

FY2026

STRATEGIC BASIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS

(CREST/PRESTO/ACT-X)

Call for Research Proposals

[Application Guidelines]

Application Period

Tuesday, April 7 ~ 12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 (Japan time): CREST

Tuesday, April 7 ~ 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 (Japan time): PRESTO, ACT-X

Friday, April 17 ~ 12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 (Japan time): PRESTO”
Molecular Mechanisms of Complex Environmental Exposures Shaping Present and
Future Life”

Note: This translation is provided as a reference material. If there is any discrepancy between this translated version and the original Japanese version, the original Japanese version prevails.



Department of Strategic Basic Research
Japan Science and Technology Agency

April 7 2026

Updated on April 17 2026

Overview of the Call for Research Proposals

(1) Research Areas calling for Proposals

The FY2026 call for research proposals will be conducted for the following Research Areas under CREST (12 areas), PRESTO (15 areas), and ACT-X (4 areas).

○ CREST

Research Areas	Strategic Objectives	Since
Pioneering Unexplored Fields in Quantum Science and Technology (Research supervisor: Yoshiro Hirayama)	Pioneering Quantum Unexplored Territory Driven by Fundamental Quantum Science and Technology Research	FY2026
Creation of Ultra Enduring Materials and Establishment of Their Theoretical foundation (Research supervisor: Haruyuki Inui)	Creating Ultra-Long Life Materials for a Sustainable Society : Transforming the concept of lifetime through prediction, prevention, and regeneration	FY2026
Technological Innovation and Sustainable Value Co-creation toward the Realization of Digital Spatiotemporal Expansion (Research supervisor: Yoichi Motomura)	Digital Spatiotemporal Augmentation	FY2026
Biological System Control Linked by Understanding and Regulation of Sensation (Research supervisor: Takahisa Furukawa)	Augmented Senses and Cognition	FY2026
Creation of functional materials through introduction / control of fluctuations (Research supervisor: Takayoshi Sasaki)	Creating novel materials by controlling and utilizing fluctuations	FY2025
Fundamentals and Core Technologies for Embodied AI (Research supervisor: Tetsuya Ogata) (*A) AIP	Research and Development in intelligent systems that flexibly responds to real-world environments	FY2025
Creation of Interdisciplinary System Foundation for a Symbiotic and Collaborative Society with Humans and AI (Research supervisor: Kiyoshi Izumi) (*A) AIP (*B) ANR	Realization of a safe and comfortable society where “humans and AI coexist and collaborate”	FY2025
Creation and novel function development of supra-biological tissues through interdisciplinary fusion (Research supervisor: Kazunari Akiyoshi)	Challenging to create suprabiological tissue	FY2025
Creation of mathematical foundation for prediction and control (Research supervisor: Motoko Kotani)	Scientific prediction and control as the foundation of a new society and industry	FY2024

(*A) AIP (*B) ANR		
Frontier exploration via the synergy of photonics/optics with information, communication, sensing, and material technologies (Research supervisor: Yoshiaki Nakano)	Opening up technological frontiers by synergy between photonics and informatics, materials science, etc., to support a sustainable society	FY2024
Creation of innovative and integrated technologies for materials development and circular processes and development of their scientific basis (Research supervisor: Tomonaga Okabe)	Materials Science for desirable Selection — Constructing new principles toward a sustainable development society	FY2024
Elucidating the power of life through innovative measurement and analysis techniques (Research supervisor: Noboru Mizushima)	Measuring “resilience of life” — Discovery and exploration of unknown biological response mechanisms	FY2024

*A. In the Research Areas which belong to AIP network lab above, JST will support cooperative activities across the Research Areas to foster innovation. See “5.1.5 About AIP project and AIP network laboratory” for details.

*B. Call for joint research with ANR (France) under the JST-CREST program

In the research areas covered by the Japan-France joint call, JST supports collaborative research projects conducted by Japanese and French researchers under the joint framework of France's ANR (National Research Organization) and CREST. For further details, please refer to “2.2.7 Japan-France joint call for proposal with ANR in Strategic Basic Research Program “CREST””.

*C. In the research area "Pioneering Unexplored Fields in Quantum Science and Technology", "Creation of Ultra Enduring Materials and Establishment of Their Theoretical foundation", " Fundamentals and Core Technologies for Embodied AI", " Creation of Interdisciplinary System Foundation for a Symbiotic and Collaborative Society with Humans and AI", and " Frontier exploration via the synergy of photonics/optics with information, communication, sensing, and material technologies", measures will be taken to ensure research security. For more details, please refer to "6.5 Ensuring research integrity against new risks associated with internationalization and openness of research activities."

○ PRESTO

Research Areas	Strategic Objectives	Since
Challenges in Uncharted Quantum Domains (Research supervisor: Tetsuo Hatsuda)	Pioneering Quantum Unexplored Territory Driven by Fundamental Quantum Science and Technology Research	FY2026
Foundations and Innovations for Ultra Enduring Materials: Redefining the Future of Service Life (Research supervisor: Kaneaki Tsuzaki)	Creating Ultra-Long Life Materials for a Sustainable Society : Transforming the concept of lifetime through prediction, prevention, and regeneration	FY2026
Foundation for Digital Spatiotemporal Expansion through the Integration of Computational and Data-Driven Sciences (Research supervisor: Yoshinobu Kawahara)	Digital Spatiotemporal Augmentation	FY2026
Deciphering External Stimulus Sensing and Development of Innovative Augmentation Technologies (Research supervisor: Makoto Tominaga)	Augmented Senses and Cognition	FY2026
Molecular Mechanisms of Complex Environmental Exposures Shaping Present and Future Life (Research supervisor: Toshikazu Ushijima)	Organism–Environment Interactions: Elucidating the Interplay Between Organisms and the Exposome	FY2026
Quantum Material (Research supervisor: Eiji Saitoh)	Towards discontinuous technological innovation through quantum materials research	FY2025
Materials innovation through understanding and controlling fluctuations (Research supervisor: Shinji Tsuneyuki)	Creating novel materials by controlling and utilizing fluctuations	FY2025
Fundamental Innovation for Real-World Intelligent Systems (Research supervisor: Tatsuya Harada) (*) AIP	Research and Development in intelligent systems that flexibly responds to real-world environments	FY2025
Fundamental Research & Development for a Symbiotic and Collaborative Society with Human and AI (Research supervisor: Naomi Yamashita) (*) AIP	Realization of a safe and comfortable society where “humans and AI coexist and collaborate”	FY2025
Creation of supra-biological tissues through understanding and control of multicellular dynamics (Research supervisor: Mototsugu Eiraku)	Challenging to create suprabiological tissue	FY2025

R&D Process Innovation by AI and Robotics: Technical Foundations and Practical Applications (Research supervisor: Ichiro Takeuchi) (*) AIP	Research innovation through autonomous- driven research systems	FY2024
Exploration of new science using mathematics to predict and control the future (Research supervisor: Zin Arai) (*) AIP	Scientific prediction and control as the foundation of a new society and industry	FY2024
Pioneering the Synergy of Information and Physics Connected by Optics and Photonics (Research supervisor: Tetsuya Kawanishi)	Opening up technological frontiers by synergy between photonics and informatics, materials science, etc., to support a sustainable society	FY2024
Basic Research for the Development and Recycling of Materials (Research supervisor: Susumu Kitagawa)	Materials Science for desirable Selection — Constructing new principles toward a sustainable development society	FY2024
Multiscale and interdisciplinary approaches to investigate mechanisms of resilience and diversification across wide ranges of spatiotemporal metrics (Research supervisor: Tadashi Uemura)	Measuring “resilience of life” — Discovery and exploration of unknown biological response mechanisms	FY2024

* In the Research Areas which belong to AIP network lab above, JST will support cooperative activities across the Research Areas to foster innovation. See “[5.1.5 About AIP project and AIP network laboratory](#)” for details.

○ ACT-X

Research Areas	Strategic Objectives	Since
Frontier Materials for Green Transformation (GX) (Research supervisor: Ken-ichi Uchida)	Creating Ultra-Long Life Materials for a Sustainable Society	FY2026
	Towards discontinuous technological innovation through quantum materials research	
	Creating novel materials by controlling and utilizing fluctuations	
	Materials Science for desirable Selection — Constructing new principles toward a sustainable development society	
Understanding and designing biological functions (Research supervisor: Masahito Ikawa)	Challenging to create suprabiological tissue	FY2025
	Measuring “resilience of life” — Discovery and exploration of unknown biological response mechanisms	
	Development of innovative cell manipulation technologies and elucidation of cellular regulatory mechanisms	
	Elucidation of the mechanisms relating to changes in biological robustness associated with aging and control of age-related diseases	
	Toward scientific discoveries through DX in life science research	
	Integrated understanding of human multi-sensing networks and elucidation of their control mechanisms	
	Design of plant-derived molecules building up the foundation for plant synthetic biology	
	Functional dynamics in the cell	
Life and Information (Research supervisor: Yuji Sugita) (*) AIP	Research innovation through autonomous-driven research systems	FY2024
	Measuring “resilience of life” — Discovery and exploration of unknown biological response mechanisms	
	Development of innovative cell manipulation technologies and	

	<p>elucidation of cellular regulatory mechanisms</p> <p>Elucidation of the mechanisms relating to changes in biological robustness associated with aging and control of age-related diseases</p> <p>Toward scientific discoveries through DX in life science research</p> <p>Integrated understanding of human multi-sensing networks and elucidation of their control mechanisms</p> <p>Design of plant-derived molecules building up the foundation for plant synthetic biology</p> <p>Functional dynamics in the cell</p>	
<p>Cyberinfrastructure for AI empowered society (Research supervisor: Shinji Shimojo) (*) AIP</p>	<p>Opening up technological frontiers by synergy between photonics and informatics, materials science, etc., to support a sustainable society</p> <p>Fundamental technologies for utilizing low-dimensional materials in new semiconductor device structures</p> <p>System Software Technology to support Safety, Security, and Trust in the era of Society 5.0</p> <p>Information carriers and innovative devices</p> <p>Innovative fundamental technologies based on state-of-the-art photon science and technology</p> <p>Fundamental technologies for next-generation IoT (Internet of Things) to create a future smart society</p> <p>Creating Technology for Computing Revolution for Society 5.0</p> <p>Precision control of bonding and decomposition for resource recycling</p> <p>Opening up of unexplored exploration space of materials with multi-element, composite, and metastable phases based on elements strategy</p>	<p>FY2024</p>

	Precise arrangement toward functionality
	Information carriers and innovative devices
	Elucidation of macroscale mechanical properties based on an understanding of nanoscale dynamics
	The creation of innovative materials and devices based on the creation of topological materials science

* In the Research Areas which belong to AIP network lab above, JST will support cooperative activities across the Research Areas to foster innovation. See “[5.1.5 About AIP project and AIP network laboratory](#)” for details.

(2) Call and Selection Schedule

The FY2026 schedule for the submission and selection of research proposals is provided in the following table.

Please note that the application deadlines of CREST and PRESTO/ACT-X are different.

	CREST	PRESTO/ ACT-X	PRESTO“Molecular Mechanisms of Complex Environmental Exposures Shaping Present and Future Life”
Opening of the Call	<u>Tuesday, April 7, 2026</u>		<u>Friday, April 17, 2026</u>
Explanatory Meetings	Scheduled within April (*online meetings)		
Application deadlines (Deadline for submitting applications through the e-Rad system)	<u>12:00 (noon, Japan time) on Tuesday, June 2, 2026</u> <u>(No delays accepted)</u>	<u>12:00 (noon, Japan time) on Tuesday, May26, 2026</u> <u>(No delays accepted)</u>	<u>12:00 (noon, Japan time) on Tuesday, June 2, 2026</u> <u>(No delays accepted)</u>
Document review period/ Selection Committee Meeting	Early June – Late July		
Notification of document review results	Early July – Late July		
Interview Selection Meeting	Mid July – Early August (*Scheduled to be conducted in online meetings)		
Notification/announcement of selected Research Projects	Late September		
Research Start	October or later		

*The schedule of the explanatory meeting, document review and interview review for each area will be announced on the following website as soon as they are determined:

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian-en.html>

Applicants proceeding to interview review are notified by e-mail within a week after the document review of Research Proposals conducted by the Research Supervisor and will be requested to prepare ‘materials for the review’ (The notice would not be sent in written document). The notice will be sent to the e-mail addresses of the applicants registered in the e-Rad system. Applicants who have a high possibility to be selected will be notified by phone or email by early September from JST to check the availability to conclude contract with your institution.

Applicants whose research proposals are regrettably rejected after the document review will have the result registered on the e-Rad system within five business days following the document review. Regarding rejections from the interview selection, notification will be made through e-Rad towards mid-September. Additionally, the reasons for rejection will be sent through e-Rad after mid-September.

(3) Submission of Research Proposal

Please download the documents needed for research application including application form from the “Call for Research Proposals” website. Some of the application forms are customized according to the Research Area, please ensure that you have downloaded the application form from the website of Research Area to which you are applying.

Research proposal applications are processed by the e-Rad system (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>)(Chapter 8 Submission via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)). As the application deadline approaches, heavy traffic on the e-Rad system could slow down the application processing speeds and may even cause the application deadline to be missed. With this being considered, please ensure sufficient time for submission of your proposal. After submission via e-Rad, please check the application type (status) of your submitted proposal. If the status is displayed as "Distribution institution processing Application in progress", the proposal has been submitted successfully.

JST will not accept proposals for any reason if the application process has not been completed in the e-Rad system by the deadline. If the status is not displayed as "Distribution institution processing Application in progress" by the application deadline, the application process has not been completed. Updates to your application are strictly prohibited after the deadline. JST may provide instructions **on the "Call for Research Proposals" website** in cases where it becomes impossible to submit the applications during the application period due to large scale e-Rad system failure.

The name and affiliation of applicant in the e-Rad system and those given in research proposal should be matched (In the case it differs, the research proposal will be considered as official). If a research proposal uploaded to e-Rad system contains serious defects that make the review process difficult, it will not be accepted. "Serious defects that make the review difficult" include missing required forms, garbled or corrupted text that hinders review, and significant omissions in required application items.

Regardless of whether a research proposal is accepted or not, JST is not responsible for any defects in a research proposal that occur before the submission deadline. Therefore, JST will not conduct any prior checks of research proposals, or request applicants to make any corrections or revisions before the submission deadline.

Please refer to the following website and Chapter 6, 7 and 8 of this Application Guidelines regarding submission of research proposal and items to be considered in application.

- Strategic Basic Research Programs: Call for Research Proposals > Call for Proposals

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian-en.html>

- For information on how to apply for research proposals, please refer to the following:
“Chapter 8 Submission via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)”
“Regarding the Application Method through the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)”
- The items to be considered in application
“Chapter 6 Key Points in Submitting Proposals” and
“Chapter 7 Limitations on Multiple Applications within the Strategic Basic Research Programs.”

(4) Policies for Selection and Strategic Objectives for Each Research Area

Research areas for which proposals are being requested and their respective Strategic Objectives can be found in "Overview of the Call for Research Proposals (1) Research Areas calling for Proposals" of this Application Guidelines. For an overview of the research areas and the "Research Supervisor's Policy for Selection, and Research Area Management," please refer to the Call for Research Proposals website.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

(5) Key Points to Note for the FY2026 Call for Research Proposals

- Selection Criteria

From FY 2026 onward, greater emphasis will be placed on the perspective of international expansion of research in the selection process for CREST and PRESTO, including plans for international collaboration and the expected global impact of the proposed research.

However, depending on the characteristics of the research field and the stage of the research, various forms of international engagement are possible, and international joint research is not necessarily required.

For further details, please refer to “5.1.3 Selection Perspective.”

- Discontinuation of the PDF Conversion Function in e-Rad

As of FY2026, the PDF conversion function in e-Rad has been discontinued. Applicants are required to convert the application forms into PDF files on their own and must ensure, prior to submission, that no garbled or corrupted characters appear when text is copied and pasted using a PDF reader.

For details, please refer to “8.1 e-Rad usage notes.”

- Expansion of Eligibility for Personnel Costs of the Principal Investigator (PI) Charged to Direct Costs

As of FY2026, eligibility for charging personnel costs of the Principal Investigator (PI) to direct costs has been expanded to include Co-PIs of CREST projects.

For details, please refer to “5.2.3 Research Costs.”

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Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Overview of Strategic Basic Research Programs

1.1.1 Purpose of the Programs

The purpose of Strategic Basic Research Programs is to advance strategic basic research and create the seeds of innovative technologies, based on new scientific knowledge which will give rise to scientific and technological innovations leading to the social and economic transformation. We are eagerly awaiting applications and participation of researchers, who are valiantly undertaking their challenging research creating top innovation from excellent basic science.

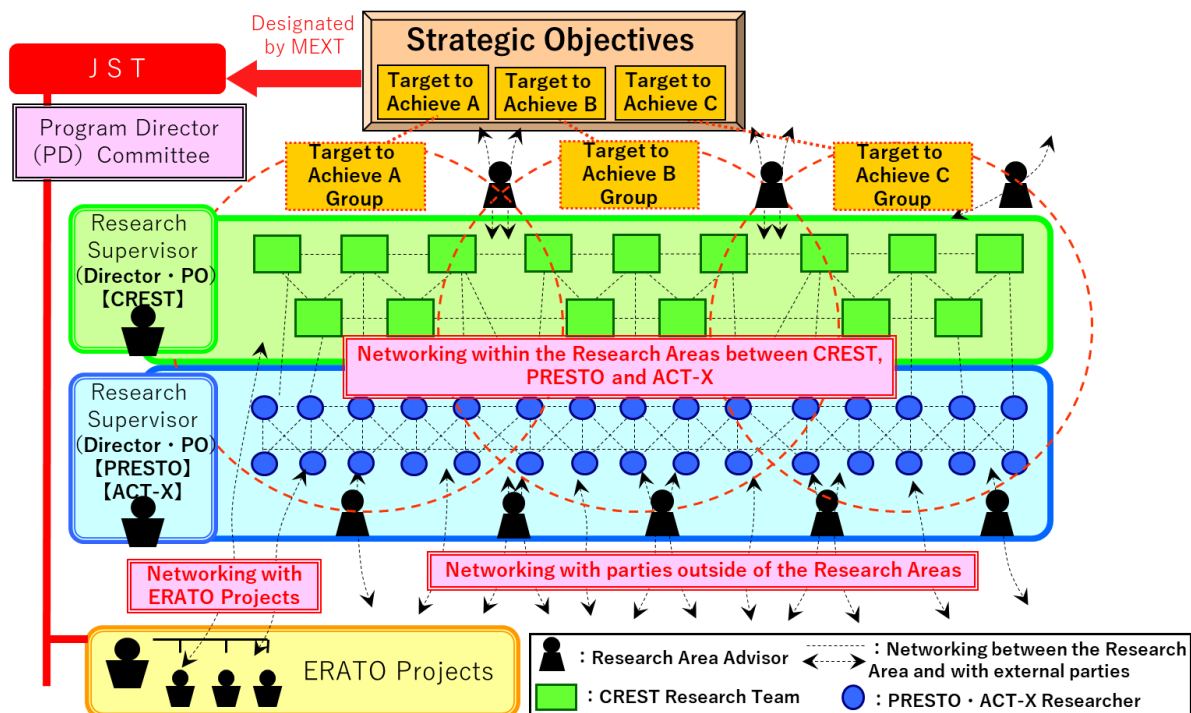
1.1.2 Overview of the Programs

Based on the National Government's science and technology policies and social and economic needs, under "Strategic Objectives" prescribed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, JST establishes Research Areas to pursue and assigns Research Supervisors (PO: Program Officers) to lead the Research Area. The Research Supervisor pursues strategic basic research aiming at creating the seeds of innovative technologies that will give rise to science and technology innovations leading to the achievement of solutions for the Strategic Objectives.

The Program Directors (PDs) of JST consider and propose management policies and system reforms for each Strategic Basic Research Program. For "CREST" (Research projects pursued by research teams led by Research Directors (PIs: Principal Investigators)), "PRESTO" and "ACT-X" (Research projects pursued by individual researchers (PIs: Principal Investigators)), JST establishes Research Areas and assigns Research Supervisors (Program Officers) based on prior evaluations by Program Directors.

The Research Supervisor oversees his/her Research Area as a "research institute." More specifically, the Research Supervisor acts as the lab director, builds a finite-period system for conducting research by organizing a research project and constructing an optimal organization connecting researchers from existing institutions and research fields—from industry, academia, and government—and, enlisting the cooperation of Research Area Advisors and others, oversees work in the Research Area to achieve Strategic Objectives. CREST PIs and PRESTO/ACT-X PIs are obliged to conduct research projects proposed by them under the Research Area management policy of their Research Supervisor, while being supported by him/her, and to have dialogs with their Research Area Advisors and build communication networks of researchers, domestically and internationally, to find a possible scheme of developing their research science and technology innovations.

This project corresponds to the program listed in the Competitive Research Fund overview posted on the Cabinet Office website (<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/index.html>)



Standard Model for CREST/PRESTO/ACT-X “Research Institute”

- Strategic Objectives
 - The National Government (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) prescribes Strategic Objectives based on national science and technology policies and social/economic needs.
 - Approx. three “Targets to Achieve” are presented for realizing each Strategic Objective
 - Program Director Committee
 - Presentation and sharing of research institutes’ cross-program operational policies
 - Preliminary evaluations of new Research Areas and Research Supervisors
 - Determinate most appropriate distribution of resources and promotes/coordinates collaborations across Research Areas
- *Set the Research Area within the coverage of CREST, PRESTO, or ACT-X (include two or more or compound areas).
- Research Supervisor (Program Officer)

With the aims of creating innovation and achieving Strategic Objectives,

 - Formulates and shares operational policies for Research Areas and manages the Research Area in cooperation with the Research Area Advisors (including selection/evaluation of research projects);
 - Provides leadership and support to create networks inside/outside his/her Research Area to promote science and technology innovation.

1.2 For Researchers Considering Applying or Participating in the Programs

1.2.1 Contribution to the accomplishment of sustainable development goals (SDGs)

JST to contribute to the accomplishment of SDGs!

At the "United Nations Sustainable Development Summit" held in September 2015, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was unanimously adopted; the document was an achievement with "SDGs" at the core as a further comprehensive and new action target common to the world for the human beings, the Earth, and the welfare. The seventeen goals in the SDGs do not only indicate various problems in relation to the sustainability that is facing the humankind but also demand that those problems be solved comprehensively and in an integrated way. It is expected that scientific and technological innovation solves such social problems and that scientific evidence is provided to contribute to the formulation of excellent policies. We can say that these roles conform to "the science in the society and the science for the society," a new task of the science that was declared in "World Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge" (Budapest Declaration*), adopted at International Council for Science in 1999. As a core organization to promote the science and technology policies in Japan, JST promotes advanced fundamental research and works on the research and development of a problem-solving type to meet the requests from the society. SDGs are one of the worldwide objectives that can itemize all JST missions. We, in the course of the JST programs, want to collaborate with industries, academia, government agencies, and private enterprises and cooperate with researchers to realize a sustainable society.

President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

*The Budapest Declaration states that "science for knowledge," "science for peace," "science for development," and "science in society and science for society" are the responsibilities, challenges, and obligations of the science in the 21st century.

 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



1.2.2 Promotion of Diversity

JST Promotes Diversity!

The diversity is essential requisite for promotion of scientific and technological innovations. It is possible to open a new perspective of science and technology by the collaboration and discussion with various stakeholders having different specialties and values, irrespective of gender and nationality.

JST is, by promoting advances in diversity in its all activities in science and technology, undertaking possible problems of our future society, contributing to the strengthening of industrial competing power of Japan as well as to the enrichment of spiritual happiness of people. Our activities in this field accord with the “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” agenda of the United Nations, in which goals relevant to diversity advancement are shown, including gender equality, contributing to efforts on our domestic problems but also to those on problems common to various countries.

Currently, the activity of woman is being positioned at the core of the Growth Strategy of the Japanese Government, being started as “the largest potential of Japan” in the strategy paper. Expanding the participation of woman researchers in research projects is substantially important for advancing research and development, as they are a party of various researchers supporting science and technology innovations. JST is expecting that woman researchers would take this opportunity, positively and will apply to our Strategic Basic Research Programs, actively. JST is undertaking the improvement of our “Childbirth, Child-raising, Nursing Care Support System”, to constantly, based on the voice of the system users, creating environments enabling a researcher on leave to return his/her research, for example.

The call for and review of research proposals will be conducted also from a viewpoint of advancing diversity. Our dear researchers, we cordially invite you to the call for research proposals of the Strategic Basic Research Programs.

President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

We Are Waiting for Your Application!

JST is promoting diversity in research, based on our perspective that the diversity is for understanding of other researchers having ideas different from yours, and for creation of new values by combining your and their ideas. The diversity thus has potentials to give solutions not only to the domestic problems but also to problems common in all nations across the world. Therefore, JST is undertaking the societal problem of the globe such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through the promotion of diversity in research, collaborating with foreign institutions.

JST is promoting the diversity by ensuring the activities of women researchers, of course young researchers, and foreign researchers having foreign citizenship. To ensure that each researcher is fully able to exercise his/her skills, JST is providing continual supports for childbirth, childcare, and homecare of elderly relatives, and also endeavoring to maintaining a balanced membership composition in committees and alike. JST especially welcomes the application of women researches to our program, from whom we cannot have so many research proposals in previous years, to realize environments where various kinds of researcher can work, cooperating and competing with each other. Through these activities, JST is pursuing the creation of new values.

We are sincerely waiting for your active applications, especially those from woman researchers.

Director of Diversity and Inclusiveness
Director of the Office for Diversity and Inclusiveness
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

JST is implementing supportive measures to assist researchers to balance between their research work and life events (childbirth, childcare, care giving, etc.) with the aim of enabling researchers to continue their R&D work without interrupting their careers due to a life event (gender equality, expenses assistance that can be used to advance R&D being conducted by the researcher in question or to reduce his or her financial burden) or temporarily suspend their careers, enabling them to resume their R&D activities as soon as it becomes possible for them to do so. JST also presents role models for female scientists. For details, please refer to the websites below.

Activities to promote diversity in CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X (In Japanese)

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

Guidelines for operating research funds in the event of a life event for the principal investigator, etc.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/about/research/life-event.html> (In Japanese)

Childbirth / child-rearing / long-term care support system (In Japanese)

<https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/about/research/child-care.html>

○ PRESTO startup support system

Furthermore, we accept applications for the research environment preparation cost at the time of selection or during a research period so that the PRESTO researchers can continue their research autonomously. Details will be announced after the selection.

