

# Outreach for NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship & NUS Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship - *Frequently Asked Questions*



## 1. Which course of study or area of research is relevant?

The NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship (NUS-OGS) and NUS Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship (NUS-OPF) Schemes are part of NUS' continuing efforts to develop Singaporean talents for a career in academia by supporting their doctoral studies abroad. Upon successful completion of PhD studies and/or postdoctoral training, awardees are expected to be of calibre to be appointed on the Tenure Track scheme at NUS.

Therefore, the course of study and area of research pursued should be relevant to the department and faculty's current and future strategic areas of teaching and research. Hence, you would have to consult the [department / faculty](#) where you would like to pursue an academic career on the relevant course of study or area of research.

## 2. Could I have an estimate of the benefits of the NUS-OGS/OPF like the specific or average amount of monthly allowance / stipend?

To be eligible for the NUS-OGS, candidates must obtain outside funding (e.g. Fellowships, Teaching and/or Research Assistantships which come with a waiver of tuition fees and /or stipend, and typically forms part of the offer of admission to the PhD programme), and not require any tuition and monthly allowance /stipend from NUS. Sign-on bonus will be provided in lieu when candidates secure a tenure track position and payable in two tranches: 50% upon your securing a tenure track position and the balance 50% upon completion of 2 years' resident service as a tenure-track faculty.

For NUS-OPF, candidates are also strongly encouraged to source for external funding, which is an indication of the candidate's competitiveness in the market. A sign-on bonus will be offered by NUS in lieu of the upfront financial support.

## 3. What sorts of development opportunities can I expect if I am awarded the NUS-OGS/OPF?

If awarded the NUS-OGS/OPF, you will be:

- a) provided with one conference grant per year of award, available by application;
- b) assigned a senior faculty member who will provide mentorship as an NUS Advisor during your studies and after your return to NUS; and
- c) [for NUS-OGS] given the opportunity to visit NUS during one summer for a period of up to 4 weeks to interact with fellow colleagues in the department, undertake a short teaching/research assignment, and/or participate in other

department programmes. Your assigned NUS Advisor will help plan the programme for your summer visit.

In addition, you can apply for the [NUS Development Grant](#) to support other development. Awardees of the NUS DG will receive up to S\$10,000 per year (for doctoral students) or S\$20,000 per year (for postdoctoral fellows), through reimbursements of travel and other expenses related to academic activities.

4. **One of the requirements of the NUS-OGS is that I have to obtain outside funding from Fellowships, Teaching and/or Research Assistantships. This is a requirement which I can only confirm after I obtained an PhD admission offer. Does this mean I cannot apply to NUS-OGS until I receive a PhD offer?**

As the deadline for submission of applications is late March, you would likely have received the outcome of your PhD applications. Otherwise, please submit your application for the NUS-OGS indicating the status of your PhD applications at the various top overseas universities. You can furnish the outcomes as and when there are updates.

5. **I am planning to apply for entry into a PhD programme in September/October 2024, and the PhD programme will commence in September/October 2025. When should I apply for the NUS-OGS?**

You should apply during the call for applications for awards beginning in academic year 2025/2026, which will open in December 2024 and the deadline for submission will be in late March 2025.

6. **If I am already pursuing my PhD degree or postdoctoral programme, would the NUS-OGS/OPF be awarded retroactively, with financial assistance backdated to the start of my programme?**

If successful, the NUS-OGS/OPF will be awarded from the following academic year and not retroactively.

7. **Upon completion of study, do awardees receive a post-doctoral position or faculty position at NUS as part of their service bond?**

Upon completion of study, awardees are expected to be of calibre to be appointed as assistant professor on the tenure track at NUS. A postdoctoral position may be offered to promising candidates who have yet to possess the requisite track record and independence to be viable candidates for an assistant professor position on the tenure track. NUS will typically reach out to the returning awardees 3-6 months before the planned completion of studies/training, to have an assessment on their readiness for the intended academic appointment.

**8. Is the bond period fixed at five years, or is it adjusted based on the number of funding years?**

The bond period will be the number of funding years plus one, up to a maximum of five years for NUS-OGS, or up to a maximum of three years for NUS-OPF. For candidates who are awarded both the NUS-OGS (up to 5 years) and NUS-OPF (up to 2 years), the maximum bond period will be 7 years.

**9. I just received an offer for a Masters programme. I have intentions of pursuing a PhD after the Masters and a career in academia with NUS. Can I check whether I am eligible to apply for the NUS-OGS?**

The [NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship](#) (NUS-OGS) is part of NUS' continuing efforts to nurture high calibre local talents (Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident) for a career in academia by supporting their doctoral studies abroad. Candidates applying for the NUS-OGS should be accepted for a doctoral programme, and have obtained outside funding (e.g. fellowships, teaching and/or research assistantships which usually come with a waiver of tuition fees and/or stipend).

Hence, you are currently not be eligible, and we welcome you to apply when you meet the eligibility criteria.