2027 National Science and Technology Council Announcement for SEED–Young Scholars Program

(Seeds of Excellence in Exploration and Development)

I. Goal

The Program aims to strengthen Taiwan's research excellence and innovative capacity, enabling young scholars to address major societal and global challenges through science and technology. By integrating NSTC's research resources, the Program provides sustained support for outstanding young scholars to focus on frontier scientific exploration, international collaboration, interdisciplinary integration, and technology translation, thereby advancing Taiwan's strategic research capacity and cultivating a new generation of leading talents in science and technology.

II. Eligibility

1. Applicant institutions (Executing Institutions)
   Institutions that meet the requirements set out in Article II of the NSTC Directions for Research Project Subsidization.
2. Applicants (Principal Investigators) must meet one of the following criteria:
   (1) Applicants who are no older than 45 years of age (born on or after January 1, 1982) and qualified to act as a principal investigator under the NSTC Directions for Research Project Subsidization.
   (2) Applicants who are no older than 45 years of age (born on or after January 1, 1982) and hold a doctoral degree. Applicants who are not yet qualified as principal investigators may still apply but must obtain such qualification before project implementation is approved.
3. Applicants who have given birth or taken parental leave may have the age limit extended by two years per child, with relevant supporting documents required.

III. Application Methods

Applications must be submitted within NSTC's specified deadline. Each applicant may submit only one proposal. Applications that are overdue, incomplete, or not in accordance with NSTC specifications shall not be accepted.

1. Applicants already qualified as NSTC principal investigators shall submit their applications in accordance with the NSTC Directions for Research Project Subsidization. After approval by the applicant institution, the institution shall submit the application roster and statement of principal investigator eligibility to NSTC by official letter.
2. Applicants not yet qualified as NSTC principal investigators shall prepare and upload the following documents to the NSTC Academic Research Service Portal:
   (1) Project proposal
   (2) Identification (a copy of the national identification card for R.O.C. nationals; a copy of the passport for foreign nationals)
   (3) PhD degree certificate. However, graduating students may submit their project proposal with the following documents:
      a. Applicants studying for PhD degrees overseas shall present provisional degree certification issued by their university confirming that they have passed the oral defense and thesis review. Chinese translations of all documents must be provided.
      b. Applicants studying for PhD degrees in Taiwan shall present provisional degree certification comprising proof that they have passed the doctoral degree examination committee's review, bearing the department's or institute's official seal, and the minutes of the oral examination.

Applicants who meet the conditions specified in Section III.1 shall not apply under Section III.2. Applications submitted in violation of this

provision shall not be accepted. If an application has passed review or the project has been approved for implementation, the grant shall be revoked, and all grant funds shall be returned within the specified period.

IV. Review

1. Project proposals must correspond to at least one of the following research directions and provide evidence of relevant collaboration experience or academic performance:
   (1) Frontier Scientific Exploration: Original research or research that breaks with established scientific thinking, including challenges to or extensions of existing theories, methods, or topics, to produce outcomes with value for scientific and technological innovation.
   (2) International Collaboration: Leading and connecting international research communities around innovative research topics through exchanges and collaboration with international research teams or institutions, to produce international collaborative research outcomes or secure international research resources and enhance international academic influence.
   (3) Interdisciplinary Research: Integrating diverse disciplinary perspectives to address current or anticipated societal, industrial, or environmental issues, produce interdisciplinary collaborative research outcomes, and further develop concrete solutions.
   (4) Technology Application and Translation: Focusing on breakthroughs in emerging technologies and their applications, producing innovative research outcomes that can be translated into practice through early collaboration with industry or application settings, and further advancing these outcomes toward industrial application and commercialization.
2. Applicants already qualified as NSTC principal investigators at the time of application whose proposals do not meet the funding

threshold, and who have neither applied for a 2027 NSTC research project nor undertaken an NSTC research project on or after August 1, 2027, may, if selected and notified by NSTC based on the review results, adjust the scope of their proposals and apply for a research project for the same year on a rolling basis within one month from the date of NSTC's notification of non-approval.

V. Funding and Project Duration

1. Each project shall be subsidized for a term of up to four years starting August 1, 2027, and may be renewed once for another term of up to four years, with a total duration not exceeding eight years.
2. Each principal investigator may undertake only one SEED–Young Scholars Project at a time. Applicants may apply for a second-term project only during the final year of the current term.
3. In principle, no more than 50 new projects may be approved and subsidized each year, and each project shall receive no more than NT$ 8 million per year.
4. Allowance for the principal investigator: NT$ 30,000 per month.
5. Project Type: Individual research project.

VI. For applicants who did not meet NSTC's qualifications for principal investigators at the time of application, applied under Section II.2(2), and have passed review, project approval shall be handled as follows:

1. After receiving NSTC's notification letter, applicants shall, during the period beginning August 1, 2027 and ending before August 1, 2029, obtain documentary proof that an applicant institution meeting the requirements of Article II of the NSTC Directions for Research Project Subsidization has agreed to appoint them, and meet the principal investigator qualifications set out in Article III of the same Directions. Applicants who fail to do so within the specified period shall be deemed to have relinquished the grant.

2. The applicant institution shall submit to NSTC, within two months from the start date of employment, the applicant's letter of appointment, doctoral degree certificate (for applicants graduating in the academic year of application), documents related to research ethics review, and a copy of the NSTC notification letter to obtain project approval. Failure to complete this procedure within the specified period shall render the notification letter invalid.
3. The deadline for submitting the aforementioned research ethics review documents to NSTC for project approval may be extended to no later than three months from the start date of employment, except under special circumstances approved by NSTC.
4. After review, NSTC shall notify the applicant institution by official letter. The project execution period, contract signing, and subsidy disbursement shall be handled in accordance with the letter of approval.

VII. Other Matters

1. The review, execution and evaluation of each project shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations of its respective academic department. Please visit the department website or contact the department's person in charge for details. Other matters shall be handled in accordance with NSTC notifications.
2. Any matters not addressed in this announcement regarding subsidy items, contract signing and subsidy disbursement, extensions and changes, expense reimbursement, and submission of project reports for each type of project shall be handled in accordance with the NSTC Directions for Research Project Subsidization, the NSTC Principles for Handling Research Project Grants, the Directions for Research Personnel Contracted by NSTC-funded Research Project, the research

project grant contract, the research project execution agreement, and other relevant regulations.

3. If the annual funding requirement of a project is not approved by the Legislative Yuan or is partially reduced, NSTC may reduce the subsidy funds based on the review results. Relevant matters shall be handled in accordance with Article 54 of the Budget Act.
4. Further information and contact points:
   (1) For other NSTC regulations and operation guidelines, please visit: NSTC homepage > Funding & Awards > Funding > Research Project Grant > SEED–Young Scholars Program
   (2) For inquiries regarding the program's regulations and eligibility, please contact the NSTC Department of Planning at: (02) 2737-7903, 7845
   (3) For inquiries regarding academic applications and reviews, please contact:
      a. Department of Natural Sciences and Sustainable Development: (02) 2737-7811
      b. Department of Engineering and Technologies: (02) 2737-7437
      c. Department of Life Sciences: (02) 2737-7906
      d. Department of Humanities and Social Sciences: (02) 2737-7179
   (4) For technical issues regarding the Academic Research Service Portal, please contact the NSTC Information System Service: 0800-212-058; (02) 2737-7590, 7591, 7592