No	Category	Question	Answer
1101	1.1. Overview	What does Fusion Oriented mean?	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. * 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.

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?	Applications related to humanities and/or social sciences are also acceptable in this call-for program as long as they are research projects that contribute to the creation of seeds leading to disruptive innovations according to any of the items (a) through (e) defined in Section 2.1.1 of Application Guidelines. Note that diversity and fusion are relevant in accordance with the principles of our program. In addition, The Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan (Cabinet Decision, March 26, 2021) states that humanities and social studies aiming at the quest for, and presentation of, a new sense of value and the way society should be encouraged in

			an organized manner. Likewise, the association and collaboration with the knowledge in natural sciences should be promoted, together with the creation of "comprehensive knowledge" beyond the borders of disciplines, with an orientation directed to the ideal form of, and the embodiment of, the reconstruction of the environment to generate a variety of outstanding research projects. On the basis of this framework, when the applicants in this program have a research project in any area of humanities and social sciences as their main field, they must necessarily select other areas as minor areas. Furthermore, if you apply for a research project related to humanities and/or social sciences, there are specific instructions concerning registration in the desired area for proper screening of your project in the e-Rad system. Therefore, make sure to read the separate paper describing how to use the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad) for applications before completing your registration.
2112	2.1.1. Eligible Research Applications	Does the term "disruptive innovation" exclude basic research? Is the scope of this program limited to research with specific economic value?	A wide variety of research projects with a focus on theoretical/ 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.

			It is said that a disruptive innovation occurs unexpectedly. This is why we include, in the scope of this program, research whose economic value is not presently clear.
2131	2.1.3. Limitation of the 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. Limitation of the Number of Applications	The guidelines state that a project can be submitted for application three times. Does this mean that, for example, for applications including research funding, the terms and conditions of applications and other contents will be the same in the three occasions?	They are subject to change. For instance, there are some differences between the first application and subsequent ones. The organization of our screening process has been disclosed, the number of the successful applications to be selected has been increased, part of the terms and conditions for the applications (the limitation on duplication) has been altered, and some other wording in the guidelines has been clarified.
2141	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.

2142	2.1.4. Research Organization	Is a joint research project excluded even if the research funding is not shared with other researchers?	This should raise no problem. However, we will need to review the research plans, among other aspects.
2172	2.1.7. Research Costs	In the budget for a theoretical fundamental project, the yearly maximum amount is less than seven million yens and the total amount is less than 20 million yens; is it necessary to plan the research budget for these maximum amounts?	The quantities of research funding specified in this program (seven million yens a year and 20 million yens in total in Phase 1) are the maximum amounts. Therefore, there will be no problem if you do not reach such maxima. We kindly request to strictly limit the proposed research budget to items that are essential. Note that our examination and screening process may be influenced by the inclusion of unnecessary items.
2181	2.1.8. Number of projects to be selected	How many applications will be selected in FY 2022?	We will approximately select as many applications as in FY 2021.
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, 2021?	For them, the application requirement is 20 years or less since obtaining a doctorate as of April 1st, 2021.
2192 -3	2.1.9. Application Requirements	Is internal funding, provided by the affiliated institute, included as a "research funding" stated in the item (2) f.	No, "research funding" stated here is limited to research funding based on open call.

		"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"?	Research funding in the call-for programs only for researchers belonging to the same research institution is excluded. .
2192 -4	2.1.9. Application Requirements	Is JSPS Overseas Research Fellowships included as a "research funding" 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"?	In the Overseas Research Fellowships system, it is difficult to distinguish between research expenses and stay expenses. If you have not accepted any other research funding and if there was no special condition that prevented you from accepting research funding in the past two years, as stated in the Application Guidelines, then fill in the column to declare why you have not accepted research funding for the past two years in Form 5 included in our application forms.
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, 2022.
2192 -6	2.1.9.	Is it possible to apply for both this program and "Projects Subject to	It is possible to apply for both this program and "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction". If you are selected for "Projects Subject to

	Application Requirements	Duplication Restriction" as stated in the item (2) i.?	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	Clarify the scope of the "research director or the like" stated in item "i" in paragraph (2), which is supposed to specify who cannot apply for this program as research director or the like having been selected for research funding, as described in <Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction>.	"Research director or the like" here refers, in principle, to those who are in a position of a representative. Researchers who have some partial assignment in a research project are, in principle, not included in the duplication restriction. There can be different posts and titles depending on programs and systems. Consequently, it may be difficult to define a general rule of boundary; if you have difficulty to know if you are applicable by reading the instruction above, feel free to consult us about your specific case.
2192 -8	2.1.9. Application Requirements	Is it possible to apply for "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction" stated in (2) i. while conducting research selected for this program?	It is possible to apply for both this program and "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction" after you are selected as FOREST researcher. . If you are selected for "Projects Subject to Duplication Restriction" before one fiscal year prior to the last fiscal year of Phase 1 (before FY2023*), you will no longer meet the application requirement for this program and required to terminate this program. Please notify JST promptly in such a case. If you are in the final fiscal year of Phase 1 or later (i.e., in FY 2024 or later*), you may be allowed, with reduced research funding, to extend

