

**APPLICATION**  
**FOR**  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH**  
**THEMATIC GRANT**  
  
**2026 GRANT CALL**

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For MOE use:

Official Application Ref No.:

<b>SSRC</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>-</b>			
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### Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Letters of Commitment

Please provide a CV and letter of commitment for each of the research team members (no more than **3 pages** per applicant, with the letter of commitment no more than 1 page). Each biographical sketch can list up to 10 publications with high levels of relevance to the proposal. The letters of commitment should indicate if their current employers are aware of their intention to participate in



Please elaborate how this submission differs from the previous submission to AcRF or grants offered by other funding agencies.

(na)

## 7. ABSTRACT OF THE PROPOSAL

Please provide a succinct and accurate description of the proposal in no more than 1000 words. Clearly describe the objectives of the project, the existing literature that was consulted, and the contribution of the proposed research in academic and non-academic domains.

This proposal describes a project on **economic diplomacy**, defined as economic statecraft for small states. As the world shifts away from rules-based multilateralism, Singapore and other small open economies need new strategies to maintain prosperity and security. This project will develop a rigorous intellectual and practical framework for how small states can prosper, remain secure, and exercise agency in this new international environment.

## Objectives

The central goal is to advance Economic Diplomacy as a coherent field of scholarship and practice.

Three core hypotheses drive the project:

1. World order is shifting away from rules-based multilateralism towards geoeconomics and strategic interdependence.
2. Economic diplomacy—distinct from economic statecraft, which is what great powers do—can equip small states with strategies for navigating this disruption.
3. Economic security must go beyond addressing shocks generically. In the current transition major shocks will not be merely natural events, but will include shocks intentional and adversarial. For economic security small states need strategies that go beyond traditional resilience-building.

The project will:

1. Develop a rigorous analytical framework for economic diplomacy.
2. Subject the core hypotheses to rigorous testing through historical, statistical, and case-study research.
3. Translate findings into practical policy principles, including a handbook for policymakers and an AI-driven LLM Wiki.

4. Position its work and thus Singapore-based research to lead the emerging global discourse in economic diplomacy and small-state perspectives on economic security and geoeconomics.

The planned outputs are:

1. A major conference book volume;
2. Ten high-quality journal articles;
3. One research monograph;
4. Practitioner workshops;
5. A practical Economic Diplomacy handbook for officials and policymakers.
6. An LLM Wiki to allow further academic research in economic diplomacy using AI-leveraged queries on the project's knowledge base.

## **Existing Literature and Intellectual Foundations**

The proposal draws on wide interdisciplinary foundations, including economics, international relations, security studies, and international history. Specific intellectual themes include:

### **1. International Relations and World Order**

The proposal engages with work on the decline or transformation of liberal international order and the emergence of post-hegemonic arrangements, including the research of Amitav Acharya (multiplexity), Barry Buzan (decentred globalism and deep pluralism), and John Ikenberry (new multilateral world order). These analyses consider worlds where hegemonic presence is optional.

### **2. Geoeconomics and Strategic Interdependence**

The proposal adds to an expanding literature that examines how states weaponise trade, finance, technology, investment, supply chains, sanctions, and export controls. This literature departs from an older economic thinking that treats economic interdependence as welfare-enhancing, but instead highlights its strategic and coercive dimensions. This proposal reframes the discussion around small states.

### **3. Economic Security**

Existing work on small-state economic security looks to resilience, diversification, and regional integration as palliatives to generic, exogenous shocks. This

proposal hypothesises that such policy recommendations inadequately distinguish between

- natural-event shocks (pandemics, crop failures, tsunamis, floods) and
- intentional shocks (sanctions, trade, export controls, coercive supply-chain disruptions, chokepoint manipulation).

This distinction echoes previous work on intentionality in human security threats. It is a foundational conceptual innovation for the project.

#### **4. International Trade and Multilateralism**

The proposal engages with research on globalisation and multilateralism. It examines how small states previously prospered under rules-based multilateralism and how they need to adopt new strategies as the system becomes increasingly contested.

#### **Principal Research Contribution**

The proposal's most distinctive contribution is the development of Economic Diplomacy as a strategic framework for small states.

To do this a key conceptual innovation is the **Intentional Shock Hypothesis**. Current resilience strategies typically assume shocks are exogenous. This proposal develops an intellectual framing where, instead, disruptions are strategic actions by other states. Small states can then be collateral damage (caught up in negative externality spillovers) or targets (perhaps, for running bilateral trade surpluses against the adversarial state). Three key implications follow:

1. Standard optimisation approaches are insufficient;
2. Adversarial behaviour requires game-theoretic thinking;
3. Best responses may require mixed and adaptive strategies rather than the usual deterministic policy rules that emerge from single-agent convex decision problems.

