

Guidelines for Young Scholar Cultivation Program

Approved at the 1st Institute Affairs Council Meeting of 2026

Chapter I: General Provisions

1. Purpose

These Regulations are established by the Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica (hereinafter referred to as the ASIoP) to systematically cultivate early-career scholars, strengthen research potential, and establish a sustainable academic talent development framework.

Through diversified and structured support mechanisms, the ASIoP supports the academic advancement of young researchers during the formative stages of their scholarly careers.

2. Program Structure

The young scholar development mechanisms under these regulations comprise:

- I. Best Research Paper Award for Junior Research Investigators (hereinafter referred to as the Paper Award), an incentive program recognizing outstanding scholarly publications based on research excellence; and
- II. Shui-Chin Lee Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (hereinafter referred to as the Fellowship), which provides structured support centered on research potential and long-term academic development planning.

A recipient of the Fellowship may be referred to as a Shui-Chin Lee Fellow.

Chapter II: Best Research Paper Award for Junior Research Investigators

3. Objective

The Paper Award is established to encourage young scholars at the ASIoP to conduct in-depth academic research and publish significant scholarly papers during the scholar development stage.

4. Award Categories

- I. Applicants shall be classified into two categories according to their status at the time of application:
 - Postdoctoral Fellow
 - Student or Research Assistant
- II. A maximum of three awards may be granted annually in each category. A single paper may have more than one applicant; however, it may be submitted under ONE category only.

5. Eligibility

- I. Applicants must be Postdoctoral Fellows, students, or Research Assistants employed at the ASIoP at the time of application. The submitted paper must have been completed during their employment at the ASIoP.
- II. An applicant may receive the award only once within the same category.

6. Required Application Materials

Applicants must submit the following:

- I. One research paper published, or formally accepted for publication, within three years prior to the application deadline;
- II. A statement describing the applicant's specific contribution to the submitted paper;
- III. A curriculum vitae (CV) and a list of research publications within the past three years;
- IV. A letter of recommendation from an ASIoP-employed researcher and a letter of endorsement from the affiliated research group. The recommendation letter must include an assessment of the applicant's principal contribution to the submitted paper.

7. Award and Recognition

- I. Awardees will receive a medal, an award certificate, and a monetary prize. Two levels of awards are conferred:
Distinguished Award
 - NT\$100,000 per awarded paper for Postdoctoral Fellows; and
 - NT\$60,000 per awarded paper for Students or Research Assistants.Excellent Award
 - NT\$50,000 per awarded paper for Postdoctoral Fellows; and
 - NT\$30,000 per awarded paper for Students or Research Assistants.Donor information may be indicated on the award certificate.
- II. Where a winning paper has multiple awardees, each awardee will receive a medal; however, the total monetary prize will not be increased.
- III. In recognition of research excellence, the ASIoP will organize a public award ceremony, publish awardees' profiles and award-winning papers on the ASIoP website or other media platforms, and arrange public lectures by the awardees.

8. Application Period

Applications are submitted via the ASIoP online system annually from March 1 to March 31.

9. Review Procedure

Applications will undergo a preliminary review by the ASIoP Academic Affairs Committee, which may produce a recommended list of candidates.

The Academic Affairs Committee will convene a final review committee composed of internal and external experts to conduct a written review of the recommended candidates. Where necessary, applicants may be invited to give an oral presentation.

Final awardees will be selected by the ASIoP Academic Affairs Committee based on the results of the preliminary and final reviews.

Chapter III: Shui-Chin Lee Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (Shui-Chin Lee Fellow)

10. Purpose of Establishment

ASIoP, in collaboration with the Shui-Chin Lee Foundation for Basic Science (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation), establishes the Fellowship to support postdoctoral researchers in conducting forward-looking and original research, as part of the young scholar development system of ASIoP.

11. Quota and Stipend

Up to two Fellows may be selected each year; positions may remain vacant.

I. Amount and term

Each Fellow will receive NT\$20,000 per month (NT\$240,000 per year).

The award term is, in principle, two years and may be renewed upon application.

II. Award period

The award period is calculated on an academic-year basis, from August 1 to July 31 of the following year.

III. Termination

If a Fellow leaves employment at the ASIoP during the award period, the stipend is terminated and any remaining payments cease.

IV. Disbursement

The stipend is provided and disbursed directly by the Foundation and is independent of the ASIoP monthly payroll system.

12. Eligibility

Applicants must meet one of the following criteria and demonstrate the capability and plan for continued research and development:

I. A Postdoctoral Fellow currently employed at the ASIoP; or

II. A newly appointed Postdoctoral Fellow expected to commence employment at the ASIoP within six months after the application deadline.

13. Application Period

Applications are submitted via the ASIoP online system annually from March 1 to March 31.

14. Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following documents:

I. Curriculum vitae (CV);

II. Publication list;

III. Description of current research achievements (maximum two pages);

IV. Future research proposal (maximum one page);

V. At least three letters of academic recommendation, including one from the applicant's principal investigator (PI) affiliated with the ASIoP.

15. Review Process

I. The Fellowship shares the same application period and review committee structure as the Paper Award; however, it is reviewed and evaluated independently.

II. The review focuses on academic potential, research quality, development planning, and potential scholarly contribution.

III. Newly appointed postdoctoral researchers may apply. Their research outputs are not limited to work completed at the ASIoP.

IV. Applicants seeking renewal are evaluated primarily based on academic performance during the preceding award term.

V. The review committee may invite applicants to provide oral presentations where necessary.

VI. The review results are documented in writing and submitted to the Foundation for confirmation before final approval.

16. Public Recognition

The ASIoP organizes a public award ceremony, publishes awardees' profiles and research outputs on the ASIoP website or other media channels, and arranges public lectures by the awardees.

Chapter IV: Supplementary Provisions

17. Ethics

In case an awardee is found to have violated standards of academic ethics, the "Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Ethics Committees at All Levels Academia Sinica" will apply.

18. Implementation

The above regulations and future revisions will be implemented upon approval of the Institute Affairs Council.