**

    a) Applicants who are selected to AUASAP are known as AUA Scholars.

    b) 60 applicants will be awarded AUA Scholars in the year 2023-2024.

    c) An AUA Scholar is required to complete an academic visit at an AUA member university for a minimum of 10 working days in 2024.

    d) AUA provides a grant of 2,500 USD to each AUA Scholar.

2. **Benefits to AUA Scholars**

    a) AUA Scholars will have the opportunity to broaden research horizons and establish international academic links with their overseas peers.

    b) AUA Scholars will have the opportunity to advance their research through access to needed facilities, unique data, or renowned scholars.

    c) AUA Scholars will gain international experience in teaching and research in a different academic environment.

    d) AUA Scholars will receive a grant of 2,500 USD (including tax and bank charges generated from the recipient's side) and a certificate after the visit.

3. **Eligibility of Applicants**

    This award is open to scholars who meet the following requirements.

    a) Applicants must be employed as full-time faculty members or researchers of an AUA member university. The full list of AUA member universities can be found in **Appendix I: List of AUA member universities**. This program is open to scholars of all disciplines and research areas. Scholars who were selected to the AUA Scholars Award Program 2020-2021 are **NOT** eligible to apply this time.

b) Applicants shall have a detailed plan for the academic visit, including identifying the purposes of the visit, the dates of the visit, the host professor, and having a general schedule of academic activities, etc.

c) An applicant is expected to find a host professor by themselves. The host professor must be a professor or a researcher employed by an AUA member university.

d) All academic visits are required to be scheduled **between 1 January and 31 December 2024**, i.e., the first day of the visit is no earlier than 1 January 2024 and the last day of the visit is no later than 31 December 2024.

e) The academic visit shall be no shorter than **10 working days**. Kindly note:
   - A working day means a **weekday** on which at least one academic activity is scheduled.
   - Weekends or public holidays are not considered as working days even if academic activities are scheduled on them.
   - Flight arrival or departure days are **not** considered as working days.

   For more details regarding the calculation of working days, please refer to **Appendix II: An Example of How to Calculate Working Days**.

f) Applicants may plan activities like giving lectures or academic talks, meeting professors or students, attending courses or academic conferences, doing experiments, etc. during the visit. The academic activities scheduled for working days should take place at the host university. The whole academic visit plan shall be approved by the host professor.

4. **Submission of Application Materials**

   To apply for AUASAP, applicants need to 1) fill in the online application form and 2) submit the following materials in the online application system (http://www.a-u-a.org/) by **24:00 (UTC+8) of 15 Oct (Sun) 2023**, after which the application system will be closed.

   a) A scanned copy of the application form, which is generated by the online application system. The form should be signed by both the applicant and the host professor.

   b) A most updated curriculum vitae of the applicant.

   c) A scanned copy of an employment certification of the applicant issued by the applicant's home university. The employment certification shall be signed, dated and stamped. Kindly note the certification shall indicate that the applicant's home university or department is aware of, and agrees with the applicant's plan to travel overseas for an academic visit within the time period specified in the application form.

   All application materials shall be written in English and follow the formats below for file names.

File	Naming Format	Example
Application Form	*Name*_Application Form	Ivy Yong_Application Form.pdf
Curriculum Vitae	*Name*_CV	Ivy Yong_CV.pdf
Certification of Employment	*Name*_Employment	Ivy Yong_Employment.pdf

5. **Review of Application Materials**

   a) Applicants who meet the eligibility and have submitted a complete set of application materials by deadline will find that that the application status is "Passed" under the "Document Check" column in the application system by 31 Oct 2023.

   b) Applicants that do not meet the eligibility or have missing/wrong application materials will find that the application status is "Unpassed" under the "Document Check" column. Meanwhile, there will be review comments shown in the application system. Applicants should read the review comments, revise the application materials, and submit them to the application system again.

   c) Application materials that pass the document check will be forwarded to the host university for review and selection.

   d) All applicants can check the application result in the system from 16 December 2023 onwards. Successful applicants will receive an email with an offer letter. Other applicants will also receive a notification email regarding the application result from the AUA Secretariat.

