

GLOBAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



Why a KAUST Global Fellowship Program

- Attract excellent postdocs with breakthrough ideas in areas that are a research priority for the University and the Kingdom;
- Recruit scientists and engineers who have the potential to build and lead impact-driven research towards a fully independent career;
- Promote research that aligns with the Kingdom's and KAUST's research strategies and the research themes of the faculties;
- Encourage the funding and implementation of research projects with the potential of **enhancing research commercialization**;
- Support and increase the opportunities for hiring postdocs and competing with peer institutions for top-tier candidates.



Key dates

Deadline for Applications:

January 15th, 2026

Accepting Applications:

July 1st – January 15th

Anticipated starting date of Cohort 2026:

Summer/Fall 2026





Who we are looking for

- A Cohort of **5 postdocs per year**, selected and evaluated on **merit-based criteria**.
- Early-career researchers (25-35 years old no limits) from around the world with less than 4 years of experience who demonstrate ability to transition towards a fully independent career.
- Excellent postdocs that can bring to KAUST new ideas and skills that will elevate the current research of the University with the potential of being translated into real impact for the kingdom and the world.
- Individuals from countries that are listed high in the rankings for the 4 research priorities relevant to the Vision 2030 of the kingdom RDIs in Europe, Americas, Canada, Asia, Australia etc.



APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Post-PhD experience:

PhD + up to 4 years of experience

Host PI:

PI must agree to host the Fellow as part of the application process

Publications:

1-2 best publications

Reference Letters:

2 reference letters. At least one letter from a referee other than academic supervisor.

PROPOSAL ELIGIBILITY

Focus in one or more of the KAUST priorities

Have 3-years duration

Follow the budget and financial guidelines of the call





Research proposals in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 RDI priorities and the KAUST Strategic priorities

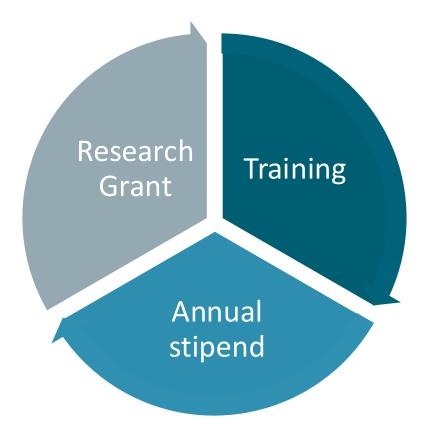






What we offer

- 3 year Fellowship with an evaluation at the end of the 2nd year.
- An independent annual research support grant between 20K and 40K depending on the division to spend between consumables, core lab use, and conference travel.
 - Up to 20K per year for computational sciences,
 - Up to 30K per year for experimental/ physical science,
 - Up to 40K per year for biological/ life sciences
- An annual 75K stipend (6,250\$ monthly stipend) plus KAUST benefits (medical insurance, relocation and travel allowance, schooling, accomodation etc.)
- Training opportunities for professional development (teaching and leadership trainings as well as mentoring programs and more).







KAUST Host PI

- Applicants must identify and provide a Host PI support letter with their application.
- KAUST Host Pls can support no more than two applicants per call.
- By providing a letter of support (template is provided) a host PI confirms to:
 - Provide the fellow with sufficient working and laboratory place to conduct the project if application is successful.
 - To cover 50% of the Fellow's stipend for the duration of the Fellowship, if the application is successful. The exact amount of the co-funding is calculated based on the stipend and the applied over-costs for the postdoc per year (~46,000\$).
- Research proposals need to be the applicant's idea and not directly connected to any running project under the PI.



KAUST Affiliated Applicants

- Must meet the general eligibility criteria.
- Must be affiliated with KAUST no more than 1 year at the cut-off date. KAUST Alumni (i.e., students) are not eligible to apply.
- Each PI can support **no more than 1 KAUST affiliated candidate** per call.
- The PI needs to demonstrate in their support letter how the candidate will have an added value to their lab and research under the KAUST priorities.
- On-boarding postdocs who apply before joining KAUST and are **not considered** 'internal' or 'kaust affiliated' postdocs.



Evaluation & selection process

STAGE 1:

Processing and Pre-Screening

- Eligibility criteria check and completeness of the applications.
- Distinction of applications according to division.

STAGE 2:

Internal and external evaluation

- Internal evaluation review by the respective divisional committee.
- Top ranked candidates move to the external evaluation.
- External review
 evaluation by experts
 in the respective field.

STAGE 3:

Interview Committee

- Top shortlisted candidates from external evaluation are invited to the interviews.
- Virtual interviews.

STAGE 4:

Selection and nomination

- Final selection of Fellows to join the program.
- Nomination of Global Fellows by the VPR.





Promote the Fellowship!

- Faculty and divisions' networks and communications with prospectives applicants had a great impact for the promotion of the Fellowship during the previous rounds.
- Share with your network, collaborators, Universities, current & prospective Postdocs.
- Share on your social media, newsletters, and/or websites
- Engage with and share the KAUST posts and announcements:

LinkedIn Post
Twitter/X Post
Facebook Post

• Give opportunities to prospective applicants outside the PIs' established networks



Learn more about the Fellowship!

• Website: https://kgfp.kaust.edu.sa/

How to apply: https://kgfp.kaust.edu.sa/how-to-apply

• FAQs: https://kgfp.kaust.edu.sa/faqs

• Email: kgfp@kaust.edu.sa