The third of these implications, however, is not just about the difference between mixed and deterministic strategies. It means small states should consider potentially unorthodox responses. The proposal considers:

- alignment,
- acquiescence,
- adaptation,
- mitigation,
- coalition-building,

- cross-country supply-chain production syndicates,
- norm-shaping.

How such strategies have performed historically will be the subject of case-study research. A specific important hypothesis to examine is that multilateralism does not require hegemonic or leviathan leadership, but instead only incentive-compatible coalition design. This directly challenges Hegemonic Stability Theory and opens up new possibilities for world order re-design.

A second important contribution is the idea of “G-minus” or multilateral-enough orders with flexible topology—institutional arrangements that preserve openness and cooperation without requiring universal consensus or full-scale multilateralism. This idea seeks a middle path between traditional liberal multilateralism and great-power bloc geopolitics.

### **Academic Contributions**

1. Creating a new research agenda on economic diplomacy, distinct from Great Power economic statecraft.
2. More deeply integrating economics and international relations, incorporating strategic interaction and intentionality into economic-security analysis.
3. Foregrounding a small-state perspective under-represented in extant geo-economic scholarship.
4. Developing new theoretical concepts—intentional shocks in international macroeconomic analysis; a range of flexible multilateral architectures—and testing their empirical validity.
5. Rigorously examining hypotheses and models of structural shocks—China Shock, US Shock, Multilateralism Shock as just one example—for explaining the fracture of postwar order, going beyond US-China rivalry as the explanatory frame.

### **Non-Academic Contributions**

1. Robust strategies for preserving openness while enhancing economic security (in the fact of both natural-event and intentional shocks).
2. Frameworks for coalition building among smaller states.
3. Tools for navigating major-power rivalry without excessive attachment to or dependence on any single bloc.
4. Policy principles for resilience in a world where economic shocks increasingly reflect strategic intent.

A key end-result from these is an Economic Diplomacy Handbook and an LLM Wiki that will help governments and businesses navigate a geoeconomic age.

### **Conclusion**

This proposal seeks to establish Economic Diplomacy as the theory and practice for how small states can safeguard their prosperity, security, and strategic autonomy in an international system where economic interdependence is increasingly weaponised and where traditional rules-based multilateralism is no longer available. If successful, this project will have positioned its work and Singapore-based research to lead the emerging global discourse in economic diplomacy.

## **8. PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES**

Please provide full details of the deliverables and desired outcomes from project in no more than **2 pages (Arial font size 12, single line spacing, 1-inch margins)**. Please refer to **Annex B** of the RFP Document for further guidelines on completing this section.

The project will seek to publish ten articles in top 10% journals, at least one research monograph in a leading academic press, and a conference volume for which it will commission papers by top researchers.

The project's researchers will make presentations or give keynote lectures on this research at eight top-tier international conferences over the five years. To disseminate the ongoing research and to engage with the academic and think-tank communities, the project will hold an Economic Diplomacy workshop once a year, beginning in Singapore and then regionally. The project will hold smaller closer-door meetings with public agencies and private business groups once a year.

As the technical research develops the project will issue policy briefs, at least three over the course of the work, and provide media commentaries and op-eds, at least six over the duration of project.

Both to provide next-generation training and to assist in the work, the project will take on two post-doctoral fellows, two research associates (or assistants, depending on skills match), two ongoing PhD students, and two ongoing Masters students.

At the end of the project, the collected work will feed into an Economic Diplomacy Handbook to help policymakers and the business community navigate the increasingly fractured global economy.

Throughout the project, the data and information collected, including notes unwritten into papers, will feed into a knowledge base. The project will, over this time, develop an LLM Wiki that can be used to query the knowledge base and allow further research on economic diplomacy, using AI methods building on top of our empirical evidence.

If successful, the project will have its work and researchers take global leadership in shaping small-state perspective on the new international economics of geoeconomics and strategic interdependence.

**9. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (GANTT CHART FORMAT)**

The proposed schedule will be used for assessment and evaluation of the project. Satisfactory progress is required for continued disbursements of funds. Projects are expected to commence operation no later than six months from the award of the project.

