

FY2026  
FOREST PROGRAM

Call for Research Proposals  
[Application Guidelines]

Application Call Period

Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> ~ 12:00 (noon, Japan time) on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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 Disruptive Research  
Japan Science and Technology Agency

March 2026



## Introduction: Overview of the Call for Research Application

### (1) Call for Research Applications and Selection Schedule

The schedule for the call for applications and selection of research applications for FY2025 is as follows. FOREST invites applications for challenging and original research that requires long term endeavor without fear of failures, targeting research fields related to science and technology with the potential to create seeds that will lead to disruptive innovation.

**The call for research applications will be conducted via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad). Those applications which have not completed the application process by the specified deadline will not be accepted for any reason.**

**Please note that, for the FY2025 call, only one application will be accepted per applicant regardless of the affiliated institution at the time of the application (if multiple applications are received, all research proposals will be rejected).**

For details, please read and understand the section "2.6.1 Requirements for Applicants (4) Application Limitation" before applying.

Call for research application start	<b><u>Friday, March 27, 2026</u></b>
Application deadline (Deadline date and time for the submission of applications via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System [e-Rad])	<b><u>Thursday, May 14, 2026</u></b> <b><u>12:00 pm (noon)</u></b> <b><u>&lt;Strictly enforced&gt;</u></b>
Document screening period	Late May to June, 2026
Notification for interviewees	Late June to July, 2026
Interview screening period	Late June to August, 2026
Notification/Announcement of selected projects	Sequential notification and announcement in October, 2026 and later
Research start	Sequential start after December, 2026

\* The double underlined dates have been confirmed, but all other dates are tentative. They are subject to change in the future.

\* The selection schedule and contact details will be announced on the Call for Research Applications website as soon as they are determined.

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

Those selected for interview screening will be notified by email during the "Notification to Interviewees" period and asked to prepare interview materials (No written correspondence will be sent. The notification will be sent to the email address registered on the e-Rad registration page at the time of proposal. Make sure to set it as ready to receive). If there is any change in the e-mail address registered on the e-Rad registration screen due to a change of institutional affiliation, etc., please contact [souhatsu-application@jst.go.jp](mailto:souhatsu-application@jst.go.jp) as soon as possible. Please note that those

applicants who are likely to be selected as a result of the interview screening may be contacted by JST (by phone or e-mail) to confirm whether or not the Collaborative Research Agreement can be completed in September, 2026 or later.

## **(2) 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 so please make sure that you have downloaded the application form from the website of Research Area which you are going to apply.

Research proposal applications are processed by the e-Rad system (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>) (Chapter 5). **Some items on the e-Rad registration system are unique to this program; therefore, make sure to read the instructions carefully. If you fail to follow the instructions correctly, your registration will not be processed during screening.**

As the application deadline approaches, heavy demands on the e-Rad system could slow down the application processing speed and even cause the application deadline to be missed. Please give yourself enough time to complete submission of proposal. **Withdrawal of the application is strictly prohibited after the deadline. JST will not accept proposals, which the application process have not been completed in the e-Rad system by deadline for any reason.** Please note that JST may give direction **on the “Call for Research Proposals” website** in case such as cause of e-Rad system trouble which untenable to submit the application during the application call period.

The name and affiliation of applicant in the e-Rad system and those given in research proposal should be matched (In case it differs, the research proposal will be considered as official). The application of a research proposal is not received by the e-rad system if it contains serious defects, which make the review of proposal difficult, including the lack of application form 1 (cover sheet of research proposal), serious character corruptions, and omissions of important items of the application forms.

**JST is not responsible for any defects in allocation forms of a research proposal, which may be caused by any reasons before submission deadline, regardless of its status of receipt.** JST asks, therefore, all research proposal applicants to understand that we will not require them to make any revisions of their research proposals, obtaining their consents on correction in advance, before research proposal submission deadline.

If the schedule for the call for applications may change, its details of the change will be announced on the Call for Research Applications website. Please refer to this Call for Proposals, the Call for Proposals webpage, and the attached "How to Apply via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)" of this application guideline regarding submission of research proposal and items to be considered in application.

- Call for Research Applications Website: <https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/call/index.html>



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## **Chapter 1. Call for Research Applications**

### **1.1 Overview**

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

#### **1.1.1 Outline of FOREST Program**

In order to promote FOREST (Fusion Oriented REsearch for disruptive Science and Technology) program aiming to create seeds that lead to disruptive innovation through diversity and fusion without setting specific projects or short-term goals, this program provides long-term support for unrestricted, challenging and fusion-oriented diverse research not bound by the existing frameworks, for the period of seven years in principle (with an interim stage-gate review, up to 10 years in maximum) while securing an environment in which researchers can devote themselves to their researches.

Specifically, the program calls for challenging and diverse research plans from mainly young independent, or prospective independent, researchers at universities and other research institutions. Although the eligible institutions for FOREST are limited to domestic research institutions, Japanese researchers who are not affiliated with domestic institutions at the time of the selection will be granted an eligibility to withhold the commencement of research for a certain period until they are transferred to the domestic institutions where the research will be conducted. Therefore, active applications from researchers who belong to foreign institutions are also welcome.

Upon selection, it is aimed to ensure maximizing the researcher's (hereinafter referred to as "FOREST researcher") discretion and secure an appropriate research environment suitable for the execution of FOREST with the support of the university or other research institution with which the FOREST researcher is affiliated. In addition, in order to promote FOREST, a "Place of Fusion" to enable mashup of the abilities and ideas of FOREST researchers will be created under the guidance of a program officer (hereinafter referred to as "FOREST PO") who will mentor FOREST researchers to promote initiatives that lead to creative and integrated outcomes. Furthermore, new systems have been introduced that bring out the motivations and abilities of the researchers, such as a system that allows flexible research interruptions and subsequent extensions, and additional support for improving the research environment, aiming at creating the seeds for disruptive innovation by maximizing the motivation and the research time of the talented human resources.

#### **1.1.2 FOREST Operations**

The FOREST Program Director (PD) Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "FOREST PD Committee") is responsible for reviewing, planning, and selecting operational policies for the program as a whole. Based on the deliberation by the FOREST PD Committee, JST will determine a number of appropriate FOREST POs for the research fields targeted by this program. FOREST PO manages challenging researches from a long-term

perspective, based on the unrestricted thinking of FOREST researchers not bound by existing frameworks with the aim of creating the seeds for disruptive innovation. During the process, FOREST Advisors (hereinafter referred to as "FOREST AD") will be assigned to assist the FOREST PO, and with their cooperation, guidance and progress management will be carried out for each FOREST researcher contributing to the maximization of outcomes. The FOREST POs and FOREST ADs compose "panel" for their activities based on the unit of their specialized areas.

The FOREST PO plays a central role in the selection and evaluation (stage-gate evaluation, ex-post evaluation, etc.), close examination and approval of the selected research plan (including the research expenses plan), and securing an appropriate research environment suitable for the execution of the FOREST under the support of the university or other institution with which each researcher is affiliated, with the cooperation of the FOREST AD, Review Team for Humanities and Social Sciences, external experts, and others. The results of the selection and evaluation compiled by the FOREST PO will be deliberated by the FOREST PD Committee and finalized by JST.

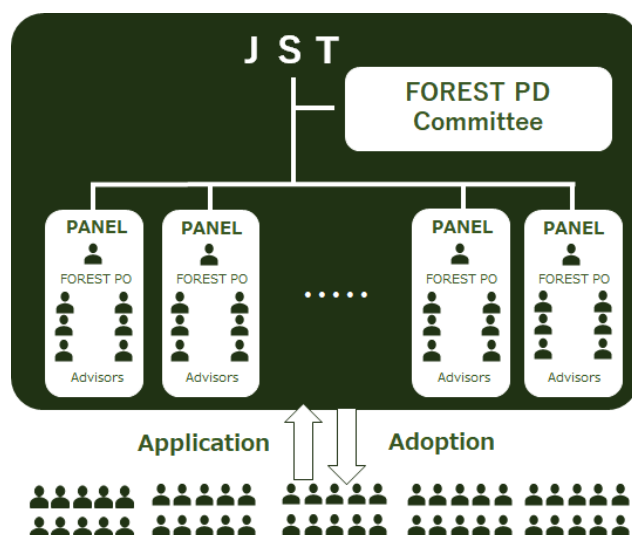


Figure: Governance structure of FOREST program

#### FOREST PD Committee

Please refer to the “FOREST Program Management Committee” section under “Overview” on the FOREST Program homepage. The URL is as follows.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/outline/index.html#committee-members>

#### FOREST PO

The list of FOREST POs will be available in early April 2026. Please refer to the following URL.

[https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/document/3rd\\_po\\_listen.pdf](https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/document/3rd_po_listen.pdf)

## 1.2 For Researchers Considering Applying or Participating in the Programs

### 1.2.1 J-RISE Initiative

#### **Message to overseas researchers interested in conducting research in Japan**

The current international situation is unstable, and the outlook remains uncertain.

Yet, for the advancement of science and the creation of innovation, robust international collaboration rooted in academic freedom, independence, openness, reciprocity and mutual benefit, and transparency is essential.

In order to further bolster initiatives for activating the so-called international brain circulation, the Japanese Government launched its J-RISE Initiative (Japan Research & Innovation for Scientific Excellence). Through this initiative, the Japanese Government invites outstanding overseas researchers to conduct research in Japan, and the Japan Science and Technology Agency's (JST) Fusion Oriented Research for disruptive Science and Technology (FOREST) program is also contributing to the J-RISE Initiative.

JST's FOREST program provides competitive grants that researchers affiliated with overseas research institutions at the time of application may apply for, as long as they conduct this grant-supported research at a Japanese research institution. In addition, researchers affiliated with an overseas research organization may postpone the start of this research for up to two years.

The FOREST program offers grants to early career researchers who have received their doctorate within the past 15 years and are aiming to become Principal Investigators (PIs) within three years of starting this research. Researchers selected for the FOREST program will receive stable research funding for up to ten years.

The FOREST program researchers are considered prestigious researchers who are highly regarded in Japan and who can also receive necessary support from their affiliated research institutions.

Moreover, JST regularly provides opportunities for researchers selected for the FOREST program to benefit from research exchanges with other researchers, enabling them to build networks with diverse cutting-edge researchers, including those from different fields.

The application period for the FOREST program runs from March 27 to May 14.

We hope that those of you who are grappling with difficulties or concerns about continuing your research and those who are interested in conducting research in Japan will utilize this program to make great strides in your excellent research.

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan



URL : <https://pitmc.go.jp/>

## 1.2.2 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.



### 1.2.3 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 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 FOREST Program.

President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

### **We Are Waiting for Your Application!**

JST promotes diversity based on the idea that diversity is about understanding people who think differently from you and integrating your ideas with theirs to create new value. This leads not only to solving domestic issues but also to solving issues common to the world, and we will address global social issues such as the SDGs through the promotion of diversity in cooperation with overseas institutions.

Diversity at JST is not only for women, but also for young researchers and non-Japanese researchers. To ensure that each researcher can fully demonstrate her or his abilities, we continue to provide support for childbirth, childcare, and nursing care, and we strive to maintain a balanced staffing structure for committees and other activities. Aiming to create an environment where a wide range of people can work hard together, we especially welcome applications from female researchers, who have been scarce in the past, and work to create new value.

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

Diversity Promotion Supervisor  
General Manager, Diversity Promotion Office  
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

#### 1.2.4 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, in order to prevent misconduct.

We must develop a healthy scientific culture based on social trust, so as 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 Call for and Selection of Applications**

### **2.1 Eligible Research Applications**

The program calls for a variety of challenging and original research projects\*<sup>1</sup>, which require a long-term commitment without fear of failure, with the potential to create the seeds\*<sup>2</sup> for disruptive innovation in any of the following categories (a) through (e).

- (a) Research with the potential for "discovery and/or creation of new knowledge" and/or "elucidation of the principles"
- (b) Research in a field that should be continuously addressed from the perspective of diversity of research
- (c) Research with the potential for generating new technological knowledge and/or developing of innovative technology
- (d) Subject matter for which breakthrough and new research areas are expected to be created through the "fusion" of scientific and technical knowledge
- (e) Subject matter that is expected to transform society and systems for the actual or wide-spread use of research outcomes

\*1 The scope of this program includes science and technology that will contribute to the development of new technology. If you apply for a research project in science and technology related to cultural science or social science or both, you will be given specific instructions on how to register the desired area for the screening of your research in the e-Rad system; make sure to see the separate paper describing how to use the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad) for call-for applications before registering.

\*2 The scope of this program also includes theoretical and/or fundamental research whose economic value is currently unclear.

### **2.2 Submission Period and Selection Schedule**

Please refer to "Introduction: (1) Call for Research Applications and Selection Schedule" for the submission period and selection schedule.

### **2.3 Research Period**

This program has a research period of 7 years divided into two phases, namely Phase 1 (3 years\*<sup>3</sup>) and Phase 2 (4 years\*<sup>3</sup>). All those selected will begin their research in Phase 1 and continue with Phase 2 research on the projects that have passed the stage-gate review. If you are unable to pass the stage-gate review, your FOREST will be terminated as of the end of Phase 1. Additionally, the research may be extended for up to 3 years from the end of Phase 2, subject to annual review in principle.

(Note) As for the stage-gate review, please refer to "3.4.1 Operation Scheme."

\*3 In the event of an interruption of the research during the research period, the estimated time of completion of each phase will be extended by the duration of such interruption. For details, please refer to "3.4.5 Programs for Interruption and Extension of Research, and Postponement of the Start of Research."

