

Circulated to Heads of Departments and Departmental and Research Administrators for all Schools and the Coordinators of the Interdisciplinary Research Centres, Strategic Initiatives and Networks

Copied to the Heads and Secretaries and the Assistant Directors and Research Development Teams (ROO) for all Schools

If the Head of Department or Departmental/Research Administrator in your Department/Faculty changes, please let us know so that we can keep our mailing lists up to date

We are sorry that the timeframe for submission of internal applications is short – this is due to the timing of the announcement of the call by the funder.

Restricted call: NRF Singapore CREATE Grant Call 2026 call (internal deadline 12:00 on Monday 2nd February 2026)

The National Research Foundation (NRF), Singapore has launched a **CREATE Grant Call 2026** call (see call details attached), which will provide funding of up to 25 million SGD (inclusive of 15% Indirect Costs) for up to 5-year projects.

The CREATE Grant Call 2026 seeks to support ground-up ideas that aim to address complex, fundamental questions or solve major societal challenges that offer the possibility for groundbreaking discoveries and positive transformative outcomes. The proposed research must clearly articulate potential for impact in one or more priority areas of relevance to strategic priorities detailed below.

This is a call evaluated in two stages: Selected applicants are required to submit the Stage 1 (Whitepaper, CVs & Slides) to CARES for submission to [Élana McNaught](#), the CARES Coordinator in Cambridge, and [Elizabeth MacRae](#), CARES Chief Operating Officer (Singapore) to allow for endorsement and submission to the funder via email. Submission of Stage 2 (Full Proposal) materials is upon invitation from the Funder only via the NRF Integrated Grant Management System (IGMS).

The proposed AI4S Challenge research programme must clearly articulate potential for impact in one or more thematic area(s) of relevance to Singapore's strategic priorities, including but not limited to:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Aviation and Maritime Technologies
- Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Energy and Climate Resilience
- AI and Computing
- Human Potential

There are a number of unique requirements/features of this call:

- The project must be co-led by two PIs and at least one will be a PI based at one of the Singapore public Institutes of Higher Learning (including autonomous universities) or an A*STAR Research Institute.
- Either the Singapore institution or a CREATE (Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise) entity will be the host for financial and administrative purposes: for the University of Cambridge, the relevant CREATE entity is the [Cambridge Centre for Advanced Research in Singapore \(CARES\)](#).
- Further international collaborators may be included as needed but, where included, the team should reflect a balanced composition of Singapore-based and international PIs.
- Cambridge Co-Lead/Team PI(s) are expected to have commit to conducting research activities within Singapore, and contribute to the aims of the project (guideline of at least 20% of time for the duration of the project). This time commitment can be fulfilled by conducting research activity through physical presence in Singapore only.
- PLEASE NOTE (change in previous call terms): Residency of international PI(s) in Singapore may be budgeted for in the proposal and is supportable by the grant. Eligible items for residency include PI time for stays of 4+ consecutive weeks in Singapore, travel, accommodation, and cost of living allowance (to cover meals, transport, incidentals).
- Reference to Singapore priorities ([RIE2030](#)) is strongly recommended.

Further guidance is available from CARES affiliated staff in Singapore and Cambridge. Please contact [Élana McNaught](#), the CARES Coordinator in Cambridge, and [Elizabeth MacRae](#), CARES Chief Operating Officer (Singapore) to discuss any details of the call requirements.

University Internal selection

NRF has allocated each CREATE entity a submission quota of **two** Whitepapers. Therefore, this call will be managed according to the University's [restricted calls procedure](#). To take part in the internal selection, please complete our [online form](#) by **12:00 on 2nd February 2026**.

(NB: if asked to log-in, please use your crsID single sign-on details)

Please note that CARES-affiliated PIs may also participate as non-host co-lead PI/team PIs in proposals submitted with other eligible host institutions, which will not count towards the CARES submission quota and therefore do not need to be submitted to the internal selection process. Please note that such applications **MUST** be reported to CARES as early as possible to [Élana McNaught](#), the CARES Coordinator in Cambridge,

and [Elizabeth MacRae](#), CARES Chief Operating Officer (Singapore) to avoid unnecessary delays with endorsement prior to submission.

You will need the following documents and information to complete the form:

- A project summary (max. 1,000 words) addressing the assessment criteria below.
- CVs for both the CARES/UCAM co-lead PI and the Singapore institution co-lead PI.
- A letter of support from the relevant UCAM Head of Department, including confirmation of their support for the PI commit 20% (co-Lead PI) or at least 10% (Team PI) of their time in Singapore over the duration of the project.

Internal Assessment Criteria - the assessment of internal applications will focus on the following core funder criteria:

- Significance of the research and its potential groundbreaking discoveries and positive transformative outcomes to address complex, fundamental questions or solve major societal challenges
- Strategic priority
- Multi-disciplinarity of the project
- Demonstrated capabilities of the individuals performing the project

Funder timeline

Call launch: 20 January 2026

Internal CARES Deadline: 25 February 2026

Stage 1 Funder closing date: 3 March 2026 (16:00 SGT, 8:00am GMT)

If you have any queries about the internal selection process, please don't hesitate to contact us at researchstrategy@admin.cam.ac.uk

