

SSRC Graduate Research Fellowship

For NTU

Finalised details for launch on 21 Sep 2021

A PRESENTATION BY
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE



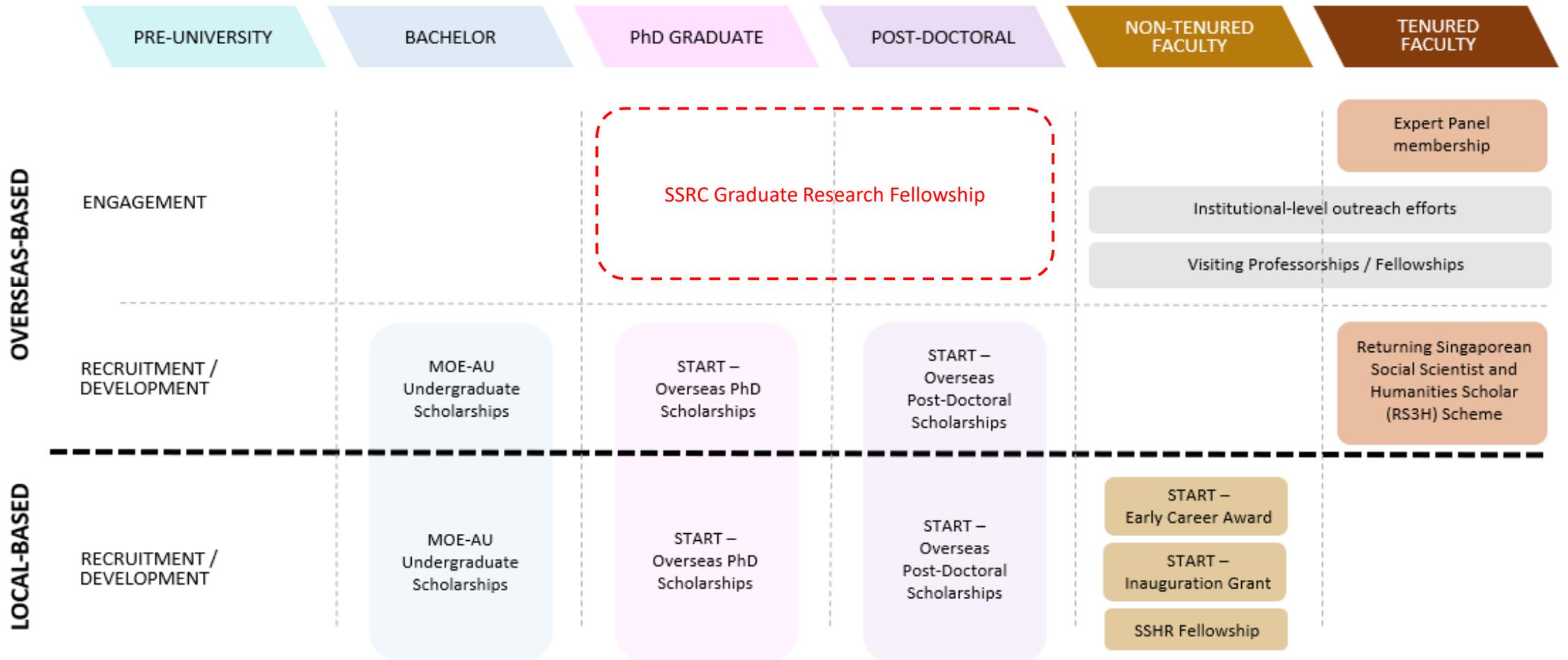
Objectives

SSRC GRF is an engagement tool targeting overseas Singaporeans at an early stage in their careers.

1. The SSRC GRF is part of SSRC's effort to support the development of a Singaporean core of researchers.
 - a) It complements existing schemes catered for locally-based early career researchers; and
 - b) Is an additional tool to augment the individual AUs' strategies for the engagement of overseas-based academics.

2. The SSRC GRF aims to strengthen professional links between Singaporean academics based overseas and the local research ecosystem.
 - a) It familiarises overseas Singaporeans with local SSHR issues and the local research ecosystem via the provision of a small grant to collaborate with a locally-based mentor on a small research project.
 - b) The relationships established should be maintained by the AUs, and can be used to facilitate the academics' return in the medium- to long-term.
 - c) The broadened professional network also benefits locally-based researchers by facilitating a rich exchange of ideas which can strengthen Singapore's research capabilities.

The SSRC GRF complements existing provisions for locally-based Singaporean researchers and enables the AUs to engage overseas-based individuals outside their current networks.



Terms

Eligibility Criteria and Terms of SSRC GRF

1. Eligibility criteria:

- a) Singapore citizens;
- b) Outstanding undergraduate academic record (at least a bachelor's degree with second upper honours or equivalent); and
- c) Accepted for doctoral or postdoctoral training at a leading overseas academic or research institution.