1.2.3 Toward the Promotion of Fair Research

Toward the Promotion of Fair Research

Recent incidents involving misconduct and dishonesty in research activities have resulted in an alarming situation that threatens the relationship of trust between science and society, and hinders the healthy development of scientific technologies. To prevent misconduct in research activities, there must be a function of autonomous self-purification in the scientific community. Each researcher must strictly adhere to strict discipline and work to create new knowledge and inventions that are useful for society, based on high moral standards that meet the expectations of society.

As a funding agency for research, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) considers research misconduct to be a grave issue and makes every effort to prevent it in cooperation with relevant organizations, with the goal of regaining public trust.

1. JST believes that honesty in research activities is extremely important for Japan, which seeks to develop itself through science and technology.
2. JST supports honest and responsible research activities.
3. JST strictly condemns any misconduct in research activities.
4. JST will promote education in research ethics and reform its research funding programs in cooperation with relevant organizations, to prevent misconduct.

We must develop a healthy scientific culture based on social trust, to build a society filled with hopes and dreams for a bright future. We therefore request the continued understanding and cooperation of the research community and related institutions.

President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Chapter 2 CREST Program

2.1 CREST

2.1.1 CREST Overview

Key points and characteristics of CREST are described as follows.

- a. CREST is a network-oriented research (team type) for the purpose of promoting unique fundamental research at an internationally high level. It aims to overcome important problems facing Japan, producing creative, outstanding, and innovative technology seeds (new technology seeds) to contribute highly to the science and technology innovations which will renovate the society and economy. Under the management principles in the Research Area selected by the Research Supervisor, the best teams led by top-level researchers in Japan, also selected by the Research Supervisor, will conduct research to achieve the Strategic Objectives. Alongside advancing the research, they will also train the young researchers participating in the team.
- b. The Research Supervisor manages a network-oriented research institution with Principal Investigators (PIs) from industrial, academic, or government institutions. The Research Supervisor manages a Research Area as a virtual research institution. The Research Supervisor, in his/her role as director of the virtual research institution, enlists the cooperation of Research Area Advisors and others in managing his/her Research Area through the following activities.
 - Specification of management direction for his/her Research Area
 - Research projects selection
 - Refinement and approval of research plans (including research costs and assembly of the research team)
 - Participation in Research Area meetings at which Research Directors (CREST Principal Investigators) report on their research progress and have their results discussed, visits to labs where research is being performed, and have other opportunities to communicate with PIs and provide them with advice and guidance on their efforts.
 - Research project evaluation
 - Other necessary activities
- c. A PI can bring multiple researchers together in a team that is optimal for pursuing the PI's proposed research initiative. PI advances research that will contribute to the overall purposes of the Research Area, while bearing full responsibility for the research project he/she is leading.

2.1.2 CREST Research Team Organization

A PI can assign multiple researchers to organize an optimal research team.

- a. The person proposing a research project, namely the PI, is able to organize a research team – the PI's Group – consisting of individuals from only his/her research lab. When pursuing a research initiative that requires

it, a research team can include a group ("joint research group") of researchers or other personnel from research labs or research institutions other than his/her research lab.

b. Among researchers comprising a research team, those representing a "joint research group" are referred to as "Co-PIs."

c. When necessary for the pursuit of research, researchers, research assistants, and other personnel may be employed within the research budget and allowed to participate as members of the research team.

※ For more details on research team organization requirements, please refer to "2.2.6 Proposal Submission Requirements."

2.1.3 CREST Flow from Research Proposal to Selection

(1) Call and Selection of Proposals

JST calls for research proposals for individual Research Areas specified among the Strategic Objectives designated by the National Government. Selection of proposals is made by the Research Supervisor, with the cooperation of Research Area Advisors and others, for individual Research Areas.

※ For more details, please refer to "2.2 Call and Selection of Proposals" and "5.1 Common Issues in the Call and Selection of Proposals".

(2) Research Plan Preparation

Once a research proposal has been selected, the PI prepares an overall research plan covering the entire period of the research project. The PI also prepares annual research plans for each year of the project.

Research plans set out budgets and research team composition.

※ For more details, please refer to "5.2.1 Research Plan Preparation."

(3) Research Contract

After the project is selected, JST will, in principle, conclude a Research Contract with the research institutions to which the PI and Co-PI are affiliated.

※ For more details, please refer to "5.2.2 Research Contract"

2.2 Call and Selection of Proposals

2.2.1 Eligible Research Proposals

- (1) Research proposals are called for the Research Areas mentioned in the section, “(1) Research Areas calling for Proposals” in “Overview of the Call for Research Proposals”.
- (2) Applicants must carefully read the “Research Area Outline” for each Research Areas mentioned and the “Research Supervisor’s Policy on Calls for Application, Selection and Management of the Research Area” before proposing a research proposal appropriate for the Research Areas.
For more details, please refer to the Call for Research Proposals website.
<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>
- (3) Be certain to confirm important common items described in “Chapter 5 Common Issues in the CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X Programs.”

2.2.2 Submission Period

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 to 12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 (Japan time) (No exceptions).

For information on schedules for this Call for Proposals etc., please refer to "(2) Call and Selection Schedule" in “Overview of the Call for Research Proposals”.

2.2.3 Research Period

The research period will be five and a half years or less, starting in October 2026 and ending in March 2032 (i.e. end of the 6th fiscal year) or earlier.

- ※ Actual research periods depend on research project plans. For more details, please refer to “5.2 Common Issues in Post-selection: Procedure of Research Work”.

2.2.4 Research Budgets

The budget (direct cost) for one research team basically ranges from 150 million yen to 500 million yen (for entire research periods up to five and a half years). In some cases, the Research Areas may have independently established budget ranges, so be certain to refer to “Research Supervisor’s Policy on Calls for Proposals, Selection and Management of the Research Area” for details. In addition, JST, under Research Contract, pays research institutions funds up to 30% of the research budget (direct cost) to cover overhead (indirect cost).

- ※ The Proposed research budget will be reviewed during the selection process. Actual research budgets will be determined by JST following a detailed review and approval of the research plan by the Research Supervisor. For further details, please refer to “5.2 Common Issues in Post-selection: Procedure of Research Work”.
- ※ Research Supervisor’s Policy on Calls for Application, Selection and Management of the Research Area

2.2.5 Number of Research Projects

Three to eight research projects shall be selected for each Research Area. (The number for any particular Research Area will vary depending on research intent, conditions with regard to research proposals, and budget limitations.)

2.2.6 Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposal submission requirements are as presented below in items (1), (2) and (3). Please ensure you understand these requirements for your submission.

- ※ In principle, if it is determined that a submission does not meet the requirements by the time of selection, the research proposal will either not be accepted or not be selected.
- ※ If a research proposal is selected, the project must maintain its qualified status in accordance with the submission requirements for the entire duration of the research period. If the research project fails to meet the requirements during the research period, the research project will in principle be completely or partially suspended (i.e. be terminated early).

When submitting a proposal, please understand the following the points (1) through (3) below, and as described in “Chapter 6 Key Points in Submitting Proposals” and “Chapter 7 Limitations on Multiple Applications within the Strategic Basic Research Programs”.

(1) Requirements for Research Director

- a. Research project applicants, who will be the CREST PI, must be affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution, where they will organize and pursue the proposed research. As a note, the nationality of the research director is not subject to any requirements.
 - ※ The following types of individuals may also submit research project proposals.
 - Researchers who have foreign citizenship, but who are affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution.
 - Researchers who are not currently affiliated with a research institution, or are affiliated with an overseas research institution. If selected as a CREST PI, they will be able to organize and pursue research as a researcher affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution. (Nationality will not be considered.)
 - Researchers affiliated with a company private sector companies and other non-university research institutions.

b. Researchers who are able to bear overall responsibility for a research project as the party responsible for the research team throughout the entire research period.

※ For more details, please refer to “5.2.6 Responsibilities of CREST PI, Co-PI, and PRESTO/ACT-X PI”.

c. The applicant must either: have already completed the educational program for research integrity at his/her affiliated research institution or complete the JST- designated educational program by the application deadline.

※ For details, refer to “6.2 Participation and completion of programs related to research ethics education”

d. The applicant must pledge the following four items upon submission.

- Understand and comply with the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) on August 26, 2014).
- Understand and comply with the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)” (decided by the Minister of MEXT, revised February 1, 2021).
- If the research proposal is selected, the Research Participants (PI, Co-PIs, other Researchers, Engineers, Research Assistants, Students, etc.) must not engage in misconduct in their research (fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism) nor in inappropriate or unlawful use of research funds.
- No misconduct in research occurred as part of past research achievements mentioned in the submitted research proposal.

※ The pledges above will be confirmed in the submission process through e-Rad.

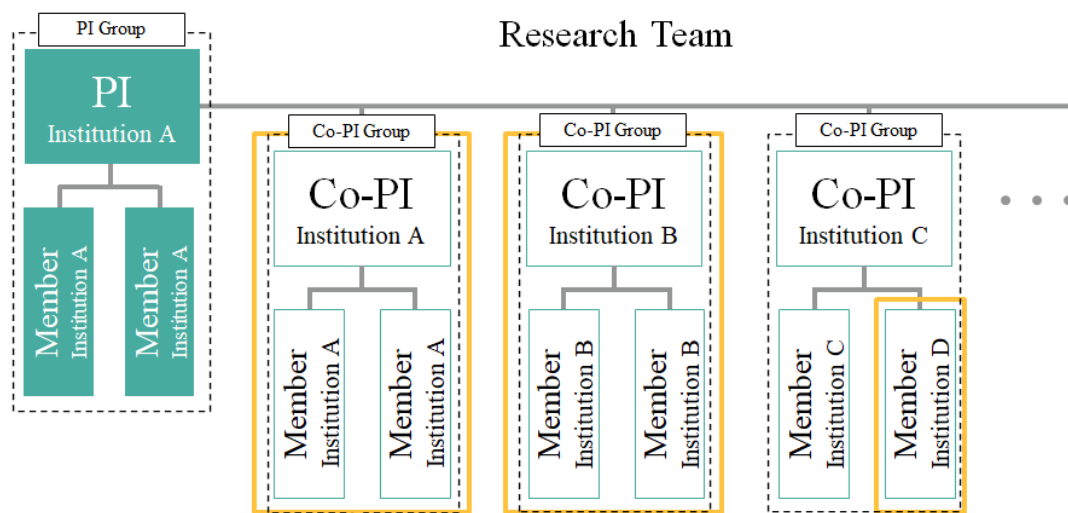
(2) Requirements for Organizing a Research Project

The following requirements must be met.

- a. A research team is optimally organized for pursuing the research initiatives of the research project applicant, namely the CREST PI.
- b. When a joint research group is organized to work with the research team, the joint research group must be essential for pursuing research initiatives and can contribute significantly to achievement of the research objectives.

*Multiple organizations (laboratories, departments, institutes, etc.) may be included in one group to address the same research subject. However, "the organization to which researchers (PI, Co-PI) presiding over the group belongs must be able to manage research expenses incurred by members belonging to different

organizations.” If this requirement cannot be met, researchers affiliated with different institutions should form a separate Joint Research Group (Co-PI Group). Even if the research groups belong to the same institution, if expenses need to be managed separately, etc., a separate Joint Research Group (Co-PI Group) will need to be established (the figure presented below shows an example of group composition). Please refer to "5.2.7 Responsibilities of Research Institutions" in the Application Guidelines.



It is possible to be a Co-PI even at the same institution which the PI group belongs to (in the case that the research budget needs to be executed separately, it is mandatory to conclude contract separately as Co-PI with JST).

The Co-PI may execute research budget at the affiliated institution which is different from the institution where the PI belongs to.

It is possible to include members from different affiliated institutions in the group. However, organization D is not allowed to use research fund (in the case that research budget needs to be executed in organization D, this personnel has to be Co-PI).

※In CREST, JST encourages active engagement in international collaborative research with researchers affiliated with overseas research institutions, reflecting the increasingly borderless nature of research activities. In particular, international collaboration or cooperation that does not involve JST providing research funding to overseas institutions is welcomed, as it contributes to the advancement of research concepts and the formation of international research networks.

On the other hand, when JST provides research funding to researchers affiliated with an overseas research institution, careful consideration is required from the standpoint of the proper administration of public funds and sound research management. For this reason, JST, as a matter of principle, does not assume proposals in which researchers affiliated with overseas research institutions participate as Co-Principal Investigators and receive research funding from JST under CREST.

Nevertheless, on an exceptional basis, if JST recognizes that the participation of such researchers is essential for the realization of the research concept, and that the participation constitutes an equal, substantive joint research activity rather than outsourcing or subcontracting, JST may permit such researchers to serve as Co-Principal Investigators and provide research expenses to the overseas institutions.

Specifically, for example, the following cases may be applicable:

- When the use of advanced measurement instruments, experimental facilities, analytical platforms, or other resources—whose use in Japan is difficult or significantly limited—is essential to the research concept, and such use can only be secured through joint research with an overseas institution.
- When field surveys that can only be conducted overseas are indispensable.
- When research materials necessary for the study can only be obtained at the overseas institution or on-site, and cannot be transported to Japan.
- When the inclusion of researchers—such as young overseas researchers—as core joint researchers has a clearly recognized scientific significance, for example in promoting future international mobility of research talent or attracting research personnel to Japan.

Accordingly, if a proposal intends to include a researcher affiliated with an overseas research institution as a Co-Principal Investigator and seeks JST funding for that institution, the research proposal (CREST: Form 5-3) must explicitly describe:

- the reasons why the participation of the overseas researcher is essential for the realization of the research concept;
- the reasons why such participation constitutes genuine joint research rather than outsourcing or subcontracting; and
- alternative methods to carry out the research in the event that a research agreement with the overseas institution cannot be concluded.

Based on these descriptions above, the research supervisor will make a comprehensive evaluation and judgment on the consistency of the plan with the research concept and on the appropriateness of the proposed international collaboration.

Regarding research agreements with overseas institutions, please refer to “2.2.6 (4) Requirements for Conducting Research at Overseas Institutions.” The agreement must, in principle, be concluded in accordance with the conditions presented by JST. Adjustments to contractual clauses may be considered when reasonable grounds exist, including cases where such grounds arise from the nature of the research or from the need to comply with applicable laws and regulations. However, the negotiation and adjustment period shall, in principle, be limited to up to three months from the start of negotiations initiated by JST.

(3) Research Institution Requirements

Research Institutions that conduct CREST research must fully understand that the research funds are public funding, and must ensure compliance with related law, and make efforts to conduct the research effectively. Research Institutions that cannot accomplish the tasks described in “5.2.7 Responsibilities of Research Institutions” will not be enjoined to implement research; thus, when applying, prior consent of the Research Institution at which the implementation of research is planned must be obtained.

(4) Requirements for Conducting Research at Overseas Research Institutions

In principle, overseas research institutions are required to enter into a collaborative research agreement in accordance with the template of the “Collaborative Research Agreement” provided by JST.

Applicants must provide the contact information of the heads of the contracting office of the overseas research institution in Form 8 (CREST Application Form) , and must submit, by the Interview Selection Meeting, the designated form entitled “Prior Confirmation Form Concerning Contract Conclusion” which certifies that the overseas research institution has given prior consent to the essential terms of the template “Collaborative Research Agreement.”

※Applicants may be required to present the template “Collaborative Research Agreement” directly to the relevant contracting officers of the overseas research institution and explain the necessity of the above-mentioned form. Please note in advance that, if JST determines from the contents of the submitted form that the conclusion of the "Collaborative Research Agreement" would be difficult, the proposal may be rejected.

※Adjustments to contractual clauses may be considered when reasonable grounds exist, including cases where such grounds arise from the nature of the research or from the need to comply with applicable laws and regulations. However, the negotiation and adjustment period shall, in principle, be limited to up to three months from the start of negotiations initiated by JST. If the "Collaborative Research Agreement" cannot be concluded within the negotiation period after adoption, the research will not be implemented.

※ Even if the start of the research is delayed due to prolonged contract negotiations, no extension of the research end date will be permitted.

(For Overseas Research Institutions) "Prior Confirmation Form Concerning Contract Conclusion"

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/koubo/2026_prior_confirmation_en.docx

※ For the template of the “Collaborative Research Agreement” for overseas institutions and related documents, please access the page of the research area to which you are applying via the following URL, and refer to the “Reference Materials” under “How to Apply.”

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

※ In addition, with regard to the conclusion of research agreements with overseas research institutions, please also refer to “5.2.7 Responsibilities of Research Institutions.”

2.2.7 Japan-France joint call for proposal with ANR in Strategic Basic Research Program “CREST”

In December 2017, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the French National Research Agency (Agence Nationale de la Recherche; “ANR”) concluded a Framework Agreement to foster Japan-France

collaboration in scientific research. Based on this agreement, the JST will support Japan-France joint research projects conducted by Japanese and French researchers within the framework of the JST-CREST program. In the call for proposals of CREST in FY2026, in addition to regular research proposals in 2 Research Areas described in the call for research proposals of the existing research areas, JST also calls joint research proposals by Japan-France joint research groups.

For details, please refer to the pages of the Research Areas calling for Japan-France joint proposals from the item “Invitation for Japan-France Joint Research Proposals” at the Call for Research Proposals website shown below.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

Chapter 3 PRESTO Program

3.1 PRESTO

3.1.1 PRESTO Overview

Key points and characteristics of PRESTO are described as follows.

- a. PRESTO is a network-oriented program (individual research type) that promotes unique and challenging fundamental research to reach an internationally high level. It aims to overcome important problems facing Japan and generate creative and innovative technology seeds that contribute to the advancement of science and technology, ultimately serving as a global precursor for societal and economic transformation. Under the management principles in the Research Area set by the Research Supervisor, selected young researchers will form a network with researchers in other Research Areas and pursue challenging, individual-type research that can only be accomplished by such young researchers.
- b. The Research Supervisor manages Principal Investigators (PIs) whose applications have been accepted for PRESTO and oversees the Research Area as a virtual research institution.

The Research Supervisor, in his/her role as director of the virtual research institution, enlists the cooperation of Research Area Advisors and others in managing his/her Research Areas through the following activities:

- Specification of a management direction for his/her Research Area
 - Research project selection
 - Refinement and approval of research plans (including research costs)
 - Holding Research Area meetings at which PIs report on their research progress and have their results discussed, visiting to labs where the research is being performed, and having other opportunities to communicate with PIs and provide them with advice and guidance on their efforts.
 - Research project evaluation
 - Other activities necessary to support research activities in various ways
- c. PIs pursue research based on their own original ideas, by implementing the research initiatives they have proposed, and by taking responsibility for carrying out their research projects in order to contribute to the overall purposes of the Research Area. Additionally, PIs participate in Research Area meetings to discuss and interact with the Research Supervisor and Research Area Advisors, while fostering mutual inspiration and competition among young researchers. This aims to build a human network of researchers, leading to future collaborations.

3.1.2 PRESTO Research Organization

- a. The researcher will pursue his/her research as an individual (alone). (However, if necessary, it is possible to appoint up to two researchers (including research fellows or equivalent roles) who will independently carry out parts of the research under the guidance and supervision of the PI. Additionally, within the limits

of the research budget, you can appoint up to five research assistants who will perform research support tasks based on the PI's instructions.)

- b. Researchers are requested to conduct research at their affiliated institutions in principle.
- c. If researchers with no affiliation can find a host institution and prepare a research environment to conduct their research, JST will employ them as a “PRESTO-Researcher (JST employed)”. This will permit them to perform research activity at the host institution (**only Japan Domestic Research Institution**) after strict review process of JST. These researchers are requested to conclude a pre-permission with host institution that they are employed by JST as “PRESTO-Researcher (JST employed)” and the host institution is required to conclude a job assignment contract with JST. If the applicant is a member of CREST/ERATO research (except Research Director (CREST PI: Principal Investigator)), it is possible to continue the CREST and ERATO research projects as other duties under certain conditions (however, the necessity for other duties will be subject to review by JST). When participating as exclusive appointment PRESTO researchers employed by JST and undertaking other additional duties, please ensure to review the requirements outlined in '3.2.7 Researcher Appointment Types'.

3.1.3 PRESTO Flow from Research Proposal to Selection

(1) Call and Selection of Proposals

JST calls for research proposals for Individual Research areas specified in the Strategic Objectives designated by the National Government. The selection of proposals is made by the Research Supervisor, with the cooperation of Research Area Advisors and others, for individual Research Areas.

※ For more details, please refer to "3.2 Call and Selection of Proposals", "5.1 Common Issues in the Call and Selection of Proposals".

(2) Research Plan Preparation

Once a proposal has been selected, the researcher prepares an overall research plan covering the entire period of the research project. The researcher also prepares annual research plans for each year of the project. Research plans cover budgets and research approach.

※ For more details, please refer to "5.2.1 Research Plan Preparation."

(3) Research Contract

In advancing a research project, JST will enter into a Research Contract with the research institution where the researcher will pursue research work. In cases where there are multiple affiliated institutions, JST will enter into a Research Contract with the executing institution responsible for managing PRESTO research funds.

※ For more details, please refer to "5.2.2 Research Contract".

3.2 Call and Selection of Proposals

3.2.1 Eligible Research Proposals

- (1) Research proposals are called for the Research Areas mentioned in the section, “(1) Research Areas calling for Proposals” in “Overview of the Call for Research Application”.
- (2) Carefully read the “Research Area Outline” for each of the Research Areas mentioned in “Research Supervisor’s Policy on Calls for Application, Selection and Management of the Research Area” before proposing research appropriate for one of the Research Areas.
For more details, please refer to the Call for Research Proposals website.
<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>
- (3) It is requested to confirm important common items described in “Chapter 5 Common Issues in the CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X Programs.”

3.2.2 Submission Period

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 to 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 (Japan time) (No exceptions).

Only for PRESTO “Molecular Mechanisms of Complex Environmental Exposures Shaping Present and Future Life,” the submission period is as follows:

Friday, April 17, 2026 to 12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 (Japan time) (No exceptions).

For information on schedules for briefings, calls for proposals, etc., please refer to "(2) Call and Selection Schedule" in “Overview of the Call for Research Proposals”.

3.2.3 Research Period

The research period will be three and a half years or less, starting in October 2026 and ending in March 2030 (i.e. at end of fourth fiscal year) or earlier.

※ Actual research periods depend on research project plans. For more details, please refer to “5.2 Common Issues in Post-selection: Procedure of Research Work.”

3.2.4 Research Budgets

The budget (direct cost) for one research project basically ranges from 30 million yen to 40 million yen (for entire research periods up to three and a half years, and budget (direct cost) ranges may be set for each research area. Refer to Chapter 6 for more detailed budget information). In addition, JST, under Research Contract, pays research institutions funds up to 30% of research budget (direct cost) to cover overhead cost (indirect cost).

※ Proposed research budgets are examined in part of the selection process. Actual research budgets are determined through examination and approval of research project planning by the Research

Supervisor. For more details, please refer to “5.2 Common Issues in Post-selection: Procedure of Research Work.”

※ The website of Call for Research Proposals for the Strategic Basic Research Programs.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/top/ryoiki.html>

3.2.5 Number of Research Projects

Approximately, 10 research proposals are planned to be selected for each Research Area.

※ The number of proposals selected may vary depending upon budgetary and other factors.

3.2.6 Proposal Submission Requirements

Requirements for those submitting proposals are discussed below. Please ensure you understand these requirements for your submission.

- In principle, if the determination is made that a submission will not fulfill the requirements by the time of selection, the research proposal will either not be accepted or not be selected.
- If a research proposal is selected, the Research Project must maintain its qualified status as per the submission requirements for the entire duration of the research period. If the Research Project fails to meet the requirements during the research period, the Research Project will in principle be completely or partially suspended (i.e. be terminated early).
- Individual researchers conducting ACT-X program can also apply. However, if they are selected for PRESTO and undertake PRESTO program, their ACT-X program will be terminated early at the end of the fiscal year in which they were selected for PRESTO. When applying for PRESTO while conducting ACT-X (including the acceleration phase), please notify the ACT-X Research Supervisor and JST staff accordingly.

When submitting a proposal, please proceed it with following the points (1) through (3) below and description in “Chapter 6 Key Points in Submitting Proposals” and “Chapter 7 Limitations on Multiple Applications within the Strategic Basic Research Programs.”

(1) Requirements for Individual researchers

a. A research project applicant must be a person himself/herself who is going to be a Principal Investigator (PI).

b. A research project applicant must be a proposer of the subject research initiative who will independently perform research work in pursuit of the research initiative.

※ A researcher who can adequately undertake individual research in accordance with the purpose of PRESTO research qualifies as an applicant, even if the researcher is affiliated with a laboratory of a business firm.

c. Research project applicants must hold Japanese citizenship or be a researcher holding foreign nationality who will pursue research work within Japan.

- Researchers holding Japanese citizenship will pursue research in overseas:

For proposals to perform research work at an overseas research institution, it must be possible for the subject research institution to enter into a Collaborative Research Agreement with JST, and, when JST specifies expenditure guidelines, it must be possible to properly undertake expenditures in accordance with the specified expenditure guidelines. For more details, please refer to the next item (3) and the Q&A section.

- Researchers holding foreign nationality who will pursue research work within Japan:

Once selected, it will be necessary to perform the proposed research work at a domestic Japanese research institution and it must be possible to perform the proposed research work at a domestic Japanese research institution through the conclusion of PRESTO research. It will also be required that administrative tasks be handled in the Japanese language (or that the researcher's working environment allow for this.)

※ Researchers holding Japanese nationality who will perform their research work at an overseas research institution and researchers holding foreign nationality who will perform their research work at a domestic Japanese research institution need to pay attention to the items below.

- Visas, visa renewals, visa changes, etc. should be arranged by each researcher independently. Failure of a researcher to properly meet visa requirements may result in the rejection of a research proposal or the suspension of his/her research project.

- In the event that a PI is subject to the export restriction due to the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, measures will be taken including the non-adoption of his/her research proposal or the cancellation of the research project etc.

d. The researcher is a person who can take responsibility for his/her PRESTO research project throughout the entire research period overseeing it to its completion.

※ For more details, please refer to "5.2.6 Responsibilities of CREST PI, Co-PI, and PRESTO/ACT-X PI".

e. Individual researchers must be affiliated with a research institution, etc., throughout the entire research period and must be able to conduct their research at that institution.

※ In the case of "PRESTO exclusive appointment researchers," they will be affiliated with JST and seconded to the host research institution. In this scenario, it is assumed that individual researchers have prepared a place to conduct their research themselves and have obtained prior consent from the institution.

f. The applicant must either: Have already completed the educational program for research integrity at his/her affiliated research institution; or completed the JST-provided educational program by the application deadline.

※ For more details, please refer to “6.2 Participation and completion of programs related to research ethics education”.

g. The applicant must pledge following four items upon submission.

※ The verification is required on the application information input screen within the e-Rad.

- Understand and comply with “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”

(decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on August 26, 2014).