## **2.4 Research Costs (Maximum Amount)**

The amount of research costs (direct costs) per project is set, in principle, at a total of 50 million yen (maximum) for 7 years, of which 20 million yen (maximum) for Phase 1 (3 years).

Research applications must be limited to the aforementioned maximum amount. However, once an application is selected, some changes may be made, including some allocations exceeding the maximum amount at the discretion of the FOREST Program Director (PD) Committee and FOREST POs depending on the situation, etc., of a specific research project to secure the research environment appropriate for the execution of fusion-oriented research (RA additional expense support, etc.) . JST pays the cost of collaborative research, which includes the research cost (direct cost) and the indirect cost (30% of the direct cost at the maximum), to the research institute on the basis of the contract of the collaborative research agreement.

\*The research cost (direct cost) stated above is the absolute maximum; you must strictly select indispensably essential items to include in your application. Excessive appropriations of unnecessary items may affect the review and selection process. Proposed research expenses will be assessed through the review and selection process. In addition, actual research expenses will be determined through scrutiny and approval of the research plan of the research proposal by the Emergent PO. For details, please refer to "3.1 Creation of Research Plan".

## **2.5 Number of Projects to be Selected**

The number of projects to be selected in the call for research applications in FY2025 is approximately 250 (depending on the status of research applications).

## **2.6 Application Requirements**

Please be aware of the following the matters described in this section below when applying.

In addition to the following, please be sure to read and understand the information provided in "Chapter 4: Key Points in Submitting Proposals."

### **2.6.1 Requirements for Applicants**

#### **(1) Requirements for Research Applications**

The research application must be based on the applicant's own research plan.

## (2) Requirements for Applicants

If the following requirements a. through j. are not met by the time of selection, in principle, the research application will not be accepted nor selected.

Once selected, the following requirements must be maintained throughout the entire research period of the research project. If any of the requirements become non-compliant during the research period, in principle, the whole, or a part of, the research project will be terminated (early termination).

- a. The applicant must be the researcher himself or herself. No restriction on nationality.
- b. The applicant must be capable of conducting research independently to execute his or her own research plan.
- c. The applicant must be affiliated with a research institution in Japan and capable of conducting FOREST.  
FOREST can only be conducted while the researcher is affiliated with a research institution in Japan; however there is no restriction on the location of the affiliated institution at the time of application. Selected research projects are scheduled to commence at Japanese research institutions on or after December 1, 2026. However, researchers currently affiliated with overseas institutions may defer the start of their research for up to two years following selection.. For details, please refer to “3.4.5 Programs for Interruption and Extension of Research, and Postponement of the Start of Research.”
- \* Researchers affiliated with companies are also eligible as long as they are sufficiently capable of conducting research in accordance with the objectives of FOREST.
- \* Foreign researchers should pay particular attention to the following:
  - It is required to be able to handle paperwork in Japanese (or be in an environment where it is possible to do so with assistance);
  - Each individual is responsible for obtaining a visa, renewing the period of stay, and changing the status of residence, etc. If the researcher is unable to meet the requirements for residency, the research application will be rejected, the research project will be terminated, or other appropriate action will be taken; and
  - Based on the status of the researcher, if the FOREST is subject to regulation under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, the research application will be rejected, the research project will be terminated, or other appropriate action will be taken.
- d. The applicant must be a researcher who is capable of conducting his or her own FOREST in a responsible manner throughout the entire research period.  
(Note) For details, please refer to “3.6 Responsibilities of the Selected Researchers.”
- e. The applicant must have earned a doctoral degree as of April 1, 2026.
- f. The applicant must meet one of the following experience requirements.

( i ) 15 years or less since obtaining a doctorate as of April 1st, 2026.(obtaining a doctorate after April 2nd ,2011)

( ii ) 17 years or less since obtaining a doctorate as of April 1st, 2026 in the case of medical, dental or veterinary medicine courses, for those who have completed the clinical trainings stipulated by Japanese law (Medical Practitioner Act, Dentist Act or Veterinarian Act) after completion of the doctoral program.

( iii ) 20 years or less (22 years or less for those falling under (b) above) since obtaining a doctorate as of April 1st, 2026, for those who have been unable to devote themselves to research due to childbirth or childcare within 15 years (17 years for those falling under (2)) since obtaining a doctorate.

( iv ) For those who have been unable to devote themselves to research due to care giving or the like within 15 years (17 years for those falling under (b)) since obtaining a doctorate, the condition in (a) will be increased by the length of such period (up to two years).

(Note) Please indicate the date and university where you obtained your doctorate, and if you obtained your doctorate before April 1st, 2011, please describe the reason for it. If you fall under (c) or (d), please submit a copy of Mother and Child Handbook or a copy of certificate of Certification of Needed Long-Term Care, etc. on the e-Rad. JST will check any if necessary.

g. The applicant must have received, or be currently receiving (FY2026), public research funding\*<sup>4</sup> that can be used under his or her own responsibility and authority (research funding as the Research Director). In addition, if there are special circumstances in which the applicant has currently not received any research funding, the reason\*<sup>5</sup> should be clearly stated in the application.

\*<sup>4</sup> The aforementioned applies to research funding obtained through a public call for research applications. However, the public calls only for the researchers from the same research institutions are excluded.

\*<sup>5</sup> A major life event (childbirth, childcare, elderly care), clinical training, being unable to participate in the research project due to an engagement in some other large-scale research project (only if you were obligated to work exclusively on the project, etc. This condition does not apply if you were in a position to apply for other competitive research funding.), not being in an environment where applying for a competitive funding is impossible due to a research at a company etc., or any other clear reason must be stated.

h. The applicant must have completed a program on research ethics education at the affiliated research institution in advance, or an educational program offered by JST by the submission deadline.

\*For details, please refer to “4.2 Enrolling in and Completing the Educational Program on Research Integrity”

i. The applicant must be able to pledge the following four points:

- Understand and comply with the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (Decreed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on August 26, 2014);

- Understand and comply with the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds In Research Institutions (practice standards)” (Revised on February 1, 2021);
- If the research application is selected, the FOREST researcher shall not engage in fraudulent activities (fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism) or misuse of research funds; and
- No misconduct in research activities has been committed in the past research outcomes described in this research application.

(Note) Please confirm on the application information entry screen of the e-Rad.

j. If you have been selected as a research director (the director of a research area, a program manager) in the <Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction> stated below, you are not eligible to apply for our program (however, excluding the cases where FY2026 is the final year for projects subject to the adopted duplication restriction.). Furthermore, if you have been selected and assisted as a research director or the like in one of the <Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction> listed below by the year before the final year of Phase 1, the applicable research project will be canceled (aborted).

From the final year of Phase 1\*6, when you have been selected and assisted as a research director or the like in the <Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction> stated below and passed the stage-gate review, if approval is obtained through careful review of the research plan by Forrest PO et al, the researcher may continue the FOREST research in parallel with the duplicate project ,so please contact JST for further information.

Please note that “Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction” may be changed due to establishment of a new competitive research funding system, or revisions thereof, in the future.

<Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction>

- Projects under the auspices of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research)  
Grants-in-Aid for Specially Promoted Research, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (Research in a Proposed Research Area) (limited to research directors\*7), Grants-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (A) (limited to research directors\*7), Fundamental Research (S)
- Projects under the auspices of the Japan Science and Technology Agency  
JST-Mirai Program (Small-start Type (Full-fledged research), Large-scale Type)  
Strategic Basic Research Programs (ERATO, CREST, PRESTO ( † ), AIP Acceleration Research (limited to research directors who conduct research related to completed PRESTO/CREST proposals))  
Moonshot Research and Development Program (targeted at Project Managers. However, moonshot objectives 8 and 9 are only for project managers of core studies).

- A-STEP (Industry-academia collaboration (Full-fledged type, Seeds nurturing type)  
GteX (limited to team leaders of team-based studies)  
ALCA-Next (limited to research directors in the Accelerated Phase)  
K program (limited to research directors of project type and individual research type)
- Projects under the auspices of the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development  
Advanced Research and Development Programs for Medical Innovation (LEAP, AMED-CREST,  
PRIME ( † ), FORCE (limited to research directors))  
  
Moonshot Research and Development Program (targeted at Project Managers)
- Projects under the auspices of the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization  
(NEDO)  
  
Moonshot Research and Development Program (targeted at Project Managers)
- Projects under the auspices of the National Agriculture and Food Research Institute  
  
Bio-oriented Technology Research Advancement Institution (BRAIN)  
  
Moonshot R&D Program for agriculture, forestry and fisheries (targeted at Project Managers)

† For PRESTO and PRIME, applications may be submitted for the call for applications of this fiscal year as long as the research is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2027. In principle, FOREST must be started after the completion of the applicable research, and the period until then shall be treated as a grace period to start the research. For details, please refer to “3.4.5 Programs for Interruption and Extension of Research, and Postponement of the Start of Research.”

\*6 If you use section 3.4.5, "Programs for research interruption and extension, and postponement of the start of research," your research period will be delayed by the same amount.

\*7 Principal researcher of planned research and publicly offered research are not eligible.

### **(3) Conditions for Independence\*8**

The conditions for independence in below must be met, or, in principle, become compliant during Phase 1 (3 years) (In the process of selection, the feasibility of independence may be objectively checked if necessary).

- (a) Must be in the position of a corresponding author for the paper for the applicant’s own research
- (b) Must have responsibility for, or be in a position to have responsibility for, the guidance of graduate students\*9, etc.
- (c) Must be the person in charge of the research group when the research is conducted by forming a research group.
- (d) Must have a laboratory ( † )

† Must be responsible for the management of the research facilities and laboratory rooms required for conducting independent research.\*<sup>10</sup> Must have the necessary space to carry out FOREST research.

\*8 The conditions for independence are defined for "independent researchers" and "the researchers to be independent with the courage to cope with the challenging and unique research theme specified by them and to satisfy the terms and conditions here within three years" to apply for our program. Your application will be screened based on the evaluation of the contents of the application, the ability to make actions, human nature, the state of independence, and so forth in general. If you fail to satisfy these terms and conditions herein as of the time of screening, we may confirm your perspective in the future, your volition for independence, and so forth and may select your application on condition that you make your best efforts. As stated in section 3.4.1, item (1), not only the terms and conditions for independence but also other norms may be considered in our screening from a comprehensive viewpoint to evaluate the feasibility of continuing to support your research. If an applicant fails to satisfy part of the requirements for independence after making efforts to be independent, we consider such a situation in our evaluation.

\*9 The above-mentioned are applicable to researchers and undergraduates. The right to participate in a dissertation defense is not a prerequisite.

\*<sup>10</sup> Being registered as a chief administrator, safety administrator, or the like is not a prerequisite.

#### **(4) Application Limitation**

For the FY2026 call, only one application can be submitted per applicant regardless of the affiliated institution at the time of the application.

#### **2.6.2 Research Organization**

a. A FOREST researcher will conduct the research on his or her own (alone) or together with postdoctoral fellows, research assistants, students, and others who are under the management and supervision of the FOREST researcher. If necessary, new researchers, postdoctoral fellows, research assistants, etc. can be hired within the scope of research expenses. Additional support for doctoral students assisting in emergent research as research assistants, etc., may be available under certain conditions for the payment of an appropriate level of compensation for their assistance services. (However, the amount, conditions, etc. may be subject to change depending on the budgetary situation in FY2026 and thereafter.) Collaboration and joint research with other researchers as necessary to carry out the research is possible, but research funds cannot be allocated.

\* For details, please refer to "4.13 Improvement of Treatment of Doctoral Student Participants."

b. JST conducts research promotion activities such as supporting the development of research environment, publicity and outreach for research, and patent application support.

c. Every FOREST researcher must be a member of a Japanese research institution (we make collaborative research agreements only with the research institutions in Japan). Research conducted outside of Japan, as well as its costs, must adhere to the rules and regulations of the research institution in Japan.

### **2.6.3 Requirements for Research Institutions to Conduct FOREST**

When conducting research, the research institutions that conduct FOREST must be fully aware that the source of funds for collaborative research is public funds, comply with all relevant laws and regulations, and strive to conduct the research efficiently. If the duties stated in section 3.7, "Responsibilities of Research Institutions", are not fulfilled, you will not be allowed to conduct your research at a research institution. Note that we will cancel your research project or take some other measures if it becomes obvious that the duties are not fulfilled after your application is selected. We encourage all parties concerned to treat the voluntary applications made by individual researchers with as much respect as possible when they make applications for this program.

## **2.7 Submission**

For information on how to apply, please refer to " Introduction: Overview of the Call for Research Application (2) Submission of Research Proposal ".

## **2.8 Selection Method**

JST calls for research applications from researchers who meet the application requirements. The selection will be made by the FOREST PO with the cooperation of the FOREST AD and external experts, etc., and after deliberation by the FOREST PD Committee, JST will make the final decision on the selected applications.

### **2.8.1 Flow of Selection**

#### **(1) Designation of the FOREST Panel /PO and Desired Areas of Specialty**

When you make a research application, use the e-Rad system to specify the FOREST Panel/PO as the chief screener in the screening process of your research application and your desired fields of specialty (research field (major) and research field (minor)) of the initial review. For the correspondence between The FOREST Panel/POs and the research fields, please refer to "6.1 FOREST POs and Assigned Research Fields". It does not matter if your desired fields of specialty (major and minor) is different from "6.1 FOREST POs and Assigned Research Fields".

From the viewpoint of quality of review, please select the panel and field of specialty (research field (major) and research field (minor)) that most closely matches the research field of your proposal. After the proposal is selected, we will also provide opportunities for research promotion and exchange beyond the panel selected at the time of proposal.