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
SINGAPORE

Key Aspects of the CREATE Grant Call 2026

Host Institution	<Your CREATE Entity>
Research Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st Lead PI from <Your CREATE Entity>• 2nd Lead PI from a Singapore Institution• Team PIs, Co-Is and Collaborators <p><i>A Singapore Institution is defined as a registered public Institute of Higher Learning (IHL), public healthcare institution, A*STAR Research Institute, or research institutes affiliated with the Autonomous Universities or A*STAR.</i></p>
Funding Quantum	<p>Maximum \$25 million inclusive of indirect research costs (IRC) for project period of up to 5 years</p> <p><i>Funding support will be provided for IRC under the Full Cost Accounting (FCA) modality (i.e. accounted as specific budget line items) for functions that are necessary for project management, including Intellectual Property (IP) management, Human Resource (HR) matters, space, audit, corporate, regulatory compliance, and other costs not easily allocated to a specific research project. No separate overheads/IRC will be awarded. It is recommended to keep the IRC-FCA within 15% of the Direct Research Cost.</i></p>
Research Area	<p>The proposed research must clearly articulate potential for impact in one or more priority areas of relevance to strategic priorities, such as but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advanced Manufacturing• Aviation and Maritime Technologies• Health and Biomedical Sciences• Energy and Climate Resilience• AI and Computing• Human Potential
Eligibility Criteria	<p><u>Lead PIs and Team PIs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead and Team PIs should be accomplished PIs with a track record of leadership in coordinating research programme(s) and providing mentorship to research team(s), as well as having productive research outcomes.• One Lead PI must have a CREATE Entity as institutional affiliation and the other Lead PI must be from a Singapore Institution.• At least one Team PI must be based in a Singapore Institution. Where international researchers are included as Team PIs, the work package should be led by a balanced composition of Singapore-based and international PIs.• Lead and Team PIs from CREATE Entities or overseas institutions will be required to comply with the residency requirement of 20% (e.g. 12 months stay in Singapore for a five-year project).• Lead and Team PIs are expected to commit a proportionate amount of their time to ensure the successful implementation of the project. <p><u>Co-Is</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least one Co-I must be based in a Singapore Institution. Where international researchers are included as Co-Is, the team working within the work package should be a balanced composition of Singapore-based and international Co-Is. <p><u>Collaborators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local and international academic/research institutions, private sector and other entities can participate as Collaborators.
Submission Process	<p>2-stage process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stage 1 – Whitepaper (Submission to NRF by 3 March 2026)• Stage 2 - Full Proposal (upon invitation by NRF)

CREATE Grant Call 2026
Programme Funding Details

1 Objectives

- 1.1 The Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE) is an international collaboratory established by the National Research Foundation, Singapore (NRF). It brings together top global universities and research institutions to collaborate with local institutions on cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research, to contribute towards building a dynamic Research, Innovation, and Enterprise (RIE) ecosystem that drives societal and economic impact for Singapore and the world.

- 1.2 The CREATE Grant Call 2026 seeks to support ground-up ideas that aim to address complex, fundamental questions or solve major societal challenges that offer the possibility for groundbreaking discoveries and positive transformative outcomes. The proposed research must clearly articulate potential for impact¹ in one or more priority areas of relevance to strategic priorities, such as but not limited to 'Advanced Manufacturing', 'Aviation and Maritime Technologies', 'Health and Biomedical Sciences', 'Energy and Climate Resilience', 'AI and Computing', and 'Human Potential'. The CREATE Grant Call 2026 aims to draw upon the capabilities and leadership of the outstanding institutions associated with CREATE but proposals involving multiple CREATE entities are welcome, and participation by experts from institutions not currently affiliated with CREATE, where appropriate, is encouraged.

¹ The research need not necessarily lead to immediate translation or commercialisation within the duration of the requested funding. However, there should be an articulation of the potential impact of the project, if successful, beyond the project duration.

2 Eligibility and Requirements

Host Institution

- 2.1 CREATE Entities are eligible as Host Institutions to take responsibility for the management of the project funded by grant award. Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for the list of CREATE Entities.

Team Composition

- 2.2 Project teams are expected to be multi-disciplinary and should include:
- Lead Principal Investigator (Lead PI): Lead PIs are responsible for guiding the project towards its goals. Each project must be led by **two** Lead PIs.
 - Team Principal Investigator (Team PI): Team PIs lead work packages within the project. Each work package should be led by **two or more** Team PIs who will be responsible for work package leadership.
 - Co-Investigator (Co-I): Co-Is are investigators within the work package. Each team may include any number of Co-Is who will be responsible for work package tasks.
 - Collaborator: Each team may include any number of Collaborators.
- 2.3 Please refer to Table 1 for a summary of the eligibility and requirements for project team members.

Lead PIs and Team PIs

- 2.4 Lead and Team PIs should be accomplished PIs with a track record of leadership in coordinating research programme(s) and providing mentorship to research team(s), as well as having productive research outcomes.
- 2.5 One Lead PI must have a CREATE Entity as institutional affiliation and the other Lead PI must be from a Singapore Institution². Where NUS or NTU is the Host Institution, the other Lead PI may be from an overseas institution acceptable to NRF.

² A Singapore Institution is defined as a registered public Institute of Higher Learning (IHL), public healthcare institution, A*STAR Research Institute, or research institutes affiliated with the Autonomous Universities or A*STAR. Lead/Team PIs and Co-Is based in a Singapore Institution must hold a primary and/or joint appointment(s) institution(s)/organisation(s) with a minimum time commitment of 9 months (per calendar year) in Singapore at the point of application and throughout the project duration.

- 2.6 At least one Team PI must be based in a Singapore Institution². Where international researchers are included as Team PIs, the work package should be led by a balanced composition of Singapore-based and international PIs.
- 2.7 Lead and Team PIs from CREATE Entities or overseas institutions will be required to comply with the residency requirement of 20% (e.g. 12 months stay in Singapore for a five-year project).
- 2.8 Lead and Team PIs are expected to commit a proportionate amount of their time³ to ensure the successful implementation of the project.

