

Privacy Notice: TAQADAM

Applicability: TAQADAM applicants, participants, former applicants, and former participants

This privacy notice ("Notice") applies to current and former applicants and participants in the TAQADAM program. The purpose of this Notice is to inform you of how KAUST processes your Personal Data. This Notice does not form part of any contract.

For the purpose of applicable data protection legislation, the entity which is responsible for your Personal Data is King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Thuwal 23955-6900, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ("KAUST", "we", "us", "our").

This Notice replaces and supersedes any previous notices addressing the same or similar issues, whether formal or informal. KAUST reserves the right to alter, amend, or replace this Notice in whole or in part. The latest version of this Notice can be found here. You should always check that you are referring to the latest version of this Notice if you have previously downloaded hard copies of this Notice. For a copy of a previous version of this privacy notice, please contact DPO@KAUST.edu.sa.

1. What Personal Data does TAQADAM collect?

Depending on your level of participation in the program, the following types of Personal Data may be collected:

- Personal details such as name, date of birth, gender, nationality, country and city of residence
- Contact information such as email, phone number, LinkedIn page, and WhatsApp number
- Professional information such as previous educational and professional experiences, job title, organization or startup affiliation, business email address, and CV
- Information about your startup's employees
- Emergency contact details
- Signed agreements
- Information related to flight or accommodation bookings or other program logistics (i.e., workspace allocation, provision of food or transport)
- Passport number and expiry, Saudi visa status, copy of Saudi visa, special visa requests or notes
- Photos and videos
- Communications
- Information voluntarily shared by participants

2. What sensitive Personal Data is being collected?

We may also collect, store and use the following sensitive personal information, when applicable:

- Information about your religion, limited to whether you are Muslim / Non-Muslim
- Dietary restrictions
- Accessibility needs

3. Where do we get your Personal Data?

Most Personal Data is collected from the information you enter into the application, and, if applicable, information you provide in the acceptance form and include in communications.

We may also obtain information about you from individuals who refer you to our program or that you publish online, for example, in your LinkedIn profile or on social media accounts. We may also obtain publicly available information about you from online resources.

KAUST may receive information about you that you provide to our TAQADAM collaborators, including third party evaluators, to make a decision on enrollment and to support the operation and administration of the program.

KAUST may receive information about you from our third party service providers such as confirmed travel and accommodation bookings and confirmations related to special meals, accessibility requests, or other special requests.

For participants carrying a visa issued by KAUST, KAUST is able to access visa details on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' portal. For participants requesting a visa extension, KAUST has access to relevant information (nationality, passport details, border entry number, and visa expiry date) about you on the Ministry of Interior portal related to the visa extension application.

4. Why do we collect your Personal Data?

KAUST processes your Personal Data to make a decision on your application to the TAQADAM Accelerator program and/or to administer the program, including to support with the logistics of visiting and working in Saudi Arabia. Your Personal Data collected by KAUST will not be processed later in a manner inconsistent with this purpose, except as provided or required by law.

5. Do I need to provide all of the information requested?

Optional content is marked on the application and acceptance forms.

6. Why are we able to process your Personal Data?

We may process your Personal Data with your consent.

7. Does the processing involve profiling and/or any automated decision-making?

No, KAUST does not rely on any automated decision-making or conduct any profiling in this process.

8. Who do we share your Personal Data with, and how do they process the Personal Data?

Within KAUST, we may share relevant information with specific individuals to review and evaluate your application, to decide upon a request or issue, or to provide you with support as a participant in the program.

Below is a list of external entities and individuals with whom we may share your information:

Entities and individuals	Information we may share (when applicable) and why
Emergency contact and/or emergency responder	KAUST may disclose relevant information to an emergency contact and emergency responders in emergency cases, i.e., suspected/confirmed death, urgent hospital admission for a serious health reason, loss of consciousness and unresponsiveness, serious physical injury or mental health crisis, a student reported missing, or for other serious welfare concerns.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	When applicable, KAUST may send relevant information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to request a visa approval letter, including your name, nationality, birth date, passport number, and passport expiry.
Ministry of Interior	When applicable, KAUST may share information required to support a request for a business visa extension.
Investors	Startup details, such as founder contact details, pitch decks, and startup socials/website are shared with investors to make a decision on program admission, enrollment status, and potential investment opportunities.
Program reviewers, including representatives from KAUST and program mentors	Application and startup details will be shared with the program mentors and evaluators for program admission and enrollment status. Additional details such as Data Room information are shared with your assigned program mentor to support program operation and your startup's growth.
Program partners (SAB)	Personal data in the form of reports, presentations, photos, emails, and contacts are shared with the Program partners as part of our quarterly and end of year reports.
Logistics service providers	Relevant information such as name, job title, company name, contact information, nationality, passport details, and any dietary restrictions or preferences may be shared with logistics service providers to book flights, accommodation, transportation, and provide meals.
Program service providers (ARCA and design agencies)	If you opt-in, form submissions are shared to acquire certain benefits from service providers such as financial models and design services.
Social media and websites	Photos, videos, recordings, and testimonials may be shared for marketing, media and communication materials with your consent.

Software providers	Information you submit in your application and in any acceptance form are processed using software, including AcceleratorApp , AirTable , Hubspot , and Dropbox . YouTube is used to upload recordings of Zoom workshop sessions as unlisted videos. Please review their respective privacy notices for more information.
Survey providers	To collect feedback related to the program, we may share basic details (names and email address) with a survey provider to send out surveys and collect responses
Videographers / Photographers	Names, job titles, and company information may be shared when you are photographed by and/or create videos with a videographer or photographer.

We never sell Personal Data to third parties.

9. How long do we keep your Personal Data?

Personal information will be securely destroyed once no longer needed to achieve the purposes for which such data was collected, unless a longer retention is permitted or required under law.

Please see KAUST's Privacy Notice [main page](#) and [Privacy Notice for Business Visitors](#) for more information about how KAUST handles your personal data.

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