If you apply for research that covers two or more research fields, the evaluators from relevant fields examine your application from multiple points of view. Make sure to register both research field (major) and research field (minor) when you use the e-Rad system for registration <applicable to all applicants>.

If you register an field code belonging to "Humanities & Social Sciences" or "Others" as your research field (major), you must make sure to register an field code not belonging to "Humanities & Social Sciences" or "Others" as your research field (minor). If you fail to register, as stated above, your application will not be accepted. If you register an field code belonging to "Humanities & Social Sciences" or "Others" as the research field (major) and research field (minor), your application will not be accepted either. For the field codes belonging to "Humanities & Social Sciences" or "Others" see section 6.1, " FOREST POs and Assigned Research Fields."

\*Note: Research field (minor) is a mandatory item in the e-Rad system; use caution not to forget to specify this field. Before you fill in the form in the e-Rad system, see the separate paper, "How to Apply from the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)."

For your reference, while you try to decide a research field to submit your application, our FOREST POs have posted their messages on our Call for Proposals webpage : <https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/call/index.html>

## **(2) Multi-Step Screening**

The FOREST PO designated by the research proposer will conduct document screening and interview screening with the cooperation of experts in the specialized field specified by the research proposer, FOREST ADs, and experts in the humanities and social sciences. After the interview selection process, the selected candidates will be deliberated by the FOREST PD Committee and the final decision will be made by JST. In addition, the diversity of research fields and researchers will be taken into consideration in the selection process.

In addition, surveys and other activities may be conducted as necessary during the selection process. Furthermore, if the applicant is affiliated with a commercial organization and the like, it may be requested to submit a financial statement.

## **(3) Conducting Interview Screening and Notification of Selection Results**

- a. The interview schedule will be announced on the research proposal call webpage as soon as it is confirmed. Please check the website for updates. The applicants who have been selected for interviews as a result of the document screening will be notified by e-mail along with the information about the interview process, the schedule, and additional materials to be submitted (No written correspondence will be sent. The notification will be sent to the email address registered on the e-Rad when you have applied to FOREST. Make sure to set it as ready to receive). The applicant may be asked to submit applications, plans, and other document for other research funds at the time

of interview screening. The applicants who are unsuccessful in the document screening will be notified in writing by email after the screening results are confirmed. If there is any change in the e-mail address registered on the e-Rad registration screen due to change of institutional affiliation, etc., please contact us as soon as possible.

As soon as the schedule of interview screening is fixed, it will be announced on the Call for Research Applications website.

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

- b. At the interview screening, the applicant himself or herself is asked to explain the research plan. In principle, the interviews are conducted in Japanese, however if the applicant has difficulty in Japanese conversation, interviews in English are also possible.
- c. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the selection results in writing by e-mail after the selection results are confirmed. In addition, the review comments for rejection will be separately sent e-mail from the e-Rad for unsuccessful applicants.
- d. As a result of the selection process, the selected applicant will be notified in writing by e-mail along with the information on the procedure for starting the research.

Following the interview selection process, JST may contact research proposers who are highly likely to be selected (via telephone or email) after September 2026 to confirm matters such as the possibility of concluding a commissioned research contract. Please ensure that the email address registered in e-Rad remains accessible even after the selection period concludes.

### **2.8.2 Implementation of Conflict of Interest Management**

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. If you have any concerns regarding the reviewers involved in the selection process, please indicate them in the "Special Notes (Form 7)" of the research proposal.

#### **(1) Persons Involved in the Selection Process**

To ensure fair and transparent evaluations, the following persons and parties who have conflicts of interest with an 'applicant'.

- a. Persons, who are relatives of research project applicants:
- b. A person who belongs to the same department, major, etc. at a university or other research institution as the applicant; or a person who is considered to be involved in the management of the university or other research institution to which the applicant belongs; a person who is an officer or other person involved in the management of the university or other research institution; or a person who represents such an institution externally.

Examples: The same department, or division at universities and graduate schools, and the same research

department at other public research institutions.

- c. Persons, who belong to the same company as the research proposer or a company that is the parent company of the company to which the person being evaluated belongs.
- d. Persons, who are conducting a close collaboration in a research work with research project applicants. (Examples are persons, who are conducting a joint research project or have co-authored a paper with research project applicants, a researcher pursuing the same research objectives as research project applicants, or a co-researcher of the proposal of research project applicants, and others, being recognized those practically affiliated with a research group with which research project applicants are affiliated.)
- 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 proposer's research topic or who belong to companies that are in competitive relations in the market.
- g. Persons in other relationships judged by JST to representing conflicts of interest with research project applicants.

## **(2) Conflict of Interest Management for Research Applicants**

When a research applicant specifies an "organization in relation to the research applicant" as a participating organization while making an application and if JST allocates some research funding to the "organization in relation to the research applicant," this may lead to some conflict of interest concerning the research applicant. Therefore, to avoid any doubt or the like of any third party, we take the management of such conflicts of interest with respect to the conflicts of interest between such research applicant and such "organization in relation to the research applicant" in an appropriate consideration to the necessity, rationality, adequacy, etc. of the applicable relation.

An "organization in relation to the research applicant" here refers to any participating organization that comes under any following condition. Note that not only the research applicant but also the spouse and the relatives in the first degree of the research applicant (referred to as "researcher etc." from here) are regarded as the same in items "a" and "b" below.

- a. An organization established based on the research and development results of research proposers, etc.  
This includes cases where the research applicant holds only a title such as technical advisor without direct involvement in management, as well as cases where the individual holds only shares.
- b. An organization of which the researcher, etc., are appointed as directors (including CTOs and excluding technical advisors).
- c. An organization of which the research applicant has some stocks.
- d. An organization from which the research applicant has revenues as a license fee.

Our screening committee makes deliberation from the vantage points of the necessity, rationality, adequacy, etc. of the applicable organization with respect to the application, including the "organization in relation to the research applicant" as a participating organization.

For this purpose, declare that the "organization in relation to the research applicant" is included as a participating organization in the column for special remarks (Form 7) in your application form if you specify an "organization in relation to the research applicant" is included as a participating organization.

To implement the management of the conflict of interest with the research applicant, additional documents may be asked.

### **(3) Conflict of Interest with JST**

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

The selection committee will deliberate on the necessity, reasonableness, and appropriateness of adopting the funded company as a participating institution for the proposal in which JST's funded company will participate.

Therefore, if you wish to include a company funded by JST as a participating organization, please declare that the company is included in the participating organization in the "special remarks (Form 7)" of the research proposal.

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

- \* As for JST invested company, please refer to the following website. Companies which have finished the investment form JST are not regarded as institutes with conflict of interest and researchers who belong to these companies are not requested to declare.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/entre/result.html#M01>

- \* Standard date for the declaration starts from the date which call for research applications have started. Companies which are selected but not yet disclosure as JST invested company, are not requested to declare in accordance with the non-disclosure commitment. Please refer to the following website for disclosure of investment by JST.

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

## **2.9 Selection Perspective**

### **(1) Selection Criteria (Pre-evaluation Criteria)**

Selection criteria are as follows (It is a prerequisite to meet the "2.6 Application Requirements"):

- a. It is consistent with the objectives of the program;
- b. The research is application eligible for this call for applications (see "2.1 Eligible Research Applications");
- c. The research application is based on the applicant's own ideas;
- d. The applicant has the willingness to execute the research plan, and it feels feasible;
- e. The applicant has the necessary research capabilities and systems;
- f. The applicant contribute to the development of emerging and integrated fields and the continuous progress of the related research fields through the activities to execute the research plan and the efforts for discussions and mutual inspirations with other researchers;
- g. The applicant is willing to request cooperation from, or coordinate with, research institutions as necessary to ensure a research environment suitable for conducting FOREST; and
- h. With respect to (3) of "2.6.1 Requirements for Applicants," if the applicant is expected to be independent (within 3 years), it is expected that the applicant is highly motivated and likely to become independent.

**(2) “Unreasonable Duplication” and “Excessive Concentration” of Research Budgets**

Whether the application falls under "unreasonable duplication" or "excessive concentration" of research budgets is also a factor in the selection. For details, please refer to “4.3 Measures Against Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration.”

## Chapter 3 Proceeding with the Research Post-selection

### 3.1 Creation of Research Plan

- a. Once selected, a Phase 1 research plan is to be created for the entire period of Phase 1 (3 years). In addition, an annual research budget plan is to be created for each fiscal year. The research plan includes research budget and research team organization plans. The proposed research budget will be assessed through the selection process. The actual research budget will be determined after careful review and approval by the FOREST PO at the time of formulating the research plan for the research project.
  - b. Research plans become official once they are examined and approved by FOREST PO. FOREST PO will offer advice and coordination assistance on the research plan and provide instructions when necessary.
  - c. FOREST PO, in approving research project plans may merge or link research projects, or take other coordinative actions.
- \* Research organizations and budgets set forth in research plans may be revised during the research project period in response to overall FOREST Program budget conditions or factors like results of research evaluations.

### 3.2 Collaborative Research Agreement

- a. Once a research project is selected, JST, in principle, will enter into concluding a Collaborative Research Agreement (\*) with the research institutions with which the Researchers are affiliated.
- b. If it is not possible to conclude Collaborative Research Agreement 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 if the related research institutions are conspicuously financially unstable, it may be impossible to pursue research at the research institutions in question. For more details, please refer to "3.7 Responsibilities of Research Institutions." The FOREST POs, who shall examine and/or approve a research plan and work as a mentor afterward, may be different from the FOREST PO specified at the time of applying for research.
- c. In principle, patents and other intellectual property rights resulting from research shall, in accordance with Collaborative Research Agreement 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. If a Forest PI is transferred to another institution, the research can be continued on the condition that it can be continued without interruption. It is not permitted to change the PI as a result of the transfer. It is stipulated in the Collaborative Research Agreement that, in principle, items acquired with research budget (direct cost) must be transferred in some ways to the research institution to which the researcher is transferred.

### 3.3 Research Costs

JST pays the costs of a contract research, to the research institution that have concluded a contract of agreement with JST.

#### 3.3.1 Research Budget (Direct Costs)

Research budget (direct costs) are those that are directly related to and required for pursuing the subject research. Research costs include:

- a. Commodities: Costs for purchasing new facilities ( † 1), equipment, consumable supplies, etc.
- b. Travel Expenses: Expenses for travel by the Research Director and Research Participants listed on the research plan etc.
- c. Personnel expenses and honoraria: Personnel expenses and honoraria for Research Director, and research participants and others listed in the research plan (However, personnel expenses and gratuities for all but the Research Director ( † 2) )
- d. Others: Expenses for publishing research outcomes (paper submission fees, etc.), equipment leasing, transportation etc. ( † 2)

† 1: The “Integrated Innovation Strategy 2025” (Cabinet decision of June 6, 2025) and other documents call for promoting the shared use of research equipment and facilities, as well as establishing core facilities. When purchasing new research equipment or facilities, please refer to “4.12 Promotion on Effective Use of Research Facilities and Equipment.”

NOTE: 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 in the Contract Research Agreement, the Official Administration manual, and the Common Fund Handling Classification Table for Ministries and Agencies. In addition, handling may differ between universities, etc. (universities, public research institutions, public-interest corporations, etc. recognized by JST) and companies, etc. (research institutions other than universities, etc., mainly private companies, etc.). For more information, please refer to the latest the Official Administration manual and other documents at the following URL. <https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/index2.html> (in Japanese)

† 2: 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), as long as certain requirements are met. Please refer to the following list of requirements.

- Revision of the Direct Expenses to Allow Expenditures for Non-Research Activities on Behalf of Researchers (Introduction of a Buyout System) and Expenditure of Personnel Expenses for Principal Investigators (PIs) from Direct Expenses (Liaison)" (September 17, 2020)

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

Note: For FOREST researchers who satisfy the requirements specified separately, additional support will be provided under certain conditions, such as payment of an appropriate level of compensation to doctoral students who support FOREST research as Research Assistants, etc. (However, the amount and conditions of the grant may change depending on the budget situation in 2026 and thereafter.) Details will be announced after the selected project.

Note: Outsourcing is permitted if it is necessary to conduct the research. In the case of such outsourcing, however, it is assumed that it is under a service agreement that does not include research and development elements. Subcontracting that includes research and development elements is, in principle, not permitted.

### **3.3.2 Overhead (Indirect) Costs**

Overhead (indirect) costs are 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 in 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 expense be transparent.

### **3.3.3 Multiple-year Contract and Carryover**

From the perspective of more effective and efficient use of research funds for maximizing research outcomes and preventing fraud, JST has adopted multi-year contract for Collaborative Research Agreement to enable carry-over of collaborative research funds and procurement agreements spanning over the fiscal years. (Please note that, in the case of the carry-over system, there may be cases in which multi-year agreements and carry-overs are not allowed due to the differences in its handling between universities and companies, the administrative management system of the research institution, and other reasons.) If the end of the research period does not fall on the end of March, in consideration of the agreements for research assistants and others hired under this program, the contract period can

be extended till the end of March of the last fiscal year of the research period with the approval of the FOREST PO and JST, provided that it does not involve an increase in the research budget.

### **3.4 Matters for Proceeding with the Research**

#### **3.4.1 Operation Scheme**

The research period for this program is, in principle, seven years with two research phases, namely Phase 1 (3 years<sup>\*11</sup>) and Phase 2 (4 years). All those newly selected will commence their research in Phase 1, and before the end of Phase 1, a stage-gate review will be conducted to determine the transition to Phase 2. For those projects that pass the stage-gate review, the research will continue to Phase 2. If it does not pass the stage-gate review, the FOREST will be terminated as of the end of Phase 1.