2. Terms of the SSRC GRF:

- a) Tenable for a period of two years;
- b) Tenable for research in any social science and humanities discipline, although research on issues relevant to the local context is encouraged;
- c) Two categories of award: (A) Up to SGD 10,000 per award for PhD students and (B) SGD 20,000 per award for postdoctoral fellows. The award may be used for travel or other research-related expenses.
- d) Awardees will be assigned a mentor who is an experienced researcher in local AUs based on their proposed area of research, who can provide access to valuable academic and career guidance;
- e) Awardees will be required to return to Singapore at least once during the tenure of award to participate in engagement activities (e.g. research seminars) within the AU and with SSRC members; and
- f) Awardees must comply with reporting requirements stipulated by the host AU.

Terms of the SSRC GRF

3. Obligations. GRFs are bond-free. Host AUs are not obliged to hire GRFs as faculty members beyond the GRF tenure.
4. Funding:
 - a) Provision of SGD35,000 to fund GRFs for a mix of PhD students and postdoctoral fellows for one year.
 - b) Prospective fellows may only accept one GRF offer from one host AU at any point in time.
5. Renewals. SSRC GRF recipients may reapply for a second award after the term of their first award has been completed. However, an individual will be limited to a maximum of 2 awards in total throughout their career (regardless of category). All applications for the GRF award will compete on an equal basis.
6. Evaluation Criteria:
 - a) Candidate's proposed utilization of the GRF funds;
 - b) Candidate's personal statement on the benefit of the GRF;
 - c) Assessment of candidate's suitability and potential by the host AUs Head of Department; and
 - d) [For applications from previous GRF awardees] Assessment of performance and budget utilization of previous SSRC GRF award(s).

Administrative Arrangements

Administrative Arrangements: Application and Evaluation

1. Application and Evaluation. The process will be as follows:

Timeline	Milestone
1 January 2022	Call for SSRC GRF applications open via the AUs
14 February 2022, 12 noon	Call for SSRC GRF applications closes
14 February to 7 March 2022	<p>Applications will be assessed and prioritised by the Heads of Department at the AUs.</p> <p>AUs are to (i) assign experienced mentors to oversee GRFs' involvement in research activities within the AU, and (ii) identify plans for engagement activities, which should include interactions with SSRC members, during the tenure of award.</p>
7 March 2022, 12 noon	<p>a. AUs to submit SSRC GRF nominations and the supportable costs of their projects to the SSRC for approval. The list of nominations may include reserve candidates and should be endorsed by the institution's Provost or equivalent, who is in charge of overseeing faculty matters.</p> <p>b. AUs are to inform MOE if there is intention to co-fund the nominees with other sources of funding (e.g. \$5k from SSRC GRF award, \$5k from AU's funding).</p>

Administrative Arrangements: Monitoring & Disbursement of Funds

2. Funding from MOE will be disbursed to the AUs upfront in one lump sum upon conveyance of the approved awardees.
 - a) Upon the completion of the award at the end of 2 years, all unutilised funds will have to be returned to MOE. Roll over of unused funds to support new awards is not allowed.
3. The AUs will be responsible for the governance and management of GRF funds, and to implement good financial accounting practices.

Timeline	Milestones
March 2022	Approval of SSRC GRF awardees by the SSRC
End-March 2022	Conveyance of outcome of SSRC GRF call
April 2022 to March 2024	Tenure of the 2022 SSRC GRF award

Administrative Arrangements: Performance Management

4. Reporting. For each batch of awardees, AUs are to submit two reports, as follows:

Timeline	Milestone
May 2023	(i) AUs to submit annual report on research expenditure and output on an aggregated level, endorsed by the Director of Research. Individual reports from awardees should be included as Annex of the report; and (ii) Audited expenditure statement
May 2024	AUs to submit: (i) Completion report on research expenditure and output on an aggregated level, endorsed by the Director of Research. Individual reports from awardees should be included as Annex of the report; (ii) Audited expenditure statement; and (iii) Return unutilised funds to MOE after submission of audited expenditure statement.

5. Tracking of Alumni. AUs are to maintain a record of GRF alumni and their current employment, significant publications, and recent engagements in locally-relevant research activities, and provide periodic reports on these to MOE.

Announcement and Implementation

Next Steps

1. Announcement and Implementation of Scheme.

a) Minister of Education will announce this new initiative in his closing address at the Singapore Researchers' Global Summit (SRGS) on 21 September 2021.

b) We would like to seek AU's assistance for:

Timeline	Milestones
21 September 2021	(i) Grant information, (ii) application form and (iii) any other information your institution may wish to add to be made available on institution's website
1 January 2022	Call for proposals to open

c) In the lead-up to the call for proposal on 1 Jan 2022, MOE will also work with your institution on the finer operational details for administration of the scheme.

Timeline for implementation

1. The SSRC GRF is targeted for implementation in early 2022. Timeline for the Call as follows:



Thank You