Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP)

Reconnecting - Advancing – Inspiring

The Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP) is a flagship initiative launched in 2025 **by the Ministry of Education, Taiwan**. Developed as a key project of the University Academic Alliance in Taiwan (UAAT), it is created to strengthen global research partnerships with scholars connected to Taiwan —whether through family, early education, or personal identity—and invite them to participate in high-level collaboration with Taiwan's academic community.

UAAT is a strategic national initiative uniting 12 of the country's top research-intensive universities. Rooted in interdisciplinary excellence and a global outlook, UAAT is dedicated to tackling pressing global challenges—ranging from climate change and net-zero transitions to smart technologies, biomedical innovation, and cybersecurity resilience—through high-impact international collaboration. It is equally focused on shaping the next generation of research leaders who can thrive in a fast-changing and interconnected world.

1. Our Mission

TAP aims to reconnect globally based scholars who share Taiwanese roots with the resources, expertise, and networks of UAAT. By weaving your overseas perspective into Taiwan's vibrant research ecosystem, TAP accelerates discoveries that matter worldwide.

2. Who We're Looking For

If you are an early-to mid-career researcher who

1. **Carries Taiwan with you**—whether you were born here, in your background, your upbringing, or the values that shaped your academic journey.

2. **Thrives on frontier science** and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

3. **Seeks partners** committed to rigorous, high-impact research and real-world change.

TAP was designed for you. We invite you to join a community that values both where you come from and where your ideas can lead.

3. Why It Matters

TAP is more than a research initiative — it is a catalyst for reconnecting global talent with Taiwan's academic future. By bringing together scholars with shared roots and global perspectives, TAP fosters collaborations that generate new knowledge, drive impactful research, and shape solutions with international relevance.

We welcome you to be part of this mission — to build lasting academic connections and contribute to meaningful global progress.

4.   Application Procedure

Applicants must submit their project pre-proposal by 23:59, August 22, 2025 (Taiwan Time) via email to the UAAT Office of Strategic Planning at uaatosp.proj@gs.ncku.edu.tw.

The email subject line should read:

"2025 UAAT TAP Project Pre-Proposal_Applicant Name_Project Field"

(Please attach both DOCX and PDF versions of the proposal.)

Overview

Key Research Themes

TAP aims to enhance our contribution to the broader advancement of science, innovation, and knowledge exchange. Selected projects are expected to address pressing global issues, generate high-impact academic outputs, and support capacity building between institutions.

TAP encourages proposals in the following fields:

- Emerging Technologies (e.g. semiconductors, AI, quantum computing)
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
- Public Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Social Innovation and Global Governance

Scholars We Aim to Connect

TAP is designed to reconnect globally based scholars who share a strong sense of identity shaped by **Taiwanese heritage, cultural background, or family ties**. In line with this mission, applications from early- to mid-career researchers who are originally from Taiwan and is now contributing to the global academic landscape and seeking to build meaningful collaborations with Taiwan's research community are **highly preferred.**

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be early- to mid-career scholars currently affiliated **with an accredited overseas university or research institution.**
- **Applicants aged *45 or below at the time of application** will be given priority consideration.
- **Applicants may submit a brief proposal individually at the initial stage.** Shortlisted applicants will subsequently be required to form a project team that includes at least one scholar from a **UAAT member institution** (UAAT Member List). For applicants without existing connections, the **UAAT Office of Strategic Planning** will provide assistance in identifying and facilitating collaboration with suitable UAAT scholars.
- Interdisciplinary collaborations and proposals aligned with TAP's key focus areas are strongly encouraged.

* **Note:** *Age will be calculated as of **January 1, 2026**. Applicants who are **born on or after January 1, 1981** will be considered as meeting the "45 or below" criterion.*

Expected Outcomes / Benefits

- Strengthened research links between Taiwan and international institutions
- Co-publication of high-quality academic research
- Foundation for long-term institutional partnerships
- Mutual capacity building and talent development

- Cross-cultural exchange and collaboration

Application Types

Applicants to the **TAP** may choose from several **collaboration types** when submitting their proposal. The program encourages both traditional research projects and innovative, custom-designed forms of academic engagement that align with TAP's mission and focus areas.

Applicants should select the application type that best reflects their proposed activity and desired outcomes.

