

Japan (JST) - US (NSF) Joint Research Call Guidelines

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) will cooperate with the National Science Foundation (NSF) with the aim of developing bilateral collaborative research projects under the theme of “Resilience Research for Human-Centered Data in line with related items of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”.

I. Applicable research fields and collaboration

1. Research fields

- (1) This call covers Resilience Research carried out jointly with a US-based research partner who is receiving or expecting to receive research funding by the NSF.

Since the definition of Resilience is broad, we will focus on “Investment in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)” or “Build Back Better”, especially in line with the related items in “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction” and “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs)”, adopted by Member States of the United Nations.

“Investment in DRR” is a research that has very important human, social, economic, and environmental implications for realistically promoting disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness through the implementation of both structural and nonstructural measures. Also, although “Build Back Better” is a relatively new concept, it is an indispensable element for rebuilding a better and safer society after an unfortunate disaster.

(2) Research funding

Research funding is expected to be secured independently from a funding agency by the US-based collaborator. In order for the Japan-based collaborator to be eligible for funding from JST to carry out bilateral research collaboration, the US-based collaborator must receive funding from NSF.

2. Eligibility conditions

- (1) Japan-based researcher applicants must be affiliated with a university, research institute, company or equivalent in Japan. Additionally, US-based partner researchers must fulfill one out of the two conditions below:

- (i) The partner must already be receiving research funding by NSF
- (ii) The partner must have applied for research funding from NSF, and expect to receive a result prior to the end of October 2021
(In order to ensure a sufficient period of support, please consult with JST in advance if the result will be known by NSF in November or December 2021.)

(2) Points of caution

- Japan-based researchers applying to this call should reach out to potential US-based partners in advance of submitting an application and confirm an intention to collaborate.

- If the US-based partner research does not receive funding from NSF, the application will not be eligible for funding in this call.

3. Call deadline

Monday, September 27, 2021, 12:00 (Japan Standard Time)

4. Number of projects supported

Approximately 5 projects

5. Schedule

Late July, 2021: Call opens

Late September, 2021: Call closes

October, 2021: Evaluation by experts

January, 2022: Selection of successful projects

February, 2022: Research period begins

II. Forms of support

1. Funding

Each successful project is expected to be awarded between 10 million JPY (including indirect expenses).

2. Length of support

Successful research projects are expected to be supported for approximately 1 year following the project start date.

3. Research expenses

(1) Research expenses (direct expenses)

Direct research expenses are expenses directly used for research purposes at the awarded research institution, and can be used for the following:

- Equipment costs (equipment and consumables)
- Travel costs

In principle, travel costs are incurred in accordance with the guidelines of the awarded research institution. Travel costs are applicable to travel directly related to the execution of the research, dissemination activities, etc.

- Personnel costs
- Miscellaneous

- In addition to the above, research expenses may include, for example:

- Expenses for organizing and hosting events for research result dissemination
- Outsourcing costs (excluding subcontracting)

- Equipment leasing costs, transportation costs, for equipment used for the research project

(2) Indirect expenses

- Indirect expenses go directly to the awarded research institution for the purposes of administrative purposes and must constitute 30% of the direct expenses.

III. Application preparation and submission

1. Application form preparation
2. Please read the Call Text to prepare the Application Form and Legal Compliance Checklist according to the instructions indicated in the Application Form. Please note that the Confirmation Letter must be stamped by the institutional representative, which for a university normally is the president, not a dean or department head.
 - Please include a Letter of Intent (LOI) from the proposed US-based partner researcher, indicating an intention to collaborate if the proposal is successful.

3. Submission method

Application documents should be submitted through the online e-Rad platform by the Japan-based researcher.

IV. Evaluation and selection criteria

1. Selection procedures

Once a proposal has been received and confirmed, it will be evaluated in terms of its contents in order to determine whether it will receive funding.

2. Evaluation criteria

Each submitted proposal will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Suitability to the objective of the project and the target research area
- Eligibility of the principal investigator and current research activities
- Effectiveness and synergy of the research
- Validity of the research plan
- Effectiveness and continuity of bilateral research exchange
- Validity of the bilateral exchange plan

V. Inquiries

Japan Science and Technology Agency
Department of International Affairs

Ms. TOYOFUKU Kaoru, Ms. SHIRAISHI Junko, Mr. Oscar A. Rudenstam

E-mail: jointus(at)jst.go.jp (replace (at) with @)

(Please send any inquiries by email)

※ Hours: 9:00-12:00, 13:00-17:00 (Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays are excluded)