

## Reference Information: Japanese Funding Programs

Available to Researchers Living Overseas

AMED, JSPS, JST

April 2026

Note: JST operates “JREC-IN Portal”, a very useful website for researchers looking for jobs in Japan. Please check it.

[JREC-IN Portal](#)

Note: This information is subject to change, so please check the program websites for the latest information.

[You can apply for and receive funding while affiliated with an overseas research institution]

- CREST

JST may provide research funding to an overseas research institution in exceptional cases, provided that the following conditions are met;

- A CREST PI in Japan must add a researcher (of any nationality) affiliated with that overseas institution as a "Co-PI" in their CREST research team
- JST must authorize the addition of the overseas Co-PI to the PI's research team.

In such a case, the overseas institution is required to enter into a research contract with JST, subject to the conditions outlined by JST.

Website: <https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/en/index.html>

Contact: [rp-info@jst.go.jp](mailto:rp-info@jst.go.jp)

2026 call for proposals: [Early April – Early June](#)

- [Global Startup Campus \(GSC\) Initiative: Pilot Activities](#)

[International Research Program \(Details forthcoming\)](#)

Under innovative research themes set by Venture Directors (VDs; positions equivalent to PO), this program promotes research and development aimed at commercialization. Proposals will be called and selected from researchers affiliated with universities, research institutions, and companies (including startups).

Principal Investigators (PIs) are eligible to apply even if they are affiliated with foreign institutions (such as universities, research institutions, or companies) at the time of application. From the perspective of realizing the GSC Initiative's concept of attracting researchers to Japan, in cases where a foreign researcher is selected for the program, they are encouraged to be affiliated with a domestic research institution and conduct their research in Japan.

If a foreign researcher conducts research outside Japan, the total amount of research funding allocated to the overseas institution must remain less than 50% of the annual funding allocated to the research project.

Program Website: (Details forthcoming)

<https://www.jst.go.jp/gsuc/index.html>

Contact: [gsuc@jst.go.jp](mailto:gsuc@jst.go.jp)

Call for Proposals (2026):

Planned for the first half of 2026 (Details to be announced)

- International Collaborative Research Program on Medical Science and Technology (Interstellar Initiative)

The Interstellar Initiative — presented jointly by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) and the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) — recognizes the world's most promising Early Career Investigators and connects them with peers, in related but distinct disciplines, providing a platform for them to develop a solution to a major research question. The aim is to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and thereby catalyze discovery.

Please note that eligibility criteria such as nationality and application details are subject to change. Always refer to the official websites for the most current information.

Program Website: <https://www.amed.go.jp/en/program/list/20/02/002.html>

Contact: [interstellar@amed.go.jp](mailto:interstellar@amed.go.jp)

2026 Call for proposals: Scheduled for mid-April (typically between April and May)

- U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Sciences Program Collaborative Awards

This program supports collaborative research between Japan and the U.S. on diseases prevalent in Asia. Proposals must be submitted by the Principal Investigator (PI) from the Japanese team, representing the entire team that includes researchers from Japan, the U.S., and potentially other Asian countries.

Please note that eligibility criteria such as nationality and application details are subject to change. Always refer to the official websites for the most current information.

Program Website: <https://www.amed.go.jp/en/program/list/20/01/007.html>

Contact: [nichibei@amed.go.jp](mailto:nichibei@amed.go.jp)

2026 Call for proposals: In preparation (typically between March and June)

- International Collaborative Research Program: Strategic International Collaborative Research Program (SICORP) e-ASIA Joint Research Program

Supports multilateral research collaborations among East Asian Summit (EAS) countries, including Japan.

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program (hereinafter referred to as the “e-ASIA JRP”) aims to develop a vibrant and collaborative research community in Science and Technology, to promote innovation in ASEAN region, and to contribute to the region’s economic development. As part of the program, the following Member Organizations of the e-ASIA JRP have agreed to implement a joint call for proposals of multilateral cooperative research activities.

Please note that eligibility criteria such as nationality and application details are subject to change. Always refer to the official websites for the most current information.

