

Joint Call for Proposals: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) 2022

Summary:

Call announcement:	4 July 2022
Deadline for submission:	20/21 September 2022
Selection results announcement:	March 2023
Start of projects:	April 2023
FAPESP Support Opportunity:	Regular Research Award
Funding per project:	18.2 million yen per project (Japanese side) and R\$ 450.000,00 plus a PD fellowship up to R\$ 305.251,20 (Brazilian side)
Maximum duration of the projects:	36 months
The number of the projects:	Up to three
Eligibility:	Researchers formally linked to Institutions from the state of São Paulo and researchers who belong to the Japanese research institution
Submission:	To FAPESP via SAGe, and to JST via e-Rad
FAPESP Contact Details:	Chamada-jst@fapesp.br
JST Contact Details:	Mr. Akira YODA, Ms. Junko SHIRAISHI tel. +81-3-5214-7375 e-mail: jointbrsp@jst.go.jp

1. Introduction

FAPESP and JST signed in 2022, a Memorandum of Cooperation aiming to promote and strengthen collaboration between researchers from the state of São Paulo and Japan.

Under the scope of this Agreement, FAPESP and JST launch this Call for Proposals for research, jointly conceived and to be jointly implemented by researchers in the State of São Paulo and Japan.

The two agencies will jointly fund up to three research projects in this call.

2. Research Themes

Energy and food shortages and related issues, brought about by climate change, has heightened the need for the development of innovative bioenergy technologies and the use of biotechnology to enhance food production capacity. In this joint research call, to contribute to the mitigation of these issues, the FAPESP and JST are looking to support research within the following sub-topics within the fields of 'Biotechnology/Bioenergy'.

Subtopics:

- (i) Application of biotechnology for enhancing transfer efficiency of biomass to energy/ value-added materials
- (ii) Application of biotechnology for crop improvement
- (iii) Genetic resources/ microbiology for biotechnological application for food and bioenergy crops

3. Researcher Eligibility

3.1 Eligible researchers for JST support:

- Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a domestic Japanese research institution, regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply.
- 'Domestic Japanese research institution' refers to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and Research Institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations, and enterprises, etc. that satisfy requirements predetermined by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Please refer to the MEXT homepage for more information:
https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm
- The Japanese applicants must also complete a research ethics training program conducted by the research institute with which the PI is affiliated, and then declare the completion of the program to JST. If it would be very difficult for the Japanese PI to undertake a program provided by his or her affiliated institute, they should contact JST. Please note that unless applicants complete a research ethics program, his / her application will be deemed ineligible. For more details, please refer to call announcement page linked from the JST homepage.
- Japanese applicants will have to register their applications on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad: <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>).

3.2 Eligible researchers for FAPESP support:

- Eligibility conditions for FAPESP support are described at www.fapesp.br/apr, item 5.1.
- Exceptionally for this call, one (1) Post-Doctoral Fellowship can be requested as a budget item (in addition to the R\$ 450.000,00 allowed in the modality) if the proponent meets the criteria for supervisor available at www.fapesp.br/270#72.
- Also as an exception, PIs and Co-PIs of ongoing projects at FAPESP of the following funding lines: Thematic Project, PITE, CEPID, Regular Research and Young Investigator can be considered eligible for a second grant. In all cases, a justification for concurrency must be included in the submission.

4. Characteristics of Proposals under this call

A joint proposal must be written in English and must comply with instructions in the

Joint Application Form. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to FAPESP and JST, respectively.

5. Funding modalities and eligible costs

5.1. Eligible costs for JST:

(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 expenses 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 cost.

5.2. Eligible costs for FAPESP:

- Funding conditions for FAPESP support are described at <https://fapesp.br/137>, item 8.
- Exceptionally for this call, one (1) Post-Doctoral Fellowship can be requested as a budget item (in addition to the R\$ 450.000,00 allowed in the modality) if the proponent meets the criteria for supervisor available at www.fapesp.br/270#72.

6. Submission

The Principal Investigator from the State of São Paulo must submit the collaborative proposal to FAPESP and the Principal Investigator from Japan must submit the joint proposal to JST. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to FAPESP and JST, respectively.

6.1. Submission procedure for JST:

Application documents by the Japan-based researcher should be submitted through the online e-Rad platform (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>).

6.2. Submission procedure for FAPESP:

Applicants from the state of São Paulo must submit the joint proposal to FAPESP through the SAGE platform no later than 20 September 2022.

The specific path for this opportunity is: Nova Proposta Inicial + Outras Linhas de Fomento > + Acordos de Cooperação > + Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) – + JST – Auxílio à Pesquisa Regular / Chamada de Propostas (2022).

The PI from São Paulo must also add the document “Joint Application Form” in the submission to be sent to FAPESP

IMPORTANT:

- a) The coordinator in state of São Paulo will be the Principal Investigator in the proposal submitted on SAGE.
- b) Coordinators from Japan must also be registered in the SAGE platform, be appointed as the partner researcher in the proposal by the Sao Paulo applicant, then confirm their participation through the SAGE platform.

To register in the SAGE platform, they must access the English version of SAGE (click on the UK flag in sage.fapesp.br), then choose the option “Not Registered?”. All data fields marked as “*” are must be filled. After receiving an email from SAGE, the researcher must click on the link provided and complete the registration process. A third access by the Japan-based researcher is required after the appointment by the Sao Paulo coordinator, to accept the appointment.

Link: https://sage.fapesp.br/SAGE_WEB/manual.do?method=show&siteLanguage=en

7. Timeline

Call launch: 4 July 2022

Submission deadline: 20 September 2022 at 24:00 (BRT)/21 September 2022 at 12:00 (JST)

Results announcement: March 2023

Expected start of granted projects: 01 April 2023

8. Assessment and Selection

8.1. Evaluation Procedure

A proposal that has been deemed eligible by both the FAPESP and the JST will proceed to an evaluation stage.

Both FAPESP and JST shall submit, in parallel, eligible proposals to a panel of national experts who will assess the proposals according to their respective national rules and regulations. These reviewed proposals and their accompanying reviewers' reports will then be assessed by a Joint Review Panel, which will then make a recommendation on

which proposals to fund. Based on this recommendation, JST and FAPESP will deliberate on and make a common decision regarding which projects to grant funding.

8.2 Criteria for evaluating proposals

A proposal that has been deemed eligible by both FAPESP and JST will proceed to the evaluation stage. The Joint Review Panel will assess all eligible proposals based on the following criteria:

- Consistency with the research field of the call
- Expected results of the research project
- Synergy effects of international collaboration
- Expected economic and social impact of the project
- Potential for post-project future collaboration
- Feasibility of implementation (given proposed plan, participants, budget, facilities, means of cooperation, etc.)

9. Intellectual property

In case of a proposal being granted funding, a Letter of Agreement (or “Consortium Agreement”) must be signed between the research institutions (from Japan and from the State of São Paulo), establishing how intellectual property rights, confidentiality and publication rights and other key issues will be treated, in accordance to the policies of each agency.

10. Contact information

State of São Paulo-based applicants: inquiries to FAPESP regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to chamada-jst@fapesp.br.

Japan-based applicants: inquiries to JST regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to jointbrsp@jst.go.jp