

ABOUT START AND THE 2026 START AWARD RECIPIENTS

A. MOE-AU Scholarship

The MOE-AU Scholarship provides support at the undergraduate level, to help prepare recipients for future academic careers. Recipients also receive academic mentorship and developmental opportunities from their paired AU. The MOE-AU Scholarship sponsors recipients for up to four years of undergraduate studies, after which the scholar is expected to apply for and obtain an AU-sponsored postgraduate scholarship to pursue a PhD. There is no recipient for this scholarship in 2026.

B. Overseas PhD Scholarship recipients

The Overseas PhD Scholarship supports Singaporeans who have been accepted for doctoral training at a leading overseas/local academic/research institution. The scholarship provides support for up to five years in terms of stipends/salaries, overseas maintenance allowances, conference and fieldwork grants, airfares and other compulsory fees depending on the scholar's institution of study. Upon receipt of the scholarship, scholars will be paired with a local AU. MOE funds 50% of the scholarship while the paired university funds the other 50%. Scholars will return to their paired university as faculty members upon completion of their doctoral training to serve their bond. There are nine recipients for this category in 2026.

No.	Name	Course of Study and University	Paired Autonomous University
1.	Cheak Su Peng	Geography Education, University of Oxford, UK	NTU/NIE
2.	Ansh Akshintulu	Philosophy, New York University, USA	NUS
3.	Brandon Loke Shuen Yi	Photonics, Ecole Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne, Switzerland	NUS
4.	Damien Soon Wei Xiang	Management Studies, University of Cambridge, UK	NUS
5.	Dylan Toh Shan Hong	Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA	NUS
6.	Ismaharif Bin Ismail	Communication, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA	NUS
7.	Quek Ting Li	East Asian Languages & Literatures and History, Yale University, USA	NUS

8.	Hannah Lim Xu En	Material Science and Engineering, University of Toronto, Canada	SIT
9.	Emma Goh En-ya	City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley, USA	SMU

C. Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship recipients

The Postdoctoral Fellowship supports Singaporeans who have just been conferred a doctoral degree and have been accepted for postdoctoral training at a leading overseas/local academic/research institution. The Scholarship provides support for up to two years in terms of stipends/salaries, overseas maintenance allowances, conference and fieldwork grants, airfares and other compulsory fees depending on the scholar's institution of study. MOE funds 50% of the fellowship while the paired university funds the other 50%. Scholars will return to their paired university as faculty members upon completion of their postdoctoral training to serve their bond. There are four recipients for this fellowship in 2026.

No.	Name	Research Area and University	Paired Autonomous University
1.	Gregory Lau Kang Ruey	AI for Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA	NTU
2.	Priscilla Fok Jia Yuan	Precision Microthermal Interfaces to the Brain and to Neural Tissue, Northwestern University, USA	NUS
3.	Teo Hoong Chen	Vegetation resilience modelling and climate tipping points, Technical University of Munich, Germany	NUS
4.	Yeo Si Jie, Ivin	Ageing in Digitally Mediated Cities, University of British Columbia, Canada	NUS

D. Early Career Awards

The Early Career Award supports Singaporeans who have completed their PhD and/or post-doctoral training but have yet to be appointed to the tenure track in the Singapore AUs. Recipients of such awards will be expected to teach and conduct research, with the objective of helping them establish a competitive portfolio for consideration for appointment on the tenure-track at the AU thereafter. The award provides support for up to three years in terms of salaries/stipends and research grants. MOE funds 50% of the award while the paired university funds the other 50%. There are two recipients for this award in 2026.

No.	Name	Research Area	Paired Autonomous University
1.	Zhou Qi	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Optimisation and Predictive Modelling	SIT
2.	Ho Jin Teck, Daryl	Architecture	SUTD

E. Inauguration Grant recipients

The Inauguration Grant aims to attract Singaporean academics to join our AUs as pre-tenure Assistant Professors. Under the grant, each recipient will receive a cash bonus, to be given out in two tranches. The recipient will receive the first payment after two years of service, and the second payment after another two years of service. 50% of this cash bonus will be funded by MOE and the other half by the awarding AU. There are six recipients for this category.

No.	Name	Research Area	Paired Autonomous University
1.	Lydia Cheng Rui Jun	Digital Journalism	NTU
2.	Ang Chunyi, Mervin	Nanobiotechnology, Nanosensors, Agricultural Nanotechnology and Nanomaterials, and Plant Nanobionics; and Conjugated Polymers and Polyelectrolytes, and Carbon Nanotubes.	NTU/NIE
3.	Lee Kwok Hao	Digital Markets and Smart Cities	NUS
4.	Lee Si Ying	Number theory, specifically in Arithmetic Geometry and the Langlands Programme	NUS
5.	Kong Shi Qi Yvonne	Career Capital Development and Workforce Adaptability across the Life Course, with particular emphasis on Career Adaptability, Resilience, and Employability-related Competencies.	SIT
6.	Toh Fong Mei	Neurological Rehabilitation	SIT