



Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

and

Japan Science and Technology Agency

Call for Proposals 2024

**New Zealand – Japan Joint Research
on “Disaster mitigation, response, and recovery”
Terms and Conditions**

**Application Deadline:
2nd October 2024
(16:00 NZDT / 12:00 JST)**



1 Background

During the Japan-New Zealand summit meeting held in 2022, both countries' leaders confirmed a desire to strengthen cooperative activities in science and technology. The 4th Japan-New Zealand Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on science and technology cooperation was held in 2023 where environment science and disaster risk reduction was noted as one of the common areas of research interest and synergy.

The New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) are supporting joint research projects in order to promote cooperation between New Zealand and Japanese researchers. MBIE is funding this opportunity through its Catalyst Fund, which supports activities that initiate, develop and foster collaborations which take advantage of international science and innovation. On the Japanese side, this funding measure is carried out under the Strategic International Collaborative Research Program (SICORP). The measure is aimed at promoting joint research projects of mutual interest and thus contributing to intensified scientific and technological cooperation (STC) with each country.

2 Research Themes

New Zealand and Japan, as island nations located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, share plate boundary tectonics and face similar natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic activity, hurricane, tsunami, landslides, and extreme weather events. Recent experiences in both countries have highlighted the significant impact of such natural hazards on infrastructure, economy, and most importantly people.

New Zealand and Japan also both have extensive knowledge and expertise in disaster management and are therefore well positioned to undertake world leading research in this area. Recognising the importance of deepening our collective understanding of natural hazards and our response to them, we invite proposals for joint research partnerships between New Zealand and Japanese research organisations focussed on the broad topic of disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

Funding will be provided for research projects in the field of disaster mitigation, response, and recovery that involve international cooperation with partners from New Zealand and Japan and address one or more of the following priority areas in line with the funding purpose described above:

- Research for the development of technology/device that collect information on the disaster area, or support the rescue of the survivors and response to the disaster;
- Advanced materials and nanotechnology applications for disaster resilience;
- Hazard and risk modelling of high impact / low probability natural hazards events e.g. widespread flooding, great earthquakes, large magnitude volcanic eruption;
- Comparative research for New Zealand and Japan regarding reconstruction after recent disaster.

3 Eligibility Criteria

Project proposals that meet both countries' eligibility criteria will be subjected to the evaluation process.

New Zealand side



For a proposal to be assessed it must meet the eligibility criteria set out below. Proposals that do not meet all of these criteria will be declined for funding on eligibility grounds.

- The proposal must be made by a New Zealand-based research organisation or a New Zealand-based legal entity representing a New Zealand-based research organization.
- The Science Leader must be employed by a New Zealand-based research organisation, or a New Zealand-based legal entity representing a New Zealand-based research organization.
- The proposal must involve collaboration from a leading Japanese research organisation (your Japanese counterparts must apply for their own funding through the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)).
- The proposal must be in the field of disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.
- The proposal must not be made by a department of the public service as listed in Schedule 2 of the Public Service Act 2020.
- Proposals must not benefit a Russian state institution (including but not limited to support for Russian military or security activity) or an organisation outside government that may be perceived as contributing to the war effort.
- Proposals must be uploaded on time via the MBIE Portal and meet the administrative requirements of MBIE.

Japanese side

Any independent researcher personally affiliated with and actively conducting research at a domestic Japanese research institution (or who would fulfil this requirement by the start of the research project), regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply.

Note: "Domestic Japanese research institution" in Japan refers to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and Research Institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations and enterprises, etc. that must satisfy pre-determined requirements designated by MEXT. Please refer to the MEXT homepage for more information:

http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm (in Japanese only).

4 Funding Modalities

4.1 Number of Projects to be funded

Up to 3 projects

The project period is for 36 months.

4.2 Amount of funding

New Zealand side

The total funding available is NZ\$900,000 (excluding GST) to support up to three projects. The maximum funding per project is \$300,000 over three years.



Japanese side

Projects selected for funding in this call will each receive support for a period of three (3) years and totalling no more than 18,000,000 JPY of which 30% represents indirect costs.

4.3 Expenditure/costs eligible for funding

The following expenditure/costs will be eligible for funding:

New Zealand side

Research funding from New Zealand can only be used to fund New Zealand researchers' activities and reasonable expenses directly related to the project including:

Research activity expenses for:

- consumables and other research expenses
- personnel
- subcontractors

Research exchange expenses for:

- flights/transport
- accommodation
- travel visas and travel insurance
- meals

Travel costs should not exceed 25% of the budget and all expenditure by individuals should adhere to the rules of the organisation they are affiliated with.

