

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (2026)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The SSHR Fellowship is a scheme established by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) to support promising Singaporean social science and humanities researchers in the autonomous universities (AUs) in conducting high-quality social science and humanities research (SSHR) in the early stages of their academic career.
- 1.2 The SSHR Fellowship supports awardees in undertaking a significant piece of research which can considerably expand their research expertise. Hence, the research project supported by the SSHR Fellowship should not be a rework or simple extension of the awardees' doctoral research project, but constitute a significant foray into new disciplines, methods, and/or content areas that can help enhance their expertise.
- 1.3 The SSHR Fellowship is administered by the Ministry of Education (MOE).

2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 Applicants for the SSHR Fellowship should fulfil the following eligibility criteria:
 - 2.1.1 Singapore citizens¹;
 - 2.1.2 Obtained their PhD degrees (or equivalent terminal degrees in their disciplines); and
 - 2.1.3 Not holding a tenured position.

3. Terms of the SSHR Fellowship

- 3.1 The terms of the SSHR Fellowship are as follows:
 - 3.1.1 Tenable for a term of five years.
 - 3.1.2 Tenable for research in any social science and humanities discipline, with the area of research of relevance to Singapore and/or the region;

¹ Non-Singaporeans can be considered for the SSHR Fellowship; however, the award of the Fellowship will be conditional on the applicants' obtaining Singapore citizenship prior to the point of award.

3.1.3 Provides a research grant of up to S\$1,000,000² over five years;

3.1.4 Requires appointment as full-time faculty in the Institutions hosting the awardees³; and

3.1.5 Requires that awardees and their research should be based in Singapore except for overseas fieldwork or overseas visits.

3.2 There is no service commitment for the SSHR Fellowship.

4. Application Process

4.1 **The Host Institution will nominate candidates to apply for the SSHR Fellowship**, with the application form being jointly completed by the nominated applicants and the Host Institution. The applicants will complete sections 1 to 7 and the Host Institution will complete sections 8 to 10 of the application form.

4.2 **The Provost must provide a statement of endorsement indicating support for each application, preliminary assessment on the applicant's ability to make tenure (if applicable), as well as future plans for the applicants** should they continue to be employed on a full-time capacity at the end of the SSHR Fellowship.

4.2 As part of the application for the SSHR Fellowship, letters from three external reviewers at arm's length⁴ are required to be submitted to (i) give testimony to the body of work achieved by the applicants and (ii) provide an assessment of the proposed research project, to facilitate the SSRC's evaluation of the applications.

4.3 Guidelines for the selection of external reviewers at arm's length and the solicitation of letters from them are as follows:

4.3.1 The arm's length external reviewers should be high-quality scholars who are qualified to comment on the applicants' body of work and the proposed research project.

² Indirect research cost (IRC) will be provided at a flat rate of 30% of the total qualifying direct costs of the research project, and must be budgeted within the overall cap of the SSHR Fellowship research grant for the project.

³ The faculty appointment can be an existing or new appointment.

⁴ An arm's length external reviewer is someone who is qualified to evaluate the applicant's body of work, but has no connection with the applicant. Teachers, advisors, mentors, co-authors/collaborators, and current faculty colleagues are not considered to be at "arm's length".

- 4.3.2 The identification of possible arm's length external reviewers to provide letters can be done by the applicants' department, school or faculty, or by the applicants themselves. However, the department, school or faculty would make the final decision on whom to approach.
- 4.3.3 Letters from arm's length external reviewers should be solicited by the applicants' department, school or faculty, and not solicited directly by the applicants. Applicants should not contact the reviewers who have been approached by their department, school or faculty with regard to their SSHR Fellowship application, prior to or during the application and evaluation of the SSHR Fellowship.
- 4.3.4 The letter of request must be the same for all external reviewers and include the required text shown in the Letter Template for Solicitation of Letters from External Reviewers found at Annex C in the SSHR Fellowship Application Form. The Host Institution must provide a sample of the letter of request which was sent to all the external reviewers, as part of the application.

5. Evaluation and Award Process

- 5.1 Applicants will be evaluated by the SSRC based on the following considerations:
 - 5.1.1 Research track record, including:
 - 5.1.1.1 Achievements in research/publications;
 - 5.1.1.2 Grants, awards and/or prizes won; and
 - 5.1.1.3 Ability to manage the research grant requested.
 - 5.1.2 Strong potential and motivation to pursue an academic career and to be a future university leader;
 - 5.1.3 Potential of the proposed research project to have a demonstrable impact on their career progression towards becoming an independent researcher; and
 - 5.1.4 Potential of the proposed research project to contribute to academic knowledge and impact, as well as to social/policy knowledge and impact.

6. Submission Protocol

- 6.1 Please refer to the SSHR Fellowship Application Form for the detailed requirements and guidelines pertaining to the submission of the application form and preparation of the research project proposal.
- 6.2 Applications for the SSHR Fellowship should be submitted to MOE by the Host Institution's Office of Research (ORE). Instructions for the submission of applications are as follows:
- 6.2.1 **The Host Institution and its Director of Research should work closely with the applicants in the preparation and submission of the required documents.** MOE will liaise with the ORE for matters pertaining to the SSHR Fellowship applications.
- 6.2.2 **Applications have to be endorsed by the Provost and Director of Research before they can be submitted to MOE and considered for evaluation.** The ORE should submit all endorsed applications via email to MOE_SSRC_secretariat@moe.gov.sg and Joel_LEE@moe.gov.sg by 5pm on 22 January 2027.
- 6.2.3 The Host Institution's ORE will submit the applications to the email address provided in para 6.2.2. Each application package should not exceed 5MB and should comprise the following components in separate files of either Word or PDF formats:
- 6.2.3.1 SSHR Fellowship Application Form
 - 6.2.3.2 Proposal
 - 6.2.3.3 CV(s) and Letter(s) of Commitment
 - 6.2.3.4 Quotations
 - 6.2.3.5 External Review Letters
- 6.2.4 The Host Institution's ORE is required to submit a completed and signed "Registration and Eligibility Checks for Applicants for SSHR Fellowship 2026 Call for Application (Host Institution)" form. The completed form should be sent to the email address provided in para 6.2.2 together with the application documents highlighted in para 6.2.3 by 5pm on 22 January 2027.
- 6.2.5 Unless stated otherwise, identities of the applicants will be subject to review by MOE and the SSRC.
- 6.3 The above guidelines are for reference, and may be changed at MOE's discretion and communicated to the respective Host Institutions.

7. Timeline for the 2026 Call for Applications for the SSHR Fellowship (subject to change at MOE's discretion):

<i>Opening date for call for applications</i>	– 05 October 2026
<i>Closing date for applications</i>	– 22 January 2027
<i>Evaluation of applications by the SSRC*</i>	– February to May 2027
<i>Announcement of SSHR Fellowship awardees</i>	– July 2027

**Note:* As part of the evaluation process, applicants may have to attend an interview with the SSRC in May 2027.
