

Call for applications

Seeds of Science, Asia (SoSA) 2025

Background

Scientific expertise and information are often underutilised in policy making. There is a critical need to build capacity for effective science advice to ensure that policy is evidence-informed, equitable and future proof.

The Seeds of Science initiative aims to encourage and to empower science and policy communities to work together towards more adaptive, evidence-informed and forward-looking governance across Asia.

The Seeds of Science, Asia grant funding programme is run by the [International Science Council's Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific](#) (ISC-RFP) and the [International Network for Governmental Science Advice in Asia](#) (INGSA-Asia). The program is an opportunity for scientists, researchers, academics and practitioners in Asia to share their knowledge and insights with members of the scientific community and policy makers in their respective countries. Equally, it is an opportunity for policymakers, civil servants, and government officials to explore how science advice can best support their work, and to provide relevant advice to scientists about the complexities of policymaking, and how science can be efficiently integrated therein.

This year, the Seeds of Science Asia will be offering grants of up to A\$9,500 each to successful applicants with well-outlined proposals to organise workshops, trainings, focussed advocacies and wider activities promoting science advice at an institutional or national level in their respective countries. Successful applicants will be mentored by experts in the science-policy nexus who will provide valuable guidance and support for the successful implementation of their workshops.

Objectives

To support scientists, researchers, academics and practitioners in Asia to design and deliver science advice wider activities in their countries which:

- support science advice at a grassroots level
- strengthen evidence-informed policy making in the region
- strengthen the engagement between ISC-RFP and the scientific community in the region.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a Seeds of Science Asia grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Geographic eligibility

- Applicants must be based in a country in the RFP-AP's Asia Region (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri-Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam)

2. Professional background and committee

- Open to professionals working in science, research, science communication, science policy or health sectors.
- Proposals must be submitted by two applicants jointly:
 - Applicant 1 must be affiliated with an academic or research organisation such as a university, a research institute or health institute.
 - Applicant 2 must be a policymaker working within government at a national or local level, or in a non-governmental, or civil society organisation.

Note that single applicant proposals (i.e applications from scientists without policy partners or policymakers without scientific partners) can be considered in some circumstances.

Please contact the programme staff.

3. Commitment to participation

- Both lead applicants/single applicant must be available to design, deliver and attend the full duration of the workshop.
- A clear commitment to actively participate in workshop activities and post-event engagement is required.

4. Demonstrated impact and potential

- Both applicants should have demonstrated experience of leadership in their field.
- Out of the joint applicants, applicant 1 should have experience in science engagement or science communication beyond the lab, and/or demonstrate the potential for their research to translate into policy.
- Out of the joint applicants, applicant 2 should have policy ownership or significant policy influence in the area in question.

5. Equity and inclusion

- The selection process will prioritise gender balance, disciplinary diversity, geographic representation, outreach, and inclusion of underrepresented/marginalized groups.

Terms of award

Successful applications may receive funding from the RFP-AP towards the cost of delivering the approved activities.

The terms and conditions of the grant are outlined below, and the acceptance of these conditions is required at time of application submission.

- A funding agreement must be executed before any grant funds are released.
- Grant funds will only be paid to the organisation with which the applicant or lead applicant is affiliated. Funds cannot be paid to individuals.
- Funding can only be used towards approved eligible expenses as outlined in the executed funding agreement.
- Any alterations to the activity must be approved in writing by the RFP-AP, and where relevant, a funding agreement variation must be executed prior to implementing changes.
- The workshop/activities must be completed by end of March 2026

Eligible expenses	Ineligible expenses
Direct costs to deliver the activity, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- venue hire- event catering- audio visual services, including online streaming services- design, printing, and production of activity material and, if applicable, event output such as editing of online streamed events or production of a video asset of event activities that can be accessed online- travel arrangements for invited event speakers, subject matter experts or other event delegates as approved by the Academy- fees for registered training providers,- other direct event expenses as approved by the Academy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Salary and staff costs, including contractor expenses.- Gifts or prizes for invited speakers, registered training providers and participants.- Bursary, grant, or scholarship programs that fund event registration fees, or other event fees for participants.- Research or project expenses.- Any institutional expenses, including overheads, managerial and administrative costs.- Speaker fees

How to apply

Submit an online application on the [Academy's grant portal](#), and attach the following documents.

1. Brief CV's of both the lead applicants (maximum of three pages per document).
2. Proof of applicant(s) affiliation with an eligible organisation
3. Quotes or screen shots to support the requested budget items.