\* 11 If the system for postponing the start of a research is used or if the research is interrupted or extended during the research, the planned ending period of each phase will be postponed by the same period. For details, see section 3.4.5, "Programs for Interruption and Extension of Research, and Postponement of the Start of Research."

#### **(1) Review Criteria for the Stage-gate Reviews <sup>\*12</sup>**

During the stage-gate reviews of projects that cleared finished Phase 1, the items stated below are followed for confirmation.

- a. There has been steady progress and trial-and-error in research based on the research plan.
- b. The researcher has strong willingness to take on challenges without fear of risk;
- c. There been any progress in securing an appropriate research environment suitable for conducting FOREST<sup>\*13</sup>;
- d. The researcher actively participated and cooperated in the "Place for Fusion" (see "3.4.4 Formation of the "Place for Fusion"); and
- e. The researcher has strong willingness to continue to take on challenges without fear of risk after phase2.
- f. The conditions for independence (Items (a) through (d) of "2.6.1 (3) Conditions for Independence") at the time of the application were met<sup>\*14</sup>.

\*12 This program gives support to the challenging and unique research applications that need to be coped with for a long time despite fear. For this purpose, our stage-gate reviews try confirming mainly the progress of a research and the situation of the endeavors.

\*13 "Any progress in securing an appropriate research environment suitable for conducting FOREST" here refers to such endeavors as whether any sufficient efforts are secured to cope with the FOREST research, whether any appropriate organization for conducting the research is secured, whether the research funding from this program is appropriately used for these purposes, and so forth.

\*14 Make the best efforts to satisfy the conditions for independence within three years. Our stage-gate reviews evaluate not only the conditions for independence but also the sustainability of the continuation of the support to the research from a comprehensive viewpoint. If an applicant fails to satisfy part of the requirements for independence after making efforts to be independent, we consider such a situation in our evaluation.

## **(2) Methods for Conducting the Stage-gate Review**

Before the end of Phase 1, the FOREST PO will conduct the review with the cooperation of the FOREST AD and others and JST will make a decision.

The results of the stage-gate review will be reflected in the adjustments to the research plan (including increases or decreases in research budget, review of the research team organization, etc.) after the Phase transition, and measures may be taken to end (terminate) the research project early.

## **(3) Extension after the end of Phase 2**

When the project is expected to produce significant outcomes by extending the research period and it is difficult to obtain support from other sources, and the termination of support is believed to cause a negative impact on international competition, the research project may, in principle, be extended for up to 3 more years after the end of Phase 2 upon approval of the FOREST PO each fiscal year.

The review to determine whether or not to extend the study after completion of Phase 2 will be conducted at an appropriate time prior to the completion of the study.

### **3.4.2 Securing Research Environment Suitable for Execution of FOREST**

In this program, it is stated that it aims to secure an appropriate research environment suitable for the execution of FOREST with the support of the affiliated universities and other research institutions of each researcher while ensuring maximum discretion for the researchers. For example, the affiliated institutions are expected to provide finely tuned support in consideration of the situations the researchers are in, such as “the shared use of research equipment available to the researchers supported by this program due to the limited budget for this program”, “consideration and support from the affiliated institutions for securing research hours in light of the fact that the research hours of university faculty members are becoming shorter” and “support for researchers to become independent”. The affiliated institutions that have provided active and outstanding support to ensure a research environment in which the researchers supported by this project can concentrate on their emergent research will be reviewed at the end of Phase 1 for each emergent researcher, and research environment support will be provided based on the results of the review. For detail, please refer to "3.4.3 Research Environment Support.

### 3.4.3 The Research Environment Improvement Support

By the time of the stage gate review of each FOREST researcher, the improvements in research environment that have been implemented for FOREST researchers by research institutions will be reviewed, and an additional amount of support for the improvement of the research environment surrounding the researchers will be determined for each research institution.

The following are examples of “active and excellent support” that are subject to review. Regardless of the following cases, efforts that contribute to improving the research environments of FOREST researchers will be reviewed.

- Support for secure/provide positions (providing tenured post, promotion, etc.)
- Support for independence (secure/expand laboratory/space, including support for associated costs, etc.)
- Consideration for securing research time (utilization of buyout, reduction of official work burden at university, etc.)
- Support for accelerating research (research start-up costs, student assignment, research/administrative assistant support, priority use of common facilities, etc.)
- Support for improving the research environment and research motivation

We plan to provide up to 50 million yen/period (maximum amount of support for each review in each period) per institution. The amount of research environment improvement support will be decided by comprehensively evaluating the content of the support for FOREST researchers from the institution, the number of researchers who received the support, the research environment surrounding the relevant institution, and the efforts of each research institution. The research environment improvement support can be used for the purpose of the improvement of the research environment of young researchers, mainly FOREST researchers. Within the upper limit of the amount of research environment support determined by the aforementioned review and presented by JST, each institution is requested to apply to JST for the research environment support it wishes to receive, and the necessary amount will be provided after review.

Details of this support will be announced separately.

### 3.4.4 Formation of the “Place for Fusion”

In this program, the "Place for Fusion" will be operated under the leadership of the FOREST PO, JST, and FOREST researchers for the purpose of checking the progress of research, building networks among FOREST researchers, and understanding and integrating research in various fields. FOREST researchers are requested to participate in the "Place for Fusion", which is held in the form of a camp (approximately once a year) with the FOREST POs, FOREST ADs, and a variety of external experts, etc., by category such as panels, research fields,

and regions, and to present and discuss their research results. FOREST researchers will be involved in the planning and operation of the "Place for Fusion".

Through friendly rivalry and mutual inspiration among FOREST researchers in addition to discussions and interactions with the FOREST POs, FOREST ADs, and a variety of external experts, it aims to encourage FOREST researchers to create imagines of their goals and visions as researchers as well as their plans for future research development, and to build a network that contributes to the formation of team-based research.

Various meetings (study groups, public events, etc.) planned by researchers on their own initiative are encouraged as a part of the "Place for Fusion", and JST will support the planning and management of these meetings.

JST will take the initiative in setting up a forum for research promotion and exchanges beyond the panel, in which participation is required in principle. In addition, the FOREST POs and ADs will provide mentoring to each researcher and offer advice and guidance on individual research topics and efforts to ensure an appropriate research environment suitable for the execution of emergent research.

### **3.4.5 Programs for Interruption and Extension of Research, and Postponement of the Start of Research**

#### **(1) Programs for Interruption and Extension of Research**

If it becomes difficult for an FOREST researcher to continue his or her FOREST research for any of the following reasons (a) through (d), the research can be temporarily suspended with the approval of the FOREST PO and JST. The research period of the Phase at the time of the interruption can be extended by the duration of such interruption. In this case, JST will compensate for the same amount as the unused portion of the research budget due to the interruption of the research after it is resumed. The duration of the interruption will be determined through the discussions among the FOREST researcher, the FOREST PO and JST.

In addition, if your research is selected as a research in the <Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction> stated in item "j," segment (2) of section 2.6.1, " Requirements for Applicants " after the final year of Phase 1\*<sup>15</sup>, if approval is obtained through careful review of the research plan by Forrest PO et al, the researcher may continue the FOREST research in parallel with the duplicate project ,so please contact JST for further information.

- (a) When a life event occurs (childbirth, childcare, care giving)
- (b) Long-term stay in a foreign institution under a program other than this program

\* When the researcher is unable to allocate more than a certain level of effort (set by the FOREST PO) on the FOREST while staying at a foreign research institution for international collaboration activities that contribute to the researcher's career development, such as overseas training programs or joint research with overseas researchers through external funding programs other than this program.

- (c) In the event of damage to research institutions due to a large-scale disaster, etc.
- (d) In the event of other circumstances, which cause the interruption of the research, approved by the FOREST PO, or JST.

\*15 If you choose section 3.4.5, "Programs for Interruption and Extension of Research, and Postponement of the Start of Research," your research period will be postponed by the same period.

## **(2) Program for Postponement of the Start of Research**

If any following condition from (a) to (c) are satisfied, the start of your research is postponed, while you can hold the eligibility as a successful applicant.

- (a) Until the transfer to the institution in Japan that is to conduct the FOREST research and the initiation of the FOREST research in the case of a researcher who belongs to an organization overseas at the time of the research application successfully selected.
- (b) Until the finalization of the research in the PRESTO Program and the PRIME program in the case of a research director who has received research funding from JST in the PRESTO Program and from AMED in the PRIME Program (applicable only to the research projects to be completed by the end of March 2027).
- (c) In any other special circumstance necessitates delaying the commencement of research , subject to the FOREST POs, and JST providing approval to such decisions.

However, when starting the research, the application requirements (see "2.6 Application Requirements") that were met at the time of the selection must remain met.

## **(3) Upper Limit on Interruption of Research and Postponement of the Start of Research**

In principle, the extension period of research based on "(1) Suspension and Extension of Research" above and the grace period of starting research based on "(2) Deferral System for Starting Research" are limited to a total of two years per Principal Investigator under the two systems combined (in the case of Phase 1, the extension is until November, FY2031; in the case of Phase 2, the extension is until November, FY2035).

## **3.5 Evaluation**

- a. The FOREST PO, with the cooperation of the FOREST AD and others, will conduct ex-post evaluation of the research project as soon as possible after the completion of the research or at an appropriate time before the completion of the research, depending on the characteristics and stage of development of the research.
- b. In addition to the above, the FOREST PO may conduct a project evaluation at a time when it is deemed necessary.

### 3.6 Responsibilities of the Selected Researchers

- a. FOREST Researchers are obliged to conduct their research, honestly and effectively, fully understanding that their research is funded by precious tax revenues collected from citizens.
- b. 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.

- (1) Comply with application guidelines and other requirements.

- (2) Understand that JST research budgets are funded by tax revenues from citizens and do not become involved in any research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism, and/or the improper use of the research fund.

- (3) To prevent misconduct in research activities and the improper use of research funds by participating researchers, etc., we will ensure that they are aware of the importance of taking courses in any of the following programs or educational materials. For details, refer to “4.33 Duty to Complete Education on Research Ethics and Compliance”. Note that if, despite JST's reminders, the participating researchers, etc., do not fulfill their completion obligations as stipulated, the execution of research funding may be suspended for a period of time until completion is confirmed.

\*Complete one of the following programs or course materials.

- “eAPRIN” provided by the Association for the Promotion of Fair Research
- “eL CoRE” provided by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- “For the Sound Development of Science -The Attitude of a Conscientious Scientist-”  
by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- “Responsible Research Practices to Learn from Cases– A Casebook to Instill Awareness and Learning –”  
by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
- “A Compendium of Near-Miss Incidents Related to Research Integrity ”  
by the Japan Agency for Medical Research  
and Development
- Other research ethics education programs and training that the affiliated research institution  
deems equivalent to the above

(If the research institution deems it equivalent, the video material “Gaps in Ethics”  
provided by JST is also acceptable.)

If it is difficult for you to take a research ethics education program at your affiliated institution, for example because your affiliated institution does not offer one, you can take eAPRIN (e-learning materials operated by the Association for Research Integrity Promotion (APRIN)) through JST.

- c. Pursuing and Managing Research

- (1) FOREST Researchers are responsible for arranging research conducting locations and environments necessary for pursuing their research. If serious weaknesses in these are found, the research project may be cancelled.
  - (2) FOREST Researchers are responsible for submitting research reports and other required documents to JST (including FOREST PO) 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 FOREST PO on his/her request as well as for regularly submitting a semiannual report to him/her.
- d. The FOREST researcher will be responsible for the control and management of research budget, administrative procedures, management of research participants, travel, etc. Please give consideration to the research environment, working environment and conditions of the research participants, especially of the researchers hired with the research budget of this program.
- e. When hiring young postdoctoral fellows with research budget, please make a proactive effort to support them in ensuring diverse career paths both domestically and internationally. An activity plan to support diverse career paths for young postdoctoral researchers hired with research budget (\*) will be confirmed at the interview screening.
- \* Some of the activities under this activity plan may be included in the research effort.
- f. The researcher is asked to participate in various events of the "Place for Fusion" as well as to cooperate in the planning and management of the events.
- g. Handling of Research Results
- (1) 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.
  - (2) When reporting on research results through research papers or other media, please acknowledge that the research results were obtained by the FOREST Program.
  - (3) Research team members may be requested to participate in domestic and international workshops and symposia sponsored by JST and to report on research results there.
  - (4) It is requested that an active effort be made to secure intellectual property rights. In principle, intellectual property rights are to be applied, in accordance with Collaborative Research Agreement contract terms, by the research institutions with which researchers are affiliated.
- h. Researchers are requested to actively engage citizens in discussions of science and technology to promote citizens' understanding and support of science and technology.
- \* Please refer to the guideline details in "4.19 Dialogue and Collaboration with Public Stakeholders."
- i. Researchers shall abide by Collaborative Research Agreement entered by JST and research institutions, and shall abide by JST's various rules.

- j. It should be noted that JST will provide research project names, names of researchers, research budget information, and other required information to the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) and the Government Research and Development Database. Research Directors and others, therefore, are going to be requested to provide these types of information in this respect. (“4.35 Provision of information from e-Rad to the Cabinet Office”)
  - k. Researchers are requested to working together with JST, for conducting Research evaluations, JST accounting examinations, accounting audits by the national government, and other similar activities.
  - l. With the cooperation of the affiliated institution, by organizing an environment in which FOREST researchers can devote more time to the research (including outside of FOREST activities), please ensure that the research hours are at least the following ratio to the overall work activities such as research activities, education activities, and social service activities. <sup>\*16</sup>
    - Science-related: 55%
    - Engineering- or Agriculture-related: 45%
    - Medicine-related: 35%
- \*16 The aforementioned refers to the ratio of the hours taken for the research activities in general as opposed to not only this program but also to the overall work activities.
- m. FOREST researchers who have not met "2.6.1 (3) Conditions for Independence" at the time of the application are encouraged to make an effort to meet the conditions during the Phase 1 period.