A. Project Implementation Schedule (no more than 300 characters)	Quarters				For Type B and Type C Proposals Only															
	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Conceptual modelling</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Relevant domestic developments, China, US, and smaller states across regions. Data and fieldwork</b>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
<b>Aggregate international statistics. Collection and systematisation</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
<b>Conference for monograph</b>								X								X				
<b>Aggregate global economy flows statistical modelling</b>							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
<b>Research articles publication</b>			X				X				X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
<b>Practitioner engagement workshops</b>								X		X		X		X		X		X		X
<b>Conference monograph drafts</b>									X	X										
<b>Conference monograph final drafts and editing</b>															X	X	X			
<b>Research monograph submission (Ngoei)</b>				X																
<b>Research monograph dissemination (Ngoei)</b>											X				X					

**10. PROPOSED BUDGET & JUSTIFICATION**

You are advised to consult the Office of Research (ORE) when preparing the budget to ensure that it is in line with your university’s HR and finance guidelines. Sufficient details and justifications should be provided for each request and items in the budget must be directly relevant to the proposed project. Please refer to Annex of Enclosure 1 and Annex B of the RFP Document for the list of non-fundable items and further guidelines on budget preparation.

Please note that the duration of funding is capped at *three* years for projects in the ‘Type A’ Category and *five* years for projects in the ‘Type B’ and ‘Type C’ category.

**Overall Proposed Budget**

Category	Year 1(\$)	Year 2(\$)	Year 3(\$)	For Type B and Type C proposals only		Total (\$)
				Year 4(\$)	Year 5(\$)	
EOM (excluding Research Scholarships)		805,000	805,000	805,000	519,000	2,934,000
EOM (Research Scholarships)						
Equipment	36,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	116,000
OOE	2,000	162,000	62,000	162,000	74,000	462,000
Overseas Travel	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	60,000	420,000
Indirect costs <sup>1</sup>	38,400	323,100	293,100	323,100	201,900	1,179,600
<b>Grand Total (\$)</b>	<b>166,400</b>	<b>1,400,100</b>	<b>1,270,100</b>	<b>1,400,100</b>	<b>874,900</b>	<b>5,111,600</b>

<sup>1</sup> Indirect cost is supported at a flat rate of 30% of the total qualifying direct costs, less EOM (Research Scholarships) and must be budgeted within the overall cap of Type A grant (\$1M), Type B and Type C grant (\$10M).  
SSHR-TG

**EOM (excluding Research Scholarships)**

Staff Category	No.	Cost per head(\$)	Year 1(\$)	Year 2(\$)	Year 3(\$)	For Type B and Type C proposals only		Total (\$)
						Year 4(\$)	Year 5(\$)	
Research Fellow/ Postdoctoral Fellows	2	429,000		286,000	286,000	286,000		858,000
Research Associate	2	448,000		224,000	224,000	224,000	224,000	896,000
Research Assistant	3	380,000		285,000	285,000	285,000	285,000	1,140,000
Student Assistant	4	10,000		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000
Others (please state)								
<b>Sub-total</b>				<b>805,000</b>	<b>805,000</b>	<b>805,000</b>	<b>519,000</b>	<b>2,934,000</b>

**EOM (Research Scholarships)**

Research scholarships<sup>2</sup> may be spent on postgraduate stipend and tuition support. Costs should be based on the standard stipend rates and tuition fees that apply in the host institution. Research scholarship funding is ring-fenced and cannot be transferred to other categories. Research scholarships do not qualify for IRC.

Staff Category	No.	Cost per head(\$)	Year 1(\$)	Year 2(\$)	Year 3(\$)	For Type B and Type C proposals only		Total (\$)
						Year 4(\$)	Year 5(\$)	
Research Scholar								

<sup>2</sup> Funding for research scholarship under the SSHR-TG is applicable only to National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) (Industrial Masters' and Industrial Doctorate only) and Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD), and duration of funding is capped at the project duration.  
SSHR-TG

Details and justifications for proposed EOM budget

1. Research Fellows/ Postdoctoral Fellows: \$858,000 (Years 2 to 4)

A total budget of \$858,000 is requested to support two Research Fellows/Postdoctoral Fellows over Years 2 to 4 (\$143,000 × 2 fellows × 3 years).

The Research Fellows/Postdoctoral Fellows will work closely with the PI and Co-PI as junior research colleagues, contributing to the project's research design, data collection, analysis, publications, and other research activities. Where appropriate, they will be encouraged to further develop and align their recent PhD research with the themes and objectives of this project.

The appointments will also serve a strong capacity-building function. Throughout the project, the PI and Co-PI will provide mentorship, research training, and professional development opportunities to strengthen the Fellows' research capabilities and support their transition to independent academic careers, including progression to junior faculty positions upon completion of the project.

