

United Board Fellows Program 2027-2028 Program Guidelines

Introduction

The United Board Fellows Program develops emerging higher education leaders in Asia who are committed to *whole person education* and to strengthening their institutions.

Designed for mid-career faculty members and administrators, the program offers opportunities to explore leadership across different cultural and institutional contexts, deepen self-awareness and leadership practice, and engage with current challenges in higher education. Fellows gain new perspectives, relationships, and practical ideas that they can carry back to their home institutions.

Since 2002, **391 fellows from 86 institutions across 15 countries and regions** in Asia have participated in the program, and many have gone on to assume positions of greater leadership and responsibility, and made significant impact on their institutions.

The 2027-2028 Fellows Program will run from July 2027 through June 2028 and will include an intensive Summer Leadership Institute, an Asia placement or a shorter regional learning experience, regular online sessions, and a final Leadership Seminar. The Fellows Program will cover program fees, accommodation and meals during the program-related activities, such as Summer Leadership Institute, Asia Placement or Study Trip, and Final Leadership Seminar. Fellows or the sending institutions are expected to shoulder the round-trip flight tickets and all related travel costs, such as passport, insurance, ground transportation and visa fees.

Program Duration and Components

The 2027-2028 Fellows Program will be held from July 2027 to June 2028. (Note that Fellows will be back at their home institutions between each component.)

Summer Leadership Institute

The 2027-2028 cohort will begin with an intensive week-long Summer Leadership Institute hosted by Singapore Management University in July 2027.

The Institute will introduce Fellows to contemporary approaches to higher education leadership in the Asian context, with attention to teaching and learning, assessment, research, institutional strategy, and whole person education. Fellows will also explore the intellectual, ethical, and spiritual dimensions of leadership.

Through campus visits and conversations with academic and administrative leaders, participants will encounter a range of leadership practices and institutional approaches. Each Fellow will begin developing personal leadership goals and priorities for application within their home institution.

Asia Placement or Study Trip

A central feature of the Fellows Program is the opportunity to learn within another Asian higher education context. Fellows may choose either a longer Asia placement or, where extended leave is not possible, a shorter regional learning experience.

Asia Placement: Fellows may spend one to four months at a host college or university in Asia, where they observe leadership practice, engage in institutional life, and reflect on approaches that may inform their own work. The United Board will arrange placements in consultation with Fellows and host institutions. Each Fellow will be supported by a host institution mentor who will provide guidance, recommended activities, and offer feedback throughout the placement.

Study Trip for Regional Learning Experience: Fellows unable to undertake an extended placement may participate in a two-week group learning experience organized by the United Board. This may include visits to several higher education institutions, seminars, workshops, conversations with institutional leaders, and other structured activities. The experience is designed to expose Fellows to different approaches to education, research, administration, institutional leadership, and whole person education.

Regular Webinars

Fellows will participate in webinars approximately every two months, together with occasional thematic sessions shaped by the interests and needs of the cohort.

Leadership Seminar

Fellows will reconvene for a final Leadership Seminar in a major city in Asia before the end of the fellowship period. The seminar will provide an opportunity to reflect on the year-long experience, share learning across the cohort, and identify concrete ways to apply that learning within their home institutions and professional contexts.

Eligibility

Successful applicants will demonstrate the following traits or accomplishments:

- Hold a full-time position at a college or university in the United Board network; nominations are accepted only from invited institutions;
- Demonstrate leadership within their home institution and potential to assume greater roles and responsibilities; show a clear commitment to returning to and contributing to their home institution following the program;

- Be recognized as thoughtful, respected, engaged, and committed to positive institutional or community change;
- Be fluent in written and spoken English.
- Preference will be given to candidates who:
 - Have substantial administrative or leadership experience;
 - Are under 45 years of age;
 - Hold a doctoral or other terminal degree.

Application Requirements & Timeline

Applicants must submit:

1. Nomination form from the head or senior leader of the institution
2. Completed application form
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Application essay.

Nominations and applications should be submitted through the United Board online portal.

https://unitedboard.smapply.io/prog/nomination_for_2027_-_2028_united_board_fellows_program/.

Important Dates	Notice
November 06, 2026	Nomination deadline
November 30, 2026	Application deadline
December 01-20, 2026	Interviews
December 22, 2026	Announcement of results

***Please note:** Former Fellows are not eligible to reapply; however, we welcome your recommendations for other potential candidates. Previous applicants who were not selected may apply again for the 2027-2028 cohort.*

Nominations must be submitted by **November 6, 2026**. The United Board team will review nominations and invite qualified candidates to complete the application process. Completed applications are due by **November 30, 2026**.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview via Zoom during December 1– 20, 2026 and final selection decisions will be announced by **December 22, 2026**.

Please complete the online nomination form and upload all required supporting documents through the United Board application portal.

If you encounter difficulty with the online application process, please contact United Board staff for assistance.

Contact Information

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