

FOREST* Research Application: FAQ

*FOREST: Fusion Oriented REsearch for disruptive Science and Technology

Q. No.	Category	Question	Answer
1101	1.1. FOREST Overview	What does Fusion Oriented mean?	<p>Fusion Oriented is derived from "Emergence" (revelation, appearance) which is mostly used in physics, biology, and other disciplines and, nowadays, also used in organization theory, etc. implying the "behavior that induces innovation beyond expectations and intentions based on certain requirements by combining the abilities and ideas of individuals." In this program, as the expression "Fusion Oriented" implies, it aims to proactively establish a "place" where the diverse researchers selected for the program can interact with one another, causing an explosion of knowledge beyond $1+1=2$, and spearhead the "creation of seeds that lead to disruptive innovations". Furthermore, the word "Emergence" has the meaning of "shedding skin" and it is hoped that this program will be an excellent opportunity for the selected researchers to shed their skin to become outstanding PIs.</p> <p>* In physics, biology, and other disciplines, emergence is used to mean "complex organization of multiple local interactions resulting in the constitution of a system that cannot be predicted from the behavior of individual elements."</p>
1121	1.1.2. FOREST Operations	When will the FOREST PO be announced?	It will be announced as soon as they are decided, but it is expected to be around September.
1122	1.1.2. FOREST Operations	Without knowing who the FOREST PO in charge is, it cannot be judged if there is any conflict of interest.	Based on section 2.2.3., by coordination of JST, those who have any conflict of interest will not be involved in the selection.
1123	1.1.2. FOREST Operations	Is it possible to designate the FOREST PO to be in charge?	Based on the research application, JST will assign a FOREST PO in charge, taking into account the overall balance and promotion of fusion.
2101	2.1. Call for Research Applications	To apply, is it necessary to obtain a letter of approval from the affiliated institution?	It is not necessary. However, the research may not be conducted at research institutions that cannot fulfill the responsibilities of research institutions ("3.2.6 Responsibilities and Other Obligations of Research Institutions"). Those applicants who are affiliated with foreign institutions at the time of the application only can start their research as soon as they are transferred to domestic research institutions, which can fulfill the responsibilities of research institutions, after the selection.
2102	2.1. Call for Research Applications	Is it acceptable to use color for the text and figures in the research application? Will the evaluator look at the application in color?	Evaluators will accept the applications in color. However, as the PDF files may be printed out, it is recommended to use diagrams and tables which are easy to review even in low resolution.
2111	2.1.1. Eligible Research Applications	Does the list of "Eligible Research Applications" include applications related to humanities and social science?	The objective of this program is to "create seeds that lead to disruptive innovation". The application requirements describe eligible projects in concrete based this objective. Therefore, applications that satisfy the objective and requirements are eligible to be submitted.
2112	2.1.1. Eligible Research Applications	Does the term "disruptive innovation" exclude basic research?	A wide variety of research projects with a focus on basic research are eligible, as this program targets research with challenging and original content that needs to be tackled over the long term without fear of failure, and with the potential to create seeds that lead to disruptive innovations.

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2113	2.1.1. Eligible Research Applications	Does the expression "seeds that lead to disruptive innovation" mean that it is limited to the research with clear economic value?	Disruptive innovations emerge from unexpected sources. Therefore, such research of which economic value is currently unclear is also targeted.
2131	2.1.3. Number of Applications	What is the reason for limiting the number of applications to up to two out of three times?	Since this program is expected to receive a large number of research applications, and since it targets challenging and original research projects, the review process is expected to be rather difficult both quantitatively and qualitatively. In order to secure sufficient time to carefully review each research application, please understand that it is necessary to limit the number of applications per person.
2132	2.1.3. Number of Applications	For three calls for application, are the conditions and content the same?	They are subject to change. For example, based on the selection results from the first round, there may be revisions to review process, increase or decrease in the number of selected projects, etc.
2133	2.1.4. Research Organization	Is it permitted to propose a joint research with other research groups?	As the research funds cannot be shared with other groups, please make a research application as an individual or a single group.
2161	2.1.4. Research Organization	How long exactly is the research period?	Phase 1 will end at the end of FY2023, and if one passes the stage-gate review, it will end at the end of FY2027. It may, however, vary in the cases of research interruption or postponement of the start of research (Please refer to "3.2.4. Programs for Interruption and Extension of Research, and Postponement of the Start of Research").
2171	2.1.7. Research Budget	As it is stated that "the allocation of research budgets, potentially in excess of the maximum amount, may be changed at the discretion of the FOREST PO", is it acceptable to make a application in excess of the maximum amount?	Please make a research application within the limit of the maximum amount. After the selection, there may be cases in which the research budgets in excess of the maximum amount are allocated depending on the outcomes and status of the research.
2190-1	2.1.9. Application Requirements	As I am currently affiliated with a foreign research institution, I do not have a researcher ID number. What should I do?	Please register as a researcher by yourself by directly sending a researcher registration form, a copy of proof of identity, etc. to the System Operations Office of the e-Rad. For details, please check the e-Rad portal site. https://www.e-rad.go.jp/researcher/index.html
2190-2	2.1.9. Application Requirements	Is it possible for part-time employees (visiting researchers, etc.) to apply for the program?	You are eligible to apply so long as you meet the application requirements, are capable of organizing your own research during the research period, and the research institution is able to enter into a Collaborative Research Agreement with JST.
2192-1	2.1.9. Application Requirements	What is the reason for the conditions related to experiences, history of receiving research funds, and independence in the item (2) Requirements for Applicants?	This program targets researchers who are capable of proposing and executing challenging and original research projects based on their own ideas, and who are ambitious to pursue their research independently (including researchers who are expected to become independent). Unique application requirements are established to solicit research applications from these researchers.
2192-2	2.1.9. Application Requirements	With respect to the item (2) e., for those who have been unable to devote themselves to research due to childbirth, childcare, or care giving during the period within 15 years since obtaining a doctorate, is the application requirement 20 years + the period of the life event as of April 1st, 2020?	Even for them, the application requirement is 20 years or less since obtaining a doctorate as of April 1st, 2020.