Appointment	Research Fellow
Estimated Monthly Basic Salary	\$ 8,417.00
Employer's CPF Contribution <i>17.0%</i>	\$ 1,258.00
SDL (0.25% - min \$2 /max \$11.25)	\$ 11.25
Foreign Worker Levy (S Pass) <i>N/A</i>	\$ -
<b>Monthly payment</b>	<b>\$ 9,686.25</b>
<b>Duration (months)</b>	<b>12 months</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 116,235.00</b>
<u>One-time / annual payments</u>	
(a) Est. Medical Checkup ( <i>one-off pre-employment</i> )	\$ 150.00
(b) Est. Medical Insurance & Healthchoice	\$ 1,339.00
(c) Est. Bonus (approx. 2.5 mths, in Jan) <i>2.5</i>	\$ 21,042.50
(d) Add. Employer's Contribution for Bonus	\$ 3,577.23
(e) Additional SDL for Bonus	\$ -
<i>(b) to (e) are payable every year</i>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 142,343.73</b>

Please justify the manpower request, describing the specific role performed by each individual and their contribution to the project (no more than 1000 words for each individual)

2. Senior/Research Associates: \$896,000 (Years 2 to 5)

A total budget of \$896,000 is requested to support two Senior/Research Associates over Years 2 to 5 (\$112,000 × 2 associates × 4 years).

The Senior/Research Associates will have prior experience as research assistants and will work closely with PI, Co-PI, and Postdoctoral Fellows throughout the project. They will support key research activities, including conducting literature reviews, data analysis, background and routine writing.

In addition, they will play major roles in organising the project's workshops.

Appointment	Research Associate	
Estimated Monthly Basic Salary	\$	6,500.00
Employer's CPF Contribution	17.0%	\$ 1,105.00
SDL (0.25% - min \$2 /max \$11.25)	\$	11.25
Foreign Worker Levy (S Pass)	N/A	\$ -
<b>Monthly payment</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,616.25</b>
Duration (months)		12 months
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>91,395.00</b>
<u>One-time / annual payments</u>		
(a) Est. Medical Checkup (one-off pre-employment)	\$	150.00
(b) Est. Medical Insurance & Healthchoice	\$	1,339.00
(c) Est. Bonus (approx. 2.5 mths, in Jan)	2.5	\$ 16,250.00
(d) Add. Employer's Contribution for Bonus	\$	2,762.50
(e) Additional SDL for Bonus	\$	-
<i>(b) to (e) are payable every year</i>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>111,896.50</b>

3. Research Assistants: \$1,140,000 (Years 2 to 5)

A total budget of \$1,140,000 is requested to support three Research Assistants over Years 2 to 5 (\$95,000 × 3 assistants × 4 years).

The Research Assistants will work closely with PI, Co-PIs, and individual collaborators on specific sub-projects throughout the project.

Appointment	Research Assistant	
Estimated Monthly Basic Salary	\$	5,500.00
Employer's CPF Contribution	17.0%	\$ 935.00
SDL (0.25% - min \$2 /max \$11.25)	\$	11.25
Foreign Worker Levy (\$ Pass)	N/A	\$ -
<b>Monthly payment</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,446.25</b>
Duration (months)		12 months
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>77,355.00</b>
<u>One-time / annual payments</u>		
(a) Est. Medical Checkup (one-off pre-employment)	\$	150.00
(b) Est. Medical Insurance & Healthchoice	\$	1,323.00
(c) Est. Bonus (approx. 2.5 mths, in Jan)	\$ 2.5	13,750.00
(d) Add. Employer's Contribution for Bonus	\$	2,337.50
(e) Additional SDL for Bonus	\$	-
<i>(b) to (e) are payable every year</i>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>94,915.50</b>

4. Student Assistants (Part-time): \$40,000 (Years 2 to 5)

The project will hire four part-time Student Assistants from Years 2 to 5 to provide on-demand work at LKYSPP including information retrieval, copy-editing, proof-reading, and helping the Research Associates in the project workshops.

[B] Key in budget to find out duration of hiring

Grand Total of Budget	\$	40,000.00
Number of proposed hours per week <i>(max 16h/wk for foreigners)</i>		16 hours
Hourly rate for part time <i>(Bachelor=\$20 / Master=\$30)</i>	\$	30.00
Estimated maximum duration <i>(weeks)</i> <i>(according to your budget &amp; proposed hours)</i>		83 weeks 1,328 hours
Estimated Grand Total <i>(according to estimated weeks rounded down)</i>	\$	39,840.00

Please include justification (no more than 200 words) for the number of research scholars and briefly describe the scope of their research.

**Equipment**

Please include GST, where applicable.