Application Types:

1. Research Collaboration

This track supports scholars with a well-defined research topic that aligns with **TAP's key focus areas**. Proposals under this track should demonstrate **academic rigor, strategic relevance, and clear potential for long-term collaboration** with UAAT partners. Projects may include joint research studies, co-authored publications, shared data initiatives, or collaborative fieldwork that advances both scientific knowledge and international engagement.

2. Capacity Building & Talent Exchange

This track supports applicants seeking to engage in non-traditional yet high-impact academic partnerships. It is ideal for individuals affiliated with organizations or centers that can offer **specialized expertise, resources, or collaborative platforms** to support mutual learning and institutional development with UAAT partners. Activities may include co-developing training programs, facilitating researcher exchanges, or providing access to unique facilities that enhance shared academic capacity.

3. Customized Collaboration Proposals

TAP welcomes creative and forward-thinking proposals that may not fall neatly into traditional categories. Applicants are encouraged to design **customized models of collaboration** that reflect their unique strengths, contexts, or institutional environments—whether academic, industrial, cultural, or cross-sectoral. As long as the proposed initiative aligns with **TAP's mission of fostering meaningful partnerships between overseas scholars and UAAT institutions**, we are open to exploring new formats that advance research, capacity building, or strategic knowledge exchange.

Review and Selection Process

TAP follows a **multi-stage selection process** to ensure fairness, academic rigor, and alignment with program objectives:

Stage 1: Initial Submission

- Applicants are required to submit a **brief proposal** (maximum 2 pages), outlining the proposed collaboration, objectives, and relevance to TAP's focus areas.
- A **CV for the Principal Investigator (PI)** and all **Co-Investigators (Co-Is)** must be included (maximum 2 pages).

Stage 2: Shortlisting

- Proposals will be reviewed by the **UAAT Advisory Board**, composed of senior academic and strategic experts.
- Selected applicants will be **shortlisted** based on the preliminary review and invited to submit a **full proposal**.

Stage 3: Full Proposal Submission

- Shortlisted teams will submit a **detailed proposal** (maximum 10 pages), providing comprehensive information on the collaboration plan, methodology, expected outcomes, milestones, budget, and team structure.

Stage 4: Online Presentation

- Finalists will be invited to present their proposal in an **online session** before the UAAT Advisory Board.
- The presentation will allow evaluators to engage directly with the applicants and assess the project's clarity, feasibility, and collaborative strength.

Stage 5: Final Decision

- Based on the full proposal and presentation, final award decisions will be made.
- Selected teams will be notified, and **awards will be formally announced.**

Timeline

Stage	Date
Call for Proposals Opens	July 23, 2025
Pre-Proposal Submission Deadline	August 22, 2025
Shortlisting & Notification **(Review Period Stage 1)**	August 25- September 5, 2025
Full Proposal Submission Deadline	October 7, 2025
Review Period Stage 2	October 13-28, 2025
Online Presentations **(Final Review)**	October 30- November 11, 2025
Award Announcement	November 17, 2025
Project Start Date	December 1, 2025
Midterm Report Submission	May 15, 2026
Final Report & Results Sharing	December 1, 2026

Specific presentation dates and submission formats will be provided upon shortlisting.

Obligations

- **Mid-Term Report**: A brief progress update is required at the halfway point to assess implementation and adjust support if needed (a template will be provided at due course).
- **Final Report & Results Presentation**: A comprehensive final report is required, along with sharing of key outcomes (e.g., publications, datasets, policy briefs) with TAP administrators and stakeholders.
- **Acknowledgement**: All project outputs must acknowledge TAP support with the statement:
  "This research was supported by the Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP)."

Proposal Review Criteria

All submitted proposals will be reviewed by the UAAT Advisory Board based on the following criteria:

- **Background and Connection to Taiwan**
- **Innovation**
- **Multidimensional Performance**
- **Mentorship and Talent Development**
- **Academic Reputation**
- **Growth Potential and Risk Assessment**

Funding Guidelines

Funding Guidelines

All project funding under the Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP) must comply with national financial regulations and TAP funding guidelines. Disbursement and management of funds will be administered through the Taiwanese Co-Investigator at a UAAT member university. The Co-I is responsible for coordinating annual budget submissions, managing fund allocation, and executing expenditures **according to the overseas PI's instructions**—ensuring all spending is aligned with both legal and programmatic requirements.