Co-Is

- 2.9 At least one Co-I must be based in a Singapore Institution². Where international researchers are included as Co-Is, the team working within the work package should be a balanced composition of Singapore-based and international Co-Is.

Collaborators

- 2.10 Local and international academic/research institutions, private sector and other entities can participate as Collaborators.

³ The time commitment to the project represents the percentage of a PI/researcher's time spent on the project. Recommended time commitment to the project for Lead PIs and Team PIs are 10-20% and 10%, respectively, to ensure smooth coordination of research project, sufficient mentorship to research team(s) and to ensure productive research outcomes.

Table 1: Eligibility and requirements for project team members

Roles & Responsibilities	Affiliation & Residency Requirement	Remarks
<u>Lead PIs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide the project towards its goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For proposals submitted by a CREATE Entity, one Lead PI must be from the CREATE Entity and the other Lead PI must be from a Singapore Institution. For proposals submitted by NUS or NTU, the other Lead PI may be a CREATE Entity or an overseas institution acceptable to NRF Residency requirement for international Lead PIs is 20% in Singapore during the project period Singapore-based Lead PI's primary appointment is 9 months/year in SG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Lead PIs for each project Balanced composition of international & Singapore-based Lead PIs
<u>Team PIs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead work packages Responsible for work package management, budgeting, and deliverables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affiliated with CREATE Entity, overseas institution or Singapore Institution² Residency requirement for international Team PIs is 20% in Singapore during the project period Singapore-based Team PI's primary appointment is 9 months/year in Singapore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 or more Team PIs for each work package At least 1 Singapore-based Team PI Balanced composition of international & Singapore-based Team PIs
<u>Co-Is</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigators within work package Responsible for work package tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affiliated with CREATE Entity, overseas institution or Singapore Institution² Singapore-based Co-I's primary appointment is 9 months/year in Singapore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any number of Co-Is within each work package At least 1 Singapore-based Co-I Balanced composition of international & Singapore-based Co-Is
<u>Collaborators</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affiliated with local or international academic/research institutions, or private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any number of Collaborators

3 Other Requirements

Co-location of Research Teams

- 3.1 Researchers and staff funded through the grant award should be based in the co-located space at NRF CREATE. Equipment procured through the grant award will be owned by the Host Institution and located at CREATE.
- 3.2 Co-location of teams is intended to foster interactions across multi-disciplinary research groups, host overseas partners, and facilitate sharing of resources to maximise research synergies and project impact.

Research Collaboration Agreements & Intellectual Property Rights

- 3.3 The Singapore Public Sector Organisations Master Research Collaboration Agreement should be used to govern the terms and conditions of collaboration between parties involved in the project.
- 3.4 A Singapore Technology Licensing Office, appointed by NRF, will oversee management of Intellectual Property (IP) arising from the research. The ownership and exploitation of the research IP for each project is to be jointly agreed upon between the host and partner institutions.

4 Grant Quantum

- 4.1 The CREATE Grant Call 2026 will provide funding support of up to \$25 million, inclusive of Indirect Research Costs (IRC), for project period of up to 5 years.
- 4.2 The duration and proposed budget for Direct Research Costs (DRC) should be commensurate with and justified by the research scope, expected outcomes, and deliverables outlined in the proposal.

- 4.3 Funding support will be provided for IRC under the Full Cost Accounting (FCA) modality (i.e. accounted as specific budget line items) for functions that are necessary for project management, including Intellectual Property (IP) management, Human Resource (HR) matters, space, audit, corporate, regulatory compliance, and other costs not easily allocated to a specific research project. No separate overheads/IRC will be awarded. It is recommended to keep the IRC-FCA within 15% of the DRC⁴.

5 Conditions of Funding

- 5.1 Funding support from this grant award primarily supports research activities to be conducted in Singapore. Applicants should indicate any potential overseas collaborative work which requires fund allocations upfront in their submissions.
- 5.2 Applicants should provide budgets that reflect what is required to execute the proposed scope of work. Applicants are encouraged to leverage existing facilities and testbeds available in CREATE and other Singapore Institutions.
- 5.3 Salaries of Singapore-based Lead PIs, Team PIs, Co-Is & Collaborators will not be supported by the grant award.
- 5.4 Office and laboratory space should be requested for and would be allocated based on the provided justifications at the NRF CREATE campus ("CREATE"). Cost of utilities at CREATE should be included into the project budget.
- 5.5 Equipment funded by the grant award will be owned by the Host Institution and located at NRF CREATE and will be considered as part of CREATE shared facilities. While the Host Institution will have priority of usage, it should make substantive efforts to allow other researchers to access and use the equipment. NRF reserves the right to redeploy the equipment at the end of the project.
- 5.6 Overseas travel directly relevant to the conduct of the project and necessary to accomplish the research objectives of the project will be supported by the grant award. Expenses incurred by Collaborators from industry will not be supported.
- 5.7 Overseas travel and costs for residency for International PIs should be budgeted, as per the guidelines provided in [Appendix B](#).

⁴ Qualifying DRC for IRC calculation excludes Research Scholarships for postgraduate students.

- 5.8 Grant award will be given as a single award to the Host Institution. Sub-awards are not allowed, unless they are on an exceptional basis with strong justifications and subject to NRF's approval.
- 5.9 Unless allowed by NRF, no part of the grant award may be channelled to Collaborators for research activities.
- 5.10 Procurement of goods or services from any research team members (Lead/Team PIs, Co-Is, Collaborators or research staff supported by the grant award), or from any persons or entities/organisations affiliated with research team members such that he/she has perceived or real conflict of interest will require justification and NRF's approval.
- 5.11 The project may be partially funded by external parties, subject to NRF's prior written consent.