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2192-3	2.1.9. Application Requirements	What kind of reasons might be eligible for the item (2) f. "if there are special circumstances in which the applicant has not received research funding during the past two years, the reason should be clearly stated in the application"?	It will be eligible if there is a clear reason, such as not being in a position to participate in other research projects due to a life event (childbirth, childcare, care giving), involvement in clinical training or large-scale research projects, or conducting research in corporations and the like and not being in an environment to apply for competitive funds.
2192-4	2.1.9. Application Requirements	What is the exact period of within the past 2 years as stated in the item (2) f. "must have received, or be currently receiving, research funding that can be used under his or her own responsibility and authority (research funding as the Research Director) within the past two years"?	You must have received funds within the last two fiscal years (FY 2018 and FY 2019).
2192-5	2.1.9. Application Requirements	I am currently receiving research funds applicable for "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction" in the item (2) i., but it is expected to end at the end of this fiscal year. Can I apply?	You can apply. If you are selected, the research will be started as of April 1st, 2021.
2192-6	2.1.9. Application Requirements	Is it possible to apply for both this program and "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction" as stated in the item (2) i.?	It is possible to apply for both this program and "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction". If you are selected for "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction", you will no longer meet the application requirement for this program. Please notify JST promptly in such a case.
2192-7	2.1.9. Application Requirements	Is it possible to apply for "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction" while conducting research selected for this program?	It is possible to apply for "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction". However, if you are selected for "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction", this program will be terminated. Please notify JST promptly in such a case.
2193-1	2.1.9. Application Requirements	In the item (b) of (3) Conditions for Independence, when it states graduate students, etc., what kind of people other than graduate students are applicable?	It assumes researchers and undergraduate students, etc.
2193-2	2.1.9. Application Requirements	Is it possible to apply even if I currently do not satisfy the item (b) of (3) Conditions for Independence?	It is possible to apply.
2193-3	2.1.9. Application Requirements	How will the item (b) of (3) Conditions for Independence be treated in the screening process?	These conditions are meant to encourage applications by "independent researchers" and "those who intend to become independent researchers and are willing to meet these conditions within three years by working on a challenging and original research topic set by themselves." In the screening process, the content of the application, execution power, humanity, and independence, etc. of the applicant will be comprehensively evaluated. If these conditions are not met at the time of screening, the future prospects and desire to become independent will be checked, and the selection will be made on the condition of making the utmost effort.
2193-4	2.1.9. Application Requirements	To "be responsible for the management of the research facilities and laboratory rooms required for conducting independent research" as stated in the item (3) *, is it necessary to be registered with a research institution as a superintendent or safety manager?	It is not necessary to be registered with a research institution as a superintendent or safety manager.

