Singapore Research Attachment Programme (SRAP) Factsheet

OVERVIEW

1. The Singapore Research Attachment Programme (SRAP) aims to facilitate collaborations in strategic research domains between Singapore and overseas research centres/programmes. To this end, SRAP supports the training of STEM PhD talent under collaborative projects on a centre-to-centre scale.

2. Under SRAP, A*STAR (as the Implementing Agency), awards collaborations over a **3- to 5-year term** by directly funding **6 to 10 international PhD students from overseas universities** to work on projects co-supervised by Singapore and overseas research centres/programmes. Each PhD student will spend a **minimum of one to a maximum of two years** at the Singapore research centre/programme.

3. The awarded Singapore centre/programme is responsible for managing the **onboarding and offboarding of the PhD students**.

RESEARCH DOMAINS

4. Applications must fall under at least one strategic research area under the 4 RIE domains:

    a. Manufacturing, Trade and Connectivity (MTC)

    b. Human Health and Potential (HHP)

    c. Urban Solutions and Sustainability (USS)

    d. Smart Nation and Digital Economy (SNDE)

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CENTRE / PROGRAMME ELIGIBILITY

5. As SRAP aims to support strategic international collaborations on a centre-to-centre scale, applications must fulfil the eligibility requirements below. The application must be submitted by the Singapore party, which can fall under:

    a. National initiatives listed in Annex A, provided by NRF

    b. National platforms

    c. NRF-funded White Space research programmes

    d. Institution's central initiatives e.g. by A*STAR or an Institute of Higher Learning

6. The application is a joint submission that must involve one Singapore and one overseas research centre/programme and should not be focused on collaborative projects at a researcher-to-researcher level.

7. The lead researcher must be based in Singapore and must hold a primary appointment of at least 75% in a local publicly funded organisation.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

8. Applications must adhere to the following guidelines.

    a. Written in English.

    b. Indicate lead researchers and any additional researchers from both the Singapore and overseas centres/programmes.

    c. Submit to A*STAR electronically via this link by the application deadline.

    d. Endorsed by the heads of both Singapore and overseas centres/programmes (by the Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director, the Director of Research or equivalent) prior to submission.

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EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

9. Proposals are assessed by an SRAP panel comprising key representatives from across Singapore's research ecosystem.

10. Project proposals will be assessed primarily for:

    a. Alignment with national research priorities

    b. Research impact & sustainability

    c. Track record of research centres/programmes

    d. Strength of collaboration

    e. Clarity, feasibility, and novelty

11. Notwithstanding the above criteria, the SRAP panel reserves the right to apply other strategic considerations at its discretion. The decision of the panel is final, and no appeal will be accepted.

AWARD COVERAGE AND STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

12. Each awarded proposal may identify 6 international PhD students to undertake a minimum of 1 year to a maximum of 2 years attachment in Singapore, over a period of 3 years. Each international PhD student will be directly funded under SRAP, during their attachment. Please refer to paragraph 15 for the guidelines on extension and funding for 4 additional international PhD students under SRAP.

13. The Singapore centre/programme and overseas counterpart are responsible for recruiting PhD students ("SRAP students") who must meet the following eligibility requirements:

    a. International (non-Singaporean, non-Singapore PR) PhD students from an overseas university

    b. Possess a bachelor's degree ideally with at least a Second-Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent

    c. Not an awardee of the A*STAR Research Attachment Programme (ARAP)

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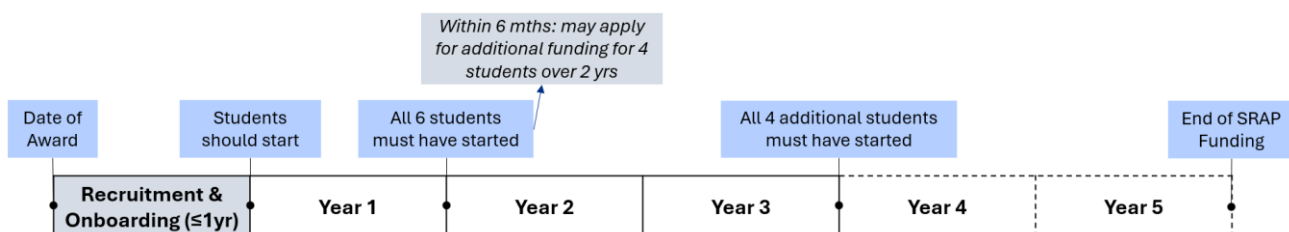14. Each SRAP student will be provided with the following* during their attachment in Singapore:

- Monthly stipend of S$3,600

- Monthly housing subsidy of S$300

- One-time airfare grant of S$1,500

- One-time settling-in allowance of S$1,000

- One-time IT allowance of S$800

- Conference allowance of up to S$1,000 (local) and S$4,000 (overseas)

- Medical insurance

* Terms of award may be reviewed periodically

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR AWARDED PROPOSALS

15. Each awarded proposal may apply for additional funding to support **4 more students over the next 2 years (bringing the collaboration to a total of 10 students over 5 years)**, as illustrated in Diagram 1 below.