Program Website: <https://www.amed.go.jp/en/program/list/20/01/003.html>

Contact: [e-asia@amed.go.jp](mailto:e-asia@amed.go.jp)

[2026 Call for proposals: Deadline at the end of March; next round to be announced \(typically between December and March\)](#)

- AMED-CREST

This program aims to achieve internationally high-level research outcomes toward the creation of groundbreaking seeds. Research is carried out by a unit (a group of researchers) led by a principal investigator (PI). Exceptionally, researchers affiliated with institutions outside Japan may participate as co-investigators if certain conditions are met (please refer to the application guidelines for details).

Program website: <https://www.amed.go.jp/en/program/list/16/02/001.html>

Contact: [kenkyuk-ask@amed.go.jp](mailto:kenkyuk-ask@amed.go.jp)

[2026 Call for proposals: Early April to late May \(tentative\)](#)

[You can apply and receive funding when moving to Japan]

Regardless of nationality or permanent residency status in Japan, researchers affiliated with research institutions in Japan and conducting research there are eligible to apply for many funding programs of AMED, JSPS and JST. For details, please contact your affiliated Japanese research institution and the contact point for each funding program.

- PRESTO

Even if you do not have an affiliated institution in Japan at the time of application, have not yet decided on an affiliated institution in Japan at the time of selection, or have to resign due to circumstances at your affiliated institution, you (regardless of nationality) can be employed by JST as a “Exclusive Appointment PRESTO Researchers” and conduct your research at a host research institution in Japan if you can find the host institution in Japan and JST authorized that you can take responsibility for preparing a research environment and complete your research.

However, it is essential to obtain prior consent from the host research institution. Please note that it is not possible to conduct research at an overseas institution as a host for “Exclusive Appointment PRESTO Researchers”.

Website: <https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/presto/en/index.html>

Contact: [rp-info@jst.go.jp](mailto:rp-info@jst.go.jp)

2026 call for proposals: Early April – Early June

- FOREST

Although eligibility for the FOREST program is limited to research institutions in Japan, researchers who are not affiliated with a research institution in Japan at the time of selection will be granted eligibility to defer the commencement of their research for a certain period, until they transfer to a research institution in Japan where the research will be conducted.

Website: <https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/index.html>

Contact: [souhatsu-application@jst.go.jp](mailto:souhatsu-application@jst.go.jp)

2026 call for proposals: March 27- May 14, at 12:00 noon (JST)

- JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan

JSPS provides fellowship programs for overseas researchers who have an excellent record of research achievements to conduct collaborative research, discussions, and opinion exchanges with researchers in Japan. The programs are intended to help advance the overseas researchers' research activities while promoting science and internationalization in Japan.

The “JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan” consists of two programs: “Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan” for young researchers and “Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan” for mid-career and senior researchers.

Eligibility, application periods, and procedures vary depending on the program.

Please start by visiting the JSPS website for more information.

Program Website: [https://www.jps.go.jp/english/e-inv\\_researchers/](https://www.jps.go.jp/english/e-inv_researchers/)

Call for Applications : Depends on programs

- BOOST (support for young researchers)

You can only carry out research through this Program while you are using the cross-appointment system and are affiliated with a research institution in Japan, but the location of your affiliated institution (in Japan or overseas) does not matter when you apply. If you are not currently affiliated with a research institution in Japan, you can apply on the condition that you will sign an employment contract based on a cross-appointment agreement with a Japanese research institution and start research at this institution.

Website(Japanese only): <https://www.jst.go.jp/program/boost/yr/index.html>

Contact: [boost-yr-inquiry@jst.go.jp](mailto:boost-yr-inquiry@jst.go.jp)

2026 call for proposals: mid-April to mid-June 2026

[Remaining Abroad as a Member of a Japanese Research Team]

- Adopting Sustainable Partnerships for Innovative Research Ecosystem (ASPIRE)

You have the opportunity to become part of a Japanese research team that has been selected for ASPIRE and reside at a partner institution outside Japan as a research participant. In such cases, travel expenses, accommodation, personnel expenses, reagents, materials, and consumables for research, as well as other expenses related to research at the host institution and living expenses, can be covered by Japanese research funding.

Additionally, for research projects selected through a call for Japan-based researchers, there is an opportunity to invite researchers, including young researchers affiliated with partner overseas research institutions, to Japan. In such cases, Japanese institutions can utilize the research funds provided by ASPIRE to cover travel expenses, accommodation, personnel expenses, and related costs.

