

Asia Centre for Health Security (ACHS) Fellowship Program - 2026 Intake

Introduction

The ACHS Fellowship Program aims to inspire and connect the next generation of biosecurity leaders and innovators.

Started in 2025, the ACHS Fellowship is a highly competitive, part-time program that provides an opportunity for talented graduate students and professionals to deepen their expertise, expand their network, and build their leadership skills through a series of training and project work coordinated by the Asia Centre for Health Security based in the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore (NUS).

This 12-month fellowship does not require relocation to Singapore and can be completed alongside full-time employment or an academic schedule.

ACHS Fellowship Program Outline

The ACHS fellowship program will:

- Deepen knowledge in different aspects of biosafety and biosecurity policy and practice;
- Offer access to resources and participation in events focused on the most current and relevant topics in biosecurity;
- Provide opportunities to connect with senior leaders, current fellows, and alumni networks in the biosecurity field and;
- Mentorship by ACHS faculty and completion of one (1) project or product offered by ACHS ([Annex A](#)) during the fellowship year.

Funding of the ACHS fellowship program will cover:

A total of SGD \$10,000 will be awarded to each ACHS fellow for the two events listed below (points 1 and 2) which will cover expenses such as travel (air and land), accommodation and subsistence allowance.

1. Attendance at a biosecurity event (training workshop or policy roundtable) in Singapore, and visit to ACHS-associated organisations, which includes the National University of Singapore, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (NUS

SSHSPH); National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID); and/or Nanyang Technological University, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (NTU RSIS)

2. Attendance at a biosecurity workshop and networking event in an international location outside Singapore, e.g. events organised by Global Health Security (GHS), Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)
3. Access to webinars relevant to biosecurity e.g. webinars organised by ACHS, WHO information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN)
4. Additional networking events

ACHS Fellowship Deliverables and Timeline

The ACHS fellow will be expected to complete the required deliverables detailed in the timeline below. Please refer to [Annex B](#) for more information.

ACHS Fellowship Milestones	2026												2027
Project-related	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-Mar
1. Attend the first on-boarding meeting													
2. Meet with ACHS faculty mentor													
3. Finalise the project product(s) and/or submit for publication													
4. Present the project in an ACHS online meeting													
Biosecurity Events & Webinars													
5. Attend at least two (2) webinars													
6. Attend the ACHS biosecurity event in Singapore (subject to change)													
7. Attend an international biosecurity event													

Eligibility Criteria

Prospective fellows must meet the eligibility criteria stated below:

- Masters/Doctoral/Medical Degree graduate **OR** Three (3) years of professional experience in national security, public health, medicine, biotechnology, laboratory sciences, law, biosecurity/biosafety, global health, cybersecurity/AI, or a related field;
- Citizens of or working in an *eligible* Asia-Pacific country ([Annex C](#)) for at least three (3) years at point of application;
- Early- to mid-career professionals, aged 25 – 40 years old and;
- Fluent in written and oral English.

Selection Process

Fellows will be selected based on the quality of their statement, academic and/or professional accomplishments, and letters of recommendation.

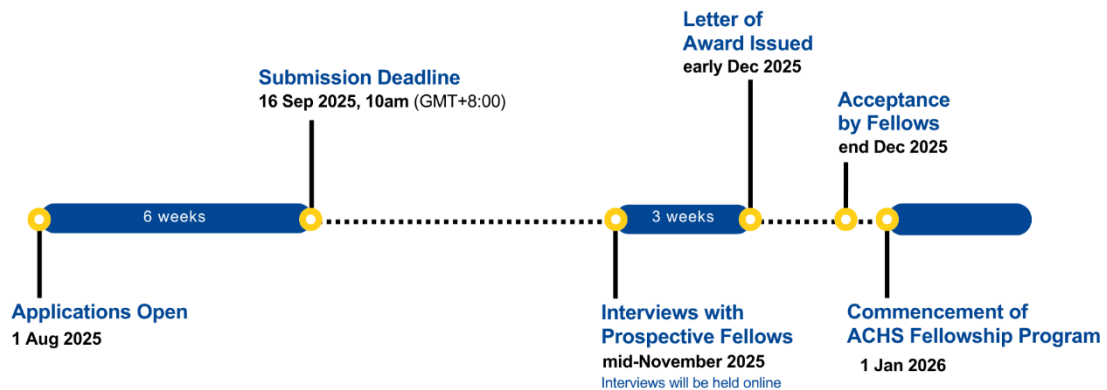
Applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts and shortlisted candidates will be invited for a virtual interview.

Terms and Conditions

A summary of the key terms and conditions associated with the fellowship has been provided in [Annex D](#).

Important Dates and Application Timeline

Applications for the ACHS Fellowship Program opens on **1 August 2025** and the deadline for submission is the **16 September 2025, 10am (GMT+08:00)**.



