

# **National Science and Technology Council**

## **Call for Proposals: 2025 Applied Research Projects for Technological and Vocational Universities and Colleges and Private Universities**

### **1. Purpose**

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) is launching the Applied Research Projects for Technological and Vocational Universities and Colleges and Private Universities (hereinafter "the Program"). This initiative aims to leverage the research and practical capabilities of Technological and Vocational Universities and Colleges and Private Universities, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and strengthen academia-industry partnerships. By engaging in applied research, developing innovative solutions, and implementing field applications, the Program seeks to facilitate industrial upgrades, expand the societal impact of academic research, and cultivate applied research talent within Technological and Vocational Universities and Colleges and Private Universities.

### **2. Eligibility of Applying Institutions and Principal Investigators (Applicants) / Co-Principal Investigators**

(1) Applicant institutions: Eligible institutions must be recipients of NSTC-sponsored research projects and must be listed in the Ministry of Education's official directory of public and private Technological and Vocational Universities and Colleges and Private Universities.

(2) Principal investigators: Applicants must be full-time faculty members at the aforementioned Technological and Vocational Universities and Colleges and Private Universities and meet the requirements stipulated in Article 3 of the NSTC's Guidelines for Research Grant Applications.

(3) Co-principal investigators: Co-principal investigators must meet the requirements set forth in Article 3 of the NSTC's Guidelines for Research Grant Applications.

### **3. Research Project Categories and Key Focus Areas**

#### **(1) General Research**

Projects must conduct applied research related to industrial advancement or social applications and propose feasible solutions to facilitate industry and societal adoption. Projects must also demonstrate the applied research capabilities of faculty members at Technological and Vocational Universities and Colleges and Private Universities, and the cultivation of practical research and development talent.

## (2) Interdisciplinary Practical Research

1. Research teams must be composed of faculty members from different disciplines (departments) and collaborate with at least one partner organization to address key bottlenecks or challenges faced by the partner (especially those with industry commonality). The research project should develop innovative solutions and conduct field verification to facilitate the adoption of these solutions by the partner organization, with the ultimate goal of supporting industrial upgrading.
2. Partner organizations must provide practical fields (including equipment) for the field validation of the solutions and for student participation in practical implementation. Priority will be given to students whose practical implementation is related to the solutions.
3. Research topics are open to all fields. However, it is preferable that the research topics align with national or industrial development priorities, such as AI, sports technology, smart healthcare, health and caregiving, smart dining, and net-zero sustainability.
4. Partner organizations must be legally registered entities in Taiwan, such as corporations, manufacturers, medical institutions, or non-profit organizations. Applicants must submit a letter of intent and support documentation from the partner organization.

## **4. Grant Funding Scope**

- (1) General research: Maximum funding per project: NT\$1 million per year.
- (2) Interdisciplinary practical research: Maximum funding per project: NT\$5 million per year.

## **5. Funding Categories**

- (1) Funding allocations must comply with the NSTC's Guidelines for Research Grant Applications.
- (2) The NSTC may approve additional funding for principal investigators and co-principal investigators in interdisciplinary practical research projects.

## **6. Application Process, Deadlines, and Project Duration**

### (1) Submission Limitations

Each principal investigator may submit only one application for each type: general research and interdisciplinary practical research. Each principal investigator can execute one project only, regardless of type, priority being given to executing interdisciplinary practical research projects.

### (2) Application Process and Deadline

Applications will be accepted starting from the date of the announcement. Applicants must comply with the Guidelines for Research Grant Applications and complete the application via NSTC's online system for the research proposal within the time specified by the applying institution. The institution must compile and submit the official application in one copy, approved and stamped by the relevant personnel, and submit it to NSTC by Tuesday, 15 July 2025.

### (3) Project Duration

General research projects are limited to one year, starting from 1 December 2025. Interdisciplinary practical research projects are encouraged to be multi-year (up to three years per phase). The final funding duration will be determined based on the review outcome.

## **7. Evaluation Criteria and Review Process**

### (1) Evaluation Criteria

#### 1) General Research

1. Practical applicability, technological advancement potential, or novelty.
2. Identifies target users and produces feasible solutions to support industrial upgrading or social applications.
3. Contribution of applied research talent development.

#### 2) Interdisciplinary Practical Research

1. Propose specific research topics addressing the bottlenecks and challenges of upgrading partner institutions (especially if they relate to common industry needs).
2. Offer practical applicability, technological development potential, or novelty (including solution implementation plans).
3. Provide innovative and feasible solutions to address industry challenges and bottlenecks.
4. Availability of field application opportunities from partner organizations, including facilities and equipment for validation and student involvement.
5. Contributions to industry upgrading and the cultivation of practical talent.

### (2) Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of experts with practical experience and applied research expertise. The evaluation will include an initial review and a final review. If necessary, principal

investigators will be invited to present their proposals.

## **8. Project Execution and Evaluation**

1. The signing of contracts, fund allocation, extensions and changes, financial reporting, and submission of reports for this project must comply with NSTC's Research Grant Guidelines, Funding Regulations, Research Grant Agreements, and other relevant policies.
2. Principal investigators must participate in NSTC-organized evaluations, site visits, and project outcome presentations.

## **9. Additional Information**

1. This program is classified as a special project and does not permit appeals or re-evaluations.
2. The total number of projects approved under this program will count toward the principal investigator's maximum allowable research projects under NSTC's quota regulations. However, co-principal investigators are exempt from this restriction.
3. All other matters not specified in this announcement shall be handled in accordance with NSTC's Research Grant Guidelines and related regulations.

## **10. Contact Information**

(1) For technical support related to the online application system:

- Service Hotline: 0800-212-058 / (02) 2737-7592

(2) For inquiries regarding interdisciplinary practical research:

Program Office:

- Ms. Kuan: (02) 2365-0018 ext. 43 | [kaykuan@learnmore.com.tw](mailto:kaykuan@learnmore.com.tw)
- Ms. Keng: (02) 2365-0018 ext. 31 | [belle@learnmore.com.tw](mailto:belle@learnmore.com.tw)

NSTC Industry-Academia and Park Affairs Division:

- Officer Chia-Yi Chen / Project Manager Shuo-Yen Chen: (02) 2737-7932

(3) For inquiries regarding the General Research:

Academic Division Contacts:

- Natural Sciences: Dr. Chiu-Ling Chang | (02) 2737-8069
- Engineering: Assoc. Researcher Chen-Tai Huang | (02) 2737-7946

- Life Sciences: Assoc. Researcher Yu-Chi Chang | (02) 2737-7544
- Humanities: Assoc. Researcher Shu-Mei Chen | (02) 2737-8013