						<i>For Type B and Type C proposals only</i>		
Item	No	Cost per item(\$)	Year 1(\$)	Year 2(\$)	Year 3(\$)	Year 4(\$)	Year 5(\$)	Total (\$)
<u>New Lab Equipment</u> (to append vendor's written quotations)								
Item (Quotation No.)								
Notebooks	8	3,000	24,000					24,000
Local LLM-capable desktop	1	12,000	12,000					12,000
Specialised data and LLM subscription	1	80,000		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	80,000
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>36,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>116,000</b>

Details and justifications for proposed equipment budget

The requirement for each piece of equipment requested should be adequately justified (no more than 1000 words per item). Please state if similar equipment exists in the PI or co-PIs' labs or in the PI's department/school and justify why new equipment is required for the project. Written quotations for **ALL** equipment requested should be appended.

Notebooks: \$24,000 is requested to procure notebook computers for the Postdoctoral Fellows, Research Associates, and Research Assistants.

LLM-capable desktop: \$12,000 is requested to acquire a high-performance desktop workstation for the PI. The workstation will support computationally intensive statistical analyses and natural language processing tasks, including the secure deployment and use of local large language models (LLMs).

Specialised data and LLM subscription: \$80,000 is requested for subscriptions to specialised datasets, databases, and LLM services required for the project.

**OOE**

Please include GST, where applicable.

Item* (Indicate Quotation No., if applicable)	Year 1(\$)	Year 2(\$)	Year 3(\$)	For Type B and Type C proposals only		Total (\$)
				Year 4(\$)	Year 5(\$)	
Workshop		100,000		100,000		200,000
Visiting Professors/Research Visitors		60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	240,000
Local travel	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Publication expenses					12,000	12,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>162,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>162,000</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>462,000</b>

**\* Note:**

1. Please indicate the budget requirement for each line item clearly. An aggregate budget for each category is not acceptable. Overhead charges and contingency funds are not allowed. Please refer to Annex of Enclosure 1 for the guidelines for non-fundable items.
2. Materials & Consumables - please provide a breakdown of items and costing and to append quotations only for items that **constitute a significant proportion (e.g. >5%) of the total budget of OOE.**

Details and justifications for proposed OOE budget

All items listed under OOE should be appropriately justified (no more than 1000 words for each) and supported with relevant documents. Consumables to be used for the project should be appropriately categorized and costed. Written quotations should be appended for items **that constitute a significant proportion (e.g. >5%) of the total budget of OOE.**

Costs for engaging visiting professors and experts (e.g. honorarium, costs of travel) are categorised under OOE. Proposed visiting professors should be identified and their intended contribution to the project supported in writing. The duration of the visit(s) should be stated clearly.

A breakdown of the “Others” category such as maintenance of equipment, publications, local conference, local travel, training & safety-related expenses etc. should be provided.

1) Workshops: \$200,000

A total budget of \$200,000 is requested to organise two 3-day workshops in Years 2 and 4 (\$100,000 per workshop). Each workshop will bring together approximately 20 participants, including authors and discussants, with about half of the participants travelling from abroad.

The budget will cover airfare, accommodation, per diem, local transportation, withholding tax (where applicable), catering, and other workshop-related expenses, estimated at 20 participants @\$5K each\*2

Workshop 1 will have the project's principals present first drafts, i.e., rough outlines and preliminary results. The two external discussants will provide comments to help calibrate and guide the work going forwards.

Workshop 2 will have the project's principals present near-final drafts, almost ready for publication. The external discussants here need not be the same individuals as for the first workshop but can usefully provide fresh perspectives and critical refereeing/editing advice.

The project volume will be targeted for a leading university press, and will undergo the usual refereeing process.

2) Visiting Professors/Research Visitors: \$240,000

A total of \$240,000 is requested to support two Visiting Professors/Research Visitors over Years 2 to 5. The two distinguished scholars will rotate over the years from a list that includes Sebnem Kalemli-Ozcan (Brown University), Yves Tieberghen (University of British Columbia), Eddy Malesky (Duke), Arne Westad (Yale), Dani Rodrik (Harvard), and Tom Pepinsky (Cornell) to contribute to the project.

The budget will cover an honorarium (based on one-month per year, pro-rated for shorter visits), business-class airfare, accommodation. The estimated cost is \$30,000 per visitor per year, for two visitors over four years ( $\$30,000 \times 2 \times 4 = \$240,000$ ).

3) Local Transportation: \$10,000 (\$2,000 per year for Years 1 to 5) budgeted for local travel expenses for meetings within Singapore.

4) Publication Expenses: \$12,000 is requested in Year 5 to support publication-related expenses, including map preparation, image licensing, production costs, and article processing charges for open-access publications where appropriate.

**Overseas Travel**

Include overseas conference travel and overseas travel for purposes directly related to the research project.