			the period of funding in this program or to resume the funding after finishing your project in the scope of the duplication restriction ends. *The period is postponed if your research was in a period of postponement or was suspended.
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.
2221	2.2.2. Selection Method	The guidelines state that the applicants must register both major and minor research areas; why should we do so? Moreover, the guidelines state that the applicants are allowed to register in the same major and minor research areas; why should we do so even when the two areas coincide?	In this program, diversity and fusion are relevant; to appropriately evaluate challenging and unique research applications that cover different research areas, we evaluate applicants based on both major and minor research areas. We would like to confirm that you have not forgotten filling in your research areas. Our process actually needs both types, i.e., major and minor areas. This is why we ask you to fill in both types even if they are the same. We appreciate your kind understanding and cooperation in advance.

2222	2.2.2. Selection Method	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 which will be notified via FOREST call for proposals website （https://www.jst.go.jp/souhatsu/call/index.html） . Further, applicants who have proceeded to interview screening will be notified via email.
3111	3.1.1. Creation of Research Plan	The guidelines state that the FOREST PO specified at the time of the application for a research project might be different from the FOREST PO as a mentor; why is it?	If we determine that some other FOREST PO should be a mentor depending on the contents specified by a FOREST researcher, a FOREST PO different from the FOREST PO specified at the time of the application may become a mentor.
3131	3.1.3. Research 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. Resaerch 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.

3261	3.2.6. Responsibilities of the selected 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 includes a system to enable the reduction of burdens on 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 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)".
3262	3.2.6. Responsibilities of the selected Researchers	In the item l. 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?	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. Research Integrity Section, Department of Audit and Legal Affair, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) E-mail： rcr-kousyu@jst.go.jp
4102	4.1.	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.

	Research Ethics Education		
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.
5311	5.3.1.	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

	How to Operate e-Rad		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.
5312	5.3.1. How to Operate e-Rad	How should I describe the effort ratio in the first fiscal year (FY 2021), during which I am not engaged in any FOREST research project, if I want to apply for this program and I was selected in the PRESTO (or PRIME) program, which is supposed to finish by the end of March 2023?	You need to specify 1% or higher as the effort ratio in the first year (FY 2021)　at the item in "research organization" on the page with tab "Research Cost, Research Organization" within the e-Rad system. Thus, some effort is assured by correcting the effort in some other program if you do not have any extra effort. Before correcting your effort, contact the appropriate personnel in the applicable program. For the effort ratio in your application form in FY 2022 in this program, fill in the effort ratio in the fiscal year in which you will start your research activities.
5313	5.3.1. How to Operate e-Rad	Currently, I belong to a research institution overseas; even if I am a successful applicant, it will be difficult to be transferred to a research institution in the country by the time I start my FOREST research within the first year (FY 2021). How should I describe the effort ratio in the first fiscal year (FY 2021), during which I am not engaged in my FOREST research?	You need to specify 1% or higher as the effort ratio in the first year (FY 2021) at the item in "research organization" on the page with tab "Research Cost, Research Organization" within the e-Rad system. Thus, some effort is assured by correcting the effort in some other program if you do not have any extra effort. Before correcting your effort, contact the appropriate personnel in the applicable program. For the effort ratio in your application form in FY 2022 in this program, fill in the effort ratio in the fiscal year in which you are supposed to start your research activities.

5314	5.3.1. How to Operate e-Rad	I am submitting an application for a research area that merges science, technology, humanities, and social sciences. How should I register my research area in the e-Rad system?	When you select an area from humanities and social sciences as your major research area, make sure to select a research area other than humanities or social sciences as your minor research area. For the area codes belonging to humanities and social sciences, see Section 6.1, "The FOREST POs and the Research Areas They Are Mainly Assigned" in Application Guidelines. Note that the minor research area is not a mandatory item in the e-Rad system; please, do not forget to specify this area.
	Others Application Form	The application form states as a note that the institutions overseas should be included in the item to declare the status of any other call-for program/applications; what should I describe specifically about the research funding I am supposed to accept from an institution overseas or I have applied for?	The researchers are supposed to fill in this item to cover a wide range including, at the time of the application, the research funding they have applied for or they are supposed to accept. Therefore, describe any research funding provided from any party overseas, including competitive funding, grants from a private institution, funding for research commissioned by a company, and funding for joint research.