

UK – Japan Call for Proposals 2018

UKRI-JSPS Joint Call

Objectives

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) are pleased to invite applications to the first UKRI-JSPS Joint Call. Both agencies support academic research activities to address the issues difficult to solve by a single country.

This initiative will provide funding for high-quality collaborative research projects between UK and Japanese researchers that will allow for the pursuit of shared research interests.

We invite proposals in the following areas:

- **Life Sciences** – including areas of common strength between the UK and Japan, such as cell biology, systems biology, stem cells and regenerative medicine/biology.
- **Environmental Sciences** – including areas such as resilience to environmental shocks and change.

The objective is to deliver 3-year research funding for up to ten internationally competitive and innovative collaborative projects between researchers from Japan and the UK to pursue shared research interests. The UKRI component of this call will be funded through the Fund for International Collaboration (FIC) and the JSPS component of this call will receive financial support from within the framework of its International Joint Research Programme.

Scope

UKRI and JSPS are keen to support collaboration between leading researchers and teams in areas of mutual strength and shared-interest. This first call for proposals will focus on supporting investigator-led projects from Japanese and UK collaborators in the Environmental and Life Sciences, including cell biology, systems biology, stem cells and regenerative medicine.

Applicants should provide evidence of the strength and complementarity of their collaboration and may demonstrate previous collaborative work on which the project will build. Recognising the multidisciplinary nature of these fields, the development of interdisciplinary collaborations is encouraged.

Proposals within the life sciences and environmental sciences themes are welcomed from across the remit of UK Research and Innovation, although the majority of the research proposed should fall within the remit of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Medical Research Council (MRC) or the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). **Proposals that are not identified as having a majority remit of the three participating councils will be deemed ineligible.** Consortia should consider how their proposal makes the best use of available expertise in the UK and Japan, together with the added value of new or existing collaborations. Proposals will need to

demonstrate evidence of the strength and complementarity of their collaboration and how the partnership will be managed.

For more information on UKRI and JSPS please refer to [Annex 1](#).

Background to the Fund for International Collaboration

The Fund for International Collaboration (FIC) will enable UKRI to respond rapidly and flexibly to new opportunities for international research collaborations that emerge from the activities of UKRI's diplomatic missions overseas, helping to build positive relations with key countries with whom we have shared interests and with which we seek to strengthen political and economic relationships. The FIC will be targeted at supporting bilateral and multilateral partnerships with high priority countries for the UK research and innovation base. Funds will be awarded following a competitive application process and judged against clear assessment criteria.

Funding Available

UKRI has allocated £5 million and JSPS has allocated 300 million JPY (approximately £2 million) to this 3-year activity; we expect to fund up to 10 research projects through this joint call.

The value of the award on the UK side shall not exceed £625,000 (at 100% fEC). UKRI will fund 80% of this cost (up to a total of £500,000). Each proposal may request up to 10 million JPY/year (approximately £67,000/year) for each successful project from JSPS (up to a total of 30 million JPY). UKRI funding will be used to support the UK component of the partnership and JSPS funding will support the Japanese component.

UKRI-funded costs of each project will be provided via a grant awarded by the BBSRC, MRC or NERC, according to the remit of the research proposal and in accordance with their standard research funding guidelines and procedures.

JSPS-funded costs of each project will be provided via a grant issued and managed by JSPS in accordance with its normal guidelines.

Please liaise closely with prospective partners to ensure that both the UKRI and JSPS-supported elements of the proposal abide by all regulations for both funders.

Eligibility

UK eligible applicants

For support under this call, applicants must be eligible to apply for funding from their respective Research Councils and must abide by the UKRI and individual Research Councils' terms and conditions:

[UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\)](#)

[Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council \(BBSRC\)](#)

[Medical Research Council \(MRC\)](#)

[Natural Environment Research Council \(NERC\)](#)

JSPS eligible applicants

All Japanese applicants should be eligible to apply for a Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) and her or his affiliated institution must judge them able to implement the project and to provide an appropriate research environment (e.g., laboratory, equipment, personnel). For Japan eligibility queries please contact bottom-up@jsps.go.jp.

How to Apply

Intention to Submit

We strongly encourage researchers to indicate their intention to submit via [SmartSurvey](#). Brief information will be requested detailing the following:

- Principal Investigators and Research Organisations
- Co-Investigators and Research Organisations
- Email addresses
- Project title
- Project summary
- Ethical considerations
- Approximate UK Cost in GBP (100% fEC)
- Approximate Japan Cost in JPY (total amount the Japanese PI requests from JSPS)

The Intention to Submit will not be assessed and will only be used to understand the level of interest and assist with the early identification of potential assessors. After submitting your intention to submit via SmartSurvey, changes can still be made to your full application (i.e. additional co-applicants can be added and strands of work can be amended). If you wish to amend key elements (e.g. principal investigator changes or changes to the main research topic), please contact UKRI: intcallenquiries@rcuk.ac.uk.

Please note that the intention to submit should be submitted via [SmartSurvey](#) by **16.00 BST on 24 July 2018**.

Submitting your Proposal

This UKRI-JSPS call will be administered through JeS and hosted by BBSRC, MRC and NERC.

The full deadline is **16.00 BST on Tuesday 14 August 2018**. **Any proposal received after this deadline will not be considered for funding.**

Researchers will be responsible for developing their own collaborations. Applications must be submitted by the UK Principal Investigator on behalf of the UK-Japan research partnership via the Je-S online application system (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>). The application must be jointly prepared and submitted in **English**; a Japanese translation is not required. Additional annexes will also need to be attached detailing JSPS project costs. Once received, UKRI will share the applications with JSPS.

The following are mandatory Je-S attachments for this call:

- A Jointly