- Understand and comply with “Guidelines on Management and Audit of the Public Research Expenses in Research Institutions (Implementation standards)” (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on February 15, 2007; revised February 1, 2021).
- If the research proposal is accepted, the PI must not engage in misconduct in their research (fabrication, manipulation, and plagiarism) nor in inappropriate usage of research funds.
- The research project applicant must not have engaged in misconduct in the past to achieve the research results that are mentioned in the submitted research proposal.

(2) Requirements for Research Institutions Conducting PRESTO Research

Research institutions conducting PRESTO research (research institutions with which the selected PIs are affiliated or the research institutions with which PIs (JST employed) are pursuing their projects) must fully recognize that the research funds are public funding; they must ensure compliance with related laws, and make efforts to implement the research effectively. Research institutions that cannot accomplish the tasks described in “5.2.7 Responsibilities of Research Institutions” will not be enjoined to implement research. Thus, when applying, prior consent of the research institution at which the implementation of research is planned must be obtained. (As for “PRESTO-Researcher JST employed”, your host institution will be requested to conclude a job assignment contract with JST. A pre-permission of your host institution is required concerning this matter. When you are going to ask for an approval in advance, fill in a separate form, “PRESTO-Researcher (JST employed),” and submit the document completed by the personnel department of the research institution from e-Rad when you submit your application form. Please also refer to “3.2.7 Researcher Appointment Types”.)

(3) Requirements for Performing Research Work at an Overseas Research Institution

- a. Need to be a joint appointment researcher holding Japanese nationality

***From the viewpoint of safety and health management, Exclusive appointment researchers are limited only from domestic research institutions, and not from overseas research institutions.**

b. Indispensable rationale for carrying out research in overseas research institution (PRESTO-Form 7)

In the case that research is carried out at an overseas research institution etc., you are requested to complete Form 7 in the research proposal, stating the reasons why you wish to carry out the research overseas.

c. Prior approval is required for the research agreement forms stipulated by JST

In principle, overseas research institutions are required to enter into a collaborative research agreement in accordance with the template of the “Collaborative Research Agreement” provided by JST.

Applicants must provide the contact information of the heads of the contracting office of the overseas research institution in Form 7 (PRESTO Application Form) , and must submit, by the Interview Selection Meeting, the designated form entitled “Prior Confirmation Form Concerning Contract Conclusion” which certifies that the overseas research institution has given prior consent to the essential terms of the template “Collaborative Research Agreement.”

* Applicants may be required to present the template “Collaborative Research Agreement” directly to the relevant contracting officers of the overseas research institution and explain the necessity of the above-mentioned form. Please note in advance that, if JST determines from the contents of the submitted form that the conclusion of the "Collaborative Research Agreement" would be difficult, the proposal may be rejected.

* Adjustments to contractual clauses may be considered when reasonable grounds exist, including cases where such grounds arise from the nature of the research or from the need to comply with applicable laws and regulations. However, the negotiation and adjustment period shall, in principle, be limited to up to three months from the start of negotiations initiated by JST. If the "Collaborative Research Agreement" cannot be concluded within the negotiation period after adoption, the research will not be implemented.

* Even if the start of the research is delayed due to prolonged contract negotiations, no extension of the research end date will be permitted.

(For Overseas Research Institutions) "Prior Confirmation Form Concerning Contract Conclusion"

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/koubo/2026_prior_confirmation_en.docx

* For the template of the “Collaborative Research Agreement” for overseas institutions and related documents, please access the page of the research area to which you are applying via the following URL, and refer to the “Reference Materials” under “How to Apply.”

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

* Please also refer to “5.2.7 Responsibilities of Research Institutions” for the detail of conclusion of Research Contract.

3.2.7 Researcher Appointment Types

PRESTO Researchers conduct their respective PRESTO projects in either type A or B as below.

- a. Type A appointment type is for PIs conducting their PRESTO research at their affiliated institutions, (at new research institution or at new company if the affiliation changes at the start of PRESTO research). It is also

possible to conduct PRESTO research at other research institutions, which is different from the affiliated institution. JST concludes PRESTO contract with the institution where researchers use PRESTO research fund (in this case, researchers need to prepare research environment for PRESTO research and conclude contract with the institution).

※ April 2022 and after, the Joint appointment as concurrently working for JST is abolished. Along with that, monthly salary payment is also abolished.

- b. Type B appointment type is for PIs who are not affiliated with either a research institution or a company, or who must resign their current positions to conduct research. In this appointment, based on the JST's rigorous evaluation of the necessity, JST employs individuals as "exclusive appointment PRESTO researchers". In general, JST and the research institutions receiving the PIs will conclude a job assignment contract as of the start date of their employment. In addition, JST and the research institutions will conclude a commissioned Research Contract based on the description in "5.2.2 Research Contract".

From the viewpoint of safety and health management, Exclusive appointment researchers are limited only from domestic research institutions, and not from overseas research institutions.

In addition, it is assumed that the research activity of a PRESTO researcher with an exclusive appointment at the host institution will be subject to a discretionary labor system.

Under certain conditions, the exclusive appointment PRESTO researcher is able to use some of their efforts pursuing PRESTO research (for self-motivated research activities and/or activities that will improve their research and management capabilities). Please see the following for more information.

o "PRESTO Guideline (Handbook for Researchers) Appendix: Regarding Employment Contracts for Full-time Researchers" (in Japanese)

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/presto/manual/prestomanual_att1.pdf

To become an exclusive appointment researcher, it is mandatory to pass a JST examination into the necessity of the exclusive appointment and to conclude a contract of employment between the researcher and JST. The examination is carried out by the JST Department of Strategic Basic Research, based on the results of the interview with JST after the presentation/interview review session; the applicant does not need to attend the examination.

The salary amount paid to exclusive appointment researchers by JST is determined based on the job assignment contract.

Note: JST examination into the necessity of the exclusive appointment

The JST examination is conducted based on the following “Terms and Conditions for Exclusive Appointment Research,” points (1) through (6). An individual who wishes to benefit from an exclusive appointment is requested to obtain confirmation and permission of the receiving research institution, especially with respect to (2). JST will also provide confirmation and permission at the interview review session. **An individual who requests to continue his/her another program research in addition to the subject PRESTO research, is requested to submit the “Application for Side Engagement Work” within the period specified by JST prior to the interview session. The application form can be downloaded from the following website:**

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/koubo/2026supplementarydocument_presto_tagyoumu.xlsx

【Terms and Conditions for Exclusive Appointment Researchers】

- (1) Exclusive Appointment Researchers must be fully recognized by JST that to conduct their PRESTO research, they have no choice but to resign their current full-time position, and have no next position although active job seeking at research institutions.
- (2) Prior to beginning their PRESTO research, it must be possible that the research institutions receiving Exclusive Appointment Researchers conclude a Research Contract as well as job assignment contract with JST. They must be assigned to a position eligible to execute their contract research expenses at the institutions.
- (3) Following the aim of the contract of employment in Exclusive Appointment, Exclusive Appointment Researchers are obliged to conduct their PRESTO research at a working effort of over 80% (Refer to (4) for detailed conditions when conducting "other work" other than individual research with an effort of 20% or less remaining).
- (4) If an Exclusive Appointment Researcher wishes to conduct research, other than the work specified in the Researcher’s employment contract with funding by a Grant in Aid for Scientific Research or etc., he/she must meet all of the following three conditions:
 - ① Being a voluntary research activity, etc. desired by the Exclusive Appointment Researcher
 - ② Research activities that contribute to the promotion of individual research, and are approved by both the receiving institution and JST (specifically, after making the necessary notifications to the receiving institution and obtaining approval, then applying to JST and obtaining approval)
 - ③ Within the range that does not hinder the promotion of individual research (up to one day (8 hours) a week for other work, and 80% or more of effort for personal research in all work).

- (5) Exclusive Appointment Researchers are requested to understand that their appointment by JST is temporary and must make any efforts to find a permanent position for themselves at research institutions. If they are then employed at a research institution, they are obliged to change their appointment from Exclusive to Joint appointment.
- (6) Travel expenses for Exclusive Appointment Researchers to carry out individual research (PRESTO) should be paid from PRESTO research expenses. On the other hand, travel expenses incurred in connection with other work (including research participation in CREST / ERATO) should be paid from the research expenses of each other's work.

3.2.8 PRESTO startup support system

With the aim of encouraging PRESTO researchers to become independent and to further develop their qualities as a researcher, we provide additional support for PRESTO research to build the research environment. This may be when PRESTO researchers start their research independently at the start of the PRESTO research or during the PRESTO research period. Researchers at overseas research institutions also apply for this support if they need to improve their research environment to conduct PRESTO research at a domestic research institution. Details on how to apply and conditions for support will be announced after adoption.

Chapter 4 ACT-X Program

4.1 ACT-X

4.1.1 ACT-X Overview

Key points and characteristics of ACT-X are described as follows.

- a. ACT-X is a network-oriented research (individual research) for finding and developing superior young researchers who can find solutions to important problems facing Japan. Based on management of the Research Area defined by the supervisor, we pursue researchers who have unique and stimulating ideas. JST gives aid to studies that create new values leading to innovations in science and technology. With advice and guidance from the Research Supervisor and Research Area Advisor, young researchers advance their research studies according to their unique ideas. As they communicate and form networks with researchers from different fields, both within and outside of their Research Area, young researchers try to establish themselves as independent researchers.
- b. For our program this fiscal year, we invite individual researchers (PIs: Principal Investigators) who meet the following criteria.

Researchers who have held a doctoral degree for less than eight years as of April 1, 2026

Researchers who earned their bachelor's degrees less than 13 years ago (as of April 1, 2026) if they have not acquired doctoral degrees.

*This includes researchers who satisfy the described terms and conditions when the period of maternity or paternity leave and childcare leave taken after acquiring the degree is excluded.

Graduate school students are also invited to our program regardless of the terms and conditions described above. We are expecting proactive applications from graduate school students and young researchers employed by companies.

- c. The Research Supervisor oversees PIs, while Research Area advisors are assigned to each of the researchers to play the role of a mentor. Accordingly, Research Areas are managed a virtual research institution. A Research Supervisor plays the role of head of this research institution and manages the Research Area by the following means, receiving assistance from the Research Area advisors and others:
 - Formulates principles of management in the Research Area
 - Selects the research projects
 - Arrangement and approval for research plans (including plans for research budgets)
 - Hosts Research Area meetings where each PI reports and discusses research progress, and provides advice and guidance to PIs through visits to research sites and other opportunities for exchanging views
 - Evaluates the research projects
 - Gives a variety of support to research activities and/or provides any other necessary resources
- d. PIs are responsible for implementing their research based on their original ideas, while ensuring that their research contributes to the overall objectives of the Research Area. PIs are required to participate in Research Area meetings, where they engage in discussion and interaction with the Research Supervisor and Research Area Advisors including reporting on research progress and results. They are also expected

to work toward building human networks among young researchers through mutual stimulation and friendly competition with one another. If an applicant, such as a student, does not have the authority to administer contract research funds and therefore cannot become a party to the Research Contract under the regulations of their affiliated institution, the supervisor or equivalent faculty member will also be required to assume responsibility under the Research Contract. For more information, refer to “4.2.6 Proposal Submission Requirements (1) Requirements for a PI”.

On the other hand, if a non-student does not have the authority to administer contract research funds under the regulations of the affiliated institution, they must first coordinate with the supervisor and the affiliated institution so that they can obtain such authority and become a party to the Research Contract.

4.1.2 ACT-X Research Organization

- a. The PI will pursue their research as an individual (alone). (However, if necessary, Research Assistants supervised by the PI may be appointed and paid for within the research budget.)
- b. PIs are requested to conduct research at their affiliated institutions in principle. It is possible to perform research work outside of their affiliated research institution and in these cases, JST will conclude a contract with the institution which expends the ACT-X research budget (PIs and the affiliated institutions are requested to be approved by the research performing institution concerning these matters as prerequisite).
- c. The program is open to student PIs in master’s and doctoral education programs. For more details, please see “4.2.6 Proposal Submission Requirements” in the Application Guidelines.

4.1.3 ACT-X Flow from Research proposal to Selection

(1) Call and Selection of Proposals

JST calls for research proposals for individual Research Areas specified in the Strategic Objectives designated by the National Government. The selection of proposals is made by the Research Supervisor, with the cooperation of Research Area Advisors and others, for individual Research Areas.

Note: For more details, please refer to “4.2 Call and Selection of Proposals”, “5.1 Common Issues in the Call and Selection of Proposals”.

(2) Research Plan Preparation

Once a proposal has been selected, the researcher prepares an overall research plan covering the entire period of the research project. The researcher also prepares annual research plans for each year of the project. Research plans cover budgets and research structure.

Note: For more details, please refer to “5.2.1 Research Plan Preparation.”

(3) Research Contract

In advancing a research project, JST will enter into a Research Contract with the research institution where the researcher will pursue his/her work.

Note: For more details, please refer to “5.2.2 Research Contract”.

4.2 Call and Selection of Proposals

4.2.1 Eligible Research Proposals

- (1) Research proposals are called for the Research Areas mentioned in the section “Overview of the Call for Research Application”.
- (2) Carefully check the “Overview” and “Research Supervisor’s Policy on Calls for Proposals, Selection and Management of the Research Area” before proposing the research appropriate for one of the Research Areas.
Call for Research Proposals: <https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>
- (3) Ensure you have confirmed important common items described in “Chapter 5 Common Issues in the CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X Programs.”

4.2.2 Submission Period

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 to 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 (Japan time) (No exceptions).

For information on schedules for briefings, calls for proposals, etc., please refer to “(2) Call and Selection Schedule” in “Overview of the Call for Research Proposals”.

4.2.3 Research and Development Period

The research period is, in principle, two years and six months from October 2026 to ending in March 2029 (research can be continued at the end of the fiscal year of the third year).

This period is a standard ACT-X research period; and for the successful applicant’s requests, additional form of support called the "acceleration phase" may be added, which will then continue for one year. We give priority to research projects from which we can expect further achievements by providing continuous support. Successful applicants must determine whether they apply for this acceleration phase until the evaluation of their research progress, which is conducted about two years after the start of research. A new contract will be signed for the acceleration phase, which is effective on the day following the termination date of the research. As stated earlier, this period is for a maximum of one year.

Note: Actual research periods are determined after a detailed examination and approval of the plan for the research project. For more information, see “5.2 Common Issues in Post-selection: Procedure of Research Work”.

* If you apply for PRESTO or PRIME¹ during the course of ACT-X research and your application is selected, you can conduct PRESTO or PRIME (i.e. be terminated early). If you apply for PRESTO or PRIME^{1*} during the course of ACT-X research, please notify the Research Supervisor and JST personnel.

¹ This is an Advanced Research and Development Program for Medical Innovation with the Strategic Basic Research Programs carried out by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). PRIME (solo type) is a program in which Research and Development Directors promote research on their own.

* You cannot apply for PRESTO or PRIME at the same time as applying for ACT-X.

Please refer to “Chapter 7 Limitations on Multiple Applications within the Strategic Basic Research Programs.”

4.2.4 Research Budgets

The budget for a research project is 4.5 ~ 6 million yen in total for the research period of two years and six months or shorter (direct cost). It increases to 10 million yen at the maximum for the acceleration phase. Details of the budget are defined differently based on the Research Area (see also “Research Supervisor’s Policy on Calls for Proposals, Selection and Management of the Research Area”).

According to the contract for consigned research, in addition to the research budget (direct cost), JST provides the research institution with aid for indirect expenditures up to, in principle, 30% of the direct expenditures as the budget for consigned research.

Note: * The proposed research budget will be reviewed during the selection process. The actual research budgets will be determined by JST following a detailed review and approval of the research plan by the Research Supervisor. For further details, please refer to “5.2 Common Issues in Post-selection: Procedure of Research Work”.

* “Research Supervisor’s Policy on Calls for Proposals, Selection and Management of the Research Area”

Call for Research Proposals: <https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

4.2.5 Number of Research Projects

Approximately up to 30 projects are planned to be selected in each Research Area

※ The number of proposals selected may vary depending upon budgetary and other factors.

4.2.6 Proposal Submission Requirements

Requirements for applicants submitting proposals are detailed below. Please ensure that you understand these requirements for your submission.

※ In principle, if the determination is made that a submission does not meet the requirements by the time of selection, the research proposal will either not be accepted or not be selected.

※ Once a research proposal is selected, the Research Project shall maintain its qualified status as per the submission requirements for the entire duration of the research period. If the Research Project fails to meet the requirements during the research period, the Research Project will in principle be completely or partially suspended (i.e. be terminated early).

When submitting a proposal, please follow the instructions below, as well as those in “Chapter 6 Key Points in Submitting Proposals” and “Chapter 7 Limitations on Multiple Applications within the Strategic Basic Research Programs”.

(1) Requirements for PIs

a. The applicant and Principal Investigator (PI) must be the same person.

b. Each applicant must satisfy the following conditions:

Researchers who have held a doctoral degree for less than eight years* as of April 1, 2026.

- Researchers who earned their bachelor’s degrees less than 13 years ago* (as of April 1, 2026) if they have not acquired doctoral degrees.
- (*) These include researchers who satisfy the described terms and conditions when the period of maternity or paternity leave and childcare leave taken after acquiring the degree is excluded.

Graduate school students are also invited to our program regardless of the terms and conditions described above. See also “Chapter 7 Limitations on Multiple Applications within the Strategic Basic Research Programs”.

c. The applicant must write their research proposal as a person who suggested the idea, undertaking such research independently to bring the idea into reality. The ACT-X program is open to PIs affiliated with corporations and other entities, provided they are deemed fully capable of conducting individual research in accordance with the ACT-X policy.

d. Applications by students in master’s and doctorate programs will be required to submit, via e-Rad, a memorandum of confirmation on requirements. More specifically, in this memorandum, academic supervisors will be held responsible for the following items:

- The applying student’s affiliated academic institution is capable of entering into a Research Contract with JST as described in the Application Guidelines.
- The student applicant will, as “research practitioner” in the Research Contract, be the main person to conduct contract research.
- The applying student’s academic supervisor will, as “research implementation manager” in the Research Contract, supervise the project and be held responsible for its terms and conditions.
- The student applicant’s academic institution will agree to the necessity of an agreement between the institution and the student, governing intellectual property that will likely emerge as products of the research project.

*In case that the research applicant belongs to multiple institutions, they will need to choose ONE where the research expenses will be executed under the confirmation by the academic supervisor of the institution. JST concludes Research Contract with institutions that execute ACT-X research cost.

*The “Memorandum of Confirmation” form can be downloaded from the “How to apply” section of the website below. Both the student applicant and their academic supervisor are required to sign and upload the document via e-Rad.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

* If the PIs have already been selected by or are applying for research funds of an institution other than JST, please ask each institution about the eligibility of the duplication with ACT-X.

e. If a non-student does not have the authority to execute contract research funds under the regulations of the affiliated institution, they must first coordinate with the academic supervisor and the institution so that he or she have the authority to execute research and become a party to the Research Contract. As a result, if you are unable to have the authority to execute, both you and the supervisor must sign and submit a Memorandum of Confirmation through e-Rad indicating that you have confirmed the following items. The supervisor will be responsible for the following items in the Memorandum of Confirmation.

- A Research Contract specified in the application guidelines must be concluded between the affiliated institution and JST.
- The research applicant must conduct the contracted research as the “Researcher in charge” in the Research Contract.
- The supervisor must take responsibility for the Research Contract as the “Research Leader” who oversees the contract research.
- The affiliated institution agrees that the PI and the institution will negotiate intellectual property rights resulting from research.

*If the research applicant belongs to multiple institutions, they must choose ONE institution where the research expenses will be administered, with confirmation by the academic supervisor of the institution. JST concludes Research Contract with institutions that administer ACT-X research cost.

*The “Memorandum of Confirmation” form can be downloaded from the “How to apply” section of the webpage below. Both, the student applicant, and his/her academic supervisor are required to confirm and upload the document via e-Rad.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

*If you have already used or are applying for a non-JST institution, please ask each institution about the eligibility of duplication with ACT-X and the non-JST institution.

*For applicants other than students, even if they do not have authority to administer research funds at their affiliated institution, they are still required to hold a position at the institution after selection in order to conclude a Research Contract. If such a position is not granted, Research Contract cannot be concluded, and as a result, the ACT-X research may not be conducted.

f. A PI must have participated in a study at a research institution in Japan as of the date that his or her proposal is adopted, and he or she must be able to continue research in Japan until the ACT-X research is completed. Please note the following:

- ※ If a graduate school student is to graduate in the 2.5-year period of the ACT-X research, to apply for our program, he or she must make the best effort to satisfy the terms and conditions above in order to continue the ACT-X research after graduation.
 - ※ PIs can be of any nationality; however, it is required that they are able to manage clerical processes in Japanese (or be in an environment in which they are able to do so).
 - ※ In the ACT-X program, in principle, Japanese is used in Research Area meetings and for other processes after a proposal is adopted. Therefore, you need to be able to communicate to an extent in Japanese.
 - ※ A PI holding foreign nationality engaged in a study at a research institution in Japan must know the following:
 - ※ The PI must acquire a visa, extend the period of stay, renew the residency status, and follow any other necessary procedures independently as necessary. If the PI fails to satisfy the requirements in relation to his or her residency status, we cannot adopt his or her proposal for research and will cancel the research project(or take similar measures).
 - ※ If the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act is applicable to an ACT-X research study and bans the export depending on the status, etc., of a PI, we cannot adopt his or her proposed research and will cancel the research project (or take similar measures).
- g. The PI must be personally responsible for the ACT-X research project throughout the research period.
- * For more details, please refer to “5.2.6 Responsibilities of CREST PI, Co-PI, and PRESTO/ACT-X PI”.
- h. The applicant must either: Have already completed the educational program for research integrity at his/her affiliated research institution; or have completed the JST-provided educational program by the application deadline.
- * For more details, please refer to “6.2 Participation and completion of programs related to research ethics education ”.
- i. The applicant must pledge the following four items upon submission.
- ※ The verification is required on the application information input screen within the e-Rad.
 - Understand and comply with “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on August 26, 2014).
 - Understand and comply with “Guidelines on Management and Audit of the Public Research Expenses in Research Institutions (Implementation standards)” (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on February 15, 2007; revised February 1, 2021).
 - If the research proposal is accepted, the PI must not engage in misconduct in their research (fabrication, manipulation, and plagiarism) nor in inappropriate usage of research funds.
 - The research project applicant must not have engaged in misconduct in the past to achieve the research results that are mentioned in the submitted research proposal.

(2) Requirements for Research Institutions

Research institutions (with which the selected PIs are affiliated) must fully recognize that the research funds are public funding, ensure compliance with related law, and make efforts to implement the research effectively. Research institutions that cannot accomplish the tasks described in “5.2.7 Responsibilities of Research Institutions” will not be enjoined to implement research; thus, when applying, a prior consent of the research institution at which the implementation of research is planned shall definitively be obtained.

4.2.7 Additional Expense Support as Research Assistant (RA) for ACT-X Student (Doctor / Master) Researcher

Only when a student (doctor / master) makes a research proposal at ACT-X, JST can support additional expenses as RAs according to the time of the student engaged in ACT-X research. This is add-on expenses to the expense for the research proposal. After you are selected, please consult with your academic supervisor, and decide whether to apply or not for this additional support, then submit the confirmation form described in "4.2.6 Proposal Submission Requirements."

In order to receive this additional support, the affiliated institution must have applicable regulations for RA expenditures based on engagement time, and the supervisor must be responsible for the execution and submit the form agreeing to the following: (The details of the form will be informed when the application is selected)

- If the academic supervisor changes, or the position of the student changes during the academic year, contact JST immediately.
- Prepare and maintain evidence documents based on the Research Contract administration manual and the regulations of the affiliated institution, and submit a specified report within 60 days after the end of the additional support period.
- If the balance is 10% or less of the additional support, it can be diverted to the budget of the main task (only the case that it is executed in the relevant fiscal year), but if it exceeds, the balance shall be refunded in full. Also, even the balance is 10% or less of the additional support, and if the balance is not diverted to the budget of the main task, it shall be refunded in full.
- If the expenditure exceeds the amount of additional support, please understand that the excess amount will be borne by the affiliated institution.
- Since this is a single-year budget support for the first fiscal year only, it cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year. If you wish to continue to receive additional support from the following fiscal year, please apply for additional support for the relevant fiscal year when formulating the research plan for each fiscal year.
- Share the details of the application for additional support to the student, the contract and get the confirmation about the application detail from accounting staff at the institution.

JST will decide whether or not to approve additional support applications (it may not be approved).

If the application for additional support is approved, the relevant indirect costs in addition to commissioned research expenses will be added and paid to the student's institution (research location institution, that is, the institution of the supervisor). (Engagement time is at most 1000 hours per year due to school work. If the institution's prescribed hourly unit price is 2,000 yen, it is about 2 million yen per year and the equivalent consumption tax and indirect expenses).

Please note the following five matters.

- * Please do not include this additional support amount in the research expenses in the proposal to ACT-X.
(If it is selected, we will inform you about this additional support again, accept the additional support application, and decide whether it is acceptable).
- * This additional support is to additionally support the student's own expenses as RA when a student makes a research proposal to ACT-X and is selected. It does not provide additional support for RA expenses for assistants etc. under the applicant. Please consider within. If you need RA expenses or rewards for assistants who provide research assistance, please consider within the research expenses applied for in the research proposal.
- * Only if the ACT-X PI is a student, will we provide additional support for his / her own RA expenses. If the ACT-X PI is a non-student including a specially-appointed assistant professor, we will not be able to support their labor costs. If the ACT-X PI is a non-student, refer to "5.2.3 Research Costs".
- * For the first (newly selected) fiscal year, the expected level of engagement is assumed to be up to approximately 500 hours per six-month period at maximum.
- * In ACT-X, there are no restrictions on receiving RA-related expenses or similar funding concurrently with other programs. However, applicants are advised to review the requirements and conditions of other funding schemes and make an appropriate determination in consultation with their affiliated institution.

Chapter 5 Common Issues in the CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X Programs

5.1 Common Issues in the Call and Selection of Proposals

5.1.1 Conflicts of Interest Involving Research Project Applicants and the Research Supervisor

Previously, research applicants (CREST PIs, PRESTO PIs and ACT-X PIs) who had a conflict of interest with the research supervisor were excluded from the selection process. However, from FY2024, this measure will be abolished, and they will be included in the selection process with conflict of interest management.

5.1.2 Selection Method

For the schedule of Research Proposal Selection, please refer to “(2) Call and Selection Schedule” section at the beginning of this document.

(1) Selection Process

The Research Supervisor of each CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X Research Area conducts the document- and interview review of Research Proposals submitted by applicants, with the assistance of Research Area Advisors. External reviewers from outside of the Research Area may be enlisted for the selections if necessary.