### 3.7 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 will not be allowed to be conducted at research institutions that cannot fulfill the responsibilities listed below, so please ensure that you obtain prior approval from all research institutions where you plan to conduct research when applying.

- a. Research institutions are obliged to conclude a Collaborative Research Agreement with contents proposed by JST, as a standard, also they are obliged to properly implement a research, in accordance with the Collaborative Research Agreement(\*), administration manual, and research plan approved by JST. In the case that they cannot conclude a research contract with JST, and in the case that they are judged by JST that they cannot properly implement a research, an implementation of a research at the institutions shall not be admitted.

※ The latest sample of research contract agreement which is published on website.

<https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/index2.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 Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on February 15, 2007; revised on Feb. 18, 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 corporative in various investigations into their system implementation and other related matters (4.28 Consideration on “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](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 Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), 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, research institutions are responsible for responding to various investigations relating to the construction of administration based on the guideline (4.31 Consideration on “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”).

[https://www.mext.go.jp/b\\_menu/houdou/26/08/1351568.htm](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 guideline described in b. and c. and making them trained with educational materials related to research ethics provided by JST.

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, and etc., provided by JST, stating special regulation rules of expense in FOREST Program. (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 an inventor of intellectual properties with regard to 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 said 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.

In addition, when the intellectual property is transferred to and exclusive licenses to use the property are granted to other persons or parties, etc., a prior approval of JST is needed in principle, and when the application, registration, implementation, and renunciation of the property rights are going to be conducted, a priori report to JST is needed. Regarding the intellectual property produced through conducting the contract research of JST by research institutions, the institutions are obliged to notify and make necessary applications to JST that are relevant to Article 17 of the Industrial Technology Enhancement ACT, even after the completion of the contract research.

- g. Research institutions are responsible for responding 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.

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 country, the contract period, in the case of contract cancellation and contract research expenses reduction measures may be taken. In addition, based on the results of the stage-gate 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 institutes 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 contact and rescind the research funds.)
- j. As a part of the effort to prevent misconduct in research and development activities, JST has required researchers, who take parts of newly selected research projects and who also are affiliated with a research institution, to complete one of the following programs or materials
  - “eAPRIN” provided by the Association for the Promotion of Fair Research
  - “eL CoRE” provided by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
  - “For the Sound Development of Science -The Attitude of a Conscientious Scientist-” by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

- “Responsible Research Practices to Learn from Cases – A Casebook to Instill Awareness and Learning –”  
by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
- “A Compendium of Near-Miss Incidents Related to Research Integrity”  
by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
- Other research ethics education programs and training that the affiliated research institution  
deems equivalent to the above

(If the research institution deems it equivalent, the video material “Gaps in Ethics”  
provided by JST is also acceptable.)

If it is difficult for you to take a research ethics education program at your affiliated institution, for example because your affiliated institution does not offer one, you can take eAPRIN (e-learning materials operated by the Association for Research Integrity Promotion (APRIN)) through JST.

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

- k. Research institutions are obliged to take necessary measures, such as concluding research contracts with other institutions participating in the Research, regarding the handling of intellectual property rights and non-disclosure agreements, not to creating problems in implementing the Research and utilizing the Research achievement.
- l. Research institutes are requested to execute appropriate measures to fulfill their accountability, paying full attention to economics, efficiency, effectiveness, legitimacy, and accuracy, since the state funds shall be used as a source of funding for entrusted research expenses. In addition, research institutes need to make sure to work on planned execution and be careful 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. In this program, it is stated that it aims to secure an appropriate research environment suitable for the execution of FOREST with the support of the affiliated universities and other research institutions of each researcher. For example, the affiliated institutions are expected to provide finely tuned support in consideration of the situations the researchers are in, such as “the shared use of research equipment available to the researchers supported by this program due to the limited budget for this program” and “consideration and support from the affiliated institutions for securing research hours in light of the fact that the research hours of university faculty members are becoming shorter every year.” In particular, if an FOREST researcher has not met the "2.6.1 (3) Conditions for Independence" at the time of the application, please give considerations so that he or she can meet these conditions during the Phase 1 period. For those affiliated institutions that have provided proactive and excellent support for securing a research environment in which

the researchers supported by this program can concentrate on FOREST, there is a plan to provide additional support, upon review, to improve the research environment surrounding those researchers. For details, see "3.4.3 Research Environment improvement Support".

### **3.8 Other Notes**

#### **3.8.1 Programs for Supporting Childbirth, Childcare, and Care Giving**

As part of the efforts to promote gender equality, JST offers a support program for childbirth, childrearing, and care giving. The purpose of this system is to enable researchers to continue their research even in the event of life events (childbirth, childcare, elderly care), and, if they are forced to temporarily suspend their research, to keep in mind the continuation of their careers from the point of returning to research.

This system aims to ensure smooth progress in research and development projects by providing a means for researchers to continue their research and development at JST even when life events occur, thereby promoting the career development of researchers and gender equality.

For details, please refer to the website below.

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

#### **3.8.2 The use of JREC-IN Portal**

The database of research human resources (JREC-IN <https://jrecin.jst.go.jp/seek/SeekTop?ln=1>) 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 20,000 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. 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 collaborates with researchmap. It may be reached by logging in with a researchmap ID and password. Its functions for the preparation of resumes; achievement lists can use the information registered in researchmap to prepare these documents.

## Chapter 4 Key Points in Submitting Proposals

### 4.1 Use of Generative AI

Using generative AI to prepare application documents carries risks such as copyright infringement or leakage of personal or confidential information. Researchers should understand these risks and decide whether to use it at their own discretion.

### 4.2 Enrolling in and Completing the Educational Program on Research Integrity

The research project applicant must complete the Educational Program on Research Integrity as a prerequisite for application. Note that if completion of the program cannot be confirmed, the application will be disqualified for failing to meet the requirements.

To enroll in the Educational Program on Research Integrity and to submit a declaration of completion, follow either procedure (1) or (2) below. For application instructions using e-Rad, refer to Chapter 5: Submission via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad).

(1) For applicants who have completed an equivalent program at their institution

Applicants, who have already completed an e-learning program or educational seminar on various aspects of research integrity at your institution by the time of their application, are requested to make the declaration of it on the e-Rad application information input screen.

(2) For applicants who have not completed an equivalent program at their institution (including applicants at institutions who do not have such a program)

a. Applicants who have in the past completed eAPRIN e-learning program in a JST program.

Applicants who have in the past completed eAPRIN e-learning program in a JST program by the time of their application are requested to make the declaration of it on the e-Rad application information input screen.

b. For other applicants for whom a. above does not apply.

Applicants who find it difficult to enroll in the educational program for research integrity because their institution does not offer such a program or for other reasons may enroll in and take a digest version of eAPRIN e-learning program offered through JST. For information on how to apply, please refer to the Call for Proposals webpage (<https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/call/index.html>).

Please take the eAprin course via the URL below.

Course URL: <https://edu2.aprin.or.jp/ard/>

No cost is needed for completing the program, which will take one to two hours to complete. Once enrolled, applicants are expected to complete the program without delay and then to declare the completion of the program and to also select/type "Digest Completion." in the e-Rad application information input screen.

■ Contact for consultation on the Educational Program on Research Integrity

Japan Science and Technology Agency

Department of Audit and Legal Affairs, Research Integrity Division

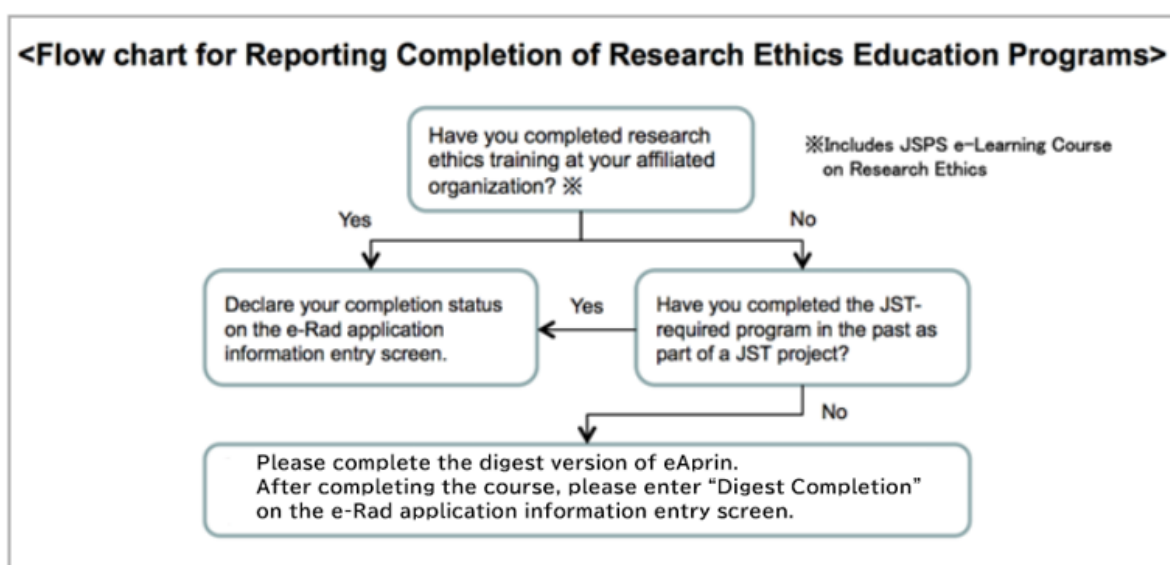
Email: rcr-kousyu@jst.go.jp

■ Contact for consultation on the call for application

Japan Science and Technology Agency

Department of Disruptive Research

Email: [souhatsu-application@jst.go.jp](mailto:souhatsu-application@jst.go.jp) \* Include the program name, e-Rad project ID, research applicant name, and project name in the body of email.



JST requires that researchers participating in this Program complete one of the following programs or course materials.

- “eAPRIN” provided by the Association for the Promotion of Fair Research
- “eL CoRE” provided by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- “For the Sound Development of Science -The Attitude of a Conscientious Scientist-” by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- “Responsible Research Practices to Learn from Cases – A Casebook to Instill Awareness and Learning – ” by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
- “A Compendium of Near-Miss Incidents Related to Research Integrity” by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
- Other research ethics education programs and training that the affiliated research institution

deems equivalent to the above

(If the research institution deems it equivalent, the video material “Gaps in Ethics” provided by JST is also acceptable.)

If it is difficult for you to take a research ethics education program at your affiliated institution, for example because your affiliated institution does not offer one, you can take eAPRIN (e-learning materials operated by the Association for Research Integrity Promotion (APRIN)) through JST. We will do the same for next year, so if your research is selected, in principle, all research participants will be required to take the research ethics education program or materials specified by JST (however, this does not apply if you have already taken the research ethics education program or materials specified by JST for your affiliated institution or a JST project, etc.).

### **4.3 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 funding programs 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 a duplicate application is made for research funds at the same time for research project that is essentially the same (including cases where they overlap to a considerable extent; the same as hereinafter), and they are selected more than once.

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) In the case that there is an overlap in intended application of research funding between multiple research projects.
- 4) 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 funds or other research funds. If a research project is selected by another competitive research fund or other research funds, please report this promptly to the administrative staff of this program (Department of Disruptive Research, JST). If there is any omission in this report, the research project may be rejected in this program.

- \* Excluding basic expenses or internal funds as allocated within your institution, commercial activities as defined in 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 that the overall research funding allocated to the same researcher or research group (hereinafter referred to as “researchers”) in 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.

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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\* :100%) allocated to the research project.
- 3) In the case that highly expensive research equipment is purchased unnecessarily.
- 4) Other cases equivalent to the above.

Hence, if you submit proposals to other competitive research funds or other research funds after submitting your application to this program, and the research project is selected by another competitive fund, or if any information provided on your application changes, please report this promptly to the administrative staff of this program (Department of Disruptive Research, JST). In the event of any omission in this report, the research project may be rejected in this program.

- \* 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) 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 principal investigator / principal collaborator, 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 research and development management system common to all ministries (hereinafter referred to as "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 it is 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) Other informations 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 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.

#### **4.4 Ensuring research integrity and research security against new risks associated with internationalization and openness of research activities**

In order 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 associated with the internationalization and openness of research activities may impair the values that form the basis of the research environment, such as openness and transparency, and researchers unintentionally fall into conflicts of interest and responsibilities. Dangers have been pointed out, and under these circumstances, building an internationally reliable research environment as Japan will promote necessary international cooperation and exchanges while preserving the values that form the basis of the research environment. Is indispensable for.

Therefore, universities, research institutes, etc. have stated that "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). Based on this, establish rules and management systems related to conflicts of interest and responsibilities, and autonomously ensure the soundness and fairness (research integrity) of research at researchers, universities, research institutes, etc. Is important.

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 "Direction of Specific Initiatives in Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Policies for Ensuring Research Security in Universities, etc." (December 18, 2024, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), it is stated that ensuring research security is necessary not only to meet the demands of Japan's economic security, but also to protect the open research environment based on common values such as academic freedom, independence, openness, reciprocity/mutual benefit, and transparency, and to promote international collaboration of universities, etc. For detail, please refer to the following MEXT website.

