

Call for proposals

Seeds of Science, Asia (2026-2027)

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Seeds of Science, Asia (2026-2027) grant program.

The Seeds of Science program is run by the [International Science Council's Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific \(RFP-AP\)](#) and the [International Network for Governmental Science Advice in Asia \(INGSA-Asia\)](#). The RFP-AP was established in 2023 and is hosted by the [Australian Academy of Science \(AAS\)](#). INGSA-Asia was founded in 2017 and is currently hosted by the [International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability \(UCSI-IISDS\)](#) which is based in UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The ISC-RFP-AP works to ensure that the unique needs and priorities of Asia and the Pacific region are integrated into the global scientific dialogue. We do this using a diverse set of programming tools focussed around three pillars: Knowledge generation, capacity building and science translation. INGSA-Asia brings together policy practitioners and scientists from across Asia to foster the science advice capacity in the region by raising awareness, supporting training, and encouraging operational research on advisory principles, processes, and practices.

These guidelines contain information on the Seeds of Science, Asia program for 2026-2027. Below you will find information regarding:

- the purpose/objective of the program
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- The Terms of Award for the grant
- Reporting requirements

For enquiries related to this program, please contact the program manager: (EMAIL)

About Seeds of Science Asia 2026-2027

The Seeds of Science, Asia program is run by the [International Science Council's Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific \(ISC-RFP-AP\)](#) and [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.

The grant funding program also aims to support collaborative work and capacity building initiatives that strengthen science, innovation and knowledge partnerships between countries across Asia and Australia. The grant aims to foster impact-oriented, mutually beneficial and equitable collaborations to strengthen science policy landscape in Asia-Australia.

Objectives

- To strengthen science informed policy and decision making across the Asia region
- To build institutional and individual capacity to address shared regional challenges
- To strengthen Asia–Australia partnerships through co-designed projects and/or the engagement between ISC-RFP, INGSAs-Asia 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. Applicants:

Applicant 1

- Applicant 1, who is the lead applicant must be based in a country in the RFP-AP's Asian Region <https://council.science/members/online-directory/> (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri-Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam)
- Applicant 2: Must be based in Asia
- Applicant 3 (Optional): must be based in Australia.

2. Partnerships

- Proposals must be collaborative and submitted by two or more partners. There are two collaborative structures accepted. These are:
 - **Asia application:**
 - Applicant 1 must be employed as a scientist/faculty member with an academic or research organisation such as a university, a research institute in Asia.

- Applicant 2 must be a policymaker working within government at a national or local level, or in a non-governmental, or civil society organisation based in Asia.
- **Asia-Australia application:**
 - Applicant 1 must be employed as a scientist/faculty member with an academic or research organisation such as a university or a research institute based in a country in the RFP-AP's Asian Region.
 - Applicant 2 must be a policymaker working within government at a national or local level, or in a non-governmental, or civil society organisation based in Asia.
 - Applicant 3 must be from an organisation based in Australia, either an academic organisation or a policymaking organisation (government at a national or local level, or in a non-governmental, or civil society organisation).

3. Project Scope and Funding

- Seeds of Science Asia (2026-2027) will support grants of up to A\$15,000 to successful consortia with well-outlined proposals. These might include (but are not limited to) conferences, workshops, trainings, roundtables and/or wider research or capacity building activities which bolster the efficacy of the science – policy interface.
- Co-funding from other sources is highly encouraged. Co-contributions from applicants and other funding sources that demonstrate commitment to the grant project will strengthen your application.
- Co-funding may take the form of but are not limited to monetary or in-kind contributions such as program management staff hours, administrative support, venues for exhibitions or events, salaries and logistics management.
- 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.

Assessment criteria

Proposals will be assessed based on following criteria:

1. Relevance and Strategic Alignment

- The clarity of the objectives and rationale for organising the activity.
- Alignment with the goals of Seeds of Science program /ISC-RFP-AP and INGS-Asia pillars
- Relevance to national and regional policy challenges in Asia/Australia

2. Potential Impact and Outcomes

- Potential to address a pressing national, regional or local policy challenge in the region of operation, harnessing the best available science and evidence
- The potential to bolster the science advice/engagement mechanism in a sustainable way for future evidence-informed decision making

3. Quality and feasibility of project design

- Realistic timeline and workplan
- Clear and well-defined roles and responsibilities of the applicants and stakeholders
- Logical flow of methodology for implementation for small grant funding
- Identification of potential risks and corresponding mitigation measures

4. Innovation and Knowledge Management

- Use of innovative approaches to implementation and context setting
- Well-considered knowledge management strategy to ensure that the project is building science policy capacity
- Clear plans for outcome/results dissemination with stakeholders

5. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- The capacity to address inclusivity, diversity, equity and inclusion needs through the activity

Please note that the Seeds of Science selection process will take into account gender balance, disciplinary diversity, geographic representation, outreach, and inclusion of underrepresented/marginalized groups in the portfolio of selected projects.

6. Resource Efficiency and Budget justification

- 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

7. Sustainability

- Clear plans for future collaboration and partnerships beyond SoSA
- Proposed project acts as an entry point for long term partnerships and institutional integration

Terms of award

Successful applications may receive an offer of 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. Funding agreements must be signed and all paperwork submitted by June 2026.
- Grant funds will only be paid to the organisation with which the applicants or applicant 1 is employed/faculty member of. 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 April 2027.

Eligible expenses	Ineligible expenses
<p>Direct costs to deliver the activity, such as:</p> <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

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.

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, the Australian Academy of Science and INGSA-Asia

Notification of outcome

Applications close on 27 April 2026, and the outcomes are expected in last week of May 2026.

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.

How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines. Submit an online application on the [Academy's grant portal](#), and attach the following documents.

1. Brief CVs of the lead applicant and secondary s (maximum of three pages per document).
2. Proof of applicant(s) affiliation with an eligible organisation, (eg, a support letter from the applicants Head of Department or current supervisor.)
3. Quotes in support of the requested budget items.

For further information contact

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