Another investigation of Research Proposals may be performed, separately, during the document- and interview review selection if necessary. In addition, CREST Research Directors (PI: Principal Investigators), CREST Co-PIs (Co-Principal Investigators), and PRESTO/ACT-X Individual Researchers (PI: Principal Investigators), may be asked to submit financial statements if they are affiliated with profit-making institutions.

Names of Research Advisors of new Research Areas established in this fiscal year will be announced in the following website as soon as the names become available.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

(2) Conditions for those with conflict of interest

We take the management of conflicts of interest based on the provisions of JST from the viewpoint of a fair and transparent evaluation and the distribution of research funds. In addition, it should be noted that evaluators, including the Research Supervisor, Research Area Advisors, and external evaluators, cannot participate as PIs (CREST, PRESTO and ACT-X), Co-PIs, or other researchers in proposals submitted to the relevant research area.

① Persons Involved in the Selection Process

To ensure fair and transparent evaluations, the Research Supervisor and Research Area Advisors who have conflicts of interest (item a. to f.) with an ‘applicant’ will not be involved in the selection process. In CREST,

those who have a conflict of interest with Co-PIs may not be involved from the selection process. If you have any suspicion about conflicts of interest, please describe it specifically in the Notice section of the application forms (CREST: Form 8, PRESTO: Form 7, ACT-X: Form 7).

- a. Persons who are relatives of applicants (includes Co-PIs under the CREST program).
- b. Persons who are affiliated with the same department or specialty at a university to which the applicants are affiliated, who are board members or considered affiliated members of the same university or managed corporation, or who act as the represent of the university. Here, “same department or specialty” means a one rank above group of the smallest research unit.
- c. Persons who are affiliated with the same or group company with which applicants are affiliated.
- d. Persons who are conducting a close collaboration in a research work with applicants. (Examples are persons who are conducting a joint research project or have co-authored a paper with applicants, a researcher pursuing the same research objectives as applicants, a participant or a Co-PI of the research project, others, being recognized those practically affiliated with same research group.)
- e. Persons in a close teacher-student relationship, or in a direct employer-employee relationship.
- f. Persons who are in academic competition with the research project of applicants or who belong to a company that is in competition in the market.
- g. Persons in other relationships judged by JST to representing conflicts of interest with applicants.

② Conflict of Interest with Research Director (CREST PI)

It will be judged as a conflict of interest with Research Director when a Research Director appoints Joint research group that is related to Research Director (organizations etc. established based on R&D achievements by the research representative etc.) and allocate research fund of JST to these institutions. Unambiguously, Research Director’s affiliated institution would be in charge to manage the conflict of interest of Research Director, additionally, JST as in charge of allocating public research fund where equitability and transparency of decision making is required. Therefore, the conflict of interest between the CREST PI and his/her related institution will be managed in manner that ensure necessity, rationality, appropriateness in the decision-making process to secure the accountability.

“An organization that is related to the Research Director” refers to any of the organizations that fall under the following categories. Items “a” and “b” are applicable not only to the Research Directors but also to the spouse and the relatives in the first degree of the Research Director (hereinafter referred to as “the Research Director etc.”).

- a. An organization established based on R&D achievement of the Research Director etc.
(Including the case in which the Research Director etc. is not directly involved in the business management but is merely given a title such as technical consultant and the case in which the Research Director etc. has stocks.)

- b. An organization in which the Research Director etc. is a director (including a CTO but excluding a technical consultant)
- c. An organization whose Research Director has stocks.
- d. An organization whose Research Director is rewarded for implementation.

For a research proposal in which a researcher who belongs to the related organization of the CREST PI, is assigned as a Co-PI, it will be strictly judged from the viewpoint of requirement, rationality, and relevance. In this case, declare that a researcher who belongs to the related organization of the CREST PI, is included as a Co-PI in the "special remarks (CREST: Form 8)".

Additional documents may be requested to judge conflicts of interest with the PI.

③ Conflict of Interest with JST

It is regarded as conflicts of interest on the JST side (conflicts of interest as an organization) to distribute, in the CREST, PRESTO, or ACT-X program, a research fund to a company JST has invested in (hereinafter "invested company"). Therefore, to avoid any doubt of third party, JST clarifies it to avoid the conflict of interests between JST and the invested companies.

With respect to the proposals made by a researcher who belongs to an invested company of JST, we assess the necessity, rationality, and adequacy of the applicable invested company.

For that purpose, if a researcher who belongs to an invested company of JST is regarded as a proposer, fill in the "special remarks (CREST: Form 8; PRESTO: Form 7; ACT-X: Form 7)" to declare that a researcher who belongs to the applicable invested company is included in the proposers.

This management is taken to guarantee the fairness and transparency of the process on the JST side. It is not disadvantageous to have accepted funds from JST in the process of the adoption in the CREST, PRESTO, or ACT-X program. You are asked to be cooperative in JST's management of conflicts of interest.

※Please refer to the website below for information on JST's portfolio companies.

Note: Companies that have terminated their investment are not subject to conflict-of-interest management and you do not need to report.

Support Program for the Creation of New Businesses with Equity Participation (SUCCESS) Investment Results

<https://www.jst.go.jp/entre/en/result.html>

※The base date for declaration is starting application call date. Please report on companies whose investment from JST has been publicly announced. When the companies have already received an offer of investment but have not yet made a public announcement, declaration is not required for confidentiality reasons within JST.

Please refer to the following website for JST's announcement of investment.

Support Program for New Business Creation with Equity Participation (SUCCESS) What's New

<https://www.jst.go.jp/entre/news.html>

(3) Interview Reviews and Notification of Selection Results

- a. Research project applicants, whose research proposals have cleared the document review and are nominated for the interview review, will be notified their success by email within one week after the document review. The notice also provides the information on the overview of the interview review, its schedule, and supplemental documents requested to be additionally submitted (please make sure the email address registered in the e-Rad system is accessible). In the interview review, the applicants may be requested to submit a financial statement if they or their Co-PI are affiliated with a profit-making institution. The schedule of the interview review will be announced at the following website as soon as it becomes available.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

- b. In the interview review session, each applicant is requested to give a presentation explaining the idea and scope of his/her research proposal. Japanese is the official language in principle, however if impossible, English can be used as an alternative for the purpose in the CREST, PRESTO and ACT-X interview review.
- c. JST will contact applicants, whose research proposals are likely to be selected with high possibility as a result of the interview review, to confirm the availability of conditions necessary for concluding a Research Contract between their affiliated research institution and JST, by Early September, 2026 (by e-mail or phone). Applicants whose research proposals are selected for adoption, will be notified of their success by e-mail, and be provided with the procedure of starting their research.

※E-mail will be sent to the address registered in e-Rad, so please set your e-mail address so that it can be received.

- d. Applicants whose research proposals are rejected will be notified via the e-Rad system within 5 business days after the document review. Applicants who are not selected at the interview will be notified via e-Rad around mid-September. The reason for the rejection will be notified via e-Rad from mid-September.

※In principle, we do not issue documents regarding the results.

5.1.3 Selection Perspective

(1) Selection Standards

Common selection standards for CREST, PRESTO and ACT-X are described in the following table. (All the standards described in a. through d. must be met.)

	CREST	PRESTO	ACT-X
a. Goal and Purpose	The research proposal aligns with the purpose of CREST or PRESTO or ACT-X and the selected research area and it is expected to produce the results that the selected research area aims to achieve.		
b. Originality and Excellence	The proposal demonstrates originality and research excellence, both in comparison to current trends and similar research, domestically and internationally.		
c. Objective and Plan	The objectives of the research proposal to be achieved within the research period, the implementation plan including international expansion and the budget plan are well-defined and appropriate for the project.	The objectives of the research proposal to be achieved within the research period, the implementation plan including future international expansion and the budget plan are well-defined and appropriate for the project.	The objectives of the research proposal to be achieved within the research period, the implementation plan and the budget plan are well-defined and appropriate for the project.
d. Implementation Structure	The project organization is best suited to implement the proposed research.	—	
e. Ability to Conduct Research	The PI (and Co-PI) possesses the required experience and ability to effectively carry out the proposed activities.		

Supplement

1. Regarding the purpose of CREST or PRESTO or ACT-X in item a. “Goal and Purpose”, please refer to “2.1.1 CREST Overview”, “3.1.1 PRESTO Overview” and “4.1.1 ACT-X Overview”. Regarding the purpose of individual Research Areas, please refer to “Research Supervisor’s Policy for Selection and Management”. It also describes the unique selection perspectives and policies for each research area, as well as management policies.

※ Call for Proposals website

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

2. Whether the research project fits with a desired research project portfolio to optimize the entire Research Area under the policies and directions discussed above is another selection perspective.

- (2) Whether research budgets are characterized by “unreasonable duplication”, or “excessive concentration” is an important selection criterion. For more details, please refer to “6.3 Measures against Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration.”

5.1.4 Feasibility Study of Specific Research Proposal (for CREST or PRESTO Programs)

- (1) In the case of a research proposal that is rejected but is expected to be more accurately evaluated by the review committee in the next fiscal year if additional data is provided within a short period of time will give limited financial support, the Research Supervisor may request a Feasibility Study of Specific Research for the applicant, in addition to and apart from the regular accepted proposals process.
- (2) The applicant may conduct his/her Feasibility Study with an agreement to re-submit the proposal in the next fiscal year to the same Research Area, the re-submitted proposal is treated along with other research proposals without preference.
- (3) Applicant cannot apply directly to Feasibility Study of Specific Research.
- (4) In case of a Feasibility Study, the name of applicant and other information will **be posted on JST website** in the same manner as other adopted preliminary selection. In further, the applicant will be required to enroll in and complete a program on research ethics education. (Excluding those who have finished the specified units in the "APRIN e-learning program at the organization they belong to or at the JST office.) For more detailed information, please refer to “6.2 Participation and completion of programs related to research ethics education”.

5.1.5 AIP Project and AIP Network Laboratory

AIP project (Advance Integrated Intelligence Platform Project) has been promoted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) since FY2016. This program promotes innovative fundamental research activities in the field of AI, Big Data, IoT, and cyber security in the AIP Center at RIKEN. as well as AI-related research support at universities and research institutions on nationwide through JST funding. JST facilitate inter-disciplinary through the operation of the AIP network laboratory, to encourage the original ideas of young researchers and support challenging research subjects in AI, Big Data, and etc. that will open the way to new innovations.

※AIP network laboratory <https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/aip/en/index.html>

5.2 Common Issues in Post-selection: Procedure of Research Work

5.2.1 Research Plan Preparation

- a. Once the proposal is selected, the CREST PIs, PRESTO PIs and ACT-X PIs are requested to design an overall research plan covering the entire period of their research. The CREST standard research period is

five and a half years, but the duration can differ depending on the Research Area. The research period for PRESTO is three and a half years, and for ACT-X is two and a half years. The research plan describes the research budget, and, in CREST program, also describes the team composition and structure. The proposed research budget will be reviewed during the selection process. The actual budget will be determined by JST following a detailed review and approval of the research plan by the Research Supervisor.

- b. Research plans become official once they are examined and approved by the Research Supervisor. The Research Supervisor will offer advice and coordination assistance on the research plan, and provide instruction, when necessary, based on information the Research Supervisor gains through, for example, the project selection process, discussions with CREST PIs, PRESTO PIs or ACT-X PIs, regular progress updates, and the results of research evaluations.
- c. The Research Supervisor, in approving research project plans to achieve objectives, including the achievement of the overall objectives of a Research Area, may merge or link research projects, or take other coordinative actions.
- d. Research organizations and budgets set forth in research plans may be revised during the research project period in response to overall Strategic Basic Research Program budget conditions, Research Area management actions taken by the Research Supervisor, or factors like results of research evaluations.

5.2.2 Research Contract

- a. Once a research project is selected, JST, in principle, will enter into a Research Contract with the research institutions which the CREST PI, Co-PI, and PRESTO/ACT-X PI are affiliated.
- b. If it is not possible to conclude Research Contract with these research institutions, or not possible to put in place the management and audit systems required in connection with the use of public funds, or the financial situation is extremely unstable, the research may not be carried out at the institutions in question. For more details, please refer to "5.2.7 Responsibilities of Research Institutions."
- c. In principle, patents and other intellectual property rights resulting from research shall, in accordance with Research Contract terms, reside with research institutions under the condition that the research institutions abide by the items provided in Article 17 (Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole Act) of the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act.
- d. A "joint research agreement" will be concluded with the overseas research institution (In instances where it is deemed essential for the realization of the research concept, researchers affiliated with foreign research institutions may exceptionally participate as Co-PI). Intellectual property rights will be shared equally with JST on the condition that the costs required for application, maintenance, etc. are borne equally by both parties. (If these terms and conditions cannot be agreed upon, the intellectual property rights will belong to JST.) For details on other responsibilities, please refer to "5.2.7 (2) For Overseas Institutions."

※ The latest sample of research agreement is available from the following website.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/download/2026/2026kisokens201keiya.pdf>

[Important Note]

When a PI is employed by JST as part of an exclusive appointment, the standard Research Contract as well as job assignment contract is concluded between JST and the research institution for receiving the researcher.

* Regarding appointment type of PRESTO PIs, please refer to “ [3.2.7 Researcher Appointment Types](#)”.

5.2.3 Research Costs

Based on research contract, JST will pay the research institution the research costs (direct costs) plus indirect costs (in principle, 30% of direct costs). The costs consist of the research cost (the direct cost) and the indirect cost 30% of the direct cost in principle. As for some items of expenditure, JST has implemented handling rules and guidelines specific to the Strategic Basic Research Programs, based on the Research Contract, official administration manuals, and the “Cross-ministerial Expenses Handling Partitioned Table”. There may be cases where the treatment is different between universities and others (universities, public research institutions, non-profit making incorporated associations, and others identified by JST) and private companies other than universities. Please refer to the official administration manual of the latest version and others for the details.

Documents for Research Contract of Strategic Basic Research programs.

- Universities, etc.: <https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/kisoken/2026/kisokena.html>

- Companies, etc.: <https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/kisoken/2026/kisokenc.html>

(1) Research Costs (Direct Costs)

Research costs (direct costs) are directly related to and required for pursuing the subject research (※1).

- a. Equipment / Consumables: Costs for purchasing new facilities (※2), equipment, consumables
- b. Travel Expenses: Expenses for travel by the CREST PI, Co-PI, PRESTO/ACT-X PI and other Research Participants (not PI nor Co-PI) who listed on the research plan, and by invited guests.
- c. Personnel Expenses / Honorariums: Salaries for Research Participants (※3) and honorariums. (※4) (※5)
- d. Other Expenses: Costs of the presentation of research results (research paper submission fees, etc.), costs for leasing and transferring of equipment, etc..

(※1) The following are examples of items not handled as research costs (direct cost).

- Costs for items not consistent with the research objectives.
- Costs that are considered to be more appropriately handled as overhead costs (indirect cost).
- Costs that JST judges that use is not appropriate in the settlement of commissioned research expenses. (*)

* JST has established rules and guidelines specific to this project for some items, based on commissioned research contracts, administrative manuals, and the cross-ministerial expenses handling table, etc. Also, handling may differ between universities, etc. (universities, public research institutions, public interest corporations, etc. accepted by JST) and companies, etc. (mainly research institutions other than universities, etc., such as private enterprises). For details, refer to JST official administration manuals on the abovementioned URL.

(※2) When purchasing new research facilities and equipment, “The 6th Science and Technology Basic Plan” (Cabinet decision on March 26, 2021)” and "Integrated Innovation Strategy 2025" (Cabinet decision on June 6, 2025) request the promotion on the sharing of research equipment and facilities, to establish a system for introducing, updating and utilizing research equipment (core facility). Please refer to “6.13 Promotion on Effective Use of Research Facilities and Equipment”.

(※3) In principle, in a university, etc., the person serving as the Principal Investigator (hereinafter referred to as the "PI") of a project receiving JST competitive research funds can use the funds for personnel expenses and/or the costs of someone carrying out duties other than research (buyout costs), if certain requirements are met. Starting in FY2026, PI personnel expenses will also be recorded for CREST Co-PIs. The necessary requirements are set out below; please check these.

○ "Review of the Possibility of the Use of Direct Costs for Someone to Carry Out Duties Other Than Research (Introduction of Buyout System) and for Principal Investigator (PI) Personnel Expenses (contact)" (Revised on November 13, 2020)

<https://www.jst.go.jp/osirase/2020/pdf/20200917.pdf>

○ "Measures for Strategic Basic Research Programs (CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X) related to a use of Direct Cost for agency expenses for jobs other than research activity (Buyout System)" (Revised on June 3, 2022)

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/manual/buyout_houshin.pdf

○ “Measures for Strategic Basic Research Programs (CREST, PRESTO, ACCEL, ACT-X) Related to the "Use of Direct Costs for Principal Investigator (PI) Personnel Expenses"” (Revised on December 5, 2025)

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/manual/pi_houshin.pdf

(※4) The types and number of other research participants to be registered under the PRESTO and ACT-X programs are as follows.

PRESTO

Researchers: Up to two researchers, (researchers and those with equivalent roles), can be registered in the research plan as individuals who proactively carry out part of the research under the management and guidance of the principal researcher, separately from research assistants. Personnel expenses and honoraria for these individuals can be budgeted in accordance with the regulations of the research institution. However, those who can be registered as researchers, etc., are limited to individuals affiliated with the research institution conducting the PRESTO research.

Research Assistants: Up to five research assistants can be registered in the research plan as individuals who carry out research support tasks, such as experiments, data acquisition, and analysis, under the instructions of the principal researcher. Personnel expenses and honoraria for these individuals can be budgeted in accordance with the regulations of the research institution. Those who can be registered as research assistants include technical staff or research assistants employed by the research institution, as well as undergraduate and graduate students without an employment relationship.

ACT-X

Researchers: Participation of researchers, etc. is not permitted.

Research Assistants: Up to five research assistants can be registered in the research plan as individuals who carry out research support tasks, such as experiments, data acquisition, and analysis, under the instructions of the principal researcher. Personnel expenses and honoraria for these individuals can be budgeted in accordance with the regulations of the research institution. Those who can be registered as research assistants include technical staff or research assistants employed by the research institution, as well as undergraduate and graduate students without an employment relationship.

- (※5) In hiring research staff, please give a consideration of supporting their career paths and consider “Improvement of Treatment of Doctoral Course (later stage) Students.” For more details, please refer to “5.2.6 Responsibilities of CREST PI, Co-PI, and PRESTO/ACT-X PI”, “6.14 Improvement of Treatment of Doctoral Student Participants”, “6.17 Self-motivated Research Activities by Young Researchers Employed to Carry Out Projects”, and “6.18 Support for Diverse Career Paths for Young Researchers”.

(2) Indirect Costs (overhead costs)

Indirect costs are as costs required for the management, etc. of research institutions pursuing research; they are in principle capped at 30% of direct costs. According to “Common Guidance for the Execution of Indirect Expenses of the Competitive Fund” (agreed upon by the coordination committees of relevant ministries and agencies on April 20, 2001, and revised on May 31, 2023), a policy on use, etc. shall be created and shall be systematically and properly executed to ensure that use of indirect cost be transparent.

(3) Multiple-year Contract and Carryover

From the perspective of the effective and efficient use of research expenses to maximize research results and prevent unauthorized use, to be capable of carrying over research expenses and procurement contracts in subsequent financial years, JST has made into multiple-year contracts available. Regarding the carryover, universities and profit-making companies are treated differently. In addition, there may be cases where concluding a multi-year contract and making a carryover of research expenses are impossible at some institutions because their official administration systems are unsuitable for the purpose. However, please note that the carryover procedure is not applicable in case of single-year contracts such as contracts with foreign research institutions.

5.2.4 Project Evaluations

- (1) In CREST, the Research Supervisor shall familiarize himself/herself with research project progress and results, and, with the cooperation of Research Area Advisors and others, he/she is going to conduct interim and completion evaluations. For a project with a research term of five and a half years, the interim evaluation of a research project is going to be conducted at around three years after the beginning of the project, and the completion evaluation is going to be conducted immediately after or before the conclusion of research activities, with due consideration of the nature and progress stage.
- (2) In PRESTO, the Research Supervisor conducts the completion evaluation of completed research projects of his/her Research Area, collaborating with Research Area Advisors, as soon as possible after the completion, or at a proper time before the completion, with due consideration of the nature and progress stage.
- (3) In ACT-X, the Research Supervisor conducts the completion evaluation of completed research projects of his/her Research Area, collaborating with Research Area Advisors, as soon as possible after the completion, or at a proper time before the completion, with due consideration of the nature and progress stage. Also, the Research Supervisor conducts a progress evaluation of research projects for the researchers of which are requesting an ACT-X acceleration phase research for a maximum of one year, additionally, at a time of approximately two years after the beginning of the research projects to determine research projects which will receive the additional supports.
- (4) Additional research project evaluations may be conducted when they are determined to be necessary by the Research Supervisor.
- (5) In CREST, the Research Supervisor will request the research plan revision of research projects, and make research resource reallocations between the projects, including increases or decreases of their research budgets, changes of the research team organization, based on the result of the interim and additional evaluation of the research projects. Occasionally, the Research Supervisor also takes measures such as a merger of or a reorganization between different research projects, or a termination of a research project, based on the result.
- (6) At a certain time after the completion of a research project, JST will conduct a follow-up investigation on the research project, examining matters on the development and application of the research result and the activity of researchers participated in the research project. Based on the follow-up investigation, external experts assigned by JST will conduct a following-up evaluation of the research project.

5.2.5 Research Area Evaluation

Apart from the research project evaluations mentioned in “5.2.4 Project Evaluations,” Research Area Evaluation will be conducted to evaluate Research Areas and the Research Supervisors. The Research Area evaluations include interim and completion evaluations. The evaluations focus on matters on the status of progress of a Research Area toward the achievement of the relevant Strategic Objective and the status of management of the Research Area.

5.2.6 Responsibilities of CREST PI, Co-PI, and PRESTO/ACT-X PI

- (1) CREST PIs, Co-PIs, and PRESTO/ACT-X PIs are obliged to conduct their research, honestly and effectively, fully understanding that their research is funded by precious tax revenues collected from citizens.
- (2) These persons must agree with fulfilling the following duties presented to them at JST briefing and other and submit an agreement to JST, after their research projects are selected.
 - a. Comply with requirements such as Application Guidelines and Rules of Institution.
 - b. Understand that JST research budgets are funded by tax revenues from citizens and do not become involved in any research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, and/or the improper use of the research fund.
 - c. Ensure that all the researchers and others participating in the research project are informed of the Educational Program on Research Integrity and let them to enroll in and complete the program. For details, refer to “6.2 Participation and completion of programs related to research ethics education”.
 - d. Note that failure to complete the Educational Program on Research Integrity above in c. would result in the suspension of the research budget until the completion has been confirmed by JST.
- (3) The CREST PIs, the Co-PIs, and other Research Participants of CREST, the PRESTO/ACT-X PIs, and research assistants of PRESTO and ACT-X, and student of ACT-X , in cases who is not a party to the Research Contract and does not have operating authority for research budget due to the regulations of their affiliated institution, the researcher’s academic supervisor (see“4.2.6 Proposal Submission Requirements”) will required to complete the Educational Program on Research Integrity to prevent research misconduct (fabrication, falsification, and/or plagiarism). For details, refer to “6.1 Participation and completion of programs related to research ethics education”.
- (4) Pursuing and Managing Research
 - a. CREST PIs are taken responsibility for the whole research team, including the preparation and implementation of his/her research plan.
 - b. PRESTO and ACT-X PIs are responsible for the execution and results of their research. They are also responsible for preparing the research location and research environment necessary for the promotion. If

the location or environment of the research is deemed to be a serious obstacle to the promotion, JST may take measures such as canceling the research project.

- c. CREST PIs and PRESTO/ACT-X PIs are responsible for submitting research reports and other required documents to JST and their Research Supervisors as well as for materials preparation required for the evaluation of their research project. They also are responsible for submitting a research report describing the progress of their research to the Research Supervisor on his/her request as well as for regularly submitting a semiannual report to him/her.
- d. To ensure appropriate research promotion and evaluation, it is a principle that the CREST PIs as well as PRESTO and ACT-X individual researchers, cannot engage in collaborative research with the research supervisor / advisors on the adopted projects. If new conflicts of interest arise from collaboration or other interactions outside the adopted projects with the Research Supervisor or Research Area Advisor, it is necessary to manage these conflicts of interest. Therefore, you are required to report to JST in advance. For details on the management, please refer to "5.1.2(2) Conflicts of Interest Involving Research Project Applicants and the Research Supervisor."

- (5) CREST PIs, together with research institutions, shall appropriately manage (expenditure planning, monitoring, etc.) overall research budgets for research teams. CREST Co-PIs, together with research institutions, shall appropriately manage (expenditure planning, monitoring, etc.) research budgets for their own research team.

PRESTO and ACT-X PIs shall be responsible for matters including oversight of the expenditure and management of funds, performance of administrative procedures, management of research assistants, and matters related to travel. In case an ACT-X PI is a person who is not a party to the Research Contract and does not have operating authority for research budget due to the regulations of their affiliated institution, the Researcher's academic supervisor other related person is asked to bear responsibility as the "research implementation manager" in the Research Contract with JST (see "4.2.6 Proposal Submission Requirements"). For example, if the student engages in misconduct or the like, the responsibility for that act shall be borne not only by the student, but also by the academic advisor, etc.

- (6) PIs and CREST Co-PIs must be mindful of research and working environments and conditions for their own group's Research Participants.

- (7) In CREST and PREST Program, the PI and Co-PI should actively support young doctoral researchers. Especially for CREST, in the research project selection interview, research project applicants will be asked about plans² for supporting the development of varied domestic and international career paths for research staff who have recently completed doctoral programs and will be employed with research budget funds. In

² Part of the activities in these plans can be included in research efforts.

addition, in interim and completion evaluations, questions will be asked regarding the status of career path assistance efforts and the post-completion career paths of young doctoral researchers. Responses to these questions will be positively evaluated.

※ Please refer to the details in “6.18 Support for Diverse Career Paths for Young Researchers”

(8) PIs are obliged to participate in Research Area meetings with the Research Supervisor and Research Area Advisors (twice annually) and engage in activities such as reporting on research results.

(9) Handling of Research Results

a. Given that research results are obtained with National Government funding, it is requested that research results be actively reported both domestically and internationally, with due consideration for the acquisition of intellectual property rights. Furthermore, we kindly request your cooperation in facilitating the open access of research papers and related documents (*).

* <https://www.jst.go.jp/all/about/houshin.html#houshin04>

b. When reporting on research results through research papers or other media, please acknowledge that the research results were obtained by the Strategic Basic Research Programs (CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X).

c. Research team members may be requested to participate in domestic and international workshops and symposia sponsored by JST to report research results.

d. It is requested that an active effort be made to secure intellectual property rights. In principle, intellectual property rights are applied for by the research institution in accordance with the research contract.

