

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. If I am from an Asian country and currently studying in a non-Asian country, would I be eligible to apply for the graduate forum?

A. Yes, but priority will be given to those who are based in an Asian country.

Q2. What information and documents do I need to prepare before submitting an application?

A. Before you submit an application online, please prepare a paper proposal that includes a title, abstract of 300-400 words, and a short biography of about 150 words.

Most importantly, one letter of recommendation from your thesis supervisor or a senior scholar in your field is required before your application can be successful. The letter should be printed on an official letterhead and include the signature of your referee.

Q3. What should be included in the abstract for my paper proposal?

A. The abstract should be between 300-400 words, and should clarify the substantive issues which your paper will address and be firmly grounded in your own research project.

Please include the following information:

- a) Objectives of paper/ hypotheses (if any)
- b) Conceptual framework
- c) Methodological approach, including:
 - your case study area which must explicitly be in at least one of the Southeast Asian countries, a region defined for inclusion in this event as ASEAN member countries plus East Timor.
 - your sources and the methods employed in collecting and analyzing them (for example: if you carried out a survey, give sampling design, sample number, etc.; if you did in-depth interviewing, then how many did you do and what approach did you use; if archival, then which archives, documents, etc.)
 - if the COVID-19 pandemic has hindered your data collection (for example: you could not conduct ethnographic fieldwork or visit an archive), explain in which ways the pandemic has limited your research activities, how you have responded to the challenge, and which methodological innovations were required.
- d) Findings and discussion
- e) Conclusion (in relation to your objectives)
- f) 5 keywords for your research paper

Please note the following:

- Papers that do not have any focus on any ASEAN member country plus East Timor will not be accepted.
- Papers that are only based on literature reviews will not be accepted.
- Papers that do not explicitly state methods and findings will also not be accepted.

Q4. How may I know if my research topic would be a good fit for the graduate forum?

A. We would be happy to consider your application if your research is on Southeast Asia, and the topic falls within the themes of one (or more than one) of our research clusters. For more information about the research clusters at ARI, please visit our website at <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/clusters-and-programmes/>.

Q5. Which countries are not considered to be part of Southeast Asia?

A. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, together with central and East Asian countries, are not considered part of Southeast Asia.