\* "Direction of Specific Initiatives in Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Policies for Ensuring Research Security in Universities, etc." (December 18, 2024, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)

[https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20241218-mxt\\_kagkoku-000039402\\_1-1rrr.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20241218-mxt_kagkoku-000039402_1-1rrr.pdf) (in Japanese)

#### **4.5 Security Export Control (Measures against Leakage of Technology internationally)**

Many advanced technologies are studied at research institutions. Particularly at universities, internationalization has led to an increase in international students and foreign researchers, raising the risk that advanced technologies, research materials, and equipment could be leaked and misused for the development and production of weapons and other purposes. For this reason, an organizational response by the research institution is required when a research institution conducts research activities, including this program, 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.

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") for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security. 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 consists of two main systems that require

the permission from the Minister of Economy in principle, Trade and Industry, based on international agreements, etc. (a) "list regulation" when trying to export (provide) cargo (technology) with specifications and functions above a certain level, such as carbon fiber and numerically controlled machine tools, etc. (b) "catch-all regulation" when certain requirements (use requirements / consumer 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 Law. When providing list regulation technology to non-residents (including residents who fall under a specific type (\*2) ), or when providing it in a foreign country, prior to the provision. Permission required. To provide technology, we provide technical information such as design drawings, specifications, manuals, samples, and prototypes on storage media such as paper, mail, CD, DVD, and USB memory, as well as technical guidance and skills. It also includes the provision of work knowledge through training and technical support at seminars.

Acceptance of foreign students from abroad and activities such as joint research may include many exchanges of technologies that may be subject to the regulations of the Foreign Exchange Law. Please note that the technology acquired through this project may also be subject to regulation when it is intended to be exported (provided).

In addition, students and other individuals who receive study abroad funding from a foreign government may be subject to export control under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act as specific types of residents, even if they are residents. Therefore, please note that accepting institutions need to properly grasp the scholarship status, etc. of international students.

\*2 Refers to the type of resident who is strongly influenced by non-residents, and it is permitted based on the provisions of Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law and Article 17, Paragraph 2 through 4 of the Foreign Exchange Ordinance. Transactions or acts that provide technology that requires "1. (3) Refers to the specific types specified in (1) to (3).

Furthermore, based on the Foreign Exchange Law, 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 the contract is concluded, it will be confirmed whether the project plans to provide cargo and technology that are subject to the export restrictions of the Foreign Exchange Law, and if there is an intention to provide, it will be confirmed.

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 to the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry 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

Law, 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 Law. 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 (METI) : Security export control (general)  
<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/englishpage.html>
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) : Guidance for the Control of Sensitive Technologies for Security Export for Academic and Research Institutions  
[https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law\\_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota\\_jishukanri03\\_eng.pdf](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota_jishukanri03_eng.pdf)
- Center for Information on Security Trade Control  
<http://www.cistec.or.jp/english/index.html>
- Information about Transactions or Acts that Provide Technologies that Require Permission Pursuant to the Provisions of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act Article 25 Paragraph 1 or the Foreign Exchange Order Article 17 Paragraph 2 through 4  
[https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law\\_document/tutatu/t10kaisei/ekimu\\_tutatu.pdf](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law_document/tutatu/t10kaisei/ekimu_tutatu.pdf) (in Japanese )

[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, in cases such as:

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 the headquarters of a domestic company moves abroad, becoming 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 states that when transferring intellectual property to a parent company or subsidiary located overseas, the transferee must be notified in advance. Furthermore, the transferor must confirm this prior notification and ensure that coordination is carried out between the contracting parties. 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.

#### **4.6 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> (in Japanese )

#### 4.7 Carryover of Research Expenses

Making a carryover of research expenses until the end of next fiscal year for a maximum, for multi-year contracts that continue until the next year, may be permitted according to the delay of the progress in the project occurs and is difficult to conclude within the fiscal year due to unavoidable conditions difficult to determine in advance the research or study method of the experimental research, such as weather-related conditions, obtaining rare materials and others etc.

#### 4.8 Cross-ministerial Expenses Handing Partitioned Table

The expense items of research costs specific to this Program are determined on the basis of “Cross-ministerial Expenses Handing Partitioned Table” as followings.

[https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/download/2025/2025\\_sohatsu\\_jimu\\_betsu9.pdf](https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/download/2025/2025_sohatsu_jimu_betsu9.pdf) (in Japanese)

Currently, in response to 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 research representative of the project (hereinafter referred to as “PI”) 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 Perspective of Gender Equality and Human Resource Development" (February 8, 2023, Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies on Competitive Research Funding), this project allows for the expenditure of direct expenses for the promotion of human resource development in science and engineering fields for 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)" (September 17, 2020)

<https://www.jst.go.jp/osirase/2020/pdf/20200917.pdf> (in Japanese)

#### 4.9 Exchange of Direct Costs between Expense Items

Direct costs of different expense items can be exchanged under certain conditions. Exchange is allowed without approval from JST when the amount of direct costs to be exchanged does not exceed 50% of the total direct costs.

#### **4.10 Securing Research Period until the end of Fiscal Year**

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

- (1) 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 institute should make efforts to organize necessary systems at the institute 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.

#### **4.11 Overhead Costs (Indirect Costs)**

Institutions who received overhead costs 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 received 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 institute 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 on user manual of e-Rad is provided on the website below

[https://www.e-rad.go.jp/manual/for\\_organ.html](https://www.e-rad.go.jp/manual/for_organ.html) (in Japanese).

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

In addition, due to the revision of the "Common Guidelines for the Execution of Indirect Costs of Competitive Research Funds" (agreed upon by the Liaison Committee of Ministries and Agencies Concerning Competitive Research Funds on April 20, 2001), it is now possible to use these funds for reserves for the replacement of depreciable assets held by independent administrative institutions, based on accounting standards, but only for projects funded by funds or operating expense grants.

#### **4.12 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 "Integrated Innovation Strategy 2025" (Cabinet decision on June 6, 2025) and other documents 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 Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) provided the "Guidelines for Promotion of Sharing of Research Facilities" in March 2022.

Furthermore, in the "Proposal for the Revival of Science" (November 18, 2025, Expert Panel on the Revival of Science), to revitalize the research environment, aiming to secure and sustainably enhance access to research facilities and transform the use of research funds, It calls for establishing core facilities at each research institution by the end of fiscal year 2035, integrating equipment and operations, with the goal of doubling the shared-use rate. It also mandates reform to appropriately manage equipment and instruments acquired through competitive research funding as public assets at research universities, shifting the focus of competitive research funding from hardware (equipment, instruments, etc.) to software (human resources, systems, and high-value-added services enabled by them). Furthermore, the "Future Policy for Renewing Advanced Research Infrastructure to Maximize Research Creativity and Efficiency" (July 10, 2025, Science and Technology Council, Research and Development Infrastructure Subcommittee, Committee for Strengthening Advanced Research and Development Infrastructure) requires the introduction of a system where, to promote and verify this shift in the use of competitive research funds, the basic principle for research equipment is to charge usage fees. When accounting for the purchase cost of research equipment above a certain scale, research institutions must confirm the planned duplication or shared use (including the planned timing for shared use, or reasons if shared use is difficult).

Based on the above, when it is anticipated that research equipment or instruments will be purchased through this project, the research institution must confirm prior to application whether it is necessary to purchase the equipment or instruments as an institution and whether they can be appropriately managed as public assets. Furthermore, particularly for purchases of general-purpose items costing 10 million yen or more, it must be confirmed whether shared use is possible within the scope that does not hinder the advancement of the research project, in accordance with the shared-use system of the affiliated institution or organization, and whether it is possible to purchase or share equipment through the combined use of multiple research funds. Be aware that even if a purchase is deemed necessary, shared use is possible during the project period to enhance research capabilities through the utilization of the latest research facilities and equipment. Please strive to expand shared use. Please pay close attention to the balance between managing the equipment or facilities as shared resources and using them to achieve the research objectives of the specific project.

Moreover, participants are asked to promote the sharing of research facilities and equipment beyond the framework of individual research organizations and institutes 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 Institutes 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), in Japanese.  
[https://www.mext.go.jp/b\\_menu/shingi/chousa/shinkou/039/gaiyou/1359306.htm](https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/shinkou/039/gaiyou/1359306.htm)
- "Integrated Innovation Strategy 2025" (June 6, 2025, Cabinet decision), in Japanese.  
[https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tougosenryaku/togo2025\\_zentai.pdf](https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tougosenryaku/togo2025_zentai.pdf)
- Unification of usage rule of competitive research funds (May 24, 2023), in Japanese.  
[https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/toitsu\\_rule\\_r50524.pdf](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), in Japanese.  
[https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20200910-mxt\\_sinkou02-100001873.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20200910-mxt_sinkou02-100001873.pdf)
- "Guidelines for Promotion of Sharing of Research Facilities" (March 2022), in Japanese.  
[https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20220329-mxt\\_kibanken01-000021605\\_2.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20220329-mxt_kibanken01-000021605_2.pdf)  
[Reference: Summary version on YouTube] [https://youtu.be/x29hH7\\_uNQo](https://youtu.be/x29hH7_uNQo)
- Inter-University Network for Common Utilization of Research Equipment, in Japanese.  
<https://chem-eqnet.ims.ac.jp/>
- New shared system introduction support program, in Japanese.  
<https://www.jst.go.jp/shincho/program/sinkyoyo.html>
- Core Facility Construction Support Program, in Japanese.  
<https://www.jst.go.jp/shincho/program/corefacility.html>
- Toward the Revival of Science: Proposals Expert Panel on the Revival of Science (November 18, 2025)  
[https://www.mext.go.jp/b\\_menu/shingi/chousa/gijiyutu/042/mext\\_00002.html](https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/gijiyutu/042/mext_00002.html)
- Future Policy for Renewing Advanced Research Infrastructure to Maximize Research Creativity and Efficiency : :Science and Technology Council, Research and Development Infrastructure Subcommittee, Committee for Strengthening Advanced Research and Development Infrastructure (July 10, 2025)  
[https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20250710-mxt\\_kibanken01-000043663\\_1.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20250710-mxt_kibanken01-000043663_1.pdf)

#### 4.13 Improvement of Treatment of Doctoral Student Participants

In the "Science and Technology / Innovation Basic Plan" (decided by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021), financial support for graduate students, especially doctoral students (second semester), in order 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.

Furthermore, the "Guideline for the Employment and Nurturing of the Postdoctoral etc." Human Resources Committee, Council of Science and Technology, December 3, 2020) stated concerning the students in doctoral courses that "they have the aspects of both students and researchers, and providing a good environments for conducting research activities and securing the working conditions for them are important duty of the universities and colleges, which are to nurture researchers," that "specifying the compensation appropriate to the nature and contents of work, paying compensation according to the time spent for work under an appropriate management of the working, and providing the compensation according to the contribution appropriately evaluated are important in particular," and that "reviewing the rules, regulations, and the like in each universities and colleges is necessary so that some necessary cost may be counted up as the direct cost to recruit an RA at the time of application for a competitive research funding, and that paying the compensation at an appropriate level to such RA may be possible."

Based on the above, in this Program, please actively employ doctoral (second semester) students who are necessary for the execution of the research as RAs to the extent consistent with the objectives of this Program and the research plan of the researcher, and pay them according to the hours worked under appropriate work management by setting a unit price commensurate with the nature and content of the work while setting the salary level to be equivalent to the cost of living. In addition, when applying for this Program, please apply with a financial plan that also takes into account pay by doctoral students.

(Points to remember)

- The "Guideline for the Employment and Nurturing of the Postdoctoral etc." states concerning the treatment in the case in which a student in a doctoral course is hired for executing a research project that "the payment of 2,000 yen to 2,500 yen per hour<sup>\*</sup> be standard in consideration to the average amount of the salaries etc. of the specially appointed assistant professors etc. hired for some competitive research funding, etc."

Note: The standard pay for a specially-appointed assistant professor employed with competitive research funds is considered to be around 2,000 yen to 2,500 yen per hour, taking average amounts of pay into account. (Calculated based on the median monthly salary (between 400,000 and 450,000 Yen) 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 (between 7 hours 45 minutes and 8 hours) for actual days worked (between 19 and 20 days), excepting weekends and holidays, and multiplying by 0.8 in light 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 hiring students as RAs, etc., please consider not making them work excessive hours and the balance between the work time and doctoral (second semester) students' own research and study time.

In this program, it is planned that some additional support necessary to hire an RA is paid in an attempt to nurture the FOREST researchers to be leading researchers and to further facilitate the FOREST research with excellent students in their doctoral courses participating and, in addition, to promote the awareness being changed by researchers, universities, and colleges. For such additional support, we comprehensively review whether the FOREST researcher can take proactive attitudes to cope with the nurturing of the next-generation human resources that may lead the future of this country as a chief at a research laboratory.

#### **4.14 Securing Independent and Stable Research Environment 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 institute 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, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) 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.

#### **4.15 Promotion of Gender Equality, Human Resource Development, and Gender-Responsive Research**

In the "The Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (approved by the Cabinet on December 25, 2020)," and the "Policy Package on Education and Human Resource Development for the Realization of Society 5.0 (decided by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation on June 2, 2022) aims to create a research environment where both men and women can easily continue their research activities even after life events such as childbirth, childcare, and nursing care, and to promote the appointment of excellent female researchers as project leaders. Furthermore, through efforts to convey the attractiveness of science and engineering to female junior and senior high school students, including their parents and teachers, the project aims to increase the percentage of women entering master's and doctoral programs, mainly in science and engineering, to break through the low rate of women entering doctoral programs in the natural sciences, and to increase the number of potential bearers of knowledge 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.