(10) Researchers are requested to actively engage citizens in discussions of science and technology to promote citizens' understanding and supporting of science and technology. Especially in CREST Program, efforts on the engagement of citizens will be positively evaluated at both interim and completion evaluations of research projects.

※Please refer to the guideline details in “6.20 Dialogue and Collaboration with Public Stakeholders.”

(11) Researchers shall abide by Research Contract entered by JST and research institutions and shall abide by JST's various rules.

(12) It should be noted that JST will provide research project names, researchers names, research budget information, and other required information to the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) and the Government Research and Development Database. Principal Investigators and others are going to be requested to provide these types of information in this respect. (“6.35 Handling of Information Provided in Research Proposals, etc”)

(13) Researchers are required to cooperate with research evaluations, accounting audits and other similar activities.

(14) Researchers are requested to provide various types of information, responding to interviews, etc., for the follow-up investigation that will be performed sometime after the completion of research project.

5.2.7 Responsibilities of Research Institutions

Research Institutions must fully recognize that the research funds are public funding and ensure compliance with related law and make efforts to implement the research effectively. Research institutions that cannot accomplish the tasks described below will not implement research. Researchers are requested to obtain a consent of pursuing the tasks from their implementing research institutions before conducting research.

(1) For Domestic Institutions

a. Research institutions are obliged to conclude a Research Contract with contents proposed by JST, as a standard, also they are obliged to properly implement research, in accordance with the Research Contract, administration process manual, and research plan approved by the Research Supervisor and JST. In the case, if cannot conclude a research contract with JST, or judged by JST that they cannot properly implement research, an implementation of a research at the institutions shall not be admitted.

※ The latest sample of research contract is available to the following URL.

- Universities, etc.: <https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/kisoken/2026/kisokena.html>

- Companies, etc.: <https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/kisoken/2026/kisokenc.html>

b. Research institutions with an autonomous institutional management and audit system for public research budgets are obligated to properly execute the contract research funds in accordance with the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)” (decided by the Minister of MEXT on February 15, 2007; revised on Feb. 1, 2014). in addition to reporting the status of their management and audit system for public research budgets to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, research institutions are also obligated to be cooperative in various investigations into their system implementation and other related matters (6.29 Consideration on “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)”).

※ Please refer to the following URL for the guidelines.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1343904_21.htm

c. In accordance with the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (August 26, 2014, adopted by the Minister of MEXT), research institutions are obliged to implement regulations and systems necessary for preventing research misconducts, and are responsible for operating the regulations and systems effective in actual situations. Also, are responsible for responding to various investigations relating to the construction of administration based on the guideline (“6.33 Measure taken to the Violation of Related Guidelines”).

※ Please refer to the following URL for the guidelines.

https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/26/08/1351568.htm

- d. Research institutions are responsible for ensuring that associated researchers fully recognize the contents of the above guidelines described in b. and c. and making them trained with educational materials related to research ethics provided by JST (6.2 Participation and completion of programs related to research ethics education).
- e. Research institutions shall expend and manage research expenses properly in accordance with the regulations of the research organization while keeping reasonable flexibilities in the expenditure operation; as for expense items subjected to the administrative process manual, etc., provided by JST, stating special regulation rules of expense in the Strategic Basic Research Programs. (Research institutions receiving Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research expenses can handle their expense in conformity with the handling rule of the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research expenses, as for items not described in the administrative process manual).
- f. Research institutions need to conclude contracts with researchers who are going to participate in the Research and are to be inventors of intellectual properties regarding the Research, to ensure the properties be transferred from the researchers to the institutions. In particular, when a person who is not subject to the service invention regulations of a research institution such as a student who is not in an employment relationship with the research institution is a research participant, it is necessary to take appropriate action, such as concluding an contract with the student in advance to ensure that intellectual property rights pertaining to the invention (including conception) made by the student in the course of conducting the research belong to the research institution, except in cases where it is clear that the student cannot become the inventor. Regarding the conditions of compensation for transfer of intellectual property rights, those concerned are asked to act in a way that is not unfavorable to the student who is the inventor.

As a general rule, prior approval from JST is required when transferring intellectual property rights to another party or granting an exclusive license. Furthermore, prior reporting to JST is required when filing an application, registering, implementing, or abandoning an intellectual property right.

With regard to intellectual property created through JST-commissioned research, even after the commissioned research is completed, you are obligated to make the necessary applications and notifications to JST in accordance with Article 17 of the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act. Research institutions are requested to establish appropriate management and reporting systems.

- g. Research institutions are obligated to respond to accounting investigations by JST and account audits by the government.
- h. Research institutions are obliged to obey measures pertaining to the change of terms of payment as well as accept the decrease of payments decided by JST, based on JST investigations on their administrative management systems, financial conditions, etc.

In addition, if the project evaluation at the end of the JST mid- and long-term target period calls for the dissolution or contraction of the JST, or changes in the state of budgetary measures in the national budget, in the case of contract cancellation and contract research expenses reduction measures may be taken on the contract period. In addition, based on the results of the mid-term evaluation of research subjects, it may take measures such as increase or decrease of commissioned research expenses, change of contract

period, cancellation of research, etc., and when JST judges that the continuation of research is not appropriate. Even during the term of the contract, JST may take measures such as cancellation of the contract. Research institutions need to follow these measures.

- i. When research institutions are national or municipal organizations, such institutions concluding research contracts are definitively obliged to implement necessary budgetary measures before entering research contracts for which they are responsible. (In case it becomes apparent that the non-fulfillment of necessary measures has not been taken, after the concluding the contract, JST will take measures to release the research contract and rescind the research funds.)
- j. As for prevent misconduct in research and development activities, JST has required researchers, who were newly selected in research projects and affiliated with a research institution, to complete one of the following programs or courses.

Provided by APRIN, Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity 「eAPRIN」

Provided by JSPS, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science 「eL CoRE」

Provided by JSPS, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science 「For the Sound Development of Science - The Code of Conduct for Sincere Scientists -」

Provided by AMED, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development 「A Compendium of Near-Miss Incidents Related to Research Integrity」

Other research ethics education programs and training sessions deemed equivalent by the affiliated research institution. (If the research institution considers it equivalent, the video material "Gaps in Ethics" provided by JST is also acceptable.)

If it is difficult to participate in a research ethics education program at your affiliated institution, such as when the program is not offered there, you can complete eAPRIN (an e-learning material operated by the Association for Promotion of Research Integrity) through JST.

In the case if the relevant researchers of the institution fail to complete the educational program as stipulated despite repeated reminders by JST, JST will suspending research fund partially or entirely. consequently, the research institution should halt all use of the research funds and not restart the use until further notice from JST is given.

- k. To ensure that there are no impediments to the proper implementation of research or the utilization of research results, etc., please take necessary measures, such as concluding joint research agreements with participating institutions, within the scope that does not violate the contract research agreement with JST.
- l. Research institutions are requested to take appropriate measures to fulfill their accountability, paying full attention to economics, efficiency, effectiveness, legitimacy, and accuracy, since the national funds as a source of funding shall be used for entrusted research expenses. In addition, research institutions should

make sure working on planned execution and not to procure for the purpose of budget reduction at the end of the research period or at the end of the fiscal year.

- m. This program is subject to security trade control requirements. In principle, if you intend to export (provide) goods or technologies regulated under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949), you must obtain permission from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. Additionally, if you export items on the regulated list or provide technologies on the regulated list to foreign countries, you need to establish a security trade control system (6.6 Security Export Control (Measures against Leakage of Technology internationally)).

(2) For Overseas Institutions

- a. In principle, research institutions must conclude a research agreement using the "Collaborative Research Agreement" model form with the contents presented by JST. (In some cases, the text of contractual items may be adjusted when a rational reason is recognized, considering the special characteristics of the research or the like). In all cases, the contract negotiation period shall in principle be up to three (3) months, starting from the date JST initiates negotiations. Indirect costs are limited to 30% of direct costs. In further, research institutions are responsible for properly implementing the Research in accordance with the research agreement and research plan. When an agreement cannot be concluded between the research institution and JST, or when it is judged by JST that the research at the research institution will not be properly implemented, the implementation of the research at the research institution shall not be admitted.

※ The latest sample of the "Collaborative Research Agreement" is available to the following website.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/ryoiki.html>

- b. Research institutions are responsible for appropriately spending and managing research funds in accordance with the research contract and, if JST specifies other guidelines, in accordance with those guidelines. They are also required to prepare and submit accounting reports in English, including detailed expense statements (equivalent to an income and expenditure ledger for domestic institutions). Research institutions shall respond to various investigations related to implementation status per JST request in the period of the contract.

- c. For more details of the terms and conditions, please refer to the latest "Collaborative Research Agreement" form.

※ From the viewpoint of Security Export Control, JST may not conclude joint Collaborative Research Agreement with such institutions as announced in the "Foreign User List"³ (or "End User List") by Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI).

※ ACT-X cannot conduct research in overseas institutions.

³ METI has issued the End User List, providing exporters with information on foreign entities for which concern cannot be eliminated regarding involvement in activities such as the development of weapons or weapon-related items, for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the catch-all control* on cargos and other loads relating to WMDs and other items.
https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/20250929_3.pdf

Chapter 6 Key Points in Submitting Proposals

6.1 About the use of generative AI

When using the Generative AI to create application documents, there are risks such as copyright infringement and the leakage of personal or confidential information. Researchers should understand these risks and make their own decisions about whether or not to use it.

6.2 Participation and completion of programs related to research ethics education

As a requirement for application, applicants must have completed a program in research ethics education. Applications will be deemed incomplete if the completion of such a program cannot be verified. (For CREST applications, it is not mandatory for the Co-PIs to have completed the program at the time of application.)

Please complete the procedures for declaring participation and completion of the research ethics education program by following either method (1) or (2) outlined below. For detailed instructions on how to enter information in e-Rad, refer to "[Chapter 8: Submission via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System \(e-Rad\)](#)."

- (1) In the case where you have completed a program at your affiliated institution: If you have completed various research ethics education programs, such as e-learning or training sessions conducted by your affiliated institution, as of the application submission date, please declare that you have completed it in the application information input screen on e-Rad.
- (2) If you have not completed a program at your affiliated institution (including situations where the program is not offered at your affiliated institution):
 - a. If you have previously completed eAPRIN in JST projects:

If you have completed eAPRIN as part of JST projects by the application submission date, please declare this on the application information input screen in e-Rad.
 - b. In cases other than those described in a.:

If it is difficult to participate in a research ethics education program at your affiliated institution, such as when the program is not offered there, you can complete the eAPRIN Digest (including the English version) through JST. Please promptly participate and complete the program via the URL below. The required time for participation is approximately 1-2 hours, and there is no cost. Participation URL: <https://edu2.aprin.or.jp/ard/>

■ Consultation Desk for Contents of Research Ethics Education Programs: Research Integrity Section, Legal and Compliance Department, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

E-mail : rcr-kousyu@jst.go.jp

■ For inquiries regarding the call for proposals:

Japan Science and Technology Agency, Strategic Basic Research Programs

E-mail : rp-info@jst.go.jp (For inquiries related to this Call for Proposals only)

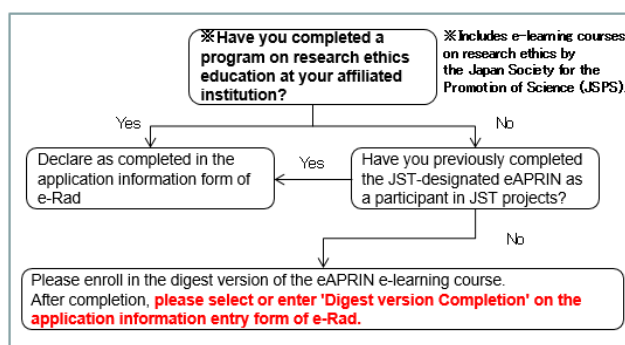
※ Please include the following details in your email: the program name (CREST, PREST, or ACT-X), the name of the research proposer, and the title of the project. JST will not be accepting inquiries from October, 2026 to February, 2027. Please contact the contact point for each program.

CREST : crest@jst.go.jp

PRESTO : presto@jst.go.jp

ACT-X : act-x@jst.go.jp

Flowchart for Completion and Declaration of Participation in Research Ethics Education Programs



Please note that JST requires researchers participating in CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X to complete one of the following programs or materials:

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- Provided by APRIN, Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity 「eAPRIN」
- Provided by JSPS, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science 「eL CoRE」
- Provided by JSPS, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science 「For the Sound Development of Science - The Code of Conduct for Sincere Scientists -」
- Provided by AMED, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development 「Responsible Research Practices to Learn from Cases」
- Provided by AMED, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development 「A Compendium of Near-Miss Incidents Related to Research Integrity」
- Other research ethics education programs or training sessions deemed equivalent by the affiliated research institution. (If the research institution considers it equivalent, the video material "Gaps in Ethics" provided by JST is also acceptable.)

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If it is difficult to participate in a research ethics education program at your affiliated institution, such as when the program is not offered there, you can complete eAPRIN (an e-learning material operated by the Association for Promotion of Research Integrity) through JST. This provision will also apply in the next fiscal year. If selected, all research participants (including CREST co-PIs) will, in principle, be required to complete one of the aforementioned research ethics education programs or materials designated by JST. This requirement does not apply if the participant has already completed one of the programs or materials designated by JST through their affiliated institution or JST projects.

6.3 Measures against Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration

○ Measures against “Unreasonable Duplication”

If a given Research Project by a given researcher (i.e. the name and content of the research is the same, and the research is receiving competitive research funding) is unnecessarily receiving multiple competitive research funds or other research funds (all current research funds for individual research subjects, such as subsidies, grants, joint research funds, contract research funds, etc., including those from overseas (*)), and any of the

following applies, research projects may be rejected, canceled or reduced (hereinafter referred to as "rejection of research projects") depending on the degree in this program.

- In the case that there are applications for multiple competitive research funds and other research funds at the same time for research projects that are substantially the same (including cases where they overlap to a considerable extent; the same applies hereinafter), and they are adopted more than once.
- In the case that there are multiple applications for research projects that are substantially the same as the competitive research funds or other research funds that have already been selected and funded.
- In the case that there is an overlap in intended application of research funding between multiple research projects.
- Other cases equivalent to the above.

At the application stage for this program there are no limitations regarding the submission of proposals to other competitive research funding programs or other research funds. If a research project is selected by another competitive research funding program or other research funds, report this promptly to the contact address given at the end of this document. If there is any omission in this report, there is a possibility that the research theme will be rejected in this program.

* Excludes basic expenses or internal funds that are allocated within the institution to which the company belongs, commercial activities stipulated by the Commercial Code, and financing through direct or indirect financing.

○ Measures against “Excessive Concentration”

Even if the content of the research proposed for this program differs from the content of another research being carried out under another competitive research funding program or other research funds, if the overall research funding allocated to the same researcher or research group (hereinafter referred to as “researchers”) in the relevant fiscal year exceeds an amount that can be utilized effectively and efficiently and can be used within the research period, and in this program, research projects may be rejected in accordance with the degree of the following cases.

- In the case that an excessive amount of research funding is being received in light of the capabilities of the researchers and the research methods being used, etc.
- In the case that an excessive amount of research funding is being received, compared with the amount of effort (percentage of the researchers’ overall working time(※) that is required for carrying out the said research project) allocated to the research project.
- In the case that highly expensive research equipment is purchased unnecessarily.
- Other cases equivalent to the above.

For this reason, if you submit proposals to other competitive research funding programs, after submitting your application to this program, and the research project is selected by another competitive funding program, or if any information provided on your application changes, please report this promptly to JST at the contact address given at the end of this document. If reporting is omitted, the approval decision for the research project may be revoked.

※ The total work time of a researcher includes the time not only for research activities but also for teaching activities, management assignments, and other activities substantially equivalent to work.

○ How to eliminate Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration

To eliminate unreasonable duplication and excessive concentration of competitive research funds, ensure transparency in research activities, and ensure appropriate efforts, applicants shall provide the following information at the time of application.

- (i) Providing information on the current application / acceptance status of other competitive research funds including other ministries and other research funds, and all current affiliated institutions / positions.

At the time of application, regarding the PI and the Co-PIs, the current application / acceptance status of other competitive research funds including other ministries and other research funds (system name, research subject, implementation period, budget amount, effort, etc.) (Hereinafter referred to as "information on research funds") and information on all current affiliated institutions / positions (including side jobs, participation in foreign recruitment programs, honorary professors without employment contracts, etc.) (hereinafter referred to as "information") Please enter "information about your institution / position" in the application documents and the "Cross-ministerial R&D Management System" (e-Rad). If the application documents or e-Rad contain false statements, the research project may be rejected.

Of the information on research expenses, information on joint research with which confidentiality agreements have been signed will be handled as follows in consideration of individual circumstances so that activities such as industry-academia collaboration will not be shrunk.

- Only the information necessary to confirm whether the submitted research project does not result in unreasonable duplication or excessive concentration of research funds and can appropriately secure the effort related to the execution of the research project (in principle, information of the joint research such as only the name of the partner institution, the amount of research funds accepted, and information related to effort) will be requested.
- However, if it is difficult to submit due to unavoidable circumstances such as when it is difficult to submit based on the contents of the confidentiality agreement that has already been concluded, it is possible to submit the application without entering the name of the partner institution and the amount

of research expenses accepted. Even in that case, JST may make inquiries to the institution to which we belong if necessary.

- In addition to the affiliated institution, information may be shared between distribution institutions and related ministries and agencies, but even in that case, it will be shared only by those who have a duty of confidentiality.

When concluding a non-disclosure agreement, etc. in the future, please consider assuming that you may submit only the necessary information when applying for competitive research funds. However, if both contracting parties agree on the scope of information to be kept confidential and its legitimate reason (such as when considered to be extremely important in corporate strategy and highly confidential), the confidential information will be submitted. Please note that it is possible to make a contract that does not assume.

(ii) Provision of other information necessary to ensure transparency in all research activities in which one is involved.

To ensure transparency in all research activities in which you are involved, including information on research expenses, information on affiliated institutions and job titles, and support for facilities and equipment other than donations and funds (※). JST requests a pledge that we are properly reporting the information necessary for the research to the institution to which we belong based on the relevant regulations. If it is found that an appropriate report has not been made in violation of the pledge, the research project may be rejected.

Regarding information on the acceptance status of facilities / equipment, etc. that are not used for the research project of the application but are used for the research that is separately engaged, can the research project be sufficiently carried out without unreasonable duplication or excessive concentration. From the viewpoint of confirming, in addition to the pledge, JST may ask the affiliated institution to submit the status of grasping and managing the information.

- ※ Includes cases where articles such as research facilities, machines, and equipment are supplied, and services are provided even in the manner of free of charge.

○ Information on Proposal Contents Provided to Eliminate Unreasonable Duplications and Excessive Concentration

In order to eliminate unreasonable duplication and excessive concentration, to the extent necessary the information of some proposals (or selected projects/programs) may in some cases be provided through the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) to other departments in charge of competitive funds, including other government ministries.

6.4 The State of Acceptance of Applications for Other Competitive Research Funds Including Other Governmental Bodies

- If you are receiving Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research or other competitive research funding operated by the National Government or independent administrative agencies (including national research and development agencies), or other research grants (including funding for which applications have been submitted), please provide information of this funding in the research proposal in the prescribed format (CREST Form 7, PRESTO Form 6, ACT-X Form 6).

Based on information on the content of the research proposal and effort (research time allocation rate), if either unreasonable duplication or excessive concentration of competitive research funding has formed, the research proposal may not be selected, or selection may be withdrawn, or research funding may be reduced. Furthermore, the research proposal may also not be selected, or selection may be withdrawn, or research funding may also be reduced in the case that the information provided in the research proposal is found to be false.

- In order to eliminate an unreasonable duplication or an excessive concentration of competitive funding if a researcher is receiving other competitive research funding operated by the National Government or independent administrative agencies (including national research and development agencies), or other research grants, or if researcher has been selected for such funding, the researcher may not submit proposals to this program for research with the same project name or content.
- If an applicant is scheduled to receive 100 million yen or more from research funding under other programs or research grants, etc. in FY2026, in view of the purpose of eliminating unreasonable duplication and excessive concentration, generally, final selection of the research project and its budget amounts are decided in an integrated manner. In the case that the applicant is scheduled to receive a total of 100 million yen or more from multiple funding systems/grants, he/she is given consideration individually in the selection process. Although not relevant for research projects at the application stage, the research proposal may be removed from the selection process of this program or the selection decision of the proposal withdrawn, depending on its outcome of selection for other competitive funding or research grants.

6.5 Ensuring research integrity against new risks associated with internationalization and openness of research activities

To promote the creation of science and technology and innovation in Japan, it is necessary to continue to strongly promote international joint research with various partners, with open science as the main principle. At the same time, in recent years, new risks have arisen from the internationalization and openness of research activities, raising concerns that the values that form the foundation of the research environment, such as openness and transparency, could be undermined, and that researchers could unintentionally fall into conflicts of interest or

responsibilities. Amid this, it has become essential for Japan to build an internationally trustworthy research environment in order to promote necessary international cooperation and exchange while protecting the values that form the foundation of the research environment.

Therefore, it is important for universities, research institutions, etc. to establish relevant regulations and management systems, including those regarding conflicts of interest and conflicts of responsibility, in accordance with "the policy for ensuring research integrity against new risks associated with the internationalization and openness of research activities" (decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on April 27, 2021), and to autonomously ensure the soundness and fairness (research integrity) of research at researchers and universities, research institutions, etc.

From this point of view, we are confirming whether we can appropriately secure efforts while eliminating unreasonable duplication and excessive concentration of competitive research funds and ensuring transparency in research activities. We may make inquiries to the institution to which we belong, as necessary, regarding the status of maintenance of regulations and the status of grasping and managing information.

In the "Procedures for Efforts to Ensure Research Security" (Expert Panel on ensuring research security and research integrity, December 2025, Cabinet Office), it is stated that ensuring research security is essential to building mutual trust with G7 countries and other like-minded countries and to continuing to smoothly promote international collaborative research. For more information, please refer to the Cabinet Office website.

○ "Procedures for Efforts to Ensure Research Security"

(Expert Panel on ensuring research security and research integrity, December 2025, Cabinet Office)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/kokusaiteki/integrity/yushikisha/guidelines_v1.pdf

This project has been designated as a Specific Research and Development Program. Please share the following information thoroughly with the relevant departments at the institutions of the principal investigator and main collaborators before submitting your proposal.

(I) Designation of Specific Research and Development Programs

Within this project, the following Research Areas have been designated as specific research and development programs. From the perspective of ensuring research security, JST requires the research institutions to which the principal investigator belongs and the research institutions to which the main collaborative researchers belong to implement risk management based on the "Procedures for Efforts to Ensure Research Security"

※Scope of this Initiative:

Research Area: CREST 「Pioneering Unexplored Fields in Quantum Science and Technology」

CREST 「Creation of Ultra Enduring Materials and Establishment of Their Theoretical foundation」

CREST 「Fundamentals and Core Technologies for Embodied AI」

CREST 「Creation of Interdisciplinary System Foundation for a Symbiotic and Collaborative Society with Humans and AI」

CREST 「Frontier Exploration via the Synergy of Photonics/Optics with Information, Communication, Sensing, and Material Technologies」

Research Projects: Applicable from new projects to be adopted in the fiscal year 2026

Target Institutions: Research institutions recognized as "universities, etc." or "corporations, etc." in the entrusted research contract.

(II) Specific Details of Risk Management

The content of risk management to be implemented will be based on the "Procedures for Efforts to Ensure Research Security." Specifically, it will be decided in consultation with JST, the PI, and the research institution based on the responses to the "Questionnaire on Research Security" that will be sent separately to the principal investigators of projects that are candidates for adoption and are subject to risk management.

(III) Response Deadline of “Questionnaire on Research Security”

If the research is subject to risk management, the PI must obtain the consent of the Co-PIs and confirmation from the relevant department at the PI's and the Co-PIs' affiliated institutions (including departments in charge of research security and research integrity, if any), and then submit a response to the above-mentioned "Questionnaire on Research Security" by the deadline separately determined by JST.

(IV) Confirmation of risk management results

JST and MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) will review the submitted responses. As a result, if necessary, may request that the research institutions to which the principal investigator and the lead collaborators belong implement additional risk mitigation measures.

(V) Handling of personal information

For the purpose of implementing risk management to ensure research security, the personal information of researchers and others provided may be used within the scope necessary by JST, as well as by government agencies such as the MEXT and the Cabinet Office that receive the personal information from JST.

(VI) Measures to be taken in the event of a violation of the procedure

Based on the "Procedures for Efforts to Ensure Research Security" violations of these procedures may be treated as fraudulent receipt of funds under the "Guidelines for the Proper Execution of Competitive Research Funds" (agreed upon by the Liaison Committee of Related Ministries and Agencies on Competitive Research Funds on September 9, 2005), taking into account the maliciousness of the act and the seriousness of the consequences, and measures such as restricting applications to this program may be taken against researchers who have fraudulently received funds and researchers who collude with them.

6.6 Security Export Control (Measures against Leakage of Technology internationally)

Many cutting-edge technologies are being researched at the institutions. Particularly at universities, there is a heightened risk of leakage of advanced technologies and research-related materials/equipment or misuse in development/manufacture of weapons owing to the increased number of international students and foreign researchers due to internationalization. For this reason, an organizational response by the research institution is required when a research institution conducts research activities, including the relevant contract research, so that research results with potential military applications are not passed to groups or individuals considering activities of concern, such as terrorist groups and developers of weapons or weapon related items.

In Japan, export controls (※1) are imposed based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949; hereinafter, "Foreign Exchange Act"). Accordingly, when attempting to export (provide) goods or technologies controlled under the Foreign Exchange Act, in principle, a license from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) is necessary. All those participating in this program must comply with the Foreign Exchange Act and all other laws, ordinances, guidelines, notifications, etc. of the national government. In addition to legal action and penalties, distribution of research funds may be stopped and the decision to allocate research funds may be cancelled if research is conducted in violation of the relevant laws, ordinances, guidelines, etc.

※1 Currently, Japan's security export control system, based on international agreements, consists of the following two primary regulations:

- (1) List Regulation: This system requires the approval of the Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, in principle, for the export (provision) of goods (technology) that have certain specifications or functions, such as carbon fibers and numerically controlled machine tools.
- (2) Catch-all Regulation: This system requires the approval of the Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry for the export (provision) of goods (technology) not covered by the List Regulation when certain conditions (usage requirements, end-user requirements, or inform requirements) are met.