Japanese side

a) Eligible direct costs

In principle, eligible direct costs are those costs directly necessary for accomplishing the research, indicated below. Please refer to the guidance documents available at the following link for further details of eligible direct costs (available in Japanese only).
<http://www.jst.go.jp/inter/research/contract/contract.html>

(a-1) Facilities, Equipment and Consumables

(a-2) Travel Expenses

(a-3) Personnel costs



(a-4) Others: costs for the organisation of small scientific events in Japan including rental costs for the venue, food & beverage (excluding alcohol) costs and other costs which are deemed to be necessary for organizing the event

b) Eligible indirect costs

Please refer to the following link for the provisions regarding indirect costs:

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/shishin2.pdf> (available in Japanese only)

5 Submission

The Principal Investigator from New Zealand must submit the application to MBIE and the Principal Investigator from Japan must submit the application to JST.

Joint Application Form will be prepared in the JST/SICORP website and must be submitted through the e-Rad system.

New Zealand side

New Zealand researchers wishing to submit a proposal should follow the guidance on the MBIE.

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/funding-information-and-opportunities/investment-funds/catalyst-fund>

Applicants are required to complete their proposals in Pītau (the MBIE Investment Management System) a secure online portal.

1. Applicants submit a full proposal through Pītau.
2. Before developing a proposal, applicants are encouraged to consider the eligibility criteria, the assessment criteria, and the terms and conditions relating to this opportunity.
3. The proposal template (available on the MBIE website) provides guidance on how to prepare a proposal and the information required.
4. The information in your proposal is used for assessment and will form the basis of the contract if your application is successful.

Japanese side

The Joint Application Form and Application Form (Japanese Side) should be submitted electronically via the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad): <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>

Both Application documents can be downloaded at the SICORP website.

https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce_nz2024.html

For further application instructions and guidance, please refer to the additional guidelines for Japanese researchers (available only in Japanese).



Complete a research ethics training program conducted by the research institute with which they are affiliated and then declare the completion of the program to JST by the deadline of the call for proposals. If it is difficult for them to undertake a program provided by their own institute, they should contact JST to register for a research ethics program provided by eAPRIN (formerly known as CITI Japan). Unless applicants complete a research ethics program, their application will be deemed ineligible for funding.

6 Evaluation

The experts and/or peer reviewers selected by MBIE and JST, respectively will evaluate all proposals. Based on the results of the evaluation, MBIE and JST will make a joint decision regarding funding of the selected proposals.

The proposals will be evaluated by the criteria below.

The Project Description received will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- I. Compliance with the funding aims and purpose of the announcement as stated in section 1 above and the thematic requirements stated in section 2
- II. Scientific criteria
 - a. Topicality, plausibility and innovativeness of the project approach
 - b. Quality, expertise and complementarity of the applicant(s) with regard to the objectives of the project, including active participation and involvement of companies and organizations
- III. Impact of the project at a scientific, economic and societal level
- IV. Compatibility with preconditions for cooperation with the partner country

7 Reporting

New Zealand side

Successful applicants will be required to submit 2 annual reports and a final report within one month of the project completion.

Annual and final reporting will be written reports, submitted in Pītau. Reports will include information on:

- progress against KPIs (specific KPIs will be agreed at the time of contracting)
- financial performance
- risks.

Japanese side

Japan-based PIs shall submit to JST annual research plans for the year ahead and reports on the progress in the past year, and the institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit an annual financial report.



At the end of the period of support and after completion of the joint research activities, the Japan-based PI shall promptly submit to JST a final report which shall include a financial report and a description of the research activities and outcomes. The report shall include a general summary of the activities of both the New Zealander and the Japanese research teams. If papers describing results of the research activities are presented to academic journals, societies etc., a list of those papers and other related information should be attached to the final report. Detailed instructions for preparation of the final report will be provided to the Japan-based PI during the final year of the project. Completed projects will be duly evaluated and excellent outcomes may be made public.

8 Timeline

Application deadline: 2nd October 2024 at 16:00 (NZDT) at 12:00 (JST)

Results announcement: February 2025

Expected start of granted projects: April 2025

9 Enquiries for Japan

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Department of International Affairs

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