- Expenses related to online science, physics, chemistry, and other subject classes or outreach lectures at elementary, junior high, and high schools conducted by individuals holding doctoral degrees in science and mathematics fields may be covered from direct expenses.

- Expenses for distributing research findings as easily understandable content for junior high and high school students via SNS and other platforms may be covered from direct expenses.

- Achievements in the above two outreach activities may be documented in research outcome reports and will be considered positively in evaluations. They may also be documented in research proposals and will be considered positively during reviews.

Furthermore, it is essential to conduct research and technological development that appropriately considers biological sex and social and cultural gender.

- • Conducting research and development without considering gender may lead to unintended negative societal impacts when implementing the results. Therefore, examine the involvement in research and development and, where necessary, conduct it with consideration for gender.

#### **4.16 Voluntary Research Activities of Young Researchers Employed for Executing a Project**

Based on "Implementation Policy on Voluntary Research Activities of Young Researchers Employed for Competitive Research Fund Projects" (The Coordination Committees of Relevant Ministries and Agencies on Competitive Funds, December 18, 2020), when the principal investigator determines that it does not hinder the promotion of the Program, participation of such young researchers contributes to the promotion of the Program,

and approval from affiliated research institute is obtained, the personnel costs for such young researchers can be paid from the research cost, and a part of their efforts can be spent for their activities, including their voluntary research activities and their research and management capacity improvement. For details, refer to the following website:

- “Implementation Policy on Voluntary Research Activities of Young Researchers Employed for Competitive Research Fund Projects” (December 18, 2020)

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

- Official Administration Manual (for FOREST, Supplemental Version)

[https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/download/2025/2025\\_sohatsu\\_hokan.pdf](https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/download/2025/2025_sohatsu_hokan.pdf)

#### **4.17 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 applications 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.

#### **4.18 Securing R&D management personnel such as URA**

In the "6th Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan" (Cabinet decision on March 26, 2021), it was 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.

According to the “Guidelines for Human Resource Systems for Research and Development Management Personnel” (June 2025, Committee on Human Resources, Council for Science and Technology) explicitly states that research and development (R&D) management personnel are crucial individuals who not only contribute to generating research outcomes as partners to researchers but also undertake overall R&D management related to the organizational operations of universities and other research institutions. This includes involvement in the systematic procurement and management of research funds and personnel, as well as participation in the formulation of management strategies. Furthermore, universities and other research institutions are expected to not only secure and cultivate R&D management personnel but also to review the division of responsibilities among researchers, administrative staff, and specialized personnel within the institution. By establishing an environment where R&D management personnel can work with motivation, these institutions can create an environment where researchers can concentrate on their research, thereby further strengthening the roles expected of universities and other research institutions.

Based on these, when management personnel such as URA employed by research institutes or newly hired are engaged in the management of research programs of this project, the research institute 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 management personnel, we would like to ask for active efforts such as having them participate in necessary training, etc. Also, please consider using indirect expenses for the project.

#### **4.19 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.

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

[https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/stsonota/taiwa/taiwa\\_honbun.pdf](https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/stsonota/taiwa/taiwa_honbun.pdf) (in Japanese)

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/> (in Japanese)

○ The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)

<https://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp/en/>

## 4.20 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, with subsequent revisions in 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.

Regarding research papers resulting from this project, they shall be made publicly available in principle through institutional repositories or publications designed for open access. In particular, peer-reviewed papers shall be made publicly available within 12 months as a general rule. Furthermore, for certain projects designated under national policy, immediate open access to academic papers and similar works as outlined in (2) below shall be provided. 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 (\*1). 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 maintain an institutional repository and you cannot find a suitable repository for storage, please use GRANTS Data (<https://grantsdata.jst.go.jp>), which JST began operating in November 2025.

For details, please refer to the following.

○ Implementation Guidelines: JST Policy on Open Access to Research Publications and Research Data Management

[https://www.jst.go.jp/EN/about/openscience/guideline\\_openscience\\_en\\_r7.pdf](https://www.jst.go.jp/EN/about/openscience/guideline_openscience_en_r7.pdf)

- Operational Guidelines for JST's Basic Policy on the Handling of Research Outcomes for Promoting Open Science  
(\*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> (in Japanese)
- Research DX (Digital Transformation) - Open Science (Cabinet Office)  
<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/kenkyudx.html> (in Japanese)
- 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/kokusaipen/sanko1.pdf> (in Japanese)
- 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](https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/common_metadata_elements.pdf) (in Japanese)

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 "4.22 Life Science Databases."

## (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.

In accordance with the "National Policy on Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications and Scientific Data (Decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on February 16, 2024) (hereinafter referred to as the "National Policy"), and the "Measures for the Implementation of "National Policy on Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications and Scientific Data" (decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on February 16, 2024)" (Revised on October 8, 2024, by agreement of the relevant ministries and agencies) (hereinafter referred to as the "Measures"), peer-reviewed academic papers and supporting data(\*3) produced with funding from the Strategic Basic Research Program (\*2) and the FOREST program, newly solicited from fiscal year 2025, must be deposited in an institutional repository or similar information infrastructure immediately (\*4) after publication in an academic journal.

The "Institutional Repository and Information Infrastructure" 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 Research Data Infrastructure System via e-Rad. Once the necessary information is provided, the research outcome information will become searchable within the Research Data Infrastructure System.

Additionally, to monitor the status of open access implementation, beginning in FY2025, performance reports and other documents for projects adopted under this program will require detailed information, including whether the work is subject to immediate open access, whether immediate open access has been implemented, 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.

- National Policy on Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications and Scientific Data (Decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on February 16, 2024)  
[https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa\\_240216\\_en.pdf](https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_240216_en.pdf)
- Measures for the Implementation of “National Policy on Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications and Scientific Data” (decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on February 16, 2024)” (Revised on October 8, 2024, by agreement of the relevant ministries and agencies)  
[https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/hosaku\\_en.pdf](https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/hosaku_en.pdf)
- FAQs regarding the above two policies  
[https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa\\_houshin\\_faq.pdf](https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_houshin_faq.pdf) (in Japanese)

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

(\*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/en/service/>) for further information.

#### 4.21 Inclusion of the Systematic Number in Acknowledgment and Other Sections

When presenting the outcomes of the research obtained through this program, please indicate that the research was supported by this program.

If you mention in the Acknowledgment of your paper that it was supported by this project, please include "JST FOREST Program, Grant Number 10-digit systematic number". The systematic numbers in this program are in the form of JPMJ + FR + four-digit alphanumeric.

Shown below are examples of the systematic numbers used in the acknowledgment in papers.

**【in English】**

This work was supported by the JST FOREST Program (Grant Number JPMJFRXXXX).

**【in Japanese】**

本研究は、JST創発的研究支援事業 JPMJFRXXXXの支援を受けたものです。

Note: If you have two projects or more in relation to a paper, list the names of the projects and the systematic numbers.

In addition, if the journal's submission system has a section for entering fund information, please enter the project name, system number, etc. in accordance with the journal's submission guidelines.

#### 4.22 Life Science Databases

The National Bioscience Database Center (NBDC) of JST has proceeded the Integration of Life Science Database Project (<https://biosciencedbc.jp/en/>) to promote the integrated use of databases in the life sciences field created by various research institutions and others.

Additionally, in "Progress and Future Direction of the Integration of Life Science Database Project" (January 17, 2013), NBDC has also worked for the object projects that receive provision of data and databases are to be expanded.

In light of this purpose, to promote sharing and utilization in life science research, we kindly request your cooperation in registering and publishing new life science databases and the data they contain in the following integrated tools.

No.	Type of Data	Place of Disclosure	URL
1.	Overview of public databases that have been built	Integbio Database Catalog	<a href="https://catalog.integbio.jp/dbcatalog/en/">https://catalog.integbio.jp/dbcatalog/en/</a>
2.	Data recorded in public databases that have been built	Life Science Database Archive	<a href="https://dbarchive.biosciencedbc.jp/index-e.html">https://dbarchive.biosciencedbc.jp/index-e.html</a>
3.	General data on research results using human samples, including base sequence information	NDBC Human Database	<a href="https://humandbs.dbcls.jp/en/">https://humandbs.dbcls.jp/en/</a>

#### 4.23 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](https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/hakusho/nc/06060904.htm) (in Japanese)

#### 4.24 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/en/resource/>

#### **4.25 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, Labour 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](https://www8.cao.go.jp/kisei-kaikaku/kisei/publication/program/240621/01_program.pdf) (in Japanese)

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

[Relevant Part]

b. The Cabinet Office, Children and Family Agency, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour 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.

#### **4.26 Research Support Services Partnership Accreditation System (A-PRAS)**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) established the "Accreditation System for Partnership for Research Support Services (A-PRAS)" with the aim of improving the research environment for researchers, accelerating the promotion of science and technology and creation of innovation in Japan, as well as providing support for the development of various initiatives related to research support services.

Under this system, research support services provided by private business operators that meet certain requirements are accredited as a "Research support service/partnership" by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. 18 services have been certified as of April 2025. We recommend you to utilize its wide variety of services such as search for joint researchers, for publicity or promotion for commercialization, fund or equipment procurement.

Details of each certified service can be found on the MEXT website below.

[https://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/kagaku/kihon/1422215\\_00001.htm](https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kagaku/kihon/1422215_00001.htm) (in Japanese)

#### **4.27 Reformation of Competitive Research Funds**

Currently, the systems of competitive research funding are being discussed by the government of Japan under the scope of "Integrated Innovation Strategy 2025" and "Comprehensive Package to Strengthen Research Capacity and Support Young Researchers " etc. to enable the efficient and effective use of research funds. Further notice will be provided if any principle or the like common in competitive research fund programs with respect to the improvement and operation of the systems is presented within the period of this call-for program and if such a principle is applied to this call-for program and its operation.

#### **4.28 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; revised on February 11, 2021) \*.

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 the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (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 overhead costs of competitive funding could be taken on the said institution. “Competitive funding” includes all financing distributed by the MEXT and the independent administrative agency under the jurisdiction of the MEXT.

\*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](https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1343904_21.htm) (in Japanese)

(2) Responses to 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)”

In concluding a contract for this project, the research organization must prepare for a management and auditing system for research expenses based on the said guidelines, and respond to 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 content on the following MEXT website, download the checklist form from e-Rad, fill in the required information, and submit (upload) it via e-Rad to the Competitive Research Funding Coordination Office attached to the Counselor (Research Environment) of the Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, prior to concluding the commissioned research contract.

This procedure must be continued for the period during which the institution receives competitive research funds from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or an independent administrative institution under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and manages said funds.

In addition, institutions that do not receive competitive research funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or independent administrative agencies under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (such as collaborating institutions that do not receive research funding) do not need to submit a checklist.

For details on how to submit a checklist, access the following website of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology. (The following website contains information on the checklist for the fiscal year 2025. When preparing your checklist, please verify the submission request for the relevant fiscal year.)

[https://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm](https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm) (in Japanese)

Since the guidelines include the perspective of "promotion of information dissemination and sharing," we ask that you actively disseminate information on your research institution's efforts to prevent misconduct by posting such information on your institution's website.

#### 4.29 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 Collaborative Research Agreement 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.

###### (ii) Measures to Restrict Application and Participation Eligibility (\*1)

Restriction measures set out in the table below, depending on the levels of inappropriate usage, are taken against the application and participation eligibility of researchers (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 of other ministries and their independent corporations in charge of competitive funds, who may restrict application and participation of the researchers in other systems for competitive funds of the prefectures.

\*1 “Application and participation” refers to proposing, applying for, or submitting a new proposal, participating in new research as a co-researcher, or participating in an ongoing research project (ongoing proposal) as a Principal Investigator or co-researcher.

\*2 A “researcher who violated the duty of care” refers to a researcher who, although not found to have been involved in improper use, violated the duty to conduct business with the care of a prudent manager.

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	5 years

	maliciousness of the misconduct is judged to be high	
	② Neither ① or ③	2-4 years
	③The 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 competitive 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 the society, as well as the malignancy of the act, is minor.

\*4: The Period of ineligibility for applying will be calculated from the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the misuse of research funds is recognized and the research funds are returned. Also ineligible in the fiscal year in which inappropriate usage of research funds is identified.

### (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 fulfil 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 the research institution, name of the funding program, year of misconduct, details of misconduct, the amount of misused funds, and number of researchers involved in the misconduct) will be disclosed in principle by JST. The outline of the misconduct case (project name, affiliation, research year, details of misconduct, and details of measures taken) will be also 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 institute, 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 web site for an overview of the current MEXT publication on fraud cases.

[https://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/kansa/houkoku/1364929.htm](https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1364929.htm) (in Japanese)

#### **4.30 Measures taken for Researchers whose Application and Participation Eligibilities are Restricted in Another Competitive Fund System**

Researchers on whom restriction is imposed for the reason of inappropriate usage of research expenses in another competitive fund system (\*) under the central government or independent administrative agencies are not eligible to apply to or participate in this Program while their qualifications are restricted for application in the competitive fund system.

“Other competitive fund systems” include those systems that newly start a call for proposals in public 2025 fiscal year and those that finished before the 2024 fiscal year.

\*Refer to following website about details of the specific schemes covered,

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

#### **4.31 Measures taken to the Violation of Related Guidelines**

In the event that research is conducted in violation of relevant laws, regulations, guidelines, etc., the researcher will be subject to disciplinary action and penalties in accordance with related laws and regulations, and the allocation of research funds may be suspended or the decision to allocate research funds may be revoked.

#### **4.32 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 Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) on August 26, 2014, hereinafter referred to as the “guidelines”).