Not only the export of cargo but also the provision of technology is subject to the regulation of the Foreign Exchange Act. Prior permission is required when providing list-regulated technology to non-residents (including residents who fall under a specific type (※2)), or when providing it in a foreign country. Provision of technology includes providing blueprints, specifications, manuals, samples, and prototypes on paper, by email, or on storage media such as CD, DVD, and USB memory. It also includes the provision of work knowledge through training and technical support at seminars.

Additionally, please be aware that interactions involving technology that may be subject to the Foreign Exchange Act regulations can often be included in activities such as accepting international students or participating in joint research. If you intend to provide technology, etc., acquired through this project, or if you plan to provide technology, etc., that you already possess utilizing this project, those may also be subject to regulations.

Please note that students receiving funding for studying abroad from foreign governments might be considered as specific types of residents under export control regulations of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, even if they are residents. Therefore, receiving institutions should appropriately understand the scholarship status of international students.

※2 A specific type refers to a type of resident who is strongly influenced by non-residents, and refers to the specific type stipulated in 1.(3)① to ③ of "Regarding transactions or acts that provide technology requiring a license pursuant to the provisions of Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Foreign Exchange Act and Article 17, Paragraphs 2 to 4 of the Foreign Exchange Order."

Based on the Foreign Exchange Act, it is necessary to establish a security trade management system when exporting list-regulated cargo or providing list-regulated technology to foreign countries (* 3). Therefore, by the time of contract conclusion, we may need to confirm whether the provision of goods and technologies subject to export control under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act is planned for this project. If there is an intention to provide such goods and technologies, we may also need to confirm the existence of a management system.

If you are willing to provide and do not have a management system, we request that you establish a system by the earlier of provide or the end of this project. The confirmation status may be reported at the request of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

In addition, if it is found that the technology acquired through this project violates the regulations related to the Foreign Exchange Act, the contract may be canceled in whole or in part.

* 3 Exporters, etc. are obliged to comply with the "Exporter Compliance Standards" stipulated in Article 55-10, Paragraph 1 of the Foreign Exchange Act. In addition, the security trade management system here is based on the management system in the "Exporter Compliance Standards", and by appropriately exporting list-regulated cargo or providing list-regulated technology to foreign countries. The internal control system of an organization to prevent illegal exports.

Details of security trade management are available on the websites of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. See below for details.

- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: Security Trade Management (general)

<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/>

- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: Guidance on sensitive technology management related to security trade (for universities and research institutions)

<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/daigaku/guidance5.pdf>

- Center for Information on Security Trade Information

<https://www.cistec.or.jp/export/jisyukanri/modelcp/modelcp.html>

- Information about Transactions or Acts that Provide Technologies that Require Permission Pursuant to the Provisions of Article 25 Paragraph 1 of the Foreign Exchange Act and Article 17, Paragraph 2 to 4 of the Foreign Exchange Order

https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law_document/tutatu/t10kaisei/ekimu_tutatu.pdf

[Transfer of Intellectual Property Rights Abroad in Commissioned R&D under the Japanese Version of the Bayh-Dole Act]

On June 4, 2024, the Expert Council on Economic Security Legislation discussed necessary measures for preventing technology leakage and risk management in research and development programs supported by the government. The discussion resulted in the "Recommendations on Measures to Prevent Technology Leakage for Important Technologies in Economic Security - Measures in Research and Development Programs Supported by the Government."

In response, it is essential for relevant ministries, agencies, and organizations to work together to implement measures to prevent technology leakage.

The proposal includes provisions related to the operation of the Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole Act under Article 17 of the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act. The Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole Act allows

the intellectual property rights arising from national commissioned R&D to be attributed to the contractor (e.g., private companies). However, when transferring such intellectual property rights from the contractor to a third party, prior approval from the government is required, except for transfers to subsidiaries or parent companies. Therefore, if the subsidiary or parent company of the transferee is a foreign company, it may not be possible to prevent the results of government-commissioned research and development from leaking overseas.

1. When a Japanese subsidiary of a foreign company transfers intellectual property to its parent company
2. When a subsidiary of a domestic company becomes a subsidiary of a foreign company through M&A, resulting in business sale/transfer to the foreign company.
3. When a domestic company moves its headquarters overseas and becomes a foreign company

It might not be possible to prevent the outflow of R&D results commissioned by the government to foreign entities.

In light of this, the proposal emphasizes that when transferring intellectual property to parent or subsidiary companies that are foreign entities, prior notification from the contractor is required. A consignor must confirm such prior notifications and ensure proper coordination between contractors.

Therefore, in this project, the contents of the proposal will be reflected in the commissioned contract. We request that you strictly ensure to provide prior notification to JST and obtain approval when transferring intellectual property to foreign companies, etc., in accordance with the contract terms.

6.7 Strict Adherence to United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 2321

In response to the nuclear test and repeated launching of ballistic missiles by North Korea in September 2016, The United Nations Security Council (hereinafter referred to as “Security Council”), adopted Security Council Resolution No. 2321 on October 30, 2016, that substantially increased and strengthened sanctions against North Korea. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) issued the Request for Strict Adherence to United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 2321 (2016 MEXT document No. 98) on February 17, 2017.

“Scientific and technical cooperation” in the section 11 in the main text of the Resolution is not limited to technologies regulated under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, but includes all cooperation with the exception of medical exchange. Accordingly, it is important to remember that the research institution must adhere to this Resolution in all research activities, including the relevant commissioned research.

See the following link for more information on Security Council Resolution No. 2321.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan: United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 2321, Japanese translation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Notice No. 463 (issued on December 9, 2016))

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000211409.pdf>

6.8 Carryover of Research Expenses

As the project progresses, if it becomes difficult to complete expenditure within the fiscal year due to difficulties in determining the preliminary survey or research method for testing and research, various conditions related to the plan, weather conditions, difficulty in obtaining materials, or other unavoidable reasons, in the case of a multi-year contract that continues into the following fiscal year, carryover may be permitted up to the end of the following fiscal year.

6.9 Cross-ministerial Expenses Handing Partitioned Table

The expense items of competitive research costs specific to the Strategic Basic Research Programs are determined on the basis of "Cross-ministerial Expenses Handing Partitioned Table." As for research expenditure, refer to the "Cross-ministerial Expenses Handing Partitioned Table" as well as JST official administration manual on the website (<https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/index2.htm>).

Currently, in response to the "6th Science and Technology / Innovation Basic Plan", the "Integrated Innovation Strategy 2025" and the "Comprehensive Package for Strengthening Research Capabilities and Supporting Young Researchers", the system for competitive research funding is being improved. Based on this, in this project, it is possible to spend personnel expenses of the PI (including the CREST Co-PI from April 2026) expenses related to agency work other than research (buyout expenses) from direct expenses. And, when spending expenses (buyout expenses) related to agency work other than research and PI personnel expenses, the following requirements need and paperwork procedure to be checked.

In addition, based on the "Common Guidelines for the Development of a Competitive Research Funding System from the Perspectives of Gender Equality and Human Resources Development " (February 8, 2023 agreement by the Liaison Committee on Competitive Research Funding), this project makes it possible to use direct costs to pay for expenses related to promoting the development of science and engineering human resources who will lead the next generation.

- "Review of the Possibility of the Use of Direct Costs for Someone to Carry Out Duties Other Than Research (Introduction of Buyout System) and for Principal Investigator (PI) Personnel Expenses (contact)" (revised on November 13, 2020)
<https://www.jst.go.jp/osirase/2020/pdf/20200917.pdf>
- "Measures for Strategic Basic Research Programs (CREST, PRESTO, ACCEL, ACT-X) related to a use of Direct Cost for agency expenses for jobs other than research activity (Buyout System)" (revised on June 3, 2022)
https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/manual/buyout_houshin.pdf
- "Measures for Strategic Basic Research Programs (CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X) Related to the "Use of Direct Costs for Principal Investigator (PI) Personnel Expenses"" (revised on December 5, 2025)
https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/manual/pi_houshin.pdf

6.10 Exchange of Direct Costs between Expense Items

Direct costs of different expense items can be exchanged under certain conditions. Exchanges are allowed without approval from JST when the amount of direct costs to be exchanged does not exceed 50% or 5 million JPY of the total direct costs.

Note that you are not allowed to exchange direct costs and overhead (indirect) costs.

6.11 Securing Research Period until the end of Fiscal Year

To enable researchers to continue their research work until the end of a fiscal year, statements below should be followed in every JST competitive research fund.

(1) The research institutions and researchers must submit the notification of the completion as a work product of the project in a prompt manner when a project is finished. JST makes inspections on the completion of the project and the achievements of the research.

(2) Submit the accounting report by May 31.

(3) Submit the report on the research achievements by May 31.

Each research institution should make efforts to organize necessary systems at the institution based on the fact that the purpose of those practices is to secure the research period that continues at the end of a fiscal year.

6.12 Storage of Receipts and Report of Actual Usage of Overhead Costs (Indirect Costs)

In using overhead costs, research institutions shall, under the responsibility of the head of the research institution, create a policy regarding use, execute it systematically and appropriately in accordance with the policy, and ensure transparency of usage through explanations to researchers. Institutions are required to manage the costs appropriately and store the receipts as evidence for the appropriate use of overhead costs for five years counted from the next fiscal year from which the project ended.

Institutions which receive overhead costs are required to report the actual use of overhead costs via e-Rad before June 30 of the next fiscal year. (If a research institution has acquired two or more competitive research funds, report all indirect costs accompanied by such competitive research funds.)

How to use e-Rad system is described in user manual of e-Rad is provided on the website (https://www.e-rad.go.jp/manual/for_organ.html).

FAQs are also provided on the website (<https://qa.e-rad.go.jp/>).

Due to the revision of the guideline: "Guidelines regarding the execution of overhead cost on competitive research funds" (April 20, 2001, Agreement between the institutions allocating funds and the relevant supervising government bodies), it is now possible for incorporated administrative agency whose funds are funded by funds or management expense grant to use the funds for the replacement of depreciable assets based on accounting standards.

6.13 Promotion on Effective Use of Research Facilities and Equipment

According to “Reform on Competitive Research Funds for Sustainable Creation of Research Achievements (Midterm Summary)” (Examination Meeting on the Reform of Competitive Funds, June 24, 2015), it is considered appropriate that facilities/equipment which are comparatively large in scale and have high general applicability should in principle be shared, under the assumption that the original research objectives are sufficiently accomplished.

In addition, the "6th Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan" (Cabinet decision on March 26, 2021) and the "Integrated Innovation Strategy 2025" (June 6, 2025, Cabinet decision) request the promotion on the maintenance and sharing of research equipment and facilities, to establish a system for introducing, updating and utilizing research equipment (core facility), and to formulate and publish a sharing policy.

The MEXT provided the "Guidelines for Promotion of Sharing of Research Facilities" in March 2022.

“Recommendations for the Revival of Science" (Expert Panel on the Revival of Science, November 18, 2025) is calling for universities to appropriately manage facilities and equipment purchased with competitive research funds as public goods, and for the use of competitive research funds to shift from hardware (facilities and equipment) to software (human resources, systems, and the high-value-added services that result from them). Furthermore, in order to promote and confirm such changes in the use of competitive research funds, "Future Policy for Renovating the Advanced Research Infrastructure to Maximize the Creativity and Efficiency of Research" (Committee on Strengthening the Advanced Research and Development Infrastructure, Research and Development Infrastructure Subcommittee, Council for Science and Technology, July 10, 2025) is required to introduce a system in which, based on recording usage fees for research facilities, etc., when recording the cost of purchasing research facilities, etc. above a certain scale, research institutions must confirm overlaps and shared use plans (the planned timing of sharing, and if sharing is difficult, the reasons for this, etc.) before submitting an application.

Based on the above, if it is anticipated that research facilities or equipment will be purchased under this program, applicants are requested, prior to submission of the application, to confirm at the institutional level whether such facilities or equipment are necessary to be purchased and whether they can be appropriately managed as public assets. Particularly for general purpose equipment acquired for 10 million JPY or more, positive efforts for sharing should be made, including sharing within the scope that does not hinder the progress of the applicable Research Project, use of research facilities and equipment purchased with other research funds, and purchase and sharing by combining multiple research funds, within the scope of the management conditions of other research funds and in accordance with the sharing system in the affiliated institution or organization. It is important to examine the sharing of research facilities due to strengthen research performance. Please note that it is necessary to strike a balance between management as shared equipment/facilities and accomplishment of the research purpose of the applicable Research Project.

Moreover, participants are asked to promote the sharing of research facilities and equipment beyond the framework of individual research organizations and institutions by positively cooperating with the "Inter-University Network for Common Utilization of Research Equipment," which was implemented for the purpose

of the mutual use of facilities in the National Institutions of Natural Sciences, and the sharing system constructed thanks to the "Equipment Support Center Maintenance Business New Shared System Introduction Support Program" and the "New Shared System Introduction Core Facility Construction Support Program" in each university.

- "Reform on the Competitive Research Funds for Sustainable Creation of Research Achievements (Midterm Summary)" (Examination Meeting on the Reform of Competitive Funds, June 24, 2015)
https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/shinkou/039/gaiyou/1359306.htm
- "6th Science and Technology / Innovation Basic Plan" (March 26, 2021, Cabinet decision)
<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/kihonkeikaku/6honbun.pdf>
- "Integrated Innovation Strategy 2025" (June 6, 2025, Cabinet decision)
https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tougosenryaku/togo2025_zentai.pdf
- Unification of usage rules of competitive research funds
(revised on May 24, 2020, Agreement between the institutions allocating funds and the relevant supervising government bodies)
https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/toitsu_rule_r50524.pdf
- "The Purchase of Shared Facilities Using Multiple Research Fund Systems (Use of Combined Total)"
(September 10, 2020, Agreement between the institutions allocating funds and the relevant supervising government bodies)
https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20200910-mxt_sinkou02-100001873.pdf
- "Guidelines for Promotion of Sharing of Research Facilities" (March 2022)
https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20220329-mxt_kibanken01-000021605_2.pdf
- Inter-University Network for Common Utilization of Research Equipment
<https://chem-eqnet.ims.ac.jp/>
- New shared system introduction support program
<https://www.jst.go.jp/shincho/program/sinkyoyo.html>
- Core facility construction support program,
<https://www.jst.go.jp/shincho/program/corefacility.html>
- Recommendations for the Revival of Science (Expert Panel on the Revival of Science, November 18, 2015)
https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/gijyutu/042/mext_00002.html

○ Future Policy for Renovating the Advanced Research Infrastructure to Maximize the Creativity and Efficiency of Research (Committee on Strengthening the Advanced Research and Development Infrastructure, Research and Development Infrastructure Subcommittee, Council for Science and Technology, July 10, 2025)

https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20250710-mxt_kibanken01-000043663_1.pdf

6.14 Improvement of Treatment of Doctoral Student Participants

In the "6th Science and Technology / Innovation Basic Plan" (March 26, 2021, Cabinet decision), financial support for graduate students, especially doctoral students (second semester), to attract excellent students and working people from inside and outside of Japan. The aim is to triple the number of doctoral students who receive living expenses equivalent to the conventional amount (equivalent to about 30% of students enrolled in the doctoral program receiving living expenses equivalent). Set as a numerical target, "RA, etc. in each business and university, etc., in order to promote salary payment at an appropriate level as a research assistant (RA) to doctoral students from competitive research expenses and joint research expenses. We will formulate rules for the expenditure of RA expenses related to employment and rewards, and will implement them sequentially from FY2021. There is a need to expand employment and improve treatment of doctoral students as research assistant (RA) in universities and research institutions.

Moreover, in relation to doctoral students, the "Guidelines for the Employment and Training of Postdoctoral Researchers" (December 3, 2020, Committee on Human Resources, Council for Science and Technology) note that "while they are students, they also possess aspects of researchers, and so it is a key obligation of universities that train researchers to guarantee their treatment and maintain an environment in which they can carry out research activities"; "it is particularly important to treat them based on appropriate evaluations of their contributions, including paying them according to the hours they have worked under appropriate work management by determining compensation commensurate with the nature and content of their duties"; and "in your application for competitive research funds, there is a need to include the costs required if you are employing an RA in a university, and you should review the university's rules to ensure that you can pay your RA(s) an appropriate level of compensation."

Based on the above, in these programs, please actively employ doctoral students who are necessary for the execution of your research as RAs and TAs, and pay them according to the hours they have worked under appropriate work management by setting a unit price commensurate with the nature and content of their duties, while aiming for the salary level to be equivalent to the cost of living. In addition, when applying for these programs, please apply with a financial plan that also considers the costs of salary for the doctoral students mentioned above.

(Points to remember)

- With regard to the salary level equivalent to living expenses, the "6th Science and Technology /Innovation Basic Plan" assumes that 1.8 million JPY or more per year is an amount equivalent to living expenses; it

also references payments to excellent doctoral students—doctoral course students (DC) who are paid research subsidies so they can give their undivided attention to their research without feeling financial unease—and gives approximately 2.4 million JPY per year as an indicative range for the amount needed to live.

- With regard to the treatment of doctoral students who have been hired to carry out a research project, the "Guidelines for the Employment and Training of Postdoctoral Researchers" state that "The standard pay for a specially appointed assistant professor employed with competitive research funds is considered to be around 2,000 to 2,500 JPY per Hour, taking average amounts of pay into account."

※The standard pays for a specially-appointed assistant professor employed with competitive research funds is considered to be around 2,000 to 2,500 JPY per Hour, taking average amounts of pay into account. (Calculated based on the median monthly salary (400,000 to 450,000 JPY) of specially-appointed assistant professors according to the Survey on Instructor Employment at Research Universities (Preliminary Report) published August 2020 divided by the number of working hours per day (7 hours 45 minutes to 8 hours) for actual days worked (19 to 20 days), excepting weekends and holidays, and multiplying by 0.8 considering of their status as doctoral students.)

- The specific amount and period of payment will be determined by the research institution. There is no restriction on the amount of payment above or below the level mentioned above.
- When employing students as RAs, etc., please pay attention so they do not work excessive hours, and consider the balance between work time and the doctoral students' own research and study time.

6.15 Securing Independent and Stable Research Environments for Young Researchers

The "Guideline for Employment and Upbringing of Postdoctoral Researcher" (December 3, 2020, Council for Science and Technology, Committee on Human Resources) point out that "there are many postdoctoral fellows whose tenure is less than three years, however, too short employment period can be a hindrance a major obstruction to career development, and from this view point, it is necessary to secure a term that allows them to settle down and concentrate on their research activities for a certain period of time.", and "after working as a postdoctoral fellow at one or two places, considering that it is desirable to proceed to the next step in about 3 to 7 years until the mid-30s, it is hoped that each post will have a term of 3 to 5 years."

In addition, regarding national universities and inter-university research institution corporations, the Guidelines for Human Resource Payroll Management Reform in National Universities: Towards the Construction of an Appealing Human Resource Payroll Management that will Contribute to Enhancing Education and Research Abilities (February 25, 2019, MEXT) state that "in order to realize both perspectives of training and stable employment for young teaching staff, it is desirable to promote an institutional system that incorporates the perspective of training researchers while maintaining mobility; for example, ensuring a fixed period of

employment of around 5–10 years by making use of expenses that can be used with a high degree of freedom, such as indirect costs or donations, even if there is a fixed period of employment."

Based on the above, if you are employing young researchers such as specially-appointed teaching staff or postdoctoral researchers in these programs, please confirm who is responsible for human resources and accounting in your department, and endeavor to guarantee the research period as the length of their term of employment; please try to ensure as much as possible that the term of employment is fixed by making use of indirect costs, basic costs, donations, etc. from external funds.

6.16 Promotion of Initiatives Related to Gender Equality and Human Resources Development

The "6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan " (March 26, 2021, Cabinet decision), the "5th Basic Plan for Gender Equality " (December 25, 2021, Cabinet decision) and the "Policy Package on Education and Human Resources Development for the Realization of Society 5.0 " (June 2, 2020 decision by the Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation) aim to create a research environment that makes it easy for both men and women to continue their research activities even when life events such as childbirth, childcare, and nursing care occur, and to promote the appointment of talented female researchers as project managers. Furthermore, through efforts to convey the appeal of science and technology to female junior high and high school students, as well as to their parents and teachers, and by increasing the proportion of women who enter master's and doctoral programs primarily in science and engineering, we aim to overcome the low rate of women entering doctoral programs in the natural sciences and to increase the number of potential knowledge bearers in Japan.

Based on these considerations, this project will also give consideration to initiatives aimed at promoting the active participation of female researchers and to expanding the base of human resources who will be responsible for science and technology in the future.

- Direct expenses can be used to pay for expenses related to online classes in science, physics, and chemistry at elementary, junior high, and high schools, as well as in-person lectures given by individuals with a science or mathematics-related doctoral degree.
- Direct expenses can be used to pay for the cost of distributing research results on social media as content that can be easily understood by junior high and high school students.

The results of the above two outreach activities will be included in the research report and will be subject to positive evaluation. The above two outreach activities can also be included in research plans and will be subject to positive evaluation during the review process. Furthermore, it is imperative to conduct research and technological development with due consideration to both biological sexuality and social social/cultural sexuality (gender differences).

- Failure to account for these differences in research and development could result in adverse social impacts upon implementation of the results. Hence, researchers are urged to scrutinize the relevance of sex and gender differences in their work, and incorporate these considerations where applicable.

6.17 Self-motivated Research Activities by Young Researchers Employed to Carry Out Projects

With regard to young researchers employed in these programs, based on the "Implementation Guidelines for Self-motivated Research Activities by Young Researchers Employed with Competitive Research Funds" (Revised on December 18, 2020, Agreement of the Liaison Meeting of Related Government bodies on Competitive Research Funds), if the Principal Investigator, etc. judges that it will not hinder the progress of a project but help it, and permission is obtained from the research institution with which they are affiliated, researchers may use some of their efforts working on these programs for self-motivated research activities and/or activities that will improve their research and management capabilities, while using program funds for personnel expenses. Please see the following for more information.

- Agreement between the institutions allocating funds and the relevant supervising government bodies related to the "Self-motivated Research Activities by Young Researchers Employed to Carry Out Projects" (revised on December 18, 2020)
<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/jisshishishin.pdf>
- Measures for Strategic Basic Research Programs (CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X) related to the "Implementation Guidelines for Self-motivated Research Activities by Young Researchers Employed with Competitive Research Funds" (revised on April 1, 2025)
https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/manual/senjukanwa_houshin.pdf

6.18 Support for Diverse Career Paths for Young Researchers

The “6th Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan” (Cabinet decision of March 26, 2021) also sets targets regarding the creation of "an environment in which excellent young people can develop their potential in various fields, such as academia, industry, and government". Furthermore, the “Guideline for the Employment and Training of Postdoctoral (December 3, 2020, the Committee on Human Resources, Council for Science and Technology Policy) states that "it is essential that doctorate human resources with high level specialization and advanced research skills should help drive innovation by contributing in a wide range of positions, including at venture companies and global corporations, and accordingly, initiatives are needed for the diversification of career paths after the completion of the postdoctoral period.”

Based on this, when a project is selected in this call for research proposals and young researchers such as specially appointed faculty members and postdoctoral personnel are to be employed with public research funds (competitive research funds or other project research funds, or public invitation-type education research funds

for universities), the institution concerned should make active efforts to support those researchers in securing diverse career paths.

Institutions should also consider using indirect funds in these efforts.

See also “5.2.6 Responsibilities of CREST PI, Co-PI, and PRESTO/ACT-X PI”

6.19 Securing R&D Management Personnel such as URA

In the "6th Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan" (Cabinet decision on March 26, 2021), it is pointed out the importance that quality assurance and treatment improvement as professionals so that R&D management personnel such as URA becomes attractive jobs. In addition, the "Comprehensive Package for Strengthening Research Capabilities and Supporting Young Researchers" (January 23, 2020, Science Technology, and Innovation Conference) also showed the need to establish career paths for R&D management personnel, URAs, engineers, etc.

Furthermore, "Guidelines for Personnel Systems for R&D Management Personnel" (June 2025, Human Resources Committee, Council for Science and Technology) clearly states that R&D management personnel are important personnel who not only contribute to producing research results as partners with researchers, but also take on the overall responsibility of R&D management related to the organizational operation of research universities, etc., including procuring and managing organizational research funds and personnel, and being involved in formulating management strategies. In addition, research universities and other institutions are expected to secure and develop R&D management personnel, as well as review the division of responsibilities between researchers, administrative staff, and specialist personnel within the university, and create an environment in which R&D management personnel can motivate and thrive. This will create an environment in which researchers can devote themselves more to research, and further strengthen the role expected of research universities and other institutions.

Based on these, when R&D management personnel such as URA employed by research institutions or newly hired are engaged in the R&D management of research programs of this project, the research institution is not limited to this project, but other management personnel. Please try to secure a fixed term as much as possible by utilizing indirect expenses of external funds, basic expenses, donations, etc.

At the same time, as support for securing a career path for such R&D management personnel, we would like to ask for active efforts such as having them participate in required training, etc. Also, please consider using indirect expenses for the project.

6.20 Dialogue and Collaboration with Public Stakeholders

In "Promotion of" Science and Technology Dialogue with the People "(Basic Initiative Policy)" (decided by the Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy and a member of the Diet on June 19, 2010), the excellent results of science and technology are constantly being achieved. To create and further develop Japan's science

and technology, it is essential to return the results of science and technology to the people, gain the understanding and support of the people, and promote science and technology together. It has been. If the research results are selected for this open call and receive an annual allocation of 30 million yen or more per year, public lectures on research results, symposiums, continuous distribution of research results on the Internet, and various stakeholders We ask that you actively engage in "scientific and technical dialogue with the people" such as round table conferences that involve the public.

(For reference) Promotion of "Science / Technology Dialogue with the People" (Basic Initiative Policy)

https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20200210-mxt_kaiyou-000004770_5.pdf

In the “Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan (decided by the Cabinet on March 26, 2020)”, there is a demand for co-creation of knowledge and enhancement of science and technology communication through the participation of diverse entities such as public participation. The following examples provided by JST are “interactive dialogue and cooperation among diverse subject”.

- Science Agora
<https://www.jst.go.jp/sis/scienceagora/>
- The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)
<https://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp/en/>

6.21 Promoting Open Science

(1) JST's Open Science Policy

JST has formulated a foundational policy on the management of research outcomes to advance open science initiatives (initially implemented in April 2017, revised on April 2022 and April 2025). This policy delineates the core principles governing open access to research publications and the preservation, management, and dissemination of research data arising from academic activities. In accordance with this policy, research outcome papers are generally expected to be made publicly accessible via institutional repositories and publications that adhere to open access guidelines.

Moreover, in alignment with the specific data policies of research institutions, a comprehensive Data Management Plan must be devised. This plan should detail the protocols for the preservation, management, and potential public release or non-disclosure of research data produced during the course of research activities. Researchers are required to submit this Data Management Plan to JST upon request and to conduct their research in strict compliance with the plan, ensuring appropriate preservation, management, and sharing of the research data. The Data Management Plan may be subject to revisions as deemed necessary throughout the research

process. If your institution does not have an institutional repository and you cannot find an appropriate repository, please use GRANTS Data (<https://grantsdata.jst.go.jp>), which JST began operating in November 2025.