Website: <https://www.jst.go.jp/aspire/en/>

Contact: [aspire@jst.go.jp](mailto:aspire@jst.go.jp) (ASPIRE for Top Scientists)

[aspirers@jst.go.jp](mailto:aspirers@jst.go.jp) (ASPIRE for Rising Scientists)

2026 call for Japan based researchers: March 13 – May 19, at 12:00 noon (JST)

• Advanced International Collaborative Research Program - Adopting Sustainable Partnerships for Innovative Research Ecosystem (ASPIRE)

This AMED program accepts proposals solely from Japanese researchers for international joint research with researchers from partner countries. Proposals are evaluated by AMED, which provides support to the Japanese side. The foreign collaborators must be receiving, or are expected to receive, support from their local funding agencies.

- Adopting Sustainable Partnerships for Innovative Research Ecosystem (ASPIRE) aims to provide sufficient funds for large-scale collaborative joint research projects in cutting-edge fields, to be conducted at the initiative of the Japanese government in collaboration with advanced countries with high standards of science and technology.
- In cooperation with funding agencies in Japan and the partner country, this program provides strategic support for international joint research with flexible research budgets and support periods.
- Through this international research collaboration, Japanese researchers will be encouraged to join the world's leading scientific community. The exchange and connection of excellent young researchers from Japan and partner countries will also be strengthened. This will promote international talent mobility and circulation, and contribute to long-term collaborative networks.
- Proposal solicitation, evaluation, adoption, support, etc. in this program will be conducted by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and AMED will support research projects in the field of "Healthcare".

Program Website: <https://www.amed.go.jp/en/program/list/20/01/009.html>

Contact: [amed-aspire@amed.go.jp](mailto:amed-aspire@amed.go.jp)

[Upcoming Call for proposals \(Alignment call\) : scheduled to begin in late April \(tentative\)](#)

• Others

In addition, in many AMED and JST projects, if it is approved in the research plan, it is possible to allocate funds for international travel of "research participants" if the travel is directly necessary for the implementation of the research project. For more information, please contact the person in charge of the project in which you are participating.

- Research Funding for Overseas Travel under JSPS Programs

Many JSPS programs allow the use of research funds for overseas travel and related expenses, similar to JST programs.

Such expenses may include travel and accommodation costs directly necessary for implementing the research project.

For specific details, please contact the program officer in charge of each respective program.

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- Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP)

An international research funding program that supports basic research in the life sciences. Primarily through its research grant schemes, it promotes innovative, cross-border collaborative research among scientists worldwide. It also offers postdoctoral fellowships that provide early-career researchers with opportunities to conduct research in countries other than their own.

Program Website: <https://www.amed.go.jp/en/program/list/20/02/001.html>

The program is administered by the International Human Frontier Science Program Organization (HFSP/O). For applications, please refer to the HFSP/O website for the most up-to-date information.

<https://www.hfsp.org/funding/hfsp-funding/research-grants>

<https://www.hfsp.org/funding/hfsp-funding/postdoctoral-fellowships>

Contact:

(AMED) [amed-hfsp@amed.go.jp](mailto:amed-hfsp@amed.go.jp)

(HFSP/O) [grant@hfsp.org](mailto:grant@hfsp.org), [fellow@hfsp.org](mailto:fellow@hfsp.org)

2027 Award Cycle:

1. Research Grant Program / Early-Career Researchers

Deadline to obtain Applicant Registration Number: March 17, 2026, 9:00 AM (Eastern Time)

Letter of Intent submission deadline: March 26, 2026, 9:00 AM (Eastern Time)

Full Proposal submission deadline: Mid-September 2026

## 2. Postdoctoral Fellowships (Long-Term / Interdisciplinary)

Deadline to obtain Applicant Registration Number: May 5, 2026, 9:00 AM (Eastern Time)

Letter of Intent submission deadline: May 12, 2026, 9:00 AM (Eastern Time)

Full Proposal submission deadline: September 24, 2026, 9:00 AM (Eastern Time)

- A “Call Calendar,” which provides an early and easy-to-understand overview of AMED’s upcoming funding opportunities and timelines, is also available. Please refer to it as appropriate.

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amed.gov%2Fcontent%2F000117274.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>