6 Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

- 6.1 Proposals will be selected through a two-stage process, Stage 1 – Whitepaper and Stage 2 – Full Proposal, based on research excellence and merit. Please refer to Figure 1 for the proposal submission and selection process.
- 6.2 Successful applicants of Whitepaper shortlisting will be invited to submit Full Proposals. NRF may propose curation of teams and projects for the Full Proposal submission.
- 6.3 The key evaluation criteria⁵ for the two stages are as follows:
- Stage 1 – Whitepaper: (i) Research excellence, (ii) Impact, and (iii) Team Expertise.
 - Stage 2 - Full Proposal: (i) Research excellence, (ii) Impact (iii) Team Expertise, and (iv) Project management and implementation.
- 6.4 Please refer to [Appendix C](#) for pointers on articulating impact in CREATE Grant Call 2026 proposals.

⁵ NRF reserves the right to modify, amend or revise any part of the evaluation criteria, requirements, and processes described herein at its sole discretion. Any changes will be communicated through appropriate channels.

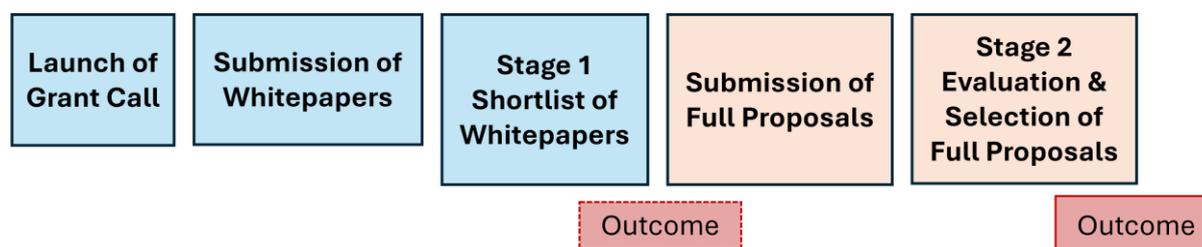


Figure 1: Proposal submission and selection process

7 Details of Research Proposal Documents

7.1 This section provides information on the main documents related to the research proposal. Please note that there are additional submission requirements. Please refer to [Appendix D](#) for the complete list.

7.2 Stage 1 – Whitepaper and Presentation Slides

- (a) Whitepaper based on the research proposal, using the template provided in **Attachment 1**.
- (b) The Whitepaper should cover the following content: Research Objectives, Competitive Scan, Approach, and Outcomes and Deliverables.
- (c) The contents of the Whitepaper must not exceed 5 pages (excluding cover sheet and annexes) and be written in Arial font size 12 with single line, normal spacing and normal margins. All figures, charts, and tables should be consistently labelled.
- (d) References are mandatory and must be included as an annex to the Whitepaper, along with any supplementary information (limited to figures, tables, diagrams and charts ONLY; and must be referenced in the Whitepaper).
- (e) Curricula Vitae (CV) of all team members should be included as an annex to the Whitepaper and not exceed 1 page per CV. Please use the template provided in **Attachment 2**. Links to full biographies are permitted in the CV.
- (f) A copy of the presentation slide deck based on the Whitepaper, using the template provided in **Attachment 3**.
- (g) Slides must not exceed 10 pages (excluding the cover slide and annexes). Use at least Arial Font size 12 for all text and figures, and the standard slide sizes. Slides should be converted to PDF format and not exceed 10 MB in size.

7.3 Stage 2 – Full Proposal

- (a) Successful applicants of Stage 1 review will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.
- (b) The Full Proposal should address the adapted Heilmeyer's questions ([Appendix C](#)). Please use **Attachment 4** (Full Proposal Template) to develop your Full Proposal.
- (c) The contents of the Full Proposal must not exceed 50 pages (excluding cover sheet and annexes) and be written in Arial font size 12 with single line, normal spacing and normal margins. All figures, charts, and tables should be consistently labelled.
- (d) References and the Gantt Chart to the Full Proposal are mandatory and must be included as annexes under the same document, along with any supplementary information (limited to figures, tables, diagrams and charts ONLY; and must be referenced in the Full Proposal). The Gantt Chart should contain details of the key research activities and measurable key deliverables and their timelines. The team should also provide analysis for risks and explain how they intend to mitigate risks in the research project.
- (e) CV of all team members should be included as an annex to the Full Proposal and not exceed 1 page per CV. Please use the template provided in **Attachment 2**. Links to full biographies are permitted in the CV.
- (f) Full Proposal must also be submitted together with the budget using the template provided in **Attachment 5**. Please refer to guidelines provided in [Appendix B](#) for preparation of the budget.

8 **Submission of Application**

- 8.1 All Whitepapers and Full Proposals must be endorsed by the Director of Research of the Host Institution and all participating CREATE Entities and Singapore Institutions.
- 8.2 Host Institutions must submit to NRF completed Whitepapers in PDF format by **3 March 2026 (Tuesday), 16:00 SGT** via email to: CREATE@nrf.gov.sg.

9 Completeness Checks

- 9.1 The Host Institution's Office of Research should perform a completeness check when verifying the submission. (Please refer to [Appendix E](#) for a non-exhaustive guiding checklist for completeness check.)
- 9.2 NRF will perform basic level of completeness check on eligibility and will not be liable for incomplete submissions.
- 9.3 NRF reserves the right to reject submissions without further review, including but not limited to, the following reasons:
- Late submission
 - Incomplete applications (e.g. sections left blank, missing CV, etc.)
 - Inappropriate format (e.g. template not used, small font size, tight paragraph spacing, etc.)
 - Missing or incomplete endorsements by respective Director of Research (or equivalent) of Host Institution and/or overseas partner home institution
 - Revisions made after the closing date unless instructed by NRF
 - Proposal not within scope of CREATE Grant Call 2026 ([Appendix F](#))
 - Ineligibility of Lead PIs, Team PIs, Co-Is or Collaborators
 - Non-disclosure of duplicates of proposal submitted to any other public funding agencies for simultaneous consideration

10 Contact Information

- 10.1 For enquiries related to CREATE Grant Call 2026, please email: CREATE@nrf.gov.sg.

