

NUS Fellows Programme (Southeast Asia)

Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants

1. If I am selected, can I take my family with me?

NUS Fellows are ([Training Employment Pass](#)) holders. TEP holders are not eligible to apply for dependent passes for their family members. Instead, their family members are only eligible for social visit pass which is valid for 1 month.

No additional financial benefits for dependents are awarded for the NUS Fellows. Should NUS Fellows choose to find their own accommodation in Singapore, no housing rental allowance will be provided.

2. Does the fellowship cover travel costs?

No, the fellowship does not cover travel costs to and from Singapore at the beginning and at the end of the fellowship. However, fieldwork related travel costs may be covered at the discretion of the host professor and PI.

3. Will I be liable for paying income tax in Singapore?

Yes, you will be liable to pay income tax in Singapore on your fellowship benefits depending on the duration of your stay here. Your tax residency and the amount of income tax to be paid will be determined by the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS).

NUS may deduct a withholding tax at the prevailing withholding tax rates (currently at 15%) as non-residents until your tax residency has been reassessed by IRAS. For example, the monthly gross income payable to you is S\$ 3476.6 (S\$ 2000 stipend + S\$ 1476.6 housing in-kind benefit). The net amount after tax paid to you will be S\$ 1478.51. These figures are for illustrative purposes only. Actual figures may vary. Any excess tax (if any) will be refunded back to you once IRAS has reassessed your tax residency from non-resident to resident. This is done on a case by case basis.

For more information on Tax obligations for Non-Resident Professionals:

<https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/Individuals/Foreigners/Your-Situation/Non-resident-professional/Tax-Obligations-for-Non-Resident-Professionals/>

Withholding Tax

<https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/Individuals/Foreigners/Learning-the-basics/Individuals--Foreigners--Required-to-Pay-Tax/>

Once your tax residency has been determined by IRAS as tax resident, you will be charged at resident tax rates. For example, if you are awarded a stipend of S\$ 2,000¹, your total monthly fellowship benefit will be S\$ 1,476.6 (housing in-kind benefit) + S\$ 2,000 (stipend) = S\$ 3,476.6. Assuming your fellowship duration lasts for 9 months, your total fellowship benefits will amount to S\$ 31,289.4 and your estimated income tax would be S\$ 245.² Any excess tax (if any) will be refunded back to you once IRAS has reassessed your tax residency from non-resident to resident. This is done on a case by case basis.

¹ For estimation purposes only. Actual figures may vary.

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Please refer to the IRAS website for further details:

<https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/Individuals/Locals/Working-Out-Your-Taxes/Income-Tax-Rates/>

4. After I am selected, when can I expect to start my fellowship at NUS?

The actual start date depends primarily on two factors:

1. The availability of your host professor / PI; and
2. Successfully obtaining a [Training Employment Pass \(TEP\)](#) to enter Singapore. Please note that TEP application results can take up to 3 months.

5. Do I have to leave my current job to participate in this fellowship?

No. You are not advised to leave your current job to participate in this fellowship. This fellowship is intended to work as a sabbatical and Fellows are expected to return to their home university / research institute after the completion of the fellowship.

6. Are Fellows required to stay in Singapore for the entire duration of the program ?

Yes. However, travel for fieldwork / data collection in connection with the fellowship will be allowed. The fellowship is a full time commitment in Singapore.

7. Are NUS Fellows (Southeast Asia) considered NUS staff?

No. NUS Fellows (Southeast Asia) are considered as Academic Visitors to NUS.

8. Are NUS Fellows entitled to leave benefits?

No. NUS Fellows (Southeast Asia) do not get any leave benefits for the duration of their fellowship. If leave is required for personal reasons and approved in writing by the Host Professor/PI, the personal leave taken will be considered as No-Pay Leave and will be pro-rated from the monthly stipend.

9. Which countries are included under ASEAN ?

ASEAN countries include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Timor Leste.

<https://asean.org/member-states/>