Item (Indicate Quotation No., if applicable)	Year 1 (\$)	Year 2 (\$)	Year 3 (\$)	For Type B and Type C proposals only		Total (\$)
				Year 4(\$)	Year 5(\$)	
Overseas conference	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	300,000
Regional elite interviews, case-study research, fieldwork	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000		120,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>

Details and justifications for proposed overseas travel budget

Expenditure for overseas conferences and travel should be in accordance with the university’s guidelines.

We propose a total travel budget of \$420,000, comprising \$60,000 per year (Years 1–5) for overseas conference attendance and \$30,000 per year (Years 1–4) for travel related to regional elite interviews, case study research, and fieldwork.

The overseas conference funding will enable team members to present key research findings at leading international conferences, particularly in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany (or other transatlantic).

The cost estimate covers airfare, accommodation, conference registration fees, per diem, and other related travel expenses.

**11a. DETAILS OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

Give a description of the research in no more than **15 pages (for Type A proposals) and 20 pages (for Type B and Type C proposals), adhering to the following formatting: Arial font size 12, single line spacing, 1-inch margins.** Attach this detailed proposal to the end of this application form. Information **SHOULD** include:

- Vision and rationale of the project/programme
- Research plan
- Data collection plan
- Potential impact
- Research team and organisational structure
- Equipment and infrastructure
- Financial plan and support
- Ethics and risks

Explanations of each of these points are detailed in **Annex B** of the RFP Document. Information provided should **be sufficiently self-contained** for an assessment of the proposal without further reference to other materials. Please include references cited at the end of the detailed proposal. References do not count as part of the 15-page or 20-page limit.

**11b. DECLARATION OF ETHICS CONSIDERATION**

**Where applicable, the PI has to obtain full Ethics Approval and any other research-related approvals (such as risk assessments) from the relevant authorities before the SSHR-TG account is activated by the host institutions' Office of Finance.**

Please tick, where appropriate, if your study involves the following:

Human subject	
Use of Human Tissues or Cells	
Animal Experimentation	
Use of Animal Tissues or Cells	
Requirement for containment (BSL 2 and above)	
Other ethical approval (please specify)	

A copy of the ethics approval is attached:

Yes

No

**12. DECLARATION OF OTHER FUNDING SUPPORT**

The Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator(s) should detail the grants<sup>3</sup> awarded in the last 5 years, including those currently held or submitted for consideration by other funding agencies. Please note that parallel submissions are not allowed – i.e. applicants should not send similar versions or part(s) of the current SSHR-TG proposal application to other agencies or grant schemes for funding concurrently.

<sup>3</sup> This refers also to grants funded by agencies other than MOE.  
SSHR-TG

**PI: Danny Quah (NIL entry; PI was Dean at the LKY School from 2018 through 2025)**

Grant/s Applied (Pending Approval)	S/N	Status: PI, Co-PI, Collaborator (please indicate one)	Project Title	Funding Agency/ies Please list co-funding Grantors, if applicable	Amount Requested (\$)		Proposed Duration of Award (No. of Years)
					AcRF	Non-AcRF	
Please add records, if any	(NIL)						
	<b>TOTAL</b>						

Grant/s Awarded (Current)	S/N	Status: PI, Co-PI, Collaborator (please indicate one)	Project Title (Project ID / Account No.)	Funding Agency/ies Please list co-funding Grantors, if applicable	Amount Awarded (\$)		Duration of Award (MM-YY to MM-YY)	% of time PI is involved in each grant
					AcRF	Non-AcRF		
Please add records, if any	(NIL)							
	<b>TOTAL</b>							

Grant/s Awarded (Completed) – Last 3 grants completed	S/N	Status: PI, Co-PI, Collaborator (please indicate one)	Project Title (Project ID / Account No.)	Funding Agency/ies Please list co-funding Grantors, if applicable	Amount Awarded (\$)		Duration of Award (MM-YY to MM-YY)
					AcRF	Non-AcRF	
Please add records, if any	(NIL)						
	<b>TOTAL</b>						

**Co-I: David Jacks <sup>4</sup>**

Grant/s Applied (Pending Approval)	S/N	Status: PI, Co-PI, Collaborator (please indicate one)	Project Title	Funding Agency/ies Please list co-funding Grantors, if applicable	Amount Requested (\$)		Proposed Duration of Award (No. of Years)
					AcRF	Non-AcRF	
Please add records, if any							
	<b>TOTAL</b>						

<sup>4</sup> Repeat for each Co-Investigator  
SSHR-TG



Please add records, if any					AcRF	Non-AcRF		
	<b>TOTAL</b>							

Grant/s Awarded (Completed) – Last 3 grants completed	S/N	Status: PI, Co-PI, Collaborator (please indicate one)	Project Title (Project ID / Account No.)	Funding Agency/ies Please list co-funding Grantors, if applicable	Amount Awarded (S\$)		Duration of Award (MM-YY to MM-YY)
					AcRF	Non-AcRF	
Please add records, if any	<b>TOTAL</b>						