Please see the following for more information.

- JST's Basic Policy on the Handling of Research Outcomes for Promoting Open Science
- Operational Guidelines for JST's Basic Policy on the Handling of Research Outcomes for Promoting Open Science

<https://www.jst.go.jp/all/about/houshin.html>

(*1) Items to be included in the DMP and metadata elements are described in these guidelines.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/all/about/houshin.html#houshin04>

- Research DX (Digital Transformation) - Open Science (Cabinet Office)

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/kenkyudx.html>

- Basic Perspective on the Management and Utilization of Research Data Funded by Public Funds (Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Conference)

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tyousakai/kokusaiopen/sanko1.pdf>

- Common Metadata Elements in the "Basic Perspective on the Management and Utilization of Research Data Funded by Public Funds" (as of January 2026)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/common_metadata_elements.pdf

Furthermore, JST will analyze statistical data such as the number of data modules, types of data, types of publication, and storage locations, to comprehend the contents of the Data Management Plan, support researchers, and inform any necessary revisions to the basic policy. While the analyzed statistical data will be made publicly available, individual personal data or identifiable information will not be disclosed. For specific guidelines regarding life sciences data, please refer to "6.23 Data Sharing in the Life Sciences"

(2) Immediate Open Access for Academic Papers

The global trend toward open sharing of knowledge is advancing internationally. By promoting open access through the publication of academic papers, research outcomes are expected to be widely disseminated to the public, thus contributing to the advancement of science and technology, fostering innovation, and addressing global challenges.

Based on the "Basic Policy for Achieving Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers, etc." (as decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Conference on February 16, 2024) (hereinafter referred to as the "Basic Policy"), and the "Specific Measures for the Implementation of the Basic Policy for Achieving Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers, etc." (revised on October 8, 2024, by agreement of the relevant ministries and agencies) (hereinafter referred to as the "Specific Measures"), the peer-reviewed academic papers and the

supporting data(*2) funded by CREST/PRESTO/ACT-X programs are required to be posted to the "Information Infrastructure of Institutional Repositories" immediately after publication in an academic journal (*3). The "Information Infrastructure of Institutional Repositories" refers to the platform that allows academic papers and supporting data to be searchable via the NII Research Data Cloud (*4). Research outcome information submitted in the performance reports at the end of each fiscal year will be transferred to the NII Research Data Cloud via e-Rad. This will make it possible to search for research results information on the NII Research Data Cloud

Additionally, to monitor the status of open access implementation, the items of research output information to be reported in progress reports and other documents have been added and revised. In addition to the existing items, PIs are required to provide information on whether the work is subject to immediate open access, whether immediate open access has been implemented, the reasons for any difficulties in implementing immediate open access (if not implemented), and identifiers such as the URL of the landing page on the "Institutional Repository and Information Infrastructure" where the academic papers and supporting data are published.

- Basic Policy for Achieving Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers, etc. (Decision by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Conference on February 16, 2024)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_240216.pdf

- Specific Measures for the Implementation of the Basic Policy for Achieving Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers, etc. (Revised on October 8, 2024, by Agreement of the Relevant Ministries and Agencies)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/openscience/r6_0221/hosaku.pdf

- FAQ on the Basic Policy for Achieving Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers, etc., and Specific Measures for Its Implementation

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_houshin_faq.pdf

Furthermore, if your institution does not have an institutional repository to facilitate immediate open access for academic papers including electronic supplements, please use repositories such as Jxiv (<https://jxiv.jst.go.jp/index.php/jxiv/index>) and GRANTS Data (<https://grantsdata.jst.go.jp>) operated by JST.

(*2) According to the Basic Policy, "Immediate open access applies to peer-reviewed academic papers (including the author's final draft) published in electronic journals and supporting data (research data mandated for publication by the journal's writing and publication guidelines, with the aim of ensuring transparency and reproducibility)."

(*3) The Specific Measures further clarify: "'Immediate' open access, as stipulated by the Basic Policy, implies there is no embargo period after the publication of academic papers and supporting data in journals funded by competitive research grants. 'Publication in an academic journal' refers to the point at which an academic paper is accessible in an electronic version. If the academic paper is available electronically before specific volume, issue, and page numbers are assigned, this initial availability is considered the 'publication in an academic journal.' The duration required to upload the document to the 'Institutional Repository and Information Infrastructure' may vary depending on the institution's system. Nevertheless, it is recommended that the paper be made publicly accessible within approximately three months following its journal publication."

(*4) Refer to "Overview of the NII Research Data Cloud (provided by the National Institute of Informatics Center for Open Science Research)" (<https://rcos.nii.ac.jp/service/>) for further information.

6.22 Regarding the Systematic Numbering in Acknowledgements of Academic Papers

When presenting research outcomes obtained through this project, please indicate that you received support from this project.

In the Acknowledgement section of your paper, include the statement: "This work was supported by JST [XXX Program] Grant Number [10-digit systematic number]." The 10-digit systematic number for this project follows the format "JPMJ+2 alphabet characters+4 alphanumeric characters."

Examples of how to include this statement in the Acknowledgement section are as follows:

In English: "This work was supported by JST [XXXX Program] Japan Grant Number [JPMJxxxxxx]."

In Japanese: "本研究は、JST[〇〇事業][JPMJxxxxxx]の支援を受けたものです。"

※If your paper relates to more than one project, please list each project name and its corresponding systematic number.

6.23 Data Sharing in the Life Sciences

"Toward Improving Research Capabilities in Life Science (Interim Report)" (July 31, 2024) states that as data-driven research advances in the life sciences, it is important to promote data sharing while taking into account global trends, and to expand the scope of businesses that can benefit from the provision of life science database infrastructure.

Based on this, JST requests your cooperation in registering and publishing the newly constructed databases in the field of life sciences and the data contained in them in the following integrated tool to promote their sharing and utilization in life science.

No.	Type of Data	Place of Disclosure	URL
1.	Overview of databases constructed for disclosure	Integbio Database Catalog	https://catalog.integbio.jp/dbcatalog/
2.	Recorded data in the constructed database for public use	Life Science Database Archive	https://dbarchive.biosciencedbc.jp/
3.	General data on research results using human samples, including base sequence information	NDBC Human Database	https://humandbs.dbcls.jp/

6.24 Regarding External Verification as per the Basic Guidelines for Animal Experiments

Universities and research institutions conducting animal experiments are mandated to comply with the "Basic Guidelines for the Conduct of Animal Experiments in Research Institutions, etc." (MEXT Notification No. 71 of 2006; hereinafter referred to as "Basic Guidelines"). The Basic Guidelines particularly emphasize the 3R principles: Replacement (utilization of alternative methods), Reduction (reduction in the number of animals used), and Refinement (alleviation of animal suffering). It is imperative to conduct animal experiments in accordance with these principles.

Specifically, the Basic Guidelines stipulate that "to ensure transparency in the conduct of animal experiments, the head of a research institution, etc. should periodically conduct inspections and evaluations of the conformity of animal experiments at the institution to the Basic Guidelines and strive to have the results of these inspections and evaluations verified by external parties." Therefore, when applying for this project, if the research involves animal experiments, please ensure that your research institution undergoes external verification. If only certain facilities within your research institution have undergone external verification, please ensure that the entire institution undergoes this verification.

Basic Guidelines for the Conduct of Animal Experiments in Research Institutions (MEXT Notification No. 71 of 2006)

https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/hakusho/nc/06060904.htm

6.25 The National BioResource Project

The National BioResource Project (NBRP) has significantly advanced life science research in Japan by strategically collecting, preserving, and providing essential biological resources to universities and research institutions. To sustain its contributions to the development of life science research in Japan, it is vital to continually collect and preserve valuable biological resources.

Therefore, we request your cooperation in contributing to NBRP's collection activities by depositing any biological resources developed through this project (limited to those targeted by NBRP). Moreover, the use of biological resources already established by NBRP (including animals, plants, microorganisms, cell lines, genetic materials, and information) is highly recommended to facilitate efficient research.

*Deposit: A procedure that permits the use (preservation and provision) of the resource in this project without transferring the associated rights. By detailing the provision conditions in a deposit agreement, it is possible to impose specific usage conditions on users, such as usage limitations and citation requirements in publications.

NBRP Core Organization Development Program: Target BioResources and Representative Institutions List

<https://nbrp.jp/resource/>

6.26 Unified Review of Clinical Trials and Research in Multi-Institutional Collaborative Research

For clinical trials subject to the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act, clinical research subject to the Clinical Research Act (Act No. 16 of 2017), or research subject to the Ethical Guidelines for Life Sciences and Medical Research Involving Human Subjects (Joint Notification No. 1 of 2021 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), the ethical review, etc. (hereinafter referred to as "clinical trials and research") should, in principle, be conducted as a unified review when performing multi-institutional collaborative research. However, this does not apply to basic research where a small number of research institutions are responsible for different contents.

In this project, when conducting clinical trials and research as part of multi-institutional collaborative research, a unified review is required to determine the appropriateness of its implementation. Additionally, the records of the unified review should be properly managed for a specified period, following the rules of the clinical trials and research. For understanding the situation, the research institution may be queried as needed.

(Reference)

Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan (FY2024)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/kisei-kaikaku/kisei/publication/program/240621/01_program.pdf

Pages 51-52: Rationalization of Ethical Review to Protect Human Subjects and Strengthen Research Capabilities

[Relevant Section]

b. The Cabinet Office, Children and Family Agency, MEXT, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, will mandate unified review for clinical trials and research receiving competitive research funds when conducting multi-institutional collaborative research to achieve the objectives of section a. However, this requirement does not apply to basic research where a small number of research institutions are responsible for different aspects of the research.

6.27 Research Support Service Partnership Certification System (A-PRAS)

MEXT established the "Research Support Service Partnership Certification System (A-PRAS)" in FY 2019, aiming to improve the research environment for researchers and accelerate the promotion of science and technology and creation of innovation in Japan. Among the research support services provided by private business operators, those that meet certain requirements are accredited as "Research Support Service Partnership" by MEXT, and as of April 2023, eight services had been accredited. Please take advantage of our wide variety of services, including searching for joint researchers, publicizing and commercializing research results, and procuring research funds and research equipment.

Details of each certified service can be found on the following MEXT web page.

Among the research support services provided by private businesses, those that fulfill certain requirements are certified by the Minister of MEXT as "Research Support Service Partnerships." As of April 2025, 18 services have been certified. A wide variety of services are available, including the search for collaborative researchers, public relations and commercialization of research outcomes, procurement of research funds, and provision of research equipment. Please utilize these services.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kagaku/kihon/1422215_00001.htm

6.28 Reform of Competitive Research Funds

At the present time, the government has received the "6th Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan" and "Integrated Innovation Strategy 2025" and is holding discussions about improving systems related to competitive research funds to enable the more efficient and effective use of research funds. If, within the period of this call for submissions, policies common to all competitive research fund projects are announced regarding the improvement of funding systems and the use of funds, you will be notified about these policies when they apply to submissions for these programs and the use of program funds.

6.29 Consideration on “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)”

(1) Implementation of Management and Audit Systems Based on the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)”

In implementing the program, research institutions must stringently observe the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)” (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on February 15, 2007; revised on February 1, 2021).⁴ There is a need for research institutions, having implemented a system for managing and auditing public research funds, to take responsibility for making every effort to properly disburse the contract research funds in line with the aforementioned guidelines. If MEXT decides that the system of a research institution for managing and auditing is insufficient, based on an investigation according to the said guidelines, measures such as reduction of indirect costs of competitive research funding could be taken on the said institution.

(2) Response and submission of the “Self-evaluation Checklist for Implementation of Proper Systems” based on the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)”

⁴ Please refer to the following URL for the details of the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards).”

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1343904_21.htm

In concluding a contract for this project, the research organization⁵ must prepare for a management and auditing system for research expenses based on the said guidelines and submit a “Self-evaluation Checklist for Implementation of Proper Systems” (“checklist,” hereinafter), which is a report on the situation (research undertaking is not approved unless the checklist is submitted).

Therefore, after April 1, 2026, please review the contents of the following Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology website, download the checklist form from e-Rad, fill out the necessary items, and submit (upload) the completed form to the Competitive Research Fund Coordination Office of the Research Environment Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT via e-Rad before concluding the commissioned research contract.

If a research institution has already submitted the FY2025 version of the checklist, the contract will be accepted regardless of the above. However, in this case, please complete the procedures related to the FY2026 version of the checklist by December 1, 2026.

This response/submission procedure must be continued during the period when competitive research funds are allocated by JST and the funds are being managed.

On the other hand, institutions that are not receiving competitive funds from the MEXT or administrative agencies under the jurisdiction of the MEXT do not have to submit a checklist.

See the website of the MEXT below for details of the method for checklist submission.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm

Since the said guidelines encourage the “promotion of issuing and sharing information,” please proactively publish and disseminate information regarding their misconduct prevention initiatives via their websites.

6.30 Measures against Inappropriate Usage of Research Funds

Inappropriate use and reception (referred to as “inappropriate usage” hereinafter) of research budgets related to implemented issues are strictly treated as described below.

○ Measures Taken in the Case that Inappropriate Usage of Research Expenses are Found

(i) Measures to Cancel Contracts

The Research Contract is cancelled or altered if issues of inappropriate usage are found, and a request is made for refunding all or part of the entrusted funds. Contracts for the following year and subsequent years may not be concluded.

⁵ In the case of “CREST,” the research organizations include not only those with which a CREST PI is affiliated but also those with which Co-PIs are affiliated to whom research expenses are distributed.

(ii) Measures to Restrict Application and Participation Eligibility⁶

Restriction measures set out in the table below, depending on the levels of inappropriate usage, are taken against the application and participation eligibility of researchers⁷ (including researchers who conspired, referred to as (“researchers who conspired to inappropriate usage”)) who exercised inappropriate usage of research expenses of this project or those whose involvement in inappropriate usage is not proven but who violated due care of a prudent manager, or, they are otherwise reprimanded.

Furthermore, the outlines of pertinent inappropriate usage (names of researchers who exercised inappropriate usage, project names, affiliations, research issues, amounts of budget, fiscal year of research, contents of inappropriate usage, contents of measures taken) are provided to persons in charge of competitive research funds including of other ministries, who may restrict application and participation of the researchers in other systems for competitive funds of the prefectures.

Classification of person who committed or is involved in misconduct in use of research budget	Extent of maliciousness in misconduct	Period of ineligibility for applying to competitive research fund, deemed to be reasonable (※3, 4)	
A researcher who committed a misconduct or a researcher who was in conspiracy with a person who committed a misconduct (※1)	1. Use of a research budget to make a private profit	10 years	
	2. Other than 1.	① Impact of the misconduct on the society is substantial and maliciousness of the misconduct is judged to be high	5 years
		② Neither ① or ③	2-4 years
		③ The impact of the misconduct on the society is small and the maliciousness of the misconduct is judged to be low.	1 year
A researcher who used a fabrication and other dishonest means to receive a research fund or etc. and a researcher who was in conspiracy with the person who committed this misconduct		5 years	
A researcher who did not commit or was not involved in a misconduct, but used a research budget, inappropriately, failing to fulfill his/her duty of due care of prudent manager (※2)		1 to 2 years (in maximum) in accordance with the degree of failure of fulfilling his/her duty of due care of prudent manager	

※3: A strict warning is issued under any of the following conditions without restricting application or eligibility for participation.

In case of item (※1), the influence over the society is minor, the malignancy of the act is minor, and the amount of unjustifiable use is small.

In case of item (※2), the influence over society, as well as the malignancy of the act, is minor.

※4: In principle, the application restriction period will be calculated from the following the fiscal year in which the research funds are refunded after the unauthorized use is recognized. Also ineligible in the fiscal year in which inappropriate usage of research funds is identified.

⁶ “Application and participation” refer to the proposal, subscription, and application of a new project; participation in research as a new joint researcher; and participation in an ongoing research project as a Research Director or a joint researcher.

⁷ “Researchers who violate due care” refer to those whose involvement in inappropriate usage is not proven but who violated the duty of due care of product manager they should exercise.

(iii) About Public Announcement of a Case of Inappropriate Usage

Among those who are involved in an inappropriate usage of the program's research funds or those who failed to fulfill their duty of due care of prudent manager, regarding those researchers whose eligibility of application to or participation in this program is restricted, information of the outline of their misconduct (name of research institution, name of program, fiscal year of research, details of misconduct, details of research costs) will be disclosed in principle by JST. At the same time, information of outline of their misconduct will be disclosed in principle by MEXT.

Furthermore, according to the "Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)," once misconduct is determined as the outcome of an investigation of an institution, it will be the responsibility of the research institution to announce the results of the investigation; hence, we request that each research institution deal with the matter appropriately, following the "Guidelines".

※ Please refer to the following URL for the outline of the fraudulent cases currently announced on the website of MEXT.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1364929.htm

6.31 Measures taken for Researchers whose Application and Participation Eligibilities are Restricted in Another Competitive Research Fund System

Researchers on whom restriction is imposed for the reason of inappropriate usage of research expenses in another competitive research fund system⁵, including those from other ministries and agencies, are not eligible to apply to or participate in this program while their qualifications are restricted for application in the competitive research fund system.

"Other competitive fund systems" include currently ongoing systems, those systems that newly start a call for proposals in the 2026 fiscal year and those that finished on and before the 2025 fiscal year.

※ Currently, for specific applicable programs, please refer to the following website.

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/>

6.32 Measure taken to the Violation of Related Guidelines

Violation of the guidelines provided in this chapter, or any other inappropriate behavior may result in withdrawal of approval for the research project or cancellation of the research; return of all or part of the project's research funding, and measures taken to publicize the facts of the matter.

Violation of related laws or guidelines, etc., in conducting research may result in penalties and sanctions being applied to persons and organizations that committed the violation, and the suspension or cancellation of research funding.

6.33 Consideration on “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”

(1) Administrative System based on the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”

In applying to this funding program and conducting research activities, research institutions are required to adhere to the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (decided by the Minister of MEXT on August 26, 2014, hereinafter referred to as the “guidelines”⁸).

In the case that the MEXT finds defects in the approach of organizations as a result of a survey of the situation, based on the guidelines, MEXT may take measures including reduction of indirect expenses of the whole competitive fund for the pertinent organization. The “whole competitive research fund” includes all financing distributed by the MEXT and independent administrative agencies under the jurisdiction of the MEXT

(2) Submission of the “Self-evaluation Checklist” Based on the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”

When concluding a contract for this program, research organizations⁹ must submit “a checklist related to the approach, based on ‘Guidelines for responding to misconduct in research’ (hereinafter, “checklist of inappropriate research conduct”). (The contract is not approved unless a checklist of inappropriate research conduct is submitted).

Accordingly, starting on April 1, 2026, you must review the content of the website, download the FY2026 version of the Research Misconduct Checklist, fill it out, and submit it (upload it) via e-Rad to the Research Integrity Promotion Office, Research Environment Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT.

Institutions that are not receiving competitive funds from the MEXT or administrative agencies under the jurisdiction of the MEXT do not have to submit a Research Misconduct Checklist.

See the website of the MEXT below for details of the method for Research Misconduct Checklist submission.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1420301_00007.html

(The above URL is the research misconduct checklist for FY2025, so please refer to the web page of the MEXT in FY2026.).

⁸ Refer to the following webpage for the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (in Japanese)

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/index.htm

⁹ In the case of “CREST,” the research organizations include not only those with which PI is affiliated but also those of Co-PIs to whom research expenses are distributed. However, if the institute does not receive funding from MEXT or MEXT affiliated organization, the institute do not need to submit the checklist.

(※1) A perfect environment for using e-Rad is necessary for Research Misconduct Checklist submission.

Also be aware that registering a research institution with e-Rad normally takes approximately two weeks. See the URL below in addition to the URL given above for details of the procedures related to the use of e-Rad.

<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/organ/index.html>

(※2) Institutions that conduct research activities that receive budgetary allocations or measures from MEXT or from independent administrative agencies under its jurisdiction must submit a research misconduct checklist by September 30 each year (or the immediately preceding business day if September 30 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday).

(3) Measures Taken for Misconduct in Research Activities Based on the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”

Misconduct in research activities in this program is treated strictly as described below.

(i) Measures to Cancel the Contract

In the case of specific misconduct (fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism) is identified of research of the program, the Research Contract is cancelled or altered and a refund of all or part of the entrusted expenses is requested. Furthermore, there may be cases in which no contract is concluded in the following years.

(ii) Measures to Restrict Application and Participation Eligibility

Measures given in the table below, depending on the level of inappropriateness and responsibility of specific misconduct, to restrict application to and participation in this project are imposed upon researchers involved in certain misconduct in research papers or reports of this project and those whose involvement has not been established but who are found responsible to an extent for the violation of the duty of due care as a distinct manager of pertinent papers and reports. Furthermore, in the case that such restriction measures are taken on qualification for application and participation, information is provided to pertinent sections of other competitive research fund systems (referred to as “competitive research fund system related to MEXT” hereinafter) distributed by the MEXT and independent administrative agencies of the ministry and to pertinent sections of competitive research fund systems (referred to as “competitive research fund systems related to other ministries” hereinafter) distributed by other ministries and their independent administrative agencies, which may similarly restrict qualification for application and participation in other competitive fund systems related to MEXT and to other ministries.

※ The terms 'application and participation' encompass the entire process of proposing and applying for new research projects, submitting entries, joining research projects either as Co-PIs or in similar roles, and serving as PIs or Co-PIs in existing (ongoing or continuous) research projects.

Classification of person ineligible to apply to competitive research funds, being involved in specific research misconduct		Degree of maliciousness in specific research misconduct	Ineligible period of application. (*)	
Person who was involved in a research misconduct	1. Especially malicious person, who, from the beginning of research, had an intention to commit a specific research misconduct		10 years	
	2. The author of a research paper, which is a product of a research where a specific research misconduct was committed	The authors of the paper, who are responsible for the whole content of it. Namely, they are the supervisor and the representative author of the paper or others who are identified to be equivalently responsible for the paper.	The misconduct has a substantial impact on the development of relevant research fields and on the society, or the maliciousness of the deed is judged to be high.	5-7 years
			The misconduct has a small impact on the development of relevant research fields and on the society, or the maliciousness of the deed is judged to be low	3-5 years
		The authors of the paper other than those described above.		2-3 years
	3. Persons who conducted a specific research misconduct other than those of 1 and 2.		2-3 years	
Person who has not been involved in a specific research misconduct but is a responsible author of a paper relevant to research where a specific research misconduct was committed, being the supervisor or representative author of the paper, or a person, who is identified to be equivalently responsible for the paper.		The misconduct has a substantial impact on the development of relevant research fields and on the society, or the maliciousness of the deed is judged to be high.	2-3 years	
		The misconduct has a small impact on the development of relevant research fields and on the society, or the maliciousness of the deed is judged to be low	1-2 years	

* In general, the ineligible period is calculated from the year following the year in which it was determined that there was a specific misconduct activity. Participation qualifications is also restricted for the relevant fiscal year in which specific misconduct activities are recognized.

(iii) Measures Taken to Researchers whose Qualification is Restricted for Application to and Participation in the Competitive Fund System and Base Expenses

Qualification is restricted for application to and participation in this project for researchers whose qualification is restricted for application to and participation to competitive research fund related to MEXT; management grants to national university corporations, inter-university research institution corporations and independent administrative agencies under MEXT; base expenses including private school subsidies; or competitive fund systems related to other ministries during the period the restriction is in effect.

“Other competitive fund systems” and “competitive research fund systems related to other ministries” include those systems that newly start a call for proposals in 2026 fiscal year and those that finished before the 2025 fiscal year.

(iv) Public Announcement of Misconduct

In principle, JST makes a public announcement regarding the outline of specific misconduct in research activities of this project (project name, affiliation, contents of misconduct, and measures taken). At the same time, information of outline of their misconduct will be disclosed in principle by MEXT.

The said guidelines state that a research organization announces the survey result immediately. Each organization is requested to handle the case accordingly.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1360483.htm

6.34 Duty to Complete Education on Research Ethics and Compliance

Researchers who participate in the project of this research program shall receive training on research ethics education for the prevention of misconduct in research activities as per the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” and on compliance education as per the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions.”

During the process of concluding a Research Contract after the selection of a proposed research project, it is necessary for all researchers participating in the research project, including the CREST PIs and PRESTO/ACT-X PIs, to receive training on research ethics education and compliance education and submit a document to confirm their understanding of the contents of the training.

6.35 Handling of Information Provided in Research Proposals, etc.

- Information in the documents for application will be used for review during the selection process. Furthermore, the adopted research projects may continue to use the aforementioned information for the advancement of their research after adoption by JST. Research proposals will be utilized in a non-personally identifiable form for statistical purposes and analysis to contribute to the business operations of JST. To protect the interests of applicants, and from the viewpoint of the “Act on the Protection of Personal Information” and other related

laws, the research proposals submitted by applicants are not disclosed or used for any purpose other than the review purpose. Confidential information of research proposal shall be strictly maintained.

Law Concerning Protection of Personal Information

<https://elaws.e-gov.go.jp/document?lawid=415AC0000000057>

- Within the range necessary to eliminate duplication and excess, some information contained in applications, etc. may be provided to departments with responsibility for other competitive research funds, etc., including other government ministries and agencies.

- To the extent necessary to confirm the duplicate applications described in “7. Limitations on Multiple Applications within the Strategic Basic Research Programs” Some information may be provided to the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development.

- Handling of Information on the e-Rad system

The Information on e-Rad (name of funding program, name of research project, name of affiliated research institution, name of PI, budget amount, implementation period, and research project summary and metadata of the research paper) regarding each selected proposal shall be deemed to be “information that is scheduled to be made public” as prescribed under Article 5, Paragraph 1, Item (a) of the “Act on Access to Information Held by Independent Administrative Agencies” (Act No. 140 of 2001). This information will be announced on the web page of this program, JST project data base (<https://projectdb.jst.go.jp/>), and “GRANTS” (<https://grants.jst.go.jp/>) after the adoption of the project. Additionally, the research results reports submitted by researchers may be published in the JST project database.

- Provision of the e-Rad system to the Cabinet Office

The "6th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan" (decided by the Cabinet on March 26, 3rd year of the Ordinance) states that EBPM for policy making based on objective evidence will be thoroughly implemented in science and technology and innovation administration. The registered information is used for appropriate evaluation of research and development with national funds, effective and efficient comprehensive strategy, planning of resource allocation policy, etc.

Information on research achievements and accounting and use of indirect expenses related to the competitive research fund for selected projects shall be input in e-Rad every year. The information necessary for macroscopic analysis, including information on research achievements and accounting performance, will be provided to the Cabinet Office.

