

KAUST

GLOBAL
FELLOWSHIP

WEBINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

The KAUST Global Fellowship

Call 2027 · Applications open 1 September 2026.

What we'll cover today

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About KAUST

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Q&A

More than a university

Almost 120 nationalities live, work and study on campus - a unique ecosystem where education, research, innovation and industry converge in support of the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

EDUCATION

2,135

students (MS/PhD) from 77
countries

RESEARCH

990

researchers & postdocs · 209
faculty

INNOVATION

374

startups supported by KAUST

INDUSTRY

180+

industry partners

Where you'd live and work



On the shores of the Red Sea

Thuwal, ~80 km north of Jeddah and its airport.



100+ nationalities

English is the working language of campus life.



Powered by Vision 2030

Your science fuels the Kingdom's transformation.



Everyday life, sorted

Housing, schools, healthcare, dining and recreation.

An exceptional place to do your best work



Fellow-led research

Pursue your own bold research agenda.



World-class facilities

Core labs and infrastructure among the best on earth.



Assured funding

Up to \$40,000 a year to power your project.



Global network

Academic and industry partners worldwide.



Life in balance

A vibrant campus community by the Red Sea.

Our vision & mission

Our vision

To drive innovation and accelerate discoveries that tackle global challenges, advance knowledge, transform societies, and build a sustainable, prosperous future for Saudi Arabia and the world.

Our mission

To identify, develop and empower early-career scientists and engineers to reach their full potential, push boundaries, transform ideas into real-world solutions, and shape the next generation of research leaders.

THE OFFER

Everything you need to focus on your science



\$75,000

annual stipend



up to \$40,000

research budget /
year depending on
division



Free housing

for you and your
family



**Medical
insurance**

full coverage



22 days

leave + national
holidays



Relocation

allowance to get you
here



Annual travel

assistance (lump
sum)



Schooling

& daycare support

Accommodation depends on family status; free schooling for children aged 4+, plus daycare subsidy and end-of-service benefit.

Your research budget, in your hands

What it covers

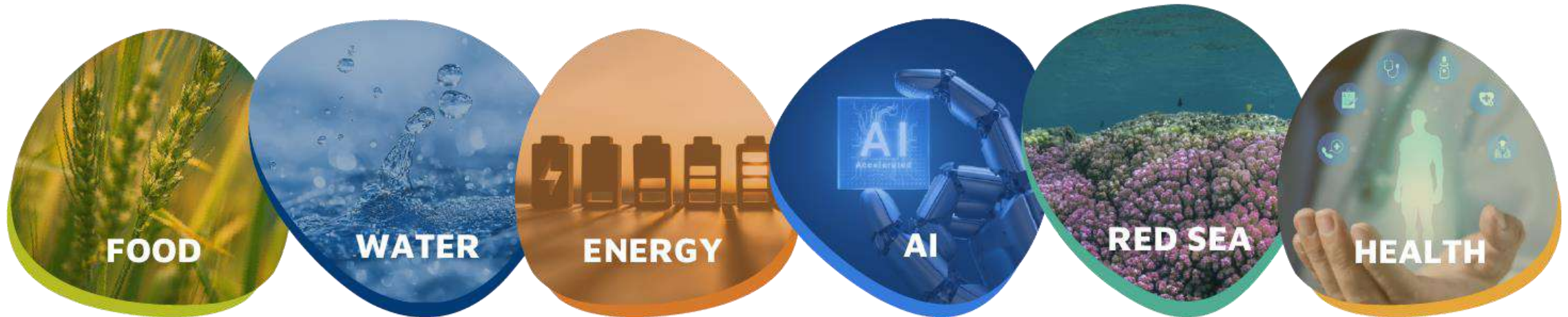
- Conferences & work travel (incl. field trips)
- Core labs use
- Consumables & small equipment
- Software licenses
- Publication fees
- Prototyping & translational costs

Annual research grant

- Up to USD\$20K per year for CEMSE division
- Up to USD\$30K per year for PSE division
- Up to USD\$40K per year for BESE / BioMed division

Six research areas. One goal: real-world impact

Your proposal should address **at least one of the below strategic research areas**.



Ensure you check the KAUST academic divisions' websites: [Biological and Environmental Science and Engineering \(BESE\)](#), [Computer, Electrical, and Mathematical Science and Engineering \(CEMSE\)](#), [Physical Science and Engineering \(PSE\)](#), and [Biomedical Sciences Division \(BioMed\)](#).

The four academic divisions

Fourteen graduate programs across four divisions — your Fellowship research aligns with one.

BESE

Biological & Environmental Science & Engineering

Environmental Science & Eng. (**EnSE**) • Marine Science (**MarS**) • Plant Science (**PS**)

BioMed

Biomedical Sciences

Bioscience (**B**) • Bioengineering (**BioE**)

CEMSE

Computer, Electrical & Mathematical Science & Engineering

Applied Mathematics & Computational Science (**AMCS**) • Computer Science (**CS**) • Electrical & Computer Engineering (**ECE**) • Statistics (**STAT**)

PSE

Physical Science & Engineering

Chemical Engineering (**CE**) • Chemistry (**Chem**) • Earth System Science & Eng. (**ESSE**) • Materials Science, Eng. & Applied Physics (**MSEAP**) • Mechanical Engineering (**ME**)

Who can apply

Open to outstanding early-career researchers worldwide.



