



United Board Fellows Program 2025-2026 Program Guidelines

Introduction

The United Board Fellows Program aims to develop higher education leaders in Asia who are committed to advancing *whole person education* and building *strong and resilient academic institutions*. It provides opportunities for mid-career faculty members and administrators to learn and explore leadership concepts and practices in different cultural contexts as they grow in their self-leadership. Participants also learn about higher education challenges and building strategies to overcome them together with best practices in higher education. After acquiring vital new skills, ideas, and perspectives during the program, Fellows return home, become ready to undertake new initiatives, and are often promoted to positions with greater responsibility. Since 2002, more than 345 Fellows from 80 universities and colleges in 12 countries and regions of Asia have been selected for this program.

This one-year experience features diverse learning opportunities: an intensive week-long summer leadership institute at a leading higher education institution in Asia; a one-to-four-month Asia placement or a short-term study trip in another Asian country/region; and a final one-week seminar in a major city in Asia. These three components are connected via online workshops and seminars. The United Board will cover program-related costs, except for the passport, visa, health insurance, ground transportation, and incidentals.

Program Duration and Components

The 2025-2026 Fellows program will be held from July 2025 to June 2026. (Note that Fellows will be back at their home institutions between each component.)

Summer Leadership Institute

The 2025-2026 cohort will begin their Fellows Program with an intensive week-long summer institute on higher education leadership, to be hosted at the Singapore Management University (SMU) from July 07 to 11, 2025. The summer institute will offer leaders of colleges and universities opportunities to explore holistic education models and higher education leadership in the Asian context, in the areas of teaching, learning, assessment, research, and good practices of higher education leadership. Moreover, Fellows will also explore how leaders can embody the practices of holistic leadership intellectually, spiritually and ethically. Targeted site visits to selected universities are incorporated into the schedule, allowing participants to observe and engage with leaders at the forefront of higher education innovation. Each participant will work on a case study as a knowledge product of their leadership reflection.

Asia Placement or Study Trip

During the one-year period, Fellows can choose the Asia placement or, where extended leave from the home institution is not possible, they may select to join a short-term group study trip within Asia. This important component allows Fellows an immersion experience within which to observe, reflect, and grow.

Asia Placement: Fellows can choose to spend one to four months at a host college or university in Asia to observe leadership concepts and practices. The United Board will arrange the placement with careful consideration and consultation with the Fellows and the host institutions. While in residence, each Fellow will periodically meet with a host institution mentor who will provide leadership guidance, arrange and suggest activities, and provide feedback on the Fellow's progress.

Study Trip: Where extended leave is not possible, Fellows can decide to participate in a group study trip to be organized by the UB Fellows Program team. Based on the Fellows' expectations and the Leadership Development Program's aim (to cover whole person education), the UB team will design and plan the study trip which might include visiting 4-6 higher education institutions, seminars/workshops, site visits in a country in Asia. The study trip will be 1-2 weeks long to explore and discuss good practices in education, research, campus management, administration, and leadership in the context of higher education in Asia.

Leadership Seminar

In June 2026, Fellows will convene for a summative seminar in a major city in Asia, where all the participants of this cohort will reflect on their journey and share ideas on implementing learned concepts at their home institutions.

Eligibility

Successful applicants will demonstrate the following traits or accomplishments:

- a full-time position at a college or university in the United Board network. Nominations are accepted exclusively from invited institutions;
- demonstrated leadership within their home institutions, with the potential to assume larger roles and responsibilities. Preference will be given to those with substantial administrative experience;
- proven commitment to return to their home institutions after the completion of this Fellow program;
- recognized as being thoughtful, respected, engaged, and dedicated to making changes within their home institutions or larger communities;
- fluent in written and spoken English;
- Preference will be given to candidates under age 45;
- preferred a doctoral-level or terminal degree.

**Please note: Former Fellows are not eligible to reapply for the Program; however, we welcome your recommendations for other potential candidates. Former applicants who were not selected in the previous cohorts can reapply for this cohort.*

Application Requirements & Timeline

1. Nomination form from the head/senior leader of institution
2. Application form
3. Curriculum vitae (CV)
4. Essay

**We strongly encourage both nomination and application submission via our new online portal (<https://unitedboard.smapply.io>).*

Important Dates	
January 05, 2025	Deadline for submitting nomination forms
February 15, 2025	Deadline for submitting applications
February 16 to April 14, 2025	Selection processes (UB's review, interview, etc.)
By mid-April 2025	Announcement of application results

The deadline for submitting the nomination forms from heads or senior leaders of institutions is **January 05, 2025**. Upon receiving all nominations, the United Board program team will evaluate institutional eligibility and invite qualified candidates for further application. All applications must be submitted by **February 15, 2025**. The application process is highly selective, and we encourage nominations to be submitted as early as possible to allow sufficient time for candidates to prepare their applications.

The United Board will arrange interviews via phone, video conference, or in person (where applicable) with shortlisted candidates from late February 2025; announcement of application results will be made by **mid-April 2025**.

Applicants are strongly recommended to fill in the online application form and upload all supporting documents through our online portal (<https://unitedboard.smapply.io>). If you encounter difficulty with the online application, please contact our staff.

Contact Information

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2025-2026 List of Eligible Institutions

Bangladesh

Asian University for Women

Cambodia

Pannasastra University of Cambodia

Royal University of Phnom Penh

China

Central China Normal University

Fudan University

Fujian Hwa Nan Women's College

Fujian Normal University

Hunan University

Ginling College, Nanjing Normal University

Nanjing University

Shandong University

Shanghai University

Sichuan University

Soochow University

Hong Kong

Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Baptist University

Lingnan University

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Education University of Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The University of Hong Kong

India

Bishop Heber College

C.S.I Ewart Women Christian College

CHRIST University

Fatima College

Holy Cross College, Trichy

Lady Doak College

Nesamony Memorial Christian College

Madras Christian College

Maris Stella College

Salesian College

Scottish Church College

St. Ann's College of Education

St. Aloysius College

St. Christopher's College of Education

St. Stephen's College

Stella Maris College

The American College

Union Christian College, Aluva
Union Christian College, Shillong
Women's Christian College, Chennai

Indonesia

Artha Wacana Christian University
Atma Jaya University, Yogyakarta
Duta Wacana Christian University
Maranatha Christian University
Petra Christian University
Sanata Dharma University
Satya Wacana Christian University
Soegijapranata Catholic University

Japan

International Christian University
Sophia University
Tokyo Women's Christian University

Laos

Souphanouvong University

Myanmar

Bago University
Dagon University
East Yangon University
Kachin Theological College and Seminary
Mandalay University
Myanmar Institute of Theology
Parami University
Yangon University of Education

Philippines

Ateneo de Davao University
Ateneo de Manila University
Central Philippine University
De La Salle University
Holy Name University
Miriam College
Pilgrim Christian College
Silliman University
Southern Christian College
St. Scholastica's College
Trinity University of Asia
Union Christian College, La Union
University of the Immaculate Conception
University of St. La Salle
University of Saint Louis
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan

South Korea

Ewha Womans University
Hanshin University
Seoul Women's University
Yonsei University
Yonsei University Health System

Taiwan

Chang Jung Christian University
Chung Yuan Christian University
Fu Jen Catholic University
Soochow University
Tunghai University

Thailand

Assumption University
Payap University

Timor Leste

Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores

Vietnam

An Giang University
Hue University
Vietnam National University