11 Miscellaneous

- 11.1 Please refer to [Appendix G](#) for important information on post-award administration of grant award.
- 11.2 The above funding guidelines are for reference and may be changed at NRF's discretion and communicated through appropriate channels.

Appendices

- A. CREATE Entities and the Respective Institutional Affiliation
- B. Checklist for Preparation of a Research Budget
- C. I. Articulating Impact in CREATE Grant Call 2026 Proposals; II. General Pointers for Writing Good Proposals
- D. Submission of Application
- E. Guiding Checklist for CREATE Grant Call 2026 Completeness Checks
- F. Areas out of CREATE Grant Call 2026 Scope
- G. Post-Award Administration for CREATE Grant Call 2026

Attachments

Attachment 1: CREATE Grant Call 2026 Whitepaper Template

Attachment 2: CREATE Grant Call 2026 Format of Curriculum Vitae

Attachment 3: CREATE Grant Call 2026 Presentation Slides Template

Attachment 4: CREATE Grant Call 2026 Full Proposal Template (only for shortlisted)

Attachment 5: CREATE Grant Call 2026 Budget Template (only for shortlisted)

APPENDIX A**CREATE Entities and Institutional Affiliations**

S/N	CREATE Entity	Institutional Affiliation
1	Berkeley Education Alliance for Research in Singapore (BEARS)	University of California, Berkeley
2	Cambridge Centre for Advanced Research and Education in Singapore (CARES)	University of Cambridge
3	CNRS@CREATE	French National Centre for Scientific Research (<i>Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)</i>)
4	Illinois Advanced Research Center at Singapore (Illinois ARCS)	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Illinois)
5	Singapore-ETH Centre (SEC)	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (<i>Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) Zürich</i>)
6	Singapore-HUJ Alliance for Research and Enterprise (SHARE)	Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ)
7	Imperial Global Singapore (IGS)	Imperial College London
8	Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
9	Shanghai Jiao Tong University Asia-Pacific Graduate Institute (SJTU APGI)	Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU)
10	TUMCREATE	Technical University of Munich (<i>Technische Universität München (TUM)</i>)
11	National University of Singapore (NUS)	
12	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	

APPENDIX B**CHECKLIST FOR PREPARATION OF A RESEARCH BUDGET****Before you Begin**

1. Read NRF's Instructions for Submission of Full Proposal for the CREATE Grant Call 2026 carefully.
2. Review the instructions and guidelines to ensure that the proposed items are eligible and in concordance to your Host Institution's policies.
3. When in doubt, always seek assistance from your Office of Research or NRF before you begin.

Preparing the Budget

1. Be realistic and do not over-inflate the budget. Budget should be reasonable and appropriate for the proposed research plan. For multi-year projects, consider time constraints and get advice on whether you will be able to spend the proposed budget within the duration of the project.
2. Be detailed and specific. List all items on a separate worksheet that clearly shows the calculations and keep this detailed list to remind yourself how the numbers were derived. This will be useful during the budget scrubbing stage (upon awarding) and for future monitoring and reporting.
3. Cost estimates should be credible, and an inflated budget will weaken the proposal. Budgetary items should be clearly explained for their purpose. Items which lack compelling justifications will not be funded.
4. Anticipate reviewers' views and plan ahead to ensure that detailed description and justification on the need of all items listed in the budget are written clearly.
5. Direct Research Costs (DRC) refer to costs which can be directly attributed to the project. Indirect Research Costs (IRC) are Institution overhead costs that benefit and support research.
6. Please use the checklists below to assist you with preparation of the research budget.

Direct Research Costs (DRC)

S/N	Item	Description	
1	Expenditure on Manpower (EOM)	Replacement cost for international Lead/Team PIs for the duration spent physically in Singapore that complies with the terms of the residency	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		Salaries of research personnel and associated human resources costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		Salaries of research interns	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		Stipend for overseas PhD studentships	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Equipment (EQP)	Research equipment inclusive of taxes, exchange rate (if applicable) and freight charges (if applicable) to be factored in for the proposed equipment item	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		Clear justification to be provided for purchase of large equipment exceeding \$250,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Other Operating Expenses (OOE)	Cost of utilities at CREATE at prevailing rates	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		Supplies and materials for the conduct of the project	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		High Performance Computing (HPC) cost based on current Cloud Service Provider rates	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		Cost of living expenses for international Lead/Team PIs for the duration spent physically in Singapore that complies with the residency plan. Cost for accommodation should be a reasonable (benchmarked with 4-star hotel rates). Additional per diem allowance (meant to cover certain living expenses incurred overseas such as the cost of meals, transport and other incidental items like laundry) should not exceed the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore's acceptable rate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Overseas Travel (OT)	Travel budget for all project team members directly relevant to the conduct of the project and necessary to accomplish the research objectives of the project (e.g. for international conferences, meetings with collaborators, etc.). Expenses incurred by Collaborators from industry will not be supported.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Airfares for international Lead/Team PIs to travel to and from Singapore for residency.	
12	Research Scholarship (RS)	Costs for local PhD tuition fees, stipend and allowances for the duration of the grant. These should be based on the prevailing subsidised rates and guidelines given by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and will not attract IRC.	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Overall Budget	Up to \$25 million inclusive of IRC	<input type="checkbox"/>

