



KAUST

GLOBAL
FELLOWSHIP

KAUST 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 PIs 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 prospective 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