

SICORP COVID-19 Research in Non-Medical Sciences Call for Proposals (with United States, United Kingdom, France and Canada)

Call Guidelines

I. Outline

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), following the conclusion of its J-RAPID call on COVID-19-related non-medical research in May 2020, is again accepting proposals for bilateral collaborative research projects under the theme of COVID-19 Research in Non-Medical Sciences between Japan and the United States, United Kingdom, France and Canada.

I. Applicable research fields and collaboration

(1) Research fields

This call covers non-medical research related to COVID-19 carried out jointly with a foreign-based research partner who is receiving or expecting to receive research funding by one of the applicable foreign partner funding agencies.

This program exclusively targets non-medical COVID-19-related research. For medical COVID-19 research, please consult with the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED).

(2) Research funding

Research funding is expected to be secured independently from a funding agency by the foreign-based collaborator. In order for the Japan-based collaborator to be eligible for funding from JST to carry out bilateral research collaboration, the foreign-based collaborator must receive funding from one of the following funding agencies:

Country	Agency
United States	National Science Foundation (NSF)
United Kingdom	UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
France	Agence nationale de la Recherche (ANR)
Canada	National Research Council Canada (NRC)

(3) Pre-application notice (optional)

Prior to submitting an application to this call, prospective applicants are recommended to submit the below information to JST:

Email: intl-joint(at)jst.go.jp (Replace the (at) with @)
Subject: SICORP COVID-19 Pre-Application Notice (Research Institution)(Name)
01 Japan-Based Research Institution
02 Japan-Based Researcher Name

- 03 Japan-Based Researcher Contact Details (E-Mail)
- 04 Partner Researcher Institution
- 05 Partner Researcher Name
- 06 Research Project Title (Tentative)
- 07 Research Project Outline
- 08 Partner Research Project Title
- 09 Partner Research Project Funding Status (Awarded/Pending)
- 10 If pending, indicate when results are expected:
- 11 Partner Research Project Award Number/Project ID/equivalent
- 12 Partner Research Project Supporting Agency: NSF/UKRI/ANR/NRC

Please also attach any documents which provide details of the partner researcher's funding situation.

2. Eligibility

(1) Eligibility conditions

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

- (i) The partner must already be receiving research funding by one of the eligible funding agencies
- (ii) The partner must have applied for research funding from one of the eligible funding agencies, and expect to receive a result prior to the end of March 2021

(Please contact JST if the result is expected in April or May)

(2) Points of caution

- Japan-based researchers applying to this call should reach out to potential foreign-based partners in advance of submitting an application and confirm an intention to collaborate.
- If the foreign-based partner research does not receive funding from one of the eligible funding agencies, the application will not be eligible for funding in this call.

(3) Call deadline

Monday, February 1, 2021, 17:00 (JST, Japan Standard Time)

(4) Number of projects supported

Up to 10 projects are expected to be supported in this call.

(5) Schedule

Early December, 2020: Call opens

Early February, 2021: Call closes

Early February, 2021: Evaluation by experts

April, 2021: Selection of successful projects

May, 2021: Research period begins

II. Forms of support

1. Funding

Each successful project is expected to be awarded between 6.5 to 7.8 million JPY (including indirect costs).

2. Length of support

Successful research projects are expected to be supported for 11 months 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 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.

III. Application preparation and submission

1. Application form preparation

- Please prepare the application form according to the form instructions. 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 foreign-based partner researcher, indicating an intention to collaborate if the proposal is successful.

2. Submission method

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

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:

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

V. Inquiries

Japan Science and Technology Agency
Department of International Affairs
Shiraishi, Rudenstam
E-mail: intl-joint(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, New Years (12/29-1/3) are excluded)