In the case that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology finds defects in the approach of organizations as a result of a survey of the situation, based on the guidelines, the Ministry may take measures including reduction of indirect expenses of the whole competitive fund for the pertinent organization.

\* For more information on " Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" see the following web page.

[https://www.mext.go.jp/b\\_menu/houdou/26/08/1351568.htm](https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/26/08/1351568.htm) (in Japanese)

##### **(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 organizations must submit “a checklist related to the approach, based on ‘Guidelines for responding to misconduct in research’ (hereinafter, “checklist of inappropriate research conduct”). (Research undertaking is not approved unless a checklist of inappropriate research conduct is submitted).

Accordingly, after April 1, 2026, you should review the content of the following website, download the FY2026 version of the Research Misconduct Checklist from the Cross-ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad), fill it out completely, and submit it (upload it) via e-RAD to the Office for the Promotion of Research Integrity, attached to the Counselor (Research Environment) of the Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, prior to concluding the commissioned research contract.

Institutions that are not receiving competitive funds from MEXT or administrative agencies under its jurisdiction through a budget allocation or budgetary measures are generally not required to submit the Research Misconduct Checklist.

See the website of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology for details of the method for submitting a checklist of inappropriate research conduct.

[https://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/jinzai/fusei/1368875\\_00002.htm](https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1368875_00002.htm) (in Japanese)

When creating the checklist, please confirm the submission request for the target fiscal year. The checklist for fiscal year 2026 will be posted on this website at a later date.

\*Note1: A perfect environment for using e-Rad is necessary for submission of a checklist for inappropriate research conduct. See the URL below for details of the procedure related to the use of e-Rad (Note that subscription process for e-Rad requires approximately two weeks) :

<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/organ/index.html> (in Japanese)

\*Note2: 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 Collaborative Research Agreement 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 agreement is concluded in the following years.

#### (ii) Application and Participation \* Measures for eligibility restrictions

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 competitive fund systems (referred to as “other competitive fund system related to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology” hereinafter) distributed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology and independent administrative agencies of the ministry and to pertinent sections of competitive fund systems (referred to as “competitive 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 competitive fund systems related to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology 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-researchers or in similar roles, and serving as PIs or co-researchers 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 a 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

※The Period of ineligibility for applying will be calculated from the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the misuse of research funds is recognized and the research funds are returned. Also ineligible in the fiscal year in which inappropriate usage of research funds are identified.

(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 fund related to MEXT; management grants to national university corporations, inter-university research institute 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 2025 fiscal year and those that finished in 2024 fiscal year or before.

(iv) Public Announcement of Misconduct

In principle, JST makes a public announcement with regard to the outline of specific misconduct in research activities of this project (name of researcher, project name, affiliation, research year, contents of misconduct, and measures taken). The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology also makes a public announcement concerning the contents of the pertinent misconduct (name of misconduct, kind of misconduct, research field of misconduct, name of expense account of misconduct, outline of misconduct, measures taken by research organization, measures taken by fund distributor, and so on).

In addition, the above-mentioned guidelines stipulate that the research organization shall promptly disclose the results of the investigation when a fraud has been identified.

[https://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/jinzai/fusei/1360483.htm](https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1360483.htm) (in Japanese)

#### **4.33 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.”

After the proposed research project has been adopted, as part of the process of concluding the Collaborative Research Agreement, the PI must ensure that all researchers participating in the research project in this program are aware of the need to take research ethics and compliance training courses.

#### **4.34 Handling of Information on Projects and Other Items on the e-Rad**

Information on the e-Rad about each application (program name, project title, affiliated institution, PI’s name, researcher’s number, budget, research period, project overview and thesis metadata) will be treated as “Information planned to be made public” in accordance with the “Act on Access to Information Held by Independent Administrative Agencies” (Act No. 140, 2001) Article 5, Item 1 (a).

The results will be made public in the JST Project Database (hereinafter referred to as "PDB") (<https://projectdb.jst.go.jp/> (in Japanese)) and the Research Project Integrated Search (GRANTS, <https://grants.jst.go.jp/> (in Japanese)), and the information may be used in other information systems of JST as publicly available information. In addition, among the research results reports submitted by researchers, those that are available for public release may be made public in the PDB.

#### **4.35 Provision of information from e-Rad to the Cabinet Office**

The "6th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan" (decided by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021) stipulates that EBPM, which is policy making based on objective evidence, will be thoroughly implemented in the science, technology and innovation administration, and the information registered in the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) will be used for appropriate evaluation of government-funded R&D, planning of effective and efficient comprehensive strategies, resource allocation policies, etc.

For this reason, you are requested to input information on research outcomes, accounting performance records, and indirect cost execution records for competitive grants, for each fiscal year for the selected project in the e-Rad. The information necessary for macro analysis, including information on research outcomes and accounting performance records, will be provided to the Cabinet Office.

#### **4.36 Registration of Researcher Information on researchmap**

Researchmap (<https://researchmap.jp/?lang=en>) is one of the largest researcher information databases operated by JST that registers more than 390 thousand researchers in Japan, and it is also possible to make registered achievement information public. In addition, researchmap is also linked to e-Rad and many university faculty databases, so that registered information can be used in other systems, thus eliminating the need to register the same achievements repeatedly in various application forms and databases, thereby improving efficiency.

The information registered on researchmap is also effectively used for research and statistical purposes in academic and science and technology policy planning by the government, etc. We ask for your cooperation in actively registering this project on researchmap.

In this project, JST plans to use the researchmap operated by JST as a master database for performance information in various situations such as performance reporting in the future. In addition, the community function of researchmap will be used in project management, such as distribution of various files and event announcements. Therefore, we ask that all PIs of this program actively register and update their information on researchmap.

#### **4.37 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 PI 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.

#### **4.38 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](https://www.cao.go.jp/keizai_anzen_hosho/suishinhou/patent/patent.html) (in Japanese)

## Chapter 5: Submission via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)

### 5.1 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 (acceptance of applications → selection → adoption → management of adopted subject → reporting of research results) to manage the publicly funded research projects under the jurisdiction of ministries and agencies.

Note: “e-Rad” is the abbreviation of the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System, which is created by adding the capital letter of “e” of “Electronic” to the capital letters of “Research and Development” for science and technology.

### 5.2 Application method using e-Rad

Applications must be submitted through the e-Rad (e-Research and Development Management System).

When applying, please refer to the e-Rad portal site (hereinafter referred to as "portal site")

(<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>) .

Note: With regards to various application processes when using e-Rad, in principle applications using paper documents are not accepted, so be sure to carry out each process using the e-Rad portal site.

In addition to the following points (1) and (2), please pay particular attention to the following when applying.

○ **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 Firefox, Chrome, Edge, Safari.

(\*IE cannot be used.)

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

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

Please refer to “(1) Pre-registration for using e-Rad ” and “How to Apply Using the Common R & D Management System (e-Rad)” of Appendix Document.

○ **Please submit your application at least a few days (or more) before the application deadline for system entry.**

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, and inputting may take a long time.

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

- **Upload the created application form file in PDF format.**

Please upload the created application form file in PDF format. When converting to PDF, be sure to verify that text copied and pasted from the PDF reader screen does not become garbled. Some PDF conversion applications may embed text in the PDF using an incorrect character encoding.

- (1) Pre-registration for using e-Rad (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/organ/index.html>)

Pre-registration of the research institution and affiliated researchers is required by the time of application.

- (a) Application for Registration of Research Organization

Please appoint one administrative representative for e-Rad at your research organization, and complete the procedures from "Application for Registration of Research Organization"

(<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/organ/entry.html>).

\* Please allow at least two weeks for registration.

\* Once registered, you do not need to register again when applying for programs/projects administered by other ministries.

\* If you have already registered for a program or project administered by another ministry or agency, you do not need to register again.

- (b) Registration of departmental information, administrative assistant information, position information, and researcher information

The administrative representative will log in to e-Rad with the ID and password obtained in (a), register departmental information, administrative assistant (if any), position information, and researcher information, and issue IDs and passwords for the administrative assistant and researcher.

For registration procedures, please refer to the e-Rad Portal Site's

Manual for Research Institution Administrative Representatives: “10. Research Institution Procedures,”

“11. Research Institution Administrative Staff Procedures,” and “12. Researcher Procedures.”

e-Rad Portal Site: [https://www.e-rad.go.jp/manual/for\\_organ.html](https://www.e-rad.go.jp/manual/for_organ.html)

- (2) Application through e-Rad Proposal Submission by Researchers

Please refer to the Researcher's Manual on the portal site below.

[https://www.e-rad.go.jp/manual/for\\_researcher.html](https://www.e-rad.go.jp/manual/for_researcher.html)

Applications that have not been "Processed" or "Accepted" by the submission deadline will be considered invalid. Please check the status of your application on the "Proposal List" page. If a researcher's application is submitted by the submission deadline date and time but does not reach one of these statuses, please contact the email address in "5.3. Others (1) Contact for inquiries regarding the operation of the Ministry-wide Research and Development Management System (e-Rad) ".

Although the proposal must be "accepted" in order for the allocating agency to manage the submitted proposal, acceptance is not required in terms of completion of the application process by the researcher. If the status of the submitted proposal is "Applying" and the application type (status) is "Allocation Agency Processing Application" by the deadline, the application has been successfully submitted.

<Cautions>

(a) To apply, you must enter your application information online and attach the application form. The application form can be uploaded as a single electronic file with a maximum file size of 3 MB. If you use image data in the file, please pay attention to the file size.

(b) Incomplete application forms will not be considered. Please read the application guidelines and research proposal instructions carefully.

### 5.3 Others

(1) Contact for inquiries regarding the operation of the Ministry-wide Research and Development Management System (e-Rad)

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. JST will not answer any questions regarding the status of the screening or acceptance.

<p>Questions on matters such as programs, application documents for submission, and submission procedures</p>	<p>JST Department of Disruptive 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 : <a href="mailto:souhatsu-application@jst.go.jp">souhatsu-application@jst.go.jp</a>  Tel : 03-5214-7276  Office hours: 10:00 -12:00, 13:00 - 17:00  ● Except on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, the year-end and new year period.</p> <p>[Communication by e-mail may be requested even when a question is asked by telephone.]</p>
<p>Questions regarding usage of the e-Rad system  ※Please be sure to also contact the JST contact above</p>	<p>e-Rad helpdesk</p>	<p>Tel: 0570-057-060(navigation dial)  Office hours: 9:00-18:00  ●Except on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and the year-end and new year period.</p>

regarding any operation just before the application deadline.		
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- Website for FOREST program: (<https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/call/index.html>)

- e-Rad portal website (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/>)

## (2) Availability of e-Rad

Basically, e-Rad operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but may stop the service for system maintenance. Service suspensions will be announced in advance on the e-Rad portal site.

### 5.4 Points to be Noted Specific to This Program on the e-Rad Registration System

- Applications via e-Rad are scheduled to begin in early April 2026.
- The research applicant needs to **specify the panel with a role of the chief examiner (FOREST PO) in the screening step of the research application submitted.**
- **Make sure to specify the research field (main) and research field (secondary) <applicable to all applicants>.**
- **You must register a field code not belonging to "Humanities & Social Sciences" or "Others" as your research field (secondary) if you register a field code belonging to "Humanities & Social Sciences" or "Others" as your research field (main). If you fail to register, your application will not be accepted. If you register a field code belonging to the "Humanities & Social Sciences" field or "Others" field to both research field (main and secondary), your application will not be accepted either.**
- **Research field (secondary) is a optional item in the e-Rad system, so please do not to forget to enter it.**
- You must register the state of the degree of satisfying "the conditions of independence" as of the time of submission.

For the relation of the research field with the main FOREST POs or with the field codes belonging to "Humanities & Social Sciences" field or "Others" field, see section 6.1, "Research fields primarily handled by the FOREST PO" Before you make your actual registration, see the separate paper for researchers posted on the portal website of the program, "How to Apply from the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)."

## **Chapter 6: FOREST PANEL**

### **6.1 FOREST POs and Assigned Research Fields**

The e-Rad system should be used to specify the panel (the FOREST PO) as the chief screener in the screening process of your research application and the desired fields of the research (main and secondary field) for the initial document review. Please refer to the list of Research Fields Primarily Covered by FOREST PO, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Other Fields when you select the panel (the FOREST PO) as the chief screener in the screening process of your research application and examine the desired field of your specialty (main and secondary field) for the initial document review of your research application. It does not matter if your desired fields of specialty (main and secondary) is different from The FOREST POs research fields they are assigned.

The research field (secondary) is marked as an “optional field” in the e-Rad system, so please be sure to enter it.

Please note that if you select “Humanities & Social Sciences” or “Other” as your main or secondary research field, you will be evaluated as a specialist in the humanities and social sciences.

The research fields primarily covered by the FOREST PO, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Other Fields will be announced in early April 2026. Please refer to the following URL.

Research Fields Primarily Covered by FOREST PO, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Other Fields – List  
[https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/document/3rd\\_panel\\_researchfields.pdf](https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/document/3rd_panel_researchfields.pdf)

### **6.2 Message from Program Officer**

Messages from the FOREST PO and the Chief Advisor of the Humanities Review Team to researchers applying for this project are posted on the FOREST website under "Application Information" (<https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/en/call/index.html>).

Please refer to the messages.



## **FOREST Program**

Please refer to the following web page for the latest information and frequently asked questions.

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

Contact for Inquiries (We cannot answer to inquiry related to selection process)

Please submit inquiries by email.

Japan Science and Technology Agency

Department of Disruptive Research

5-3, Yonbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8666 Japan

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