Application Form and Submission Details

The link for the ACHS Fellowship Program Application Form is available [here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

For more information, please download the FAQ from [ACHS website](#) for answers to common queries about the program, eligibility, and application process.

Contact Us

For enquiries about the ACHS Fellowship Program, please contact program secretariat at achs@nus.edu.sg

ACHS Fellowship Program List of Project Proposals

1. Red Team for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Deliberate Events (DE)

We will take a red team approach to identify potential ways that artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to increase vulnerabilities as well as mitigate risk for deliberate events.

Depending on the ACHS fellow's background and expertise, this project can range from a literature search and focus group discussion, to develop AI-enhanced biological design tools and analysing the responses of different large language models (LLM) to queries on biological weapons, methods of dispersion, and hybrid attacks with disinformation campaigns. We will also explore ways that AI can enable or accelerate mitigation and response strategies against these threats.

Anticipated outputs include abstracts to be submitted to biosecurity conferences, a paper to be submitted for peer-reviewed publication, as well as shorter informational articles for the ACHS website.

2. Emerging Technologies and Implications on Biosecurity in East-Asia

This study explores the evolving biosecurity landscape in East Asia amid the rapid convergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and the life sciences. As AI increasingly intersects with synthetic biology, gene editing, and other dual-use biotechnologies, new risks are emerging—including the creation of dangerous pathogens and the potential misuse of biological research. At the same time, AI offers significant promise for enhancing early detection and monitoring of biosecurity threats. Key questions to be examined include: how can countries in East Asia prepare for AI-powered biosecurity risks in synthetic biology, genetic engineering, and other dual-use technologies? The study will also investigate emerging cyber-biosecurity risks and assess how countries in the region are integrating biosecurity into broader national cyber strategies. By mapping regional approaches and institutional innovations, the study aims to inform policy responses and support the responsible governance of emerging biotechnologies.

3. Towards Inclusive One Health: Stakeholder Perspectives in ASEAN

One Health is a multisectoral approach that recognises the interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health. While global and regional efforts to adopt this approach have increased, such as ASEAN's 2023 declaration to establish a regional network and joint plan of action, gaps remain in stakeholder representation and engagement. In the ASEAN context, there is limited research on how best to strengthen One Health awareness, education, and collaboration across sectors. This study aims to assess the current state of One Health engagement in the region, explore stakeholder perspectives and the barriers and enablers they face, and identify lessons from related global health challenges, such as antimicrobial resistance and pandemic preparedness. The fellow will contribute to a literature review and stakeholder interviews to inform recommendations for improving One Health engagement in ASEAN.

4. Closing Gaps in Pandemic Preparedness in Cities and Urban Settings

Cities have unique challenges in preparing for, and responding to, disease outbreaks and pandemics. Crowding, mobile populations and high connectivity to other parts of the country and the world place them at increased risk of introduction and spread of pathogens. At the same time, cities have rich data, the resources of businesses and industry, and advanced health services. The fellow, guided by ACHS faculty, will map out priority challenges faced by Asian cities in pandemic preparedness and propose a systemic, practical approach for local urban governments. This would include gaining a better understanding of perspectives on the ground, such as through conducting interviews or a focus group discussion among local stakeholders.

5. Governance of Dual-Use Research of Concern in an Era of Emerging Biotechnologies

Dual-use research of concern (DURC), which can be used for both beneficial and harmful purposes, poses unique regulatory challenges. This fellowship project will examine how DURC is currently regulated and governed at international, national, and institutional levels and assess the adequacy of these measures in the context of rapidly evolving biotechnologies such as synthetic biology. It will identify gaps and make recommendations.

6. Evaluation of Early Detection Surveillance Strategies for New or Re-Emerging Pathogens of High Consequence in the Asia Region

What are the advantages and challenges (logistical and scientific) of various early detection surveillance strategies in real world settings in Asia. This would involve assessing the effectiveness and viability of existing localized pilot surveillance strategies such as wastewater surveillance, commercial poultry or swine farm worker surveillance, severe respiratory or death surveillance of unknown cause, etc. As a result of this evaluation, recommendations for improvements or better focusing the surveillance efforts for action can be generated. The fellow would need to conduct this evaluation in a country, city, or state/province that had a functional early detection surveillance system up and running for 6 months or longer.