Co-I: Adam Liu <sup>6</sup>

Grant/s Applied (Pending Approval)	S/N	Status: PI, Co-PI, Collaborator (please indicate one)	Project Title	Funding Agency/ies Please list co-funding Grantors, if applicable	Amount Requested (S\$)		Proposed Duration of Award (No. of Years)
					AcRF	Non-AcRF	
	1	Co-PI	U.S.-China Technological Rivalry: Implications for Singapore and ASEAN	SSRC // SSHR-TG 2026	2,002,769		4
Please add records, if any	<b>TOTAL</b>						

Grant/s Awarded (Current)	S/N	Status: PI, Co-PI, Collaborator (please indicate one)	Project Title (Project ID / Account No.)	Funding Agency/ies Please list co-funding Grantors, if applicable	Amount Awarded (S\$)		Duration of Award (MM-YY to MM-YY)	% of time PI is involved in each grant
					AcRF	Non-AcRF		
Please add								

<sup>6</sup> Repeat for each Co-Investigator  
SSHR-TG

records, if any	1	PI	Between the Superpowers: Public Opinion on US-China Rivalry in Southeast Asia (T2EP40225-0015)	Ministry of Education — Academic Research Fund Tier 2	304,837		09-26 to 09-29	25
	2	PI	Traditional Beliefs and Elite Politics in China and India	Wilmar China-India Studies Grant, Centre on Asia and Globalisation, NUS		13,000	01-26 to 12-27	5%
	3	PI	Malaysian Views on the China-US Rivalry	National University of Singapore — AcRF Tier 1	30,000		07-23 to 12-27	5%
	4	Co-PI	Cultural Beliefs and Political Behavior in China	National University of Singapore — AcRF Tier 1	30,000		07-23 to 06-28	5%
				<b>TOTAL</b>				

Grant/s Awarded (Completed) – Last 3 grants completed	S/N	Status: PI, Co-PI, Collaborator (please indicate one)	Project Title (Project ID / Account No.)	Funding Agency/ies Please list co-funding Grantors, applicable if	Amount Awarded (S\$)		Duration of Award (MM-YY to MM-YY)
					AcRF	Non-AcRF	
Please add records, if any				<b>TOTAL</b>			

**13. SUGGESTED NAMES OF EXTERNAL REVIEWERS**

PIs should nominate suggested external reviewers. External Reviewers should be experts in the field who are able to provide an independent and credible assessment of the research proposal. In general, reviewers should be at least Assistant Professors or equivalent. Doctoral students should not be nominated as external reviewers. Prior consent should be obtained from suggested external reviewers before nomination. PIs should also disclose their relationship and past collaborations with the external reviewers, if any. The Expert Panel may choose not to engage the suggested external reviewers.

S/N	Salutation	Name of Reviewer	Institution and Designation	Details of contacts (Please provide mailing address, e-mail address, tel and fax numbers)	Research interest / Expertise	Relationship to PI/co-PI <sup>7</sup>
1	Professor	Maurice Obstfeld	Economics Department, University of California, Berkeley. Professor	530 Evans Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-3880, USA. obstfeld@berkeley.edu	International Macroeconomics	none
2	Professor	O. Arne Westad	Department of History, Yale University. Elihu Professor	46 Hillhouse, New Haven, CT 06511, USA. Arne.Westad@yale.edu	International History. Cold War. East Asia since 18 <sup>th</sup> Century. Empire and Imperialism	none
3	Dr	Adam Posen	Peterson Institute for International Economics. President	PIIE, 1750 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, DC 20036 USA <a href="mailto:APosen@PIIE.COM">APosen@PIIE.COM</a>	International Macroeconomics. US foreign policy	none
4	Professor	Pao-Li Chang	Singapore Management University. Associate Professor of Economics. Director, Centre for Research on International Trade	90 Stamford Road, Singapore 178903 <a href="mailto:plchang@smu.edu.sg">plchang@smu.edu.sg</a>	International trade. East Asia	none
5	Professor	Heiwai Tang	Hong Kong University Business School. Victor and William Fung	4/F, K.K. Leung Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong tangecon@hku.hk	International Macroeconomics, East Asia	none

<sup>7</sup> PIs/co-PIs should disclose their relationship and past collaborations with the external reviewers, if any.