Available Funding

Each selected project may receive funding up to **NTD 4,500,000**, subject to project scope.

Disbursement Schedule

Funding is to be expanded within a **12-month** period. Funds unspent at the conclusion of the project may be recalled by UAAT.

Permitted Uses of TAP Funds

TAP funding may be used for the following categories:

1. **Personnel Costs**
   - Research assistants (full-time, part-time, or temporary staff)
   - Monthly PI honorarium (subject to pre-approved budget)
2. **Operating Costs**
   - Research-related consumables (e.g. stationery, reagents, books, software)
   - Transcription, translation, or literature collection services
   - Open access publication fees (within approved limits)
   - Hosting of collaborative online seminars or masterclasses
3. **Research Equipment**
   - Equipment needed solely for project execution
4. **International Travel**
   - For Taiwan-based researchers traveling overseas for project-related conferences, visits, or collaborations
   - Must follow the travel policies of Taiwan's Executive Yuan and TAP guidelines
5. **Overseas Scholar Visits to Taiwan**
   - Includes airfare (economy class), accommodation, local transportation, and daily allowances.
6. **Administrative Support**
   - Institutional support costs for managing TAP-related administrative work (based on capped proportion of budget)
7. **Data and Dissemination**
   - Survey implementation
   - Access to online databases or panel data
   - Development of dissemination materials or multimedia reports

Restrictions on TAP Funds Usage

The following expenditures are **not permitted**:

- Salaries or stipends already funded from other sources
- Purchase or rental of land, buildings, vehicles, or furniture
- Personal gifts, gratuities, or entertainment expenses
- Meals and hospitality outside of project-related meetings
- Unrelated general institutional overhead or management fees
- Travel not directly related to the project (non-economy class fares are not allowed)
- Depreciation costs or general-purpose equipment unrelated to the TAP project

Fund Disbursement and Accountability

- All TAP funds will be disbursed to the Co-I's institution in Taiwan.
- The Co-I will act as the fund administrator, managing payments and reimbursements in coordination with the overseas PI.
- All expenditures must occur within the approved project duration and require appropriate documentation and reporting.

Contact Information

For inquiries regarding the Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP)—including application procedures, partnership facilitation, and program timelines—please contact:

University Academic Alliance in Taiwan (UAAT), Office of Strategic Planning

Email: uaatosp.proj@gs.ncku.edu.tw

Phone: +886 6 275 2459

TAP Application Form – Stage 1: Initial Submission

This form is for the **initial submission** stage of the Taiwan Affinity Program (TAP). Applicants are required to submit a concise project concept (**maximum 2 pages**) that outlines their proposed collaboration, team composition, and alignment with TAP's mission and focus areas. This stage is intended to assess overall fit, potential impact, and strategic value. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to submit a full proposal in Stage 2.

Please Note: Applicants **may submit a brief proposal individually at the initial stage.** Shortlisted applicants will subsequently be required to form a project team that includes at least one scholar from a **UAAT member institution** (UAAT Member List). For applicants without existing connections, the **UAAT Office of Strategic Planning** will provide assistance in identifying and facilitating collaboration with suitable UAAT scholars.

Please complete the following sections and submit along with required documents.

1. Applicant Information

- Project Title:

- Applicant Name:

- Affiliation & Position:

- Email Address:

- Phone Number:

- Country of Residence:

2. Application Type

Please select one of the following options:

☐ Research Collaboration
☐ Capacity Building & Talent Exchange
☐ Customized Collaboration

3. Project Focus Areas

Please select the focus areas that your proposal addresses:

☐ Emerging Technologies (e.g. semiconductors, AI, quantum computing)
☐ Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
☐ Public Health and Biomedical Sciences
☐ Social Innovation and Global Governance

4. Collaboration Partners

Please complete the table below and attach CVs (max. 2 pages each) for all the members involved in the proposed project:

Name	Role (PI / Co-I)	Institution	Position/Title	Area of Expertise	CV attached?

5. Project Summary (max. 2 pages)

Please provide a concise summary of your proposed project. The summary should include the project's objectives, the nature of the collaboration, how your project will be structured and anticipated results or impacts.