ACHS Fellowship Program Deliverables

During the 12-month ACHS Fellowship, the ACHS Fellow is required to:

1. Attend one (1) ACHS biosecurity, outbreak or pandemic preparedness event in Singapore and visit to ACHS-associated organisations
2. Attend one (1) international biosecurity, outbreak or pandemic preparedness event in a location outside Singapore. These may include Global Health Security (GHS), Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Medical Biodefence (MBDE) conferences among others
3. Attend at least two (2) webinars relevant to biosecurity, outbreak or pandemic preparedness
4. Select and work on one (1) health security project from among the proposals ([Annex A](#)) provided by ACHS faculty
5. Meet with ACHS faculty mentor at three (3) time-points in the fellowship year to discuss progress on their project, and de-brief at the end of the Fellowship
6. Finalise the product or submit for publication the results of the project and/or present the project in an ACHS online meeting

List of Eligible Asia-Pacific Countries

S/N	Eligible Countries
1	Australia
2	Bhutan
3	Brunei
4	Cambodia
5	China
6	Hong Kong
7	India
8	Indonesia
9	Japan
10	Laos
11	Macau
12	Malaysia
13	Maldives
14	Mongolia
15	Nepal
16	New Zealand
17	Papua New Guinea
18	The Philippines
19	Singapore
20	South Korea
21	Sri Lanka
22	Taiwan
23	Thailand
24	Timor Leste
25	Vietnam

ACHS Fellowship Program Terms and Conditions in Brief

Project(s) and Deliverables

1. You commit to completing your fellowship project(s) and other deliverables in a timely manner within the fellowship period. You agree that the ACHS Fellowship may be terminated if NUS is of the reasonable opinion that your level of commitment towards the project(s), deliverables and the objectives of the ACHS Fellowship are inadequate.
2. You will seek NUS' written approval, using the Change Request Form for any variation to the approved fellowship project(s) or the activities or deliverables of your ACHS Fellowship.
3. You shall not, whether during or after the ACHS Fellowship, publish or present the results, methods or findings of or derived from your project(s) without NUS' prior written consent.
4. You agree to keep NUS informed of the progress of your fellowship project(s), activities and deliverables through regular meetings with your NUS mentor at such frequency as may be required by NUS, and comply with the reporting and milestones requirements stipulated by NUS and you will submit a final report and/or presentation(s) upon completing your project(s).

Funding

5. You acknowledge that NUS is obliged to ensure good governance of its programs and will therefore ensure that all your claims for Fellowship Funding are true and correct.
6. The timely submission of claims, together with supporting documents, in accordance with Annex B (or as otherwise required by NUS) is a material obligation of this Letter of Award. In particular, budget requests for the international biosecurity event, and related costs associated with the Singapore event (e.g. visa fees) must be submitted to ACHS' program secretariat no later than eight (8) weeks before the event.
7. You shall ensure that all Fellowship Funding claims are made for payment items necessary and aligned to the objectives of the ACHS Fellowship; and that due diligence has been carried out to ensure that the proposed budget is reasonable and not inflated.

8. You agree that if this ACHS Fellowship is terminated as a result of your breach, if NUS requires the return of any funding previously disbursed to you, you undertake to repay NUS the sum claimed.

Intellectual Property

9. All rights, title and interest in any information, materials and/or other intellectual property developed or created in the fellowship project(s), activities and deliverables during the course of your ACHS Fellowship shall vest in and belong to NUS.
10. You warrant that the Fellowship Work Products will not infringe upon the rights of any third party; and where any information, materials and/ or other intellectual property owned by a third party is incorporated in the Fellowship Work Products you shall ensure that NUS is granted any necessary rights, licenses or authorization to incorporate and freely use the same.

Confidentiality and Publicity

11. You shall keep confidential any information acquired (whether verbally or in documentary or other material form) from NUS or any third party in the course of the ACHS Fellowship which is identified as proprietary or confidential or which by its nature would reasonably be construed as proprietary or confidential. You shall not, without the prior written consent of NUS, use or disclose the Confidential Information to any person, except for the proper performance of the obligations of the ACHS Fellowship.
12. You shall immediately notify NUS of any unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse by any person of any Confidential Information, upon your becoming aware of the same. Upon the termination of the ACHS Fellowship or at any time upon the request of NUS, you shall promptly return to NUS or destroy all copies of Confidential Information in your possession.
13. You shall not publish any news releases, publicity materials or make statements or announcements concerning the ACHS Fellowship or NUS, without NUS' prior written consent.
14. You shall not make use of NUS' trademarks or logos, trade names and/or service marks without NUS' prior written consent.

Personal Data

15. You shall comply with all laws applicable to the protection of personal data with regard to any personal data that you may collect and/or receive, whether from NUS or third parties, in connection with your ACHS Fellowship.

Termination

16. NUS may terminate your ACHS Fellowship in the event of any of the following conduct on your part:
 - (i) Breach of any of the terms and conditions, that is incapable of remedy;
 - (ii) Failure to remedy a breach of the terms and conditions (that is capable of remedy) within thirty (30) days of receipt of NUS' written notification of such breach;
 - (iii) Any breach of ethics or misconduct;
 - (iv) Your carrying out of fellowship project(s) or activities diverges materially from the Approved Project Proposal and/or the objectives of the ACHS Fellowship;
 - (v) Any corruption, misrepresentation and/or fraud; or
 - (vi) Failure to carry out or complete in a timely manner the fellowship project(s), activities and deliverables.
17. NUS may also terminate the ACHS Fellowship if it is of the opinion that the continuation of the ACHS Fellowship program is no longer viable.