



LOTUS Programme FY2026 Call Overview

- India-Japan Circulation of Talented Youths in Science Programme
- ASPIRE Exchange Type

Mar, 2026



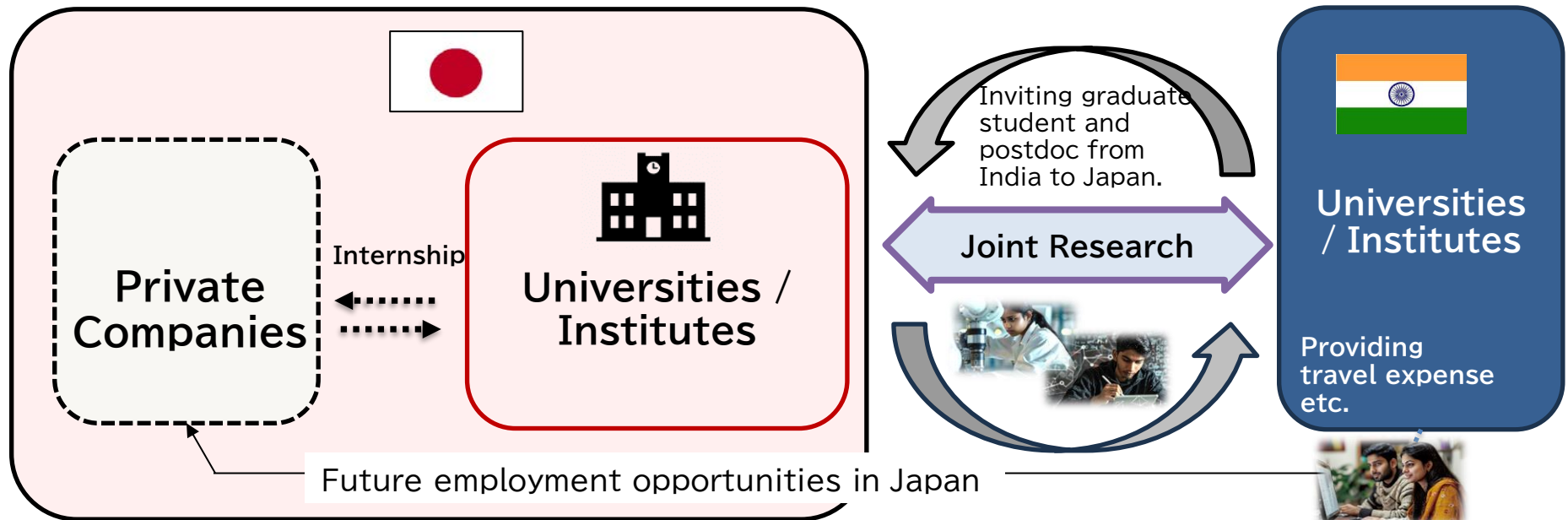
Japan Science and Technology Agency

Sakura Science Program Headquarters

Overview of LOTUS Programme

【Purpose】

- To Accelerate Joint Research: by inviting highly talented young researchers from India to Japan.
- To support career development: by creating opportunities in Japan for youth from India.



Key Features

Scale:

Inviting approximately **1,000** Master's/PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from India in 2026

Target Research Fields:

1. AI, Information and **Intelligent Robotics**

2. Biotechnology

**Newly added in FY 2026 call*

3. Energy

4. Materials

5. Quantum

6. Semiconductors

7. **Network** and Telecommunications

*Other fields are eligible if relevant to Research Field 1-7.

**Newly added in FY 2026 call*

Main points of FY2026 program revisions

1. Additions of a new type

- In the FY2025 supplementary budget, a new “[Exchange Type](#)” called [LOTUS-ASPIRE](#) was added to [ASPIRE](#). It incorporates key ASPIRE features, such as joint research and two-way researcher exchange, and will be implemented in addition to the conventional LOTUS Programme. [The support scheme for the current program, “LOTUS Basic,” will also be revised, including an expansion of eligible uses.](#)

Type	LOTUS Basic	LOTUS-ASPIRE
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The establish for Japan-India joint research through short-term stays	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote Japan-India research and generate outcomes though the stay.Research funds will be provided.

2. Expansion of the number of selected projects.

- In FY2026, [a total of 1,000 projects are planned to be selected](#) across the 2 types.

3. Schedule

Submission deadline : [9 Jun 2026, 12:00JST](#)
Review and Selection : Jun- Augst, 2026
Final Selection and Press Release : Late August onward
Start of Support : [Oct, 2026](#)

Overview of 2 types

Type	LOTUS Basic	LOTUS-ASPIRE
Invitee	<p>Master's/PhD students and postdoctoral researchers at universities and research institutions in India (40 years or younger)</p> <p>* Nationality is not restricted * Invitee remain affiliated with their home universities.</p>	
Purpose & Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint supervision of young researchers • Foundation building for Japan-India collaborative research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint supervision of young researchers • Creation of Tangible Research Outcomes
Support Period	<p>Up to 12 months</p> <p>* The stay in Japan can be scheduled flexibly within this period.</p>	<p>Up to 36 months</p> <p>* The stay in Japan can be scheduled flexibly within this period.</p>
Financial Support	Living expenses and some expenses for trip etc.	Living expenses and research funds
Applicant to JST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications must be submitted by a PI in Japanese university or research institution in Japan * Nationality is not restricted • Direct applications from institutions, students, or researchers in India are not accepted 	
Key Operational Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible to transition from “Basic” to “ASPIRE”. • Multiple applications for “Basic” are also possible. • Participant replacement under “ASPIRE” shall be permitted upon application and Program Officer approval. • “ASPIRE” requires post-project evaluation of joint research outcomes 	

Financial Support

LOTUS Basic (Support Period: Up to 12 months)

Expenses for the Stay of Invited Participants

₹140,000 (¥240,000) per month

Coverage: Living expenses including accommodation

Support for Joint Supervision

₹290,000 (¥500,000) per year *Exchange rate: 1.0 INR = 1.7 JPY*

Coverage: Travel expenses within Japan, research materials (consumables, etc.), and accommodation for supervisor from India.

LOTUS-ASPIRE (Support Period: Up to 36 months)

Expenses for the Stay of Invited Participants

₹140,000 (¥240,000) per month

Coverage: Living expenses including accommodation

Support for Joint Supervision

₹880,000 (¥1,500,000) per year *Exchange rate: 1.0 INR = 1.7 JPY*

Coverage: Travel expenses within Japan, research materials (consumables, etc.), accommodation for supervisor from India, and travel expenses for researchers and students in Japan.

* Support will be provided through universities and research institutions in Japan. Indirect costs will be provided separately.

Important Note

Based on the principle of equal partnership in Japan-India joint research, **travel expenses from India for invitees are not covered by JST**. We encourage Indian universities to cover these costs.

Application Process