Indirect Research Costs (IRC) – Full Cost Accounting (FCA)

S/N	Item/Description	
1	Salaries of general administrative support staff and associated human resources costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Salaries of general administrative support interns	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Costs related to general administration and management. Professional membership fees will not be supported.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Audit fees (internal and external audit)	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Legal fees	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Patent application	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Cost of utilities at CREATE at prevailing rates	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Recommended to keep the total IRC-FCA within 15% of the Direct Research Costs (DRC) (qualifying DRC for IRC calculation excludes Research Scholarships for postgraduate students)	<input type="checkbox"/>

APPENDIX C**I. Articulating Impact in CREATE Grant Call 2026 Proposals****Potential Impact**

Proposals should clearly articulate potential for impact⁶ in one or more thematic areas of relevance to Singapore's strategic priorities. Indicative areas of interest include but are not limited to: 'Advanced Manufacturing', 'Aviation and Maritime Technologies', 'Health and Biomedical Sciences', 'Energy and Climate Resilience', 'Digital Trust', 'Human Potential'.

Proposals should provide a clear description of the problem that the project is addressing, significance and expected outcomes of the research, identify who might benefit from the research, and why it matters.

The impact of the research may be described as academic or economic/societal impact. Academic impact refers to making scientific advancements or breakthroughs that could result in a better understanding of an unknown space that could benefit mankind. Economic/societal impact refers to making advancements that could benefit the society and Singapore's economy at large.

Impact should not be confused with outputs. Number of publications, patents and students trained are seen as outputs. These outputs can become outcomes; for e.g. building competence, adding to the knowledge base for a particular research field or product development.

Pathway to Impact

A clearly thought through and acceptable Pathway to Impact is an essential component of a research proposal and a condition of funding. This describes the activities that contribute to achieving the impact(s) as depicted in the impact summary. It should contain details of what will be done in the proposed research to engage the beneficiaries and users to maximise the impact(s).

A clearly thought through and acceptable Pathway to Impact should be:

- project-specific and not generalised;
- flexible and focused on potential outcomes.

⁶ The research need not necessarily lead to immediate translation or commercialisation within the duration of the requested funding. However, there should be an articulation of the potential impact of the project, if successful, beyond the project duration.

PIs are encouraged to:

- identify and actively engage relevant users of research and stakeholders at appropriate stages, e.g. government agencies and industry partners,
- articulate a clear understanding of the context and needs of users and consider ways for the proposed research to meet these needs or impact upon understanding of these needs,
- outline the planning and management of associated activities including timing, personnel, skills, budget, deliverables and feasibility, and
- include evidence of any existing engagement with relevant end users.

Synergies with Existing Efforts

Proposals should be cognisant of other relevant efforts in Singapore, including those underway at CREATE, and around the world, and collaborations, where appropriate, are encouraged. The track record of the research teams and the capitalisation of lessons from previous projects should be considered. The proposals should not be incremental extensions of existing CREATE programmes.

II. Pointers for Writing Good Proposals

Good ideas are often undermined by missteps in proposal preparation. Most winning proposals have been polished repeatedly. Allow time to write and rewrite the proposal. Read the instructions and understand the evaluation criteria. Touch all the bases, and not just the ones you are comfortable with. Each section of the forms must be filled up carefully, as evaluations are based on how well the guiding questions are answered. Don't make work for the reviewers. Make it easy for the reviewers to get to your main points.

Pay heed to these general pointers:

- i) Define the problem statement and build a compelling case for need upfront. However, please do not dedicate too much time/space on prosaic background information. Elaborate more on important experimental details.
- ii) Use clear, accessible language. Avoid insider jargon and acronyms. Use direct statement and active voice.
- iii) Different parts of the projects need to be pulled together. Explain the basis for each work package and their linkages in fulfilling the overall project objectives.

- iv) Show that you have an understanding of the existing competition. This should include performing a competitive scan and comprehensive literature search of ongoing efforts in the proposed topics and having an awareness of existing products/solutions or developments by the industry.
- v) Do not inflate the budget. Ask for a budget that realistically reflects the scope of work that will be accomplished. Where possible, existing equipment/facilities⁷ should be leveraged.
- vi) Clearly articulate the impact of your research and how you would achieve it. This should not be confused with KPI outputs (e.g. no. of paper publications, no. of postdocs recruited etc.). Be specific and quantitative with benchmarked technical specifications, if possible.
- vii) Root out inconsistencies in format, typos, misspellings, mislabelling of diagrams, grammar, etc. Get another person to proof-read.

When writing your Full Proposals, try to answer these questions adapted from Heilmeier's Catechism:

1. What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using absolutely no jargon. What is the problem? Why is it hard?
2. How is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?
3. What is new in your approach, and why do you think it will be successful?
4. Who cares? Identify your stakeholders. Who will benefit from your successful project?
5. If you are successful, what difference will it make? What impact (especially economic and societal) will your success have?
6. What are the risks and the payoffs?
7. How much will it cost?
8. How long will it take?
9. What are the midterm and final "exams" to check for success? How will success be measured?
10. Other components of proposal to be highlighted, e.g. synergies of work packages within proposed project, team composition, collaboration with academia/industry, project management (e.g. Gantt chart, project involvement structure), relevance to Singapore etc.

⁷ For a list of existing equipment in CREATE, please refer to [CREATE Campus Shared Equipment Listing](#).

