



TAU - SDU Cooperation Program 2026 Call for Applications

Joint Research Projects

Introduction and Purpose

The Tel Aviv University–Shandong University Cooperation Program aims to foster joint research projects conducted by researchers at Tel Aviv University (TAU) and Shandong University (SDU). The total budget for this program is USD 40,000, with USD 20,000 provided by TAU and USD 20,000 by SDU.

Researchers affiliated with each institution (Principal Investigators, PIs) are invited to jointly submit research proposals for the development of collaborative projects across all research areas, with strong priority given to Archaeology, Mathematics, and Life Sciences, under the terms and conditions described below.

Scope of Projects

- **Number of Awards:** Up to three (3) joint projects will be selected by means of a call for applications issued jointly by the two institutions.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Each proposal must include research team participants from both institutions.
 - Principal Investigators (PIs) must meet the eligibility criteria of their respective institutions.
 - Proposals must be submitted jointly by one PI from TAU and one PI from SDU, with each submitting the same application to their own institution.
 - Proposals must be written in English and Chinese separately and follow a standardized format agreed upon by both institutions, including a project abstract, detailed budget, and CVs of the respective PIs.
- **Selection Process:** All proposals will be reviewed by a joint selection committee composed of representatives from TAU and SDU, following jointly defined evaluation criteria.
- **Project Duration:** Each project will have a standard duration of one (1) fiscal year (January until December), unless otherwise agreed by the institutions.
- **Eligible Costs:** Funding may be used to cover the following:
 - Travel and accommodation costs for visits between China and Tel Aviv
 - Event organization (e.g. catering, dissemination materials)
 - Research assistance (e.g. student assistants)
 - Publication costs
 - Reasonable consumables and material expenses directly related to the project (max. 50% of the project costs)

Applicant Eligibility

- **Applicants should hold a position equivalent to or higher than associate professor.**
- **For TAU - Applicants must hold a tenure or tenure-track faculty position at the rank of Senior Lecturer (מרצה בכיר) or higher.**
- All applicants should be actively engaged in frontline research, possess a high academic reputation, and be capable of discerning disciplinary development trends and putting forward innovative ideas.
- Collaborators from outside TAU and SDU may participate in projects but will not be eligible for financial support under this program.

TAU and SDU agree that each party has its own pre-existing proprietary rights which are not affected by this Call for Applications. If TAU personnel and SDU personnel are co-inventors of any result or invention, the parties will negotiate in good faith and enter into an inter-institutional agreement relating to the protection, use and commercialization of such joint result or invention.

Timeline

Call for Applications announced on TAU and SDU websites and/or distributed by email	March 23 rd 2026
Closing date for submission of proposals	May 15, 2026
Notification of results	July 2026
Funding period	September 2026 – August 2027

Proposal Requirements

Proposals must be submitted separately to TAU and SDU using the standard internal grant application format required by each institution. Submissions must fully comply with the guidelines outlined in this Call for Applications and must include the following components:

- Project Title and Description including:
 - Expected Outcomes
 - An outline of the longer-term benefits to both institutions
- Curriculum vitae (CV) of the cooperating partners at SDU and TAU
 - Max. 2 pages per CV
 - Up to 5 relevant publications
- Planned timeline
- List of planned project participants
 - Names and institutional roles of all involved researchers
 - Indicate clearly those for whom travel or accommodation expenses are requested
- Planned further grant applications and publications (if applicable).
- Letter of Confirmation for Collaboration signed by both PIs.



Application Deadline

Applications are prepared and submitted jointly. Each application must be submitted on or before **May 15th, 2026**, to both TAU and SDU by the respective PIs.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. No amendments or supplementary materials will be accepted after submission, unless specifically and formally requested by either TAU or SDU.

Review Process

All submitted proposals will first undergo an administrative review to ensure they meet eligibility and compliance requirements. Eligible proposals will then be evaluated through a competitive peer-review process, based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and scholarly merits of the project
- Academic excellence of the applicants
- Relevance to ongoing research
- Strategic value and benefit to both institutions

Proposals that do not comply with the requirements outlined in this Call for Applications will be deemed ineligible and disqualified from further consideration.

Evaluation Committee and Selection

- An ad hoc joint committee, composed of faculty members from both TAU and SDU will be convened by TAU Vice President International and the SDU program coordinator, or their delegates.
- This committee will review, assess, and rank all eligible proposals submitted to their respective institutions.
- Up to four (3) joint proposals will be selected for funding.
- Funding decisions will be made jointly and require the mutual agreement of both institutions.
- Final funding decisions will be communicated by email to the respective applicants.

To Apply:

- Each application must be submitted to both TAU and SDU by the respective PIs.
- TAU scholars must apply using the submission form online [TAU Application](#)
- SDU scholars must submit applications to the [Department of International Office at SDU](#).

For further information:

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