TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

OVERVIEW

1. The SSRC GRF is a national scheme that aims to facilitate the engagement of outstanding early-career Singaporean social science and humanities researchers who have been accepted for their doctoral or postdoctoral training at leading overseas research or academic institutions

2. The SSRC GRF aims to forge strong professional networks with promising early-career Singaporean social science and humanities researchers. This broadened network of Singaporean researchers based both locally and abroad facilitates a rich exchange of ideas between local and international scholars that strengthens Singapore's research capabilities

3. The SSRC GRF also aims to assist in the development of promising overseas-based early-career researchers with the provision of a small research grant and an opportunity to be mentored by an experienced researcher in the local Autonomous Universities (AUs). This will broaden the potential pipeline of Singaporean researchers who may eventually take up appointments within the local research ecosystem.

TERMS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Applicants must fulfil the following eligibility criteria throughout their SSRC GRF tenure

    a) Singapore citizens;

    b) Outstanding undergraduate academic record (at least a bachelor's degree with second upper honours or equivalent); and

    c) Hold a position either as a doctoral student or postdoctoral fellow (or equivalent[1]) at a leading overseas academic or research institution[2]. Awardees are required to inform their AU promptly once this eligibility criterion is no longer met, and awards will be closed, with no further expenditures allowed from the date of ineligibility; and

    d) Applicants should not be recipients of other scholarships from the Singapore Government including but not limited to the Singapore Teaching and Academic Research Talent Scheme (START) PhD Scholarships and Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards.

[1] Applicants must provide supporting documents to show that their home university does not offer postdoctoral fellow positions, and their current position could be considered equivalent to that of a postdoctoral fellow.

[2] Doctoral students or postdoctoral fellows who are employed at a local AU, including those who are on no-pay leave, are not eligible for the SSRC GRF.

2. **SUSS requirement for Mentors:**

a) Full-time faculty member.

b) An experienced researcher in the proposed area of research, who can provide access to valuable academic and career guidance.

TERMS OF THE SSRC GRF

3. The terms of the SSRC GRF are as follows:

a) Awarded only one (1) GRF offer at any point in time; and

b) Limited to a maximum of three (3) awards in total throughout their career (regardless of category).

c) Tenable for a period of at least one (1) year and a maximum of three (3) years;

d) Tenable for research in any social science and humanities discipline, although research on local issues of relevance is encouraged;

e) Each awardee may receive up to SGD20,000 per award. The award may be used for travel or other research-related expenses;

f) Awardees will be assigned a mentor who is an experienced researcher at the local AUs based on their proposed area of research, who can provide access to valuable academic and career guidance. The mentor shall monitor and provide comments on the awardee's performance and research progress at periodic intervals.

g) Awardees will be required to return to Singapore at least once during the tenure of award to participate in engagement activities within the host AU and with SSRC members.

h) Awardees must comply with reporting requirements stipulated by the host AU.

4. The SSRC GRF is bond-free, and host AUs are not obliged to hire SSRC GRF awardees as faculty members beyond the GRF tenure.

5. SSRC GRF awardees will inform MOE through the host AU should they receive other scholarships from the Singapore Government post-award. In such instances, the awards will be closed with effect from scholarship start date.

6. SSRC GRF awardees will inform MOE through the host AU immediately in the event that the ethics and other research-related approvals are withdrawn or suspended. MOE reserves the right to withhold funding if these approvals are not obtained, withdrawn or suspended.

APPLICATIONS

7. The call for applications will be made once a year. Applications should be submitted to the host AUs using the SSRC GRF application form available on the respective AUs' webpages.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND FUND REQUEST

8. Using the templates provided in **Annexes B and C**, awardees shall submit the following programme-level reports, endorsed by the SUSS Director of Research or equivalent:

a) an annual report, by 31 October each year; and

b) The final report from awardees **(Appendix II)** should be submitted by the awardee to the school within 3 months from the tenure end date and included by SUSS in the annual report submission due on 31 October. (E.g., for an award from 1 Apr 2027 to 31 Mar 2029, the final report of the awardee should be submitted by 31 October 2030)

Submission Requirements

PI must submit the Final Report to Faculty/School **within 3 months** from project completion date. For projects that are terminated prematurely, PI must submit the Final Report to Faculty/School within 3 months from the end of the winding down period.

Process	Due Dates
PI to submit to Faculty / School	Within 3 months from tenure end date
Faculty / School to close award after ensuring that all payment requests are processed	Within 3 months from tenure end date
Faculty / School to submit to Office of Research or equivalent	Within 4 months from tenure end date

c) As and when directed by MOE, host AUs shall provide information pertaining to the above processes and research activities supported by the SSRC GRF. AUs shall submit any other relevant documents and/or records as requested by MOE and/or auditors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT GUIDELINES

9. Host AUs shall attribute their awards / grants to the Social Science Research Council (Singapore) and the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

10. Where possible, the acknowledgement statement should follow:

> "This research / project is supported by the Social Science Research Council (Singapore) (SSRC) and the Ministry of Education, Singapore, SSRC Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF)."

11. Where applicable, the following disclaimer must be included in all published materials arising from the Research:

> "Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the views of the Social Science Research Council (Singapore) and the Ministry of Education, Singapore."

TRAINING & EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

12. Wherever necessary, the SSRC or MOE may request the awardees and/or their research team to participate in education-related programmes, such as presenting their research in MOE schools and institutions of higher learning, and engaging in public outreach activities.

COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS

13. MOE may terminate, suspend, withhold or claw back, in part or in full, the funding upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

a) Non-compliance with the SSRC GRF terms and conditions;
b) Breach of ethics in the conduct of research;
c) Any research misconduct;
d) Any corruption, misrepresentation, fraud, or misuse of funds; and
e) Any non-compliance with all relevant current laws, government rules and regulations and other terms and conditions.

14. Host AUs shall immediately inform MOE when they become aware of the occurrence of any of the above events.