APPENDIX D

Submission of Application

The following attachments in PDF format should be submitted **using the filenames as listed in blue**:

Table 1: Documents Related to Stage 1

Document	Remarks for Submission Requirement	Format of Filename	Description
Whitepaper (including Annexes)	<p>Mandatory for:</p> <p>a) Whitepaper b) References c) CVs of Team Members d) Write-up on ALL Related Grant(s)</p> <p>Optional for:</p> <p>e) Figures, Charts, Diagrams or Tables only (optional)</p>	<p>01 CREATE2026 Stage 1 Whitepaper <Input Names of HI and 1 Lead PI></p>	<p><i>This must be one continuous document attached as a single file.</i></p> <p>Please use the template and follow the instructions in Attachment 1. Please read Paragraph 7.2.</p> <p>Please use clear Headings for Sub-Sections a) to d). Final file size must not exceed 10 MB.</p> <p>(a) <u>Whitepaper</u></p> <p>(b) <u>References</u>: a listing of all references cited in the Whitepaper.</p> <p>Please include the full titles and DOI numbers of the publications listed. Do not forget to reference your own key publications related to the proposal (if any). [Note: Hyperlinks <u>not</u> necessary].</p> <p>(c) <u>CVs</u>: CVs of all team members (Lead PI, Team PIs, Co-Is and Collaborators, 1-page per CV) appended to the Whitepaper. Please use the template and follow instructions in Attachment 2.</p> <p>(d) <u>Write-up on ALL Related Grant(s)</u></p>

Document	Remarks for Submission Requirement	Format of Filename	Description
			<p>Describe ALL research grants currently held by the Lead PI/Team PIs, and ongoing grant applications. Please also include how the research objective(s) and research differ from that in the CREATE 2026 application.</p> <p>(e) <u>Any other figures, charts, diagrams or tables (including Gantt Chart) only</u></p> <p>They should be clearly labelled and appropriately referenced in the Whitepaper.</p> <p>Note: Please ensure Lead PIs, Team PIs, Co-Is and Collaborators sign on the Declaration Page.</p>
Slides	Mandatory	02 CREATE2026 Stage 1 Slides <Input Names of HI and 1 Lead PI>	<p>Please use the template and follow the instructions in Attachment 3. Please read Paragraph 7.2.</p> <p>Final file size must not exceed 10 MB.</p>

Table 2: Documents Related to Stage 2

Document	Remarks for Submission Requirement	Format of Filename	Description
Full Proposal (including Annexes)	Mandatory for: a) Full Proposal b) References c) CVs of Team Members d) Gantt Chart e) Ethics Statement f) Residency Plan	03 CREATE2026 Full Proposal <Input Names of HI and 1 Lead PI>	<p><i>This must be one continuous document attached as a single file.</i></p> <p>Please use the template and follow the instructions in Attachment 4. Please read Paragraph 7.3.</p> <p>Please use clear Headings for Sub-Sections a) to e). Final file size must not exceed 10 MB.</p>

Document	Remarks for Submission Requirement	Format of Filename	Description
	Optional for: g) Figures, Charts, Diagrams or Tables only (optional)		<p>(a) <u>Full Proposal</u></p> <p>(b) <u>References</u>: a listing of all references listed in the Full Proposal application.</p> <p>Please include the full titles and DOI numbers of the publications listed. Do not forget to reference your own key publications related to the proposal (if any). [Note: Hyperlinks <u>not</u> necessary].</p> <p>(c) <u>CVs</u>: CVs of all team members (Lead PI, Team PIs, Co-Is and Collaborators, 1-page per CV) appended to the Full Proposal. Please use the template and follow instructions in Attachment 2.</p> <p>(d) <u>Gantt Chart</u></p> <p>Provide a Gantt Chart (appropriately referenced in the Full Proposal) with details on the key research activities and measurable key deliverables and their timelines. The team should also provide analysis for risks and explain how they intend to mitigate risks in the research project.</p> <p>(e) <u>Ethics Statement</u></p> <p>Provide a statement on the potential ethical impacts and risks of the research methodologies (if any, including but not limited to bioethics and application of AI) in the proposed research. Submissions should also address how these risks can be managed and mitigated. NIL response is required if there are no ethics considerations in the research proposal.</p>

Document	Remarks for Submission Requirement	Format of Filename	Description
			<p>(f) <u>Residency Plan</u></p> <p>Mandatory for international Lead/Team PIs.</p> <p>(g) <u>Any other figures, charts, diagrams or tables only.</u></p> <p>They should be clearly labelled and appropriately referenced in the Full Proposal.</p>
Budget		03 CREATE2026 Budget <Input Names of HI and 1 Lead PI>	Please use the template and follow the instructions in Attachment 5 .

APPENDIX E**GUIDING CHECKLIST CREATE GRANT CALL 2026 COMPLETENESS CHECKS**

This is a non-exhaustive list for PIs to take reference to ensure completeness of the submissions, and for the Office of Research to take reference when verifying the submissions.

S/N	Document	Section	Item to Check
1	Stage 1 Whitepaper and annex		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead/Team PIs, and Co-Is fulfil the eligibility criteria. NRF will defer to the institution's assessment on whether Lead/Team PIs and Co-Is are qualified. • Co-Lead PIs, all Team PIs and Collaborators (if any) have signed the document. • The dates of signatures fall within the grant call launch period. • This document contains all relevant sections (Research Objectives, Competitive Scan, Approach, Outcomes, and Deliverables) • Whitepaper is within 5-page limit (excluding cover page and annexes). • Ensure that all mandatory sub-sections in the annexes are provided. • Headings for all annex sub-sections are clearly stated. • Full titles, DOI numbers are included for all references. • For optional section, only figures, charts, diagrams or tables are allowed with clearly labelled headings and appropriately referenced in the Whitepaper. • This document should be in PDF format (no larger than 10 MB), uploaded as a single file. • File name is correct (refer to Appendix D Table 1).