6. **Reception of Grant**

   a) The AUA Secretariat will contact each AUA Scholar and their home university to confirm the details of grant remittance about one month ahead of the academic visit. The grant will be remitted to an AUA Scholar directly or via the AUA Scholar's home university.

   b) In most cases, the grant is remitted before the academic visit. In the event that the grant is remitted after the academic visit starts, the AUA Secretariat will contact the AUA Scholar in advance.

7. **Requirements for AUA Scholars**

   a) AUA Scholars are expected to conduct the academic visit as stated in the Application Form. Each AUA Scholar is permitted to change the visiting dates for only once. Once awarded, AUA Scholars are not allowed to change the host professor or the host university.

   b) Each AUA Scholar is required to submit a summary of the visit in the online system within one month since the end of the visit. A certificate of the AUA Scholars Award Program will be emailed to the AUA Scholars who have successfully completed the academic visit and submitted the summary to the online system.

8. **Contact**

   Interested applicants may contact the AUA Secretariat at aua-sec@foxmail.com if having any questions about the program or encountering any technical issues when applying for AUASAP.

Appendix I. List of AUA Members

University Name	Location	Abbreviation
Chulalongkorn University	Bangkok, Thailand	CU
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hong Kong, China	HKUST
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	Mumbai, India	IITB
King Saud University	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	KSU
National University of Singapore	Singapore	NUS
Nazarbayev University	Astana, Kazakhstan	NU
Peking University	Beijing, China	PKU
Seoul National University	Seoul, South Korea	SNU
Tsinghua University	Beijing, China	THU
United Arab Emirates University	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates	UAEU
Universitas Indonesia	Jakarta, Indonesia	UI
Universiti Malaya	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	UM
University of Colombo	Colombo, Sri Lanka	UoC
The University of Tokyo	Tokyo, Japan	UTokyo
University of Yangon	Yangon, Myanmar	UY

Appendix II. An Example of How to Calculate Working Days

For example, a professor from Tsinghua University will visit Universiti Malaya from 31 May to 18 June 2024. His schedule is as follows. Please refer to the columns of "Any Academic Activities Scheduled?" and "Whether Considered a Working Day" for the calculation of working days.

Date	Activity	Any Academic Activities Scheduled?	Whether Considered a Working Day
31 May 2024 (Fri)	Depart from Beijing and arrive in Kuala Lumpur	No	**Flight arrival day is not considered a working day.**
1-2 Jun 2024 (Sat-Sun)	Rest at the hotel	No	**Weekends are not considered working days.**
3-7 Jun 2024 (Mon-Fri)	Give lectures to students at UM, meet with UM professors and conduct lab-based research at UM	Yes	Working Days 1-5
8 Jun 2024 (Sat)	Visit another university	No	**Weekends are not considered working days.**
9 Jun 2024 (Sun)	Meet with UM professors and discuss of possible research collaboration	Yes	**AUA Scholars could schedule academic activities on weekends, but weekends are not considered working days.**
10-11 Jun 2024 (Mon-Tue)	Attend academic conferences	Yes	Working Days 6-7
12 Jun 2024 (Wed)	Rest at the hotel	No	**AUA Scholars may choose not to schedule academic activities on a weekday. In that case, the weekday is not considered a working day.**
13-14 Jun 2024 (Thu-Fri)	Meet with postgraduates and give presentations	Yes	Working Days 8-9
15-16 Jun 2024 (Sat-Sun)	Sightsee	No	**Weekends are not considered working days.**
17 Jun 2024 (Mon)	Meet with host professor and discuss of working papers	Yes	Working Day 10
18 Jun 2024 (Tue)	Meet with host professor, discuss of working papers, and depart from Kuala Lumpur	Yes	**Flight departure day is not considered a working day, even if it is scheduled with academic activities.**