			Professor in Economics			
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The application should **not** be sent to the following reviewers:

S/N	Salutation	Last Name	First Name	Institution	Reason (No more than 200 characters)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

#### 14. UNDERTAKING BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) AND ALL COLLABORATORS

In signing the Grant Application, the Principal Investigator, all Co-Principal Investigator(s) and all collaborators UNDERTAKE, on any Grant Award, to:

- ensure that a proposal with similar research aims has not been awarded research funding either by MOE or another funding agency;
- ensure that MOE's funding is acknowledged in all publications;
- ensure that a copy of all publications arising from research wholly or partly funded by MOE will be submitted to MOE;
- ensure that all data generated from research funded by the SSR Thematic Grant should be made available to user communities at the earliest feasible opportunity, subject to restrictions related to confidentiality and intellectual property.
- co-operate with MOE to inculcate interest in research among all students; and
- grant the Singapore Government and public sector agencies a non-exclusive, non-transferable, perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free right and licence to use, modify, reproduce and distribute the IP created from Thematic Grant for non-commercial, R&D and/or educational purposes.

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Name and Signature of Principal Investigator

Danny QUAH  
Date: 03 July 2026

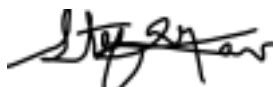


David Jacks  
03 July 2026



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Name and Signature of Co-Investigator  
Date:

Stefanie Kam  
03 July 2026



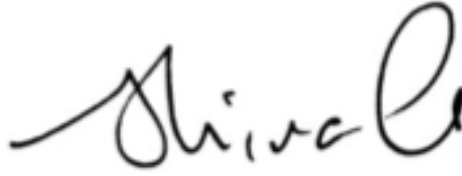
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Name and Signature of Co-Investigator  
Date:

Adam Liu  
03 July 2026



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Name and Signature of Co-Investigator  
Date:

Shiro Armstrong  
03 July 2026



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Name and Signature of Collaborator\*  
Date:

Siddharth George  
03 July 2026



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Name and Signature of Co-Investigator  
Date:

Tomoo Kikuchi  
03 July 2026



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Name and Signature of Co-Investigator  
Date:

Sooyeon Kim  
03 July 2026



-----  
Name and Signature of Co-Investigator  
Date:

Hyungjin Kim



03 July 2026

-----  
Name and Signature of Collaborator\*  
Date:

Ng Kuang Jong Joel



03 July 2026

-----  
Name and Signature of Collaborator\*  
Date:

Wen-Qing Ngoei



03 July 2026

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Name and Signature of Collaborator\*  
Date:

\* Faxed signatures are acceptable.

**15. UNDERTAKING BY THE HOST INSTITUTION**

In signing the Grant Application, the Host Institution UNDERTAKES, on any Grant Award, to:

- support and agree to this proposal being carried out in the institution;
- check with appropriate human resource personnel, who have access to reliable sources for proper verification, to ensure that the applicants meet the eligibility criteria cited in the grant call document and Administrative Guidelines & Policies;
- ensure that all necessary licenses and approvals have been obtained or are being sought;
- ensure that the funds provided are used for the appropriate purposes;
- ensure that all budget requests are in accordance with the university's prevailing HR policies and financial guidelines;
- provide the Singapore Government and public sector agencies with data and statistics of indicators pertaining to the research activity when requested; and
- grant the Singapore Government and public sector agencies a non-exclusive, non-transferable, perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free right and licence to use, modify, reproduce and distribute the IP created from Thematic Grant for non-commercial, R&D and/or educational purposes.

Comments:

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Name and Signature of Director of Research\*

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Date

*\* If the Principal Investigator is the Director of Research, **UNDERTAKING by the Director's Reporting officer** is required.*

-----  
Name, Designation and Signature

-----  
Date

**ANNEX A**

**LETTERS OF COMMITMENT**

(REQUIRED FOR PI, CO-PIs AND COLLABORATORS)

Letters should present the following information (no more than 1 page):

**Identification:** The opening paragraph of the letter should identify the name of the PI/co-PI/collaborator, and to state the exact role in the project (i.e. as (i) the PI; (ii) a Co-PI; or (iii) a collaborator). For PIs and Co-PIs, it should also declare that he/she is currently under full-time employment in the Host Institution.

**Roles and Responsibilities:** The letter should clearly state the role and responsibilities of the aforementioned person in the proposed project. It should list the appropriate skills and/or resources that he/she will bring to the proposed project, and explain how he/she intend to fulfil his/her commitment to the project. In particular, prior experience in managing similar research projects and/or relevant work in the field should be listed.

For Co-PIs and collaborators, list out prior research collaboration experience with the PI.

**Authorisation:** Letters should be properly authorised by the aforementioned person with his/her signature.

**Authorisation:** Letters should be properly authorised by the aforementioned person with his/her signature.