2	Stage 1 Slides		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides deck is within <u>10-page limit</u> (excluding the cover slide and annexes). • Slides must be converted to <u>PDF format</u> (no larger than 10 MB), uploaded as a single file. • File names are correct (refer to Appendix D Table 1).
3	Stage 2 Full Proposal and annex	Research Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Proposal is within 50-page limit (excluding cover page and annexes). • All subsections (Research Objectives, Competitive Scan, Approach, Project Plan, Role of Team Members, Outcomes, and Deliverables) are addressed • Ensure that all mandatory subsections in the annexes are provided. • Headings for all annex sub-sections are clearly stated. • Full titles, DOI numbers are included for all references. • For optional section, only figures, charts, diagrams or tables are allowed with clearly labelled headings and appropriately referenced in the Full Proposal. • This document should be in PDF format (no larger than 10 MB), uploaded as a single file. • File name is correct (refer to Appendix D Table 2).
4	Budget		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget using the template provided in Attachment 5. • Please refer to guidelines provided in Appendix B for preparation of the budget. • File name is correct (refer to Appendix D, Table 2).
5	CVs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All team members (Lead/Team PIs, Co-Is and Collaborators) should each provide a CV. • Indicate % time spent in Singapore (mandatory for Lead and Team PIs).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A maximum of 5 publications are listed.• The CV should follow the requested format and extra sections/information should be removed.• The CV of each team member does not exceed 1 page.• File names are correctly formatted (refer to Appendix D).• Link to the PI's research webpage should be valid.• CVs of all PIs should be included as an annex to the Whitepaper and Full Proposal.
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APPENDIX F**AREAS OUT OF SCOPE FOR THE CREATE GRANT CALL 2026**

The CREATE Grant Call 2026 is not intended for the following areas:

- a) Epidemiological and behavioural studies;
- b) Observational studies (including cohort, longitudinal, case-control studies, etc.);
- c) Clinical and drug trials;
- d) Health services research/operations research;
- e) Infrastructure/facilities set-up; and
- f) Market/drugs/product development.

While such elements may be incorporated in a CREATE Grant Call 2026 proposal to support use-inspired basic research, they should not form the sole or primary objective of the proposal.

APPENDIX G**POST-AWARD ADMINISTRATION FOR CREATE GRANT CALL 2026****Conduct of Project**Governing Board/Steering Committee

1. The Project shall be governed by a Governing Board/Steering Committee, which shall:
 - be responsible for reviewing and approving the project annual budget and any subsequent variations;
 - set priorities and directions for the Project; and
 - closely co-operate with, assist and support the project management to resolve any issues that may arise concerning the research, operation, and funding of the Project.
2. The written approvals of NRF and the Governing Board/Steering Committee shall be required for any of the following amendments or appointment:
 - amendments to the objectives or milestones/deliverables of the Project;
 - appointment or replacement of any Lead PI or Team PI for the Project;
 - amendments to the Host Institution for the Project;
 - amendments to the timelines relating to the Project.

Programme Assessment Committee

3. NRF shall appoint the Programme Assessment Committee (PAC) for the Project to advise NRF on whether programmes are meeting their intended objectives, in terms of both scientific excellence and alignment with Singapore's strategic priorities.

Progress and Final Reports

4. The Host Institution shall submit progress reports on the Project on or around every six months to the Governing Board/Steering Committee and NRF. NRF will review the progress report against the objectives, milestones and deliverables of the Project. The Host Institution shall submit any further information as required by NRF, if the progress report is deemed to be inadequate or unsatisfactory by NRF.
5. The Host Institution shall submit to the Governing Board/Steering Committee and NRF a final report within three months after the end of the Grant Period. NRF will

review the progress report against the objectives, milestones and deliverables of the Project.

Budget and Cash Drawdown

6. Advance disbursements will be made by NRF to the Host Institution for the Project on a semi-annual basis. The Host Institution shall request for NRF's approval to drawdown on the funds. Drawdown periods will be aligned with the fiscal year (Apr – Sep, Oct – Mar).
7. In general, prudence should be exercised for all project costs, and expenditures claimed must comply with the Host Institution's internal procurement processes, guidelines and policies.
8. NRF reserves the right to reject any claims that have resulted from changes to the goals, principles and milestones of the Project without prior written approval from NRF and items found not to be fundable, not necessary, not reasonable, not relevant or not used for the Project.
9. NRF's disbursement of funds from the Grant to the Host Institution shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Grant. The Host Institution shall utilise the Grant solely and exclusively for the purpose of the Project. The Host Institution shall ensure that the Grant shall be utilised during the Grant Period (unless extension of such period is supported by the Governing Board/Steering Committee and extended in writing by NRF).
10. The Host Institution shall submit a final statement of account for the Project within 6 months after the end of the Grant Period. The Host Institution shall return any unutilised funds from the Grant to NRF six months after the submission of the final statement of account or within one year after the end of the Grant Period, whichever is earlier.

Acknowledgements and Attributions

11. For all press, publicity and scientific publication materials relating to the Project, the Institutions shall provide appropriate attribution to the researchers and contributors to the Project in accordance with prevailing academic research standards, and shall acknowledge NRF and the Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE).

Audit

12. The Host Institution shall submit Mid-Term and End-Term Project Agreed-Upon-Procedures (AUP) Reports.

13. NRF shall have the right from time to time to conduct ad-hoc audits to ensure that the terms of the Grant are complied with and that all reports and information submitted to NRF are accurate and not misleading.
14. The Host Institution shall procure and ensure that NRF is given full access to all accounts, records, documents, assets and premises in connection with the Project, and provide NRF with all reasonable assistance that NRF may require in connection with the ad-hoc audits.