Career stage

Hold a PhD or expect it before the start of the Fellowship Program- awarded after January 2023.



Track record

Strong publication record depending on career stage and field, plus two signed reference letters (one from a supervisor).



Your Host PIs

Name up to three potential Host PIs (one if KAUST-affiliated) - no letter needed.



Research fit

Align with one of the KAUST academic divisions' programs and at least one strategic area of research.

Your Concept Note Application

What you prepare

- Online application form
- CV with full list of publications (max 4 pages)
- Concept Note (template, max 4 pages)
- Up to two selected publications
- Identify at least one (up to three) potential Host PIs in the application
- Two signed reference letters

Good to know

- Everything is submitted online
- The Concept Note is Stage 1 of three
- No Host PI letter is required
- Reference letters upload with your Concept Note
- Stage 1 deadline: 1 October 2026
- Invited candidates submit a full proposal by 15 Jan 2027

Read first: templates and the full application guidelines are on our website - review them before you begin.

Your Host PI: how matching works

You

- Name at least one (up to three) potential Host PIs
- No Host PI letter required to apply
- Optionally reach out to introduce your idea
- Research each PI's work beforehand

KAUST faculty

- Review eligible Concept Notes
- Express interest in hosting
- Support up to two Fellows per call
- Agree to cover 50% of your stipend, if nominated
- May contact you to request more information or meet you before deciding to support your application

The match

- At least one interested PI advances you
- A deferred-acceptance process pairs you
- You confirm your Host PI
- KGFP Team facilitates throughout

Already agreed with a PI? If a Host PI has already agreed to support or hire you — or if you are a current KAUST-affiliated or onboarding applicant — name only that one specific PI in the application form.

How applications are assessed

01

Scientific Excellence

Your track record and output, independence and future potential shown in your reference letters, and unique contributions to your field.

02

Research Project Merit

Novelty, quality and significance of the proposed research; relevance to a KAUST mission; a feasible work plan and realistic budget.

03

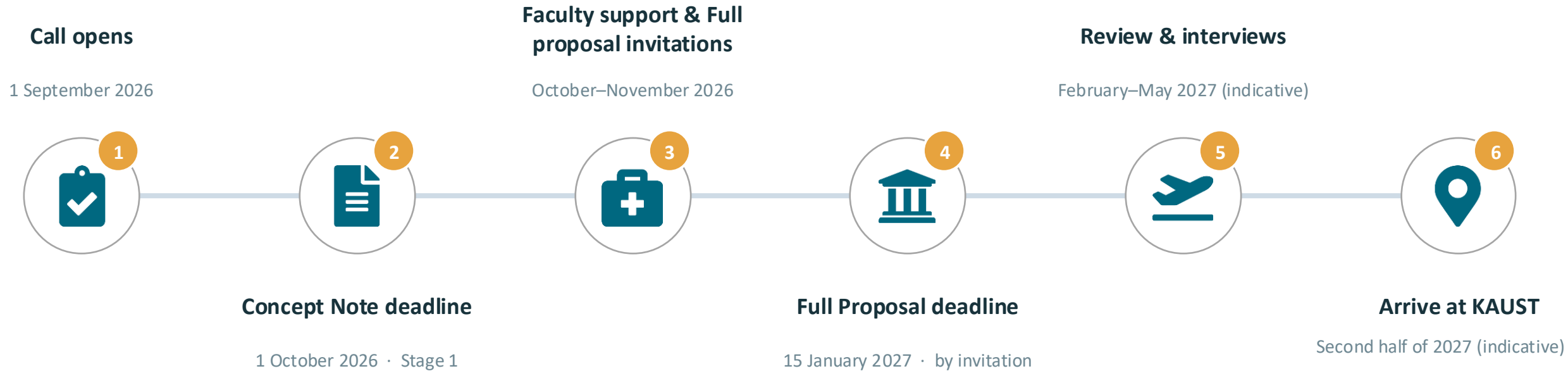
Host PI Suitability

How well the Host PI and lab fit your project and background, and the value your expertise adds to the lab and to KAUST.

Criteria are assessed during the internal and external review of the full proposals; shortlisted candidates also present at i interview.

TIMELINE

From Concept Note to campus



How to stand out

A strong application is clear, specific, and well-matched.



Tell a clear story

Make your research question and why it matters obvious at a glance.



Match your Host PIs

Choose PIs whose work aligns with your proposed research.



Show your independence

Highlight your own ideas, contributions, and trajectory to date.



Follow the guidelines

Respect the page limits, use the templates, and address a KAUST strategic research area.

OUR FELLOWS

Join a growing community of world-class Fellows.

Selection is competitive and centrally adjudicated, open to the very best early-career researchers worldwide. Successful applicants become KAUST Global Postdoctoral Fellows, joining a growing global community of researchers, scientists, and engineers.

A GROWING GLOBAL FAMILY OF FELLOWS

20

fellows to date

16

active

4

alumni

13

countries

4

continents



Ready to become a KAUST Global Fellow?

Let's shape the future - together.

Concept Note deadline 1 October 2026 · kgfp@kaust.edu.sa