6.36 Operation of R3 system and Registration of researcher information to researchmap

For JST Strategic Basic Research Programs (CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X), researchers are required to submit research plans and reports of research results using JST's research project management system (R3; R-Cube*2), which is linked to JST's researcher information database (researchmap*1), and community function of researchmap will be used in project management, such as distribution of various files and event announcements. Since registration in researchmap of Researchers, PIs and Co-PIs whose proposals have been selected for interview is mandatory for this purpose, those who have not yet registered are recommended to register as soon as possible before interview selection.

The information in researchmap is utilized effectively for surveying national academic or science and technology plans, as well as for statistical purposes. Registration at researchmap and updating of achievement information are requested.

(※1) Researchmap (<https://researchmap.jp/?lang=english>) is a Japanese researcher information database which has more than 300 thousand researcher registrations, and registered achievement information can also be administrated and disclosed. In addition, researchmap is linked with e-Rad and faculty databases of many universities, and the registered information can be used in other systems, so the same achievements can be registered many times in various application forms and databases. It also leads to efficiency, such as eliminating the need to do it.

(※2) R3 (R Cube) is an electronic application system for research plans and results reports that is used by researchers selected for the Strategic Basic Research Program.

For new registrations, method to confirm your registration status, method to login or to reissue your password, please see the Quick start Guide for Registration and login to the following website:

https://researchmap.jp/outline/rr_manual/quickguide.pdf (in Japanese)

<https://researchmap.jp/public/account/?lang=en> (in English, for new registration only)

For methods to register or update of your achievement information or to output your information on researchmap, refer to the following website (in Japanese):

<https://researchmap.jp/public/FAQ-1/>

When the first usage of R3 (R-Cube) after selection, you need to agree to the R3 Terms of Service and R3 Privacy Policy.

- R3 Terms of Service <https://r3.jst.go.jp/termsAndConditions.html>
- R3 privacy policy <https://r3.jst.go.jp/privacyPolicy.html>

6.37 Patent Applications by JST

In case a research institution does not acquire rights to an invention, JST may acquire those rights in some cases. Therefore, if a research institution does not foresee acquiring rights to an invention, the researcher should notify

JST promptly, providing information concerning the said invention, etc. in any appropriate format. (The above “information concerning the said invention” means information necessary for JST to determine whether an application for intellectual property rights is possible or not, for example, a copy of the notification of invention used in the research institution.)

JST will conduct a study based on the received notice, and if JST judges, based on the results, that an application for the said invention, etc. is possible, a separate “Patent Rights Transfer Agreement” will be concluded between the research institution and JST.

6.38 Patent Application Nondisclosure System

The patent system uniformly discloses inventions for which a patent has been applied for, thereby promoting further technological improvements and eliminating duplicate research and development. On the other hand, before the establishment of the patent application non-disclosure system, Japan's patent system was such that, once a patent application had been filed, even if the invention would not be spread or proliferated due to security reasons, the contents of the application were made public after 1 year and 6 months had passed. However, in other countries' patent systems, it was common for patent applications related to such inventions to be kept private. As such, in Japan as well, the "Act on the Promotion of Ensuring National Security through Integrated Implementation of Economic Measures (Act No. 43 of 2022)" (hereinafter referred to as the "Economic Security Promotion Act") established a patent application non-disclosure system that, in certain cases, suspends procedures such as the disclosure of patent applications and takes measures to prevent the spread or proliferation of patent application.

Under the Economic Security Promotion Act, there may be cases where the invention described in the specifications of a patent application is likely to cause a situation in which the security of the state and its citizens may be harmed by external acts that are carried out if the information is made public. In these cases, through a procedure called "Preservation Designation," in addition to withholding information about patent proceedings such as the publication of patent applications and decisions to either grant or refuse a patent, during this withholding period in principle there is a prohibition on the general disclosure of the content of the invention (including publication) and on the implementation of inventions that are likely to lead to similar results. Furthermore, evasion of this system by withdrawal of the patent application is also prohibited. Please comply with national laws, guidelines, and notices, etc., including with the Economic Security Promotion Act.

Details of the patent application non-disclosure system are available on the Cabinet Office website.

Cabinet Office: Patent application nondisclosure system

https://www.cao.go.jp/keizai_anzen_hosho/suishinhou/patent/patent.html

6.39 Measures for Protecting Civil Rights and Complying with Laws and Regulations

In the case that, in implementing a research initiative, the initiative involves a research requiring the consent/cooperation of other parties, research requiring particular care in handling personal information, research requiring bioethical or safety measures to be taken, and other researches requiring procedures subjected to laws and regulations, be sure to carry out the necessary procedures, such as obtaining the approval of an external and internal ethics committee of a research institution. If research activities are conducted overseas or collaborative research activities with institutions overseas are conducted, please confirm the regulations and laws in advance, and adhere to them.

Regarding life science-related research in particular, there are cases in which the main law prescribed by each ministry are being revised, and there are also cases in which different laws are being applied, depending on the content of experiments. Please confirm the latest laws and ordinances related to your research. Note that undertaking research that violates the related law, ordinances, and/or guidelines prescribed by the government and ministries, may result in the suspension of research funding or the cancellation of funding.

For MEXT activities on bioethics and bio-hazard protection, visit the following website:

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/lifescience/bioethics/mext_02626.html

In the case that the research plan includes research or surveys that require consent/cooperation of other parties and/or social consensus, be sure to take appropriate measures for protecting civil rights and interests prior to applying to this program.

(Examples of laws, regulations, guidelines, etc., to be observed)

The "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" (adopted by MEXT on August 26, 2014; including subsequent amendments).

The "Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (practice standards)," enacted on February 15, 2007, and revised on February 18, 2014, by the Minister of MEXT. (Including subsequent amendments)

Regarding security export control (measures against technology leakage to outside of Japan), in addition to the Foreign Exchange Act, related laws and regulations, ministerial ordinances, notifications, etc., established by each ministry and agency are used to ensure that the results of cutting-edge research are not passed on to developers of weapons of mass destruction, terrorist groups, or other parties that may engage in activities of concern, such as military diversion of technology.

The following is a list of the laws and regulations of the relevant country regarding conducting actual research activities overseas (including taking biological resources out of the country) or joint research with overseas research institutions.

The following is a summary of the laws, regulations, ministerial ordinances, ethical guidelines, etc., established by each ministry and agency regarding bioethics and safety assurance for life science research.

6.40 The use of JREC-IN Portal

The database of research human resources (JREC-IN <https://jrecin.jst.go.jp/>) is the largest website supporting research human resources in Japan. It is free to browse this service containing information on human resources, including researchers, their supporters, and engineers involved in research.

At present, the database holds more than 25,000 pieces of information on needed human resources from universities, public research organizations, and private business firms, in addition to more than 140,000 registered users. Furthermore, use of the Portal's web job application functionality enables the simplification of application documentation management while reducing the burden on job applicants. Use JREC-IN Portal to look for research human resources (postdoctoral, researchers, and so on) with high levels of knowledge to promote research projects.

Furthermore, JREC-IN Portal is linked to researchmap, may log in with a researchmap ID and password. It functions for the preparation of resumes; achievement lists can use the information registered in researchmap to prepare these documents.

Chapter 7 Limitations on Multiple Applications within the Strategic Basic Research Programs

In Prior to the call of Research Proposals to the CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X programs in the fiscal year of 2026, JST and AMED have clearly stated their policies on the limitation of multiple application to different funding programs of the Strategic Basic Research Programs as follow. JST will take certain measures to exclude duplicate applications to different research funding programs, to both described and those not described in this chapter, if it is identified by JST that the applications are unreasonably duplicating and correspond to applications leading to excessive concentration of research funds to some individuals. For details, please refer to (5) of this chapter and “6.3 Measures against Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration.”

- (1) An applicant may submit only one Research Proposal to one of Research Areas of the CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X, AMED-CREST*¹, PRIME*² or LEAP program which calls for application in FY2026.

- (2) In the following cases, the application will be restricted.
 - Applicants in the position of a to f currently, are restricted to apply for CREST, PRESTO, or ACT-X as a research proposer. See the details in Chapter7, Table 1: Possible / Impossible Applications to the CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X Programs.
 - If applicants are in the position of h currently and the research period concludes in the FY2027 or later, or a to g in the past, they cannot apply for "ACT-X". (Those currently in position of h may apply for CREST and PRESTO, but ACT-X research will finish at the end of the academic year in which they are selected for CREST or PRESTO (i.e. be terminated early)).
 - a. Research Supervisor or Deputy Research Supervisor of ERATO in the Strategic Basic Research Program
 - b. PI of CREST in the Strategic Basic Research Program
 - c. PI of PRESTO in the Strategic Basic Research Program

*1. These are Advanced Research and Development Programs for Medical Innovation with the Strategic Basic Research Programs carried out by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). AMED-CREST (unit type) promotes research in units led by Research and Development Directors, and ²PRIME (solo type) is a program in which Research and Development Directors promote research on their own.

- d. Research and Development Director of AMED-CREST in the Strategic Basic Research Program (Advanced Research and Development Programs for Medical Innovation)
 - e. Research and Development Director of PRIME in the Strategic Basic Research Program (Advanced Research and Development Programs for Medical Innovation)
 - f. Research and Development Director of FORCE, LEAP in the Strategic Basic Research Program (Advanced Research and Development Programs for Medical Innovation)
 - g. PI of AIP acceleration subject in the Strategic Basic Research Program
 - h. PI of ACT-X in the Strategic Basic Research Program
- (3) In the CREST program, the Co-PI and other Research Participants of a Research Proposal are subjected to the following limitations.
- a. Multiple applications by an applicant, made by switching his/her position from PI to Co-PI, or *vice versa*, are not allowed. This restriction will be applied across the Research Areas of CREST. From FY2020, this restriction will also be applied for Research and Development Directors and Sharers of AMED-CREST.
* This restriction will not be applied if a part of the formation of project team differs, however, JST may judge that the applications are unreasonable duplication or excessive concentration and take necessary measures. Please refer to “6.3 Measures against Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration” for details.
 - b. If an applicant has made one Research Proposal application as the PI, Co-PI or other Research Participants while he/she has made another Research Proposal application as Co-PI or other Research Participants, and both of the Research Proposals has become candidates of new research projects of the program, there may be cases where some adjustments are taken, including the reduction of research budget, or forced to select one project among the Research Proposals, based on a consideration on the contents of the Research Proposals and the size of cost of each Research Proposal. From FY2020, similar adjustments may be applied for AMED-CREST, PRIME, FORCE, LEAP, and ERATO. Please refer to “Chapter7 Table 2: Possible / Impossible SIMULTANEOUS Applications to the CREST, PRESTO and ACT-X programs”.
 - c. In cases that an applicant, who is currently a Co-PI or other Research Participants of a CREST research project, has made a Research Proposal application to the program, and the Proposal becomes a candidate of new research projects of the program, adjustments similar to those described in b may be applied. From FY2020, similar adjustments may be applied for AMED-CREST, PRIME, FORCE, LEAP, and ERATO. Please refer to “Chapter 7 Table 1: Possible / Impossible Applications to the CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X Programs”.
- (4) From the FY2022, it is possible to be a PRESTO or ACT-X PI and a CREST Co-PI at the same time. Similar measures will be put in place for PRIME PIs, AMED-CREST, FORCE, and LEAP Research and Development Sharers, and ERATO Group Leaders. For details, please refer to “Table 1: Possible /

Impossible Applications to the CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X Programs” and “Table 2: Possible / Impossible SIMULTANEOUS Applications to the CREST, PRESTO and ACT-X programs”.

※In the event that both individual research and Co-PI research are conducted simultaneously, if it is deemed to involve unreasonable duplication or excessive concentration of research funds, appropriate measures may be taken as needed. Please refer to “chapter 6.2 Measures against Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration”.

- (5) In a case that the Research Proposal of an applicant is selected as a candidate of the CREST, PRESTO, or ACT-X program in FY2026, and he/she becomes candidate in multiple research projects funded by competitive research funds operated by JST as a result, JST may make a reduction of budgets the research projects or force to select one research project (This is not a case for research projects, which are scheduled to be ended on or before March 31, 2026). This coordination includes the research applicant, and in the case of a CREST application, Co-PI or Other Research Participants.

※It is possible to apply concurrently for the FOREST Program and as a CREST PI or a PRESTO researcher (PI), however it is not possible to implement both simultaneously. Concurrent applications and overlapping implementation are possible for CREST co-PI and ACT-X PI.

※Even if you are currently implementing the FOREST Program as a PI (FOREST researcher), you can apply as a CREST PI or a PRESTO PI in this call for proposals. Please check with FOREST Program regarding research topics of the program after being selected for CREST or Specially Promoted research.

[References]

Table 1: Possible / Impossible Applications to the CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X Programs

(For Persons who are Currently Engaging into the CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X, AMED, and ERATO Programs. ○:allowed, ×:not allowed)

Type of Application in Research Proposal		Applying for CREST PI	Applying for CREST Co-PI	Applying for CREST Research Participant (not PI nor Co-PI)	Applying for PRESTO PI	Applying for ACT-X PI
Current Position in ongoing Research Project						
CREST ^{Note6}	PI	× ^{Note3,7} (refer to (2) of page 108)	○ ^{Note1}	○ ^{Note1}	× ^{Note3,4} (refer to (2) of page 108)	× (refer to (2) of page 108)
	Co-PI	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1,2} (refer to (4) of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)
	Other Research Participant (not PI nor Co-PI)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1,2}	○ ^{Note1}
PRESTO	PI	× ^{Note3,4} (refer to (2) of page 108)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)	○ ^{Note1}	× ^{Note3} (refer to (2) of page 108)	×(refer to (2) of page 108)
ACT-X	PI	○ ^{note5} (refer to (2) of page 108)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)	○ ^{Note1}	○ ^{note5} (refer to (2) of page 108)	× ^{Note3} (refer to (2) of page 108)
AMED-CREST, FORCE, LEAP	Research and Development Director	× ^{Note3,4} (refer to (2) of page 108)	○ ^{Note1}	○ ^{Note1}	× ^{Note3,4} (refer to (2) of page 108)	× (refer to (2) of page 108)
	Research and Development Sharer	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)
	Other Research Participant (not Director nor Sharer)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)c of page 109)	○ ^{Note1}	○ ^{Note1}
PRIME	Research and Development Director	× ^{Note3,4} (refer to (2) of page 108)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)	○ ^{Note1}	× ^{Note3,4} (refer to (2) of page 108)	× (refer to (2) of page 108)

ERATO	Research Supervisor Deputy Research Supervisor	× Note3,4 (refer to (2) of page 108)	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note1	× Note3,4 (refer to (2) of page 108)	×(refer to (2) of page 108)
	Group Leader	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)c of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)c of pages 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)c of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (4) of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (4) of page 109)
	Contract Developer	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)c of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)c of pages 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)c of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note1
	Research Participant	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)c of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)c of pages 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)c of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note1

- Note 1) If the Research Proposal of an applicant is selected for adoption, to avoid excessive concentrations of research funds and unreasonable duplications, JST may make necessary adjustments including a budget reduction of the selected research project or a selection of a research project the applicant may conduct, and others.
- Note 2) If the researcher wishes to participate CREST and also continue PRESTO PI (JST employed), JST will conduct a review.
- Note 3) If the research period concludes in the FY2026, applications are permissible.
- Note 4) If the research period concludes in the FY2026 or later, it is only possible if it is approved to discontinue by the research area supervisor and JST / AMED in advance (contact must be made 3 weeks before application deadline).
- Note 5) During the implementation of ACT-X, if you apply for PRESTO, PRIME, CREST, or AMED-CREST, please notify the Research Supervisor and JST accordingly (if selected, the ACT-X will be terminated, resulting in early completion (i.e. be terminated early)). It is possible to apply for the ACT-X Acceleration Phase concurrently, but you cannot undertake both simultaneously (once a decision is made for either, adjustments will be made to withdraw the other proposal).
- Note 6) Includes "PRESTO Convergence Research"
- Note 7) If you apply for CREST or AMED-CREST while conducting PRESTO Convergence Research, you must notify the Research Supervisor and JST accordingly. If the proposal is selected, the PRESTO Convergence Research will be terminated (early termination).

Table 2: Possible / Impossible SIMULTANEOUS Applications to the CREST, PRESTO and ACT-X programs

(For researchers who are NOT engaging in ongoing research projects such as CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X, AMED Programs and ERATO. ○:allowed, ×:not allowed)

Type of Application in Research Proposal B		Applying for CREST PI	Applying For CREST Co-PI	Applying for CREST Other Research Participant (not PI nor Co-PI)	Applying for PRESTO PI	Applying for ACT-X PI
Type of Application in Research Proposal A						
CREST	PI	× (refer to (1) of page 108)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3) a, b of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)b of page 109)	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	×(refer to (1) of page 108)
	Co-PI	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)a, b of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)b of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)b of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)
	Other Research Participant (not PI nor Co-PI)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)b of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)b of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)b of page 109)	○ ^{Note1}	○ ^{Note1}
	Feasibility Study of Specific Research Proposal of the previous fiscal year (PI)	Only assigned research area can be applied. (refer to 5.1.4 (2) of page 55)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)a, b of page 109)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (3)b of page 109)	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	×(refer to (1) of page 108)
PRESTO	PI	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)	○ ^{Note1}	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	× (refer to (1) of page 108)
	Feasibility Study of Specific Research Proposal of the previous fiscal year	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)	○ ^{Note1}	Only assigned research area can be applied. (refer to 5.1.4 (2) of page 55)	×(refer to (1) of page 108)
ACT-X	PI	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	○ ^{Note1} (refer to (4) of page 109)	○ ^{Note1}	× (refer to (1) of page 108)	×(refer to (1) of page 108)

AMED- CREST	Research and Development Director	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3) a, b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	× (refer to (1) of page 108)
	Research and Development Sharer	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)a, b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (4) of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (4) of page 109)
	Other Research Participant (not Director nor Sharer)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note1
PRIME	Research and Development Director	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (4) of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	×(refer to (1) of page 108)
ERATO	Research Supervisor Deputy Research Supervisor	<input type="radio"/> Note2	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note2	<input type="radio"/> Note2
	Group Leader	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (4) of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (4) of page 109)
	Research Participant	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note1
	Feasibility Study of Specific Research Proposal of the previous fiscal year	<input type="radio"/> Note2	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note2	<input type="radio"/> Note2
LEAP	Research and Development Director	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note1	×(refer to (1) of page 108)	×(refer to (1) of page 108)
	Research and Development Sharer	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (4) of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (4) of page 109)
	Research Participant	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1 (refer to (3)b of page 109)	<input type="radio"/> Note1	<input type="radio"/> Note1
<p>Note 1) If the Research Proposal of an applicant is selected for adoption, to avoid excessive concentrations of research funds and unreasonable duplications, JST may make necessary adjustments including a budget reduction of the selected research project or a selection of a research project the applicant may conduct, and others.</p> <p>Note 2) In a case that both the Research Proposals A and B are selected for adoption, JST will make necessary adjustments between the Proposal. (e.g Cancellation of the Research Proposal applied to the CREST, PRESTO or ACT-X program.)</p>						

Chapter 8 Submission via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) - Abstract

○ Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)

The cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) is a cross-ministerial system that provides a series of on-line processes on the competitive funding system (Acceptance of applications → Review → Selection → Management of selected project → Result report, etc.).

※ "e-Rad" is an abbreviation for the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System, combining the initials of Research and Development (for science and technology) with the initial of Electronic.

8.1 e-Rad usage notes

Applicants are requested to make an application using e-Rad (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en>). Please be aware of the following points when submitting your application:

○ Please submit your application via e-Rad.

A proposal for which the application procedure has not been completed via e-Rad by the deadline will not be subject to screening.

○ Recommended system environments to use the e-Rad system.

The recommended system environments to use e-Rad are Edge, Firefox, Chrome, Safari.

(*IE cannot be used.)

<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/requirement.html>

○ Pre-registration of research institution and researcher information, information related to research integrity, and the status of security trade control systems in research institutions are required.

Please refer to "8.4.1 Pre-registration of research institution and researcher information" and "Attachment Document: How to apply using the cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)".

○ Please allow several days (or more) before the application deadline for inputting information into e-Rad.

Input of information into e-Rad takes a minimum of around 60 minutes. Furthermore, on the day of the application deadline, there is a risk that the e-Rad system may be congested, submission may take a long

time. Please allow sufficient time before the application deadline to commence inputting information into e-Rad.

○ **It is possible to “temporarily save” input information.**

It is possible to discontinue input of and temporarily save application information part way through. For details, please refer to “Temporary storage of application information and resumption of entry” in “How to Apply Using the Common R & D Management System (e-Rad)” of Appendix Document.

○ **“Retraction” on e-Rad system is possible.**

Up to and including the day prior to the application deadline, it is possible for researchers to retract and re-edit their research proposals. For details, please refer to the “Amending Submitted Application Information: ‘Retraction’” in “How to Apply Using the Common R & D Management System (e-Rad)” of Appendix Document.

Do NOT “retract” research proposals on the day of the application deadline. On the day of the application deadline, there is a risk that the e-Rad system may be crowded and re-editing the proposal after retraction may take a very long time.

8.2 Application method using e-Rad

(1) Register research institution and researcher information.

The research institution must register its researcher information and be issued a log-in ID and password.

* For details, please refer to **“8.4.1 Pre-registration of research institution and researcher information”**.

(2) Obtain required research proposal forms.

Please download the research proposal form from the website of the Call for Research Proposal.

The proposal format may differ depending on the research area. Please be sure to download and use the designated form of the research area to apply for.

(3) Prepare a research proposal. (To reduce processing load, aim for a file size of within 3 MB, with an upper limit of 10 MB.)

(4) Enter application information into the e-Rad system.

(5) Submit your research proposal. (Upload file to e-Rad for submission)

- The created application form file can be uploaded only in PDF format. The PDF conversion function for WORD and Ichitaro files that had previously been provided by e-Rad was discontinued in March 2026. Applicants are required to convert their files to PDF using their own applications or software and then upload the PDF file. Please be sure to verify that text copied and pasted from the uploaded PDF file using a PDF reader does not contain garbled characters. Depending on the application used to generate the PDF, the text embedded in the PDF may not be encoded using the correct character encoding.

For detailed precautions to be observed when converting files to PDF format, please refer to the appendix available at the URL below.

Appendix: Application Procedures Using the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad)

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/koubo/2026e-rad_en.pdf

- Applications whose application status is NOT “Distribution Institution” or “Accepted” by the submission deadline will be INVALID. Please check the status of your application on the "Project List" screen.

8.3 Enquiries and Service Availability

8.3.1 How to operate e-Rad

Manuals on how to operate e-Rad can be viewed or downloaded from the e-Rad portal site

(<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/>) .

8.3.2 Where to direct questions on how to use the e-Rad system

Questions about the program itself are answered by the person in charge of the program, as usual. Questions about e-Rad operation methods are answered by the e-Rad Help Desk. Before asking questions, be sure to read both the website outlining the Call for Proposals and the e-Rad Portal site carefully.

<p>Questions on matters such as programs, and questions about preparation and submission procedure of application documents</p>	<p>JST Department of Strategic Basic Research (person in charge of calls for proposals)</p>	<p>Be certain to send questions by e-mail, except when in a hurry. For matters related to proposal submission: E-mail : rp-info@jst.go.jp Tel : 03-3512-3530 Office hours: 10:00 -12:00, 13:00 - 17:00 (Japan Time) ● Except on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, the year-end and new year period. ● Please include the program name(CREST, PREST, or ACT-X), the e-Rad project ID, the name of the research proposer, and the project title in the body of the email. ● JST will not be accepting inquiries from October, 2026 through February, 2027. Please contact the respective program offices for assistance. CREST : crest@jst.go.jp PRESTO : presto@jst.go.jp ACT-X : act-x@jst.go.jp [Communication by e-mail may be requested even when a question is asked by telephone.]</p>
<p>Questions regarding how to use the e-Rad system</p>	<p>e-Rad helpdesk</p>	<p>Tel: 0570-057-060 (Navi dial) Office hours: 9:00-18:00 (Japan Time) ● Except on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and the year-end and new year period (29th December – 3rd January).</p>

- Website for this program: (<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian-en.html>)
- e-Rad portal website (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/>)

8.3.3 Availability of e-Rad

Basically, e-Rad operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but may stop the service for system maintenance. This will be announced in advance on the portal site.

8.4 Specific Application Method

8.4.1 Pre-registration of research institution and researcher information

It is necessary to register the research institution and affiliated researcher by the time of application (re-registration is not required if already registered). **Please allow at least 2 weeks for the registration process.**

(1) Application for registration of a research institution

Please assign one administrative representative for e-Rad at your research institution and follow the procedures from the “research institution registration application”.

(<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/organ/entry.html>)

If the applicant belongs to an overseas research institution, regarding institution’s information will be registered at JST after adoption. Please proceed to the application screen with no affiliation registered for the researcher ID (Ministry-common R & D management system), and click the “Basic Information” tab and input the name of the affiliated institution (Attachment: See how to apply using the cross-ministerial

research and development management system (e-Rad). In that case, it is necessary for the applicant to obtain the e-Rad login ID and password.

(2) Registration of Researcher Information

Applicants for CREST PI, all Co-PIs, and PRESTO, ACT-X, PIs all must register your researcher information in e-Rad and obtained login ID and password in advance.

The acquisition procedure is as follows. Please refer to the portal site for details.

1) Researchers belonging to domestic research institutions

Please follow the procedure from -- For Research Institutions "How to Register Affiliated Researchers" (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/organ/regist.html>).

- Worker: Research institution clerk
- Registration Contents: Research Institution and Researcher Information

2) Researchers affiliated with overseas research institutions, or researchers not affiliated with research institutions. Please follow the procedure from -- For Researchers "Method of New Registration" (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/researcher/index.html>).

- Worker: Proposer himself /herself
- Registration Details: Researcher Information

8.4.2 Other specific application methods

For details on how to apply and how to obtain the research proposal form, please refer to the attached sheet at the address below. "Attachment: How to apply using the cross-ministerial research and development management system (e-Rad)"

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/koubo/2026e-rad_en.pdf

CREST/PRESTO/ACT-X

Please make sure to visit our Invitation for Research Proposals page for the latest updates and frequently asked questions:

<https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian-en.html>

Contact for Inquiries

Japan Science and Technology Agency

Department of Strategic Basic Research

K's Gobancho, 7 Gobancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0076 Japan

E-mail: rp-info@jst.go.jp

Tel: +81-3-3512-3530 (Mon. – Fri. 10:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00*, Japan Time)

*Except Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays

- * Please include the program name(CREST, PREST, or ACT-X), the e-Rad project ID, the name of the research proposer, and the project title in the body of the email.
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