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2221	2.2.2. Interview Screening	If I cannot make myself available on the day of the interview screening, can I have someone else take the interview on my behalf? Or, can I request to change the date for interview?	It is not permitted to have someone else take the interview on your behalf. Additionally, it is not possible to adjust the date as it has been set having coordinated the availability of many evaluators. Please set the date aside as the schedule for interview screening will be notified by a separate email. Please also check the Research Applications website (https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/call/index.html) where the notices related to the interview screening schedule will also be published.
3131	3.1.3. Indirect Costs	Will indirect costs be paid to all research institutions that have entered into Collaborative Research Agreement?	All research institutions that have entered into Collaborative Research Agreement will receive a separate payment, in principle, of up to 30% of the research expenses (direct costs) as indirect costs.
3132	3.1.3. Indirect Costs	What kind of uses do the indirect costs cover?	Indirect costs are funds that are used by research institutions to cover the expenses necessary to improve the research environment for the researchers participating in the research projects selected in this program and to improve the overall functions of the research institutions.
3133	3.1.3. Research Expenses	Please elaborate on the eligibility and execution of expenses for outsourcing non-research work (buyout expenses).	As the item 3.1.3.(1). (Note 1) is applicable, it will be notified separately.
3134	3.1.3. Research Expenses	Please elaborate on the restrictions and execution of the individual researcher's own expenditure on personnel expenses.	As the item 3.1.3.(1). (Note 1) is applicable, it will be notified separately.
3211	3.2.1. Operation Scheme	If the item 2.1.9. (3) Conditions of Independence are not satisfied within three years, what will happen to the stage-gate review?	Please make your best effort to satisfy the Conditions for Independence within three years. As stated in the item 3.2.1. (1), stage-gate review will evaluate whether or not to continue supporting the research not only based on the Conditions of Independence but also from the overall perspective. If the applicant is not at fault, due consideration will be made in the evaluation.
3212	3.2.1. Operation Scheme	What does it specifically mean by "any progress in securing an appropriate research environment suitable for conducting for research" in the item c. of 3.2.1. (1) Review Criteria for the Stage-gate Reviews?	It will be judged on the basis of whether or not sufficient effort has been secured to conduct FOREST, whether or not an optimal research implementation organization has been secured, and whether or not research funds from the program have been used appropriately for this purpose.
3264	3.2.6. Responsibilities of Researchers	Why is the effort ratio set as the responsibility of the selected researcher?	In addition to improving the research environment expected of the affiliated institution, this program enables the reduction of burdens on individual researchers outside of their research activities by expanding the use of research funds to cover buyout expenses for internal operations, etc., with the expectation to ensure an appropriate research environment suitable for the execution of FOREST. For that reason, the selected individual researchers are required to make use of this and other systems to ensure that the effort allocated to their research activities meets or exceeds the standards set as their responsibilities. Please note that the effort of time for research activities as a percentage of total work hours for specific major is set based on the data for FY2018 from the "Survey Report on Full-Time Equivalent Data at Universities and Other Institutions (NISTEP, June 26, 2019)".

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3265	3.2.6. Responsibilities of Researchers	In the item I. of 3.2.6., the standard ratio of effort of the research hours to the overall work activities is different for Science-related, Engineering- or Agriculture-related, and Medicine-related, but it is difficult to determine which category my research belongs to. What should I do?	It will be determined in discussions with the FOREST PO and others after the selection.
4101	4.1. Research Ethics Education	Is there any requirement on the content of research ethics education program conducted at the affiliated research institution?	<p>Research ethics education programs are conducted under the responsibility of each research institution and JST does not specify the content of education materials. (Reference) In the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on August 26, 2014), which has been in effect since April 2015, it is stated that research institutes are required to develop a system, such as the appointment of a "person responsible for research ethics education", to conduct education as an institution, and that allocating institutions are required to confirm that the recipients have received research ethics education. The content required by the above guidelines is related to research paper fraud, and different from that related to, for example, bioethics and conflict of interest. If you have any questions, please contact the following section in JST.</p> <p>Research Integrity Section, Department of Audit and Legal Affairs, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) E-mail : rcr-kousyu@jst.go.jp</p>
4102	4.1. Research Ethics Education	Is it necessary to submit a document to certify the completion of research ethics education program?	It is not necessary to submit such a document.
4103	4.1. Research Ethics Education	How can I obtain the certificate number for program completion after having completed the digest version of eAPRIN (formerly CITI) e-learning program?	Once you pass the quiz, you can issue the certificate of program completion. The certificate number (7 digit number & ARD) for program completion is stated on the certificate.
4104	4.1. Research Ethics Education	As I have not completed the education program offered by the institution, I am planning to take the digest version of eAPRIN (formerly CITI) e-learning program. What should I do if it is difficult to take the course in Japanese, for example, if my native language is not Japanese?	An English translation of the digest version of eAPRIN (formerly CITI) e-learning program is available. Please take the course on the Research Applications website.
4105	4.1. Research Ethics Education	I cannot complete research ethics education program before the submission deadline. May I complete the program after the submission deadline?	The completion of research ethics education program is a mandatory requirement for the application. Please note that it is not accepted to take the course after the submission deadline.

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5311	5.3.1. How to Operate e-Rad	I cannot temporarily store the research application on the e-Rad.	You cannot temporarily store the document until all the items described in the "Appendix: How to Apply Using the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)" are entered. As you can make changes to the entry after storing temporarily, it is possible to temporarily store by entering dummy information as necessary.