Assessment criteria

Proposals will be assessed based on:

- the clarity of the objectives and rationale for organising the activity.
- The potential for impact and capacity to contribute to scientific community, organisation, or country.
- The design of the proposed activity, including use of innovative approaches, knowledge management strategy, and the expected outcome of the proposed activity
- The capacity to address inclusivity, diversity, equity and accessibility needs through the activity
- The ability to obtain external co-financing (where necessary), commitment of sponsors and additional event partners by way of cash or in-kind contributions
- The effective and justified use of grant funds, including a clear activity budget supported by relevant documentation for each requested item

Reporting requirements

Successful applicants will be required to submit a completion report (progress and financial report) within two months of the activity completion date. The Academy will provide the reporting template upon the execution of the grant agreements.

If the funds are being managed by the activity organising committee, the final report must include a financial statement showing all income and expenditure for the activity. This statement must be signed by a relevant delegate from the funded organisation confirming the funds were used in accordance with the conditions of the executed funding agreement or most recent variation.

Acknowledgement and use of assets

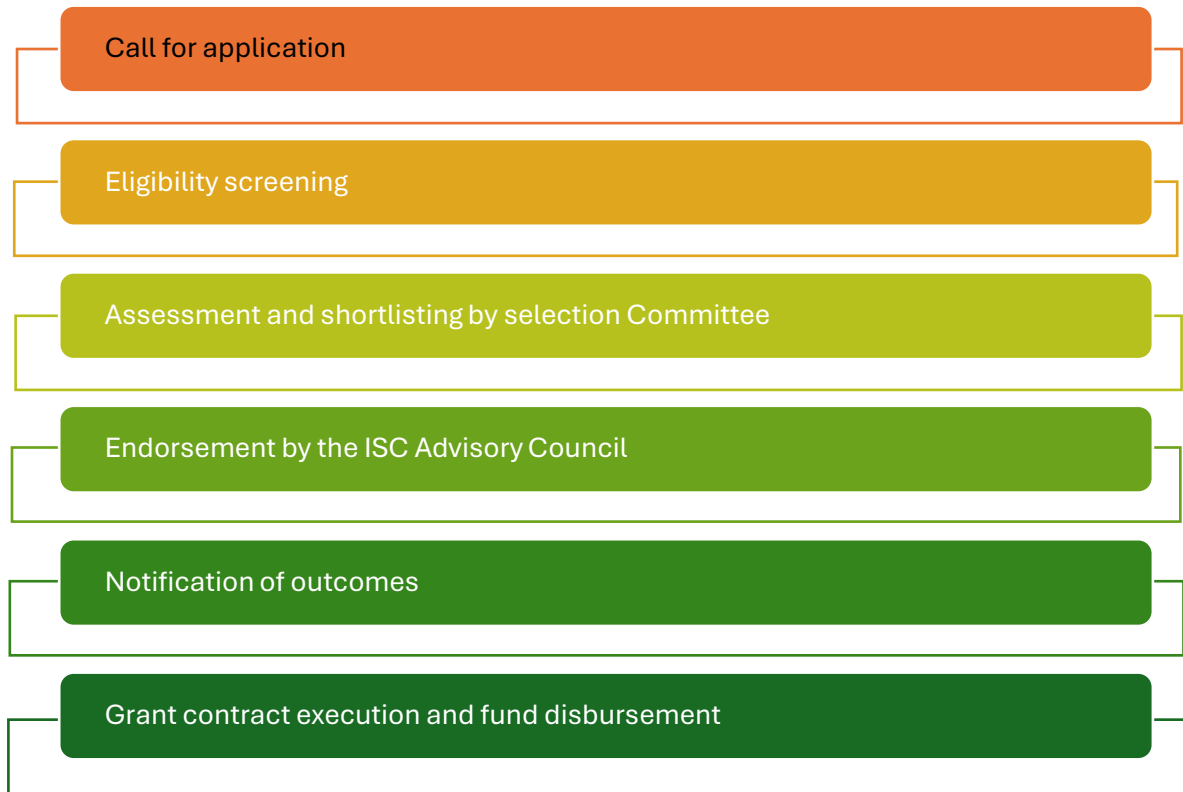
It is a requirement that any publication or media release resulting from the activities funded by this program duly acknowledges the support of the ISC-RFP and the Australian Academy of Science.

Notification of outcome

Applications close on 25 August 2025, and the outcomes are expected on 15 September 2025

Applications will be carefully considered against the selection criteria by selection committee with diverse expertise. The Academy will not enter into discussion or correspondence regarding the reasons an application is unsuccessful.

Grant opening, selection and award process



For further information contact

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[Apply](#)