Diagram 1: SRAP Funding Period for FY25 2nd Cycle onwards

16. Applications for additional funding must be submitted within 30 months from the SRAP award date. Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

   a. All 6 students, as approved under the initial SRAP award quota, must have started their attachments within 2 years of the award date;

   b. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and milestones outlined in the original application must be met or demonstrably on track;

   c. Additional KPIs and milestones must be proposed, aligned with the project's scope;

d. The expected or actual profile of the 4 additional students and their expected research contributions and impact.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

17. Annual progress reports to A*STAR

    The lead researcher will be required to submit a progress report to A*STAR, starting from the end of the 12th month of collaboration, and annually thereafter. The progress report will cover joint research progress and student performance, to ensure that the proposed milestones and deliverables can be achieved.

TIMELINE FOR SRAP

Key Dates	Cycle 1	Cycle 2
Applications Open	February	August
Application Deadline	30 April, 1900Hrs (GMT+8)	31 October, 1900Hrs (GMT+8)
Award Results	June	December

CONTACT US

Please contact Jamie_Low@hq.a-star.edu.sg if you have further queries.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CENTRE / PROGRAMME ELIGIBILITY

1. **What are some examples of central initiatives that are eligible to apply for SRAP?**

    In addition to the centres/programmes listed, centrally facilitated programmes or initiatives from various research institutions are eligible to apply. For instance, central initiatives from A*STAR would include FEAT, Q. InC, and SIBER. Similar initiatives at other institutions may also qualify, depending on their alignment with strategic area(s) under the 4 RIE domains.

2. **I have a collaboration with an overseas centre/programme and have applied for/been awarded a grant. Am I still eligible to apply for SRAP?**

    Yes, SRAP is an award that funds STEM PhD talent. Therefore, proposals that have been submitted for or awarded a grant are still eligible to apply for SRAP.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

3. **The overseas centre/programme that I am collaborating with is also putting up a proposal with another Singapore centre/programme. Will the application(s) be rejected?**

    No, the application(s) will not be rejected. The overseas centre/programme may participate in more than one collaborations with different Singapore centres/programmes as all applications will be evaluated holistically.

4. **Will multiple applications from different centres/programmes within the same Singapore institution be accepted?**

    Yes, as there may be multiple centres/programmes housed within the same institution, there is no limit imposed on the applications from a single institution.

5. **Is there a minimum and maximum number of researchers allowed in a single proposal?**

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Yes, there must be a minimum of two (2) Singapore researchers and two (2) overseas researchers. However, there is no upper limit on the number of researchers allowed in the proposal.

AWARD COVERAGE AND STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

6. **Can PhD students be from different overseas universities?**

   Yes, PhD students may be matriculated at different universities.

7. **When should the 6 PhD students start their attachments in Singapore?**

   Awarded SRAP collaborations are given a one-year lead time to identify and onboard students. Given that each SRAP collaboration spans three years, and the minimum attachment duration for each student is one year, it is recommended that all 6 PhD students start their attachments in Singapore within two years of the award date.

8. **Can PhD students start their attachments at different times, or must all 6 students start together?**

   The 6 PhD students may start their attachments at different times. However, research supervisors should ensure that there is sufficient runway for the student to complete the minimum one-year attachment period before the end of the 3-year SRAP funding period.

9. **What happens if a PhD student completes their attachment earlier than the minimum required time?**

   The scope of the project assigned to the PhD student should be substantial enough to cover a one-year period at the minimum.

10. **Can the PhD students continue working on the project after the SRAP-funded period ends?**

    Yes, students may continue working on the project beyond the two-year mark. However, they would not be funded under SRAP.

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11. **What happens if a PhD student drops out or is unable to complete their attachment?**

If a PhD student is unable to complete the minimum requirement of a one-year attachment, they must provide valid reasons that are supported by the Singapore and overseas research centres/programmes. A*STAR reserves the right to recover the one-time settling-in allowance should the student fail to complete at least one year of attachment.

If there is sufficient time left in the SRAP-funded period for a new PhD student to be onboarded (and able to complete at least one year of attachment), a new PhD student may be funded to replace the one who dropped out.

12. **Can SRAP students take up part-time employment during their attachment in Singapore?**

No, SRAP students who enter Singapore on a Training Employment Pass (TEP), which is applied for by the Singapore centre/programme, should not work part-time for any other employer. SRAP students are expected to work full-time for the duration of the attachment, 5 days a week as follows:

Monday to Thursday: 8.30am – 6.00 pm
Friday: 8.30am – 5.30 pm
Lunch: 1 hour

13. **What happens if a student's TEP application is rejected or delayed?**

If a student is unable to secure the TEP in-principle approval in time such that he/she is able to fulfil the minimum one-year duration of the attachment, he/she would not be able to participate in SRAP. The Singapore centre/programme is responsible to ensure timeliness in managing the onboarding of the PhD students.

14. **Can SRAP students extend their stay in Singapore after the attachment ends if they are self-funded?**

Yes, the Singapore centre/programme may request from the Ministry of Manpower for students to be issued a Short-Term Visit Pass (STVP) upon cancellation of the Training Employment Pass (TEP), at the end of an attachment. This would allow students to

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remain in Singapore for up to 30 days after the end of the official attachment. However, students are not allowed to work while holding an STVP.

15. **Can SRAP students conduct part of their SRAP research remotely from their home country?**

No, SRAP only funds the students for the period during which they are working physically at the Singapore research centre/programme. Students must still fulfil a minimum duration of one year working physically in the Singapore research centre/programme.

16. **What are the criteria for selecting SRAP students, and who is responsible for the final decision?**

SRAP students must be international (non-Singaporean, non-Singapore PR) PhD students from an overseas university. They should ideally possess a bachelor's degree with at least a Second-Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent. The Singapore research centre/programme is responsible for the selection of SRAP students.

17. **Does SRAP cover the awardee's university tuition fees?**

No, SRAP does not cover the tuition fees at the university but will fund the awardee's stipends and allowances as per the award terms for the duration of SRAP.

18. **Can SRAP students receive funding from other sources?**

Please keep us informed if you wish to provide additional funding to the student or if the student is currently on a scholarship/award. It is recommended that all students under SRAP receive the same amount of stipend.

19. **Does SRAP cover bench fees for the students?**

No, SRAP does not support bench fees. Research supervisors are encouraged to seek other funding sources to support students' bench fees, if applicable.

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Annex A: Examples of Singapore Research Centres/Programmes

S/N	Programme
1	Cancer Science Institute (CSI)
2	Cardiovascular Disease National Collaborative Enterprise (CADENCE)
3	Centre for Advanced 2D Materials Singapore (CA2DM)
4	Centre for Advanced Robotics Technology Innovation (CARTIN)
5	Centre for Advanced Technologies in Online Safety (CATOS)
6	Centre for Climate Research Singapore (CCRS)
7	Centre for Quantum Technologies (CQT)
8	CyberSG R&D Programme (CRPO)
9	Digital Trust Centre (DTC)
10	Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N)
11	Future Communications R&D Programme (FCP)
12	Growing Up in Singapore Towards Healthy Outcomes (GUSTO)
13	Institute for Digital Molecular Analytics and Science (IDMxS)
14	Institute for Functional Intelligent Materials (I-FIM)
15	International Centre for Aviation Innovation (ICAI)
16	Maritime Transformation Programme (MTP)
17	Mechanobiology Institute (MBI)
18	Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI)
19	National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Cluster (NAMIC)
20	National Centre for Advanced Integrated Photonics (NCAIP)
21	National Centre for Engineering Biology (NCEB)
22	National GaN Technology Centre (NGTC)
23	National Robotics Programme (NRP)
24	National Semiconductor Translation and Innovation Centre (NSTIC)
25	National Supercomputing Centre (NSCC)
26	Precision Health Research, Singapore (PRECISE)
27	Programme for Research in Epidemic Preparedness and Response (PREPARE)
28	Quantum Engineering Programme (QEP)
29	Singapore Centre for 3D Printing (SC3DP)

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S/N	Programme
30	Singapore Gastric Cancer Consortium (SGCC)
31	Singapore Hybrid-Integrated Next-Generation μ-Electronics (SHINE)
32	Singapore Integrated Diabetic Retinopathy Programme (SiDRP)
33	Singapore Nuclear Research and Safety Institute (SNRSI)
34	Singapore Translational Cancer Consortium (STCC)
35	Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS)
36	Space Technology Development Programme (STDP)
37	St John's Island National Marine Laboratory (SJINML)
38	Technology Centre for Offshore and Marine Singapore (TCOMS)

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