

# **National Science and Technology Council**

## **Call for Proposals: 2026 Practical Research Project for Technological and Vocational Colleges and Private Universities**

### **1. Purpose**

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) is launching the Applied Research Projects for Technical and Vocational Colleges and Private Universities (hereinafter "the Project"). This initiative aims to leverage the research and practical capabilities of technical and vocational colleges and private universities, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and strengthen academia-industry partnerships. By engaging in applied research, developing innovative solutions, and implementing field applications, the Project seeks to facilitate industrial upgrades, expand the societal impact of academic research, and cultivate applied research talent within technical and vocational colleges and private universities.

### **2. Eligibility of Applying Institutions and Principal Investigators (Applicants) / Co-Principal Investigators**

- (1) Applicant institutions: Eligible institutions must be recipients of NSTC-sponsored research projects and must be listed in the Ministry of Education's official directory of public and private technical and vocational colleges and universities as well as private universities.
- (2) Principal investigators: Applicants must be full-time faculty members at the aforementioned technical and vocational colleges and private universities and meet the requirements stipulated in Article 3 of the NSTC's Guidelines for Research Grant Applications.
- (3) Co-principal investigators: Co-principal investigators must meet the requirements set forth in Article 3 of the NSTC's Guidelines for Research Grant Applications.

### **3. Research Project Categories and Key Focus Areas**

This project offers two funding categories, with no restrictions on the field of research. General Research emphasizes applied research in specialized professional fields; Interdisciplinary Practical Research stresses interdisciplinary collaboration and the deployment of solutions for site validation.

#### **(1) General Research**

Projects must conduct applied research related to industrial advancement or social applications and propose feasible solutions to facilitate industry and societal adoption. Projects must also demonstrate the applied research capabilities of faculty members at technical and

vocational colleges and private universities, and the cultivation of practical research and development talent.

## (2) Interdisciplinary Practical Research

The initiative is guided by the need to resolve industry demands or address diverse social applications, implementing a cooperation mechanism between the university/college and collaborating institutions in areas such as technology development, resource sharing, and talent cultivation. It emphasizes the dual integration of "Technology + Application Site," encouraging faculty and students from technical/vocational colleges or private universities to form cross-disciplinary/cross-departmental research teams jointly to conduct research and development, and validation, and foster practical talent with the collaborating institution.

- A. A cross-disciplinary research team must be formed, composed of professors from different fields (across departments/institutes), and must include at least one Co-Principal Investigator (who belongs to a different field or department/institute than the Principal Investigator), to ensure the substantive nature of the interdisciplinary cooperation.
- B. Invite at least one collaborating institution to participate in interdisciplinary research focused on their specific upgrade bottlenecks or pain points (with a preference for industry-common issues). The objective is to develop, validate, and deploy an innovative solution for the partner's direct application.
- C. The collaborating institution must furnish a designated practical application site (including all necessary equipment) to facilitate the field validation of the solutions and to host mandatory students on-site practical training.
- D. Collaborating institutions must be legally registered entities in Taiwan, such as corporations, manufacturers, medical institutions, or non-profit organizations. Applicants must submit a letter of intent, supporting documentation from the partner institution, and a copy of the Establishment/Registration Certificate (or Permit).

## 4. Grant Funding Scope

(1) General research: Maximum funding per project: NT\$1 million per year.

(2) Interdisciplinary practical research: Maximum funding per project: NT\$5 million per year.

## 5. Funding Categories

(1) Funding allocations must comply with the NSTC's Guidelines for Research Grant Applications.

(2) The NSTC may approve additional funding for principal investigators for each project category and co-principal investigators in interdisciplinary practical research projects.

## **6. Application Process, Deadlines, and Project Duration**

### **(1) Submission Limitations**

Each principal investigator may submit only one application for each type: general research and interdisciplinary practical research. However, each principal investigator is limited to executing only one project, with priority given to the execution of the interdisciplinary practical research project.

### **(2) Application Process and Deadline**

Applications will be accepted starting from the date of the announcement. Applicants must comply with the Guidelines for Research Grant Applications and complete the application via NSTC's online system for the research proposal within the time specified by the applying institution. The institution must compile and submit the official application in one copy, approved and stamped by the relevant personnel, and submit it to NSTC by Friday, 30 January 2026.

### **(3) Project Duration**

The project commences on 1 August 2026. The General Research type is restricted to one-year duration. Interdisciplinary Practical Research is generally one year, and multi-year proposals must specifically justify their necessity, with a maximum duration of two years.

## **7. Evaluation Criteria and Review Process**

### **(1) Evaluation Criteria**

#### **A. General Research**

- a. Practical applicability, technological advancement potential, or novelty.
- b. Identifies target users and produces feasible solutions to support industrial upgrading or social applications.
- c. Contribution of applied research talent development.

#### **B. Interdisciplinary Practical Research**

- a. Propose specific research topics addressing the bottlenecks and challenges of upgrading partner institutions (especially if they relate to common industry needs).

- b. Offer practical applicability, technological development potential, or novelty (including solution implementation plans).
- c. The collaborating institution provides the application site to facilitate validation of the innovative solution and student on-site practical training.
- d. Deliver outcomes that assist in industrial advancement, broaden diverse societal applications, and cultivate practical talent.

## (2) Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of experts with practical experience and applied research expertise. The evaluation will consist of a preliminary review and a final review. Principal Investigators whose Interdisciplinary Practical Research proposals pass the preliminary stage will be invited to give an in-person presentation during the final review.

## **8. Project Execution and Evaluation**

- (1) The signing of contracts, fund allocation, extensions and changes, financial reporting, and submission of reports for this project must comply with NSTC's Research Grant Guidelines, Funding Regulations, Research Grant Agreements, and other relevant policies.
- (2) Principal investigators must participate in NSTC-organized evaluations, site visits, and project outcome presentations.

## **9. Additional Information**

- (1) This project is classified as a special project and does not permit appeals or re-evaluations.
- (2) This project is classified as a Council Research Project, included within the scope of subsidized project control. Upon official approval, the project will be added to the Principal Investigator's active execution count; Co-Principal Investigators will be exempt from this calculation.
- (3) All other matters not specified in this announcement and applications involving a research ethics review shall be handled in accordance with NSTC's Research Grant Guidelines and related regulations.

## **10. Contact Information**

- (1) For technical support related to the online application system:

- Service Hotline: 0800-212-058 / (02) 2737-7592

(2) For inquiries regarding interdisciplinary practical research:

A. Project Office:

- Ms. Chen: (02) 2365-0018 ext. 34 | clara@learnmore.com.tw
- Ms. Kuan: (02) 2365-0018 ext. 43 | kaykuan@learnmore.com.tw
- Ms. Keng: (02) 2365-0018 ext. 31 | belle@learnmore.com.tw

B. NSTC Industry-Academia and Park Affairs Division:

- Specialist: Chia-Yi Chen | (02) 2737-7932
- Project Manager: Shuo-Yen Chen | (02) 2737-7932

(3) For inquiries regarding the General Research:

A. Academic Division Contacts:

- Natural Sciences: Dr. Chiu-Ling Chang | (02) 2737-8069
- Engineering: Assistant Research Fellow Min-Lun Yin | (02) 2737-7946
- Life Sciences: Associate Researcher Yu-Chi Chang | (02) 2737-7544
- Humanities: Assistant Research Fellow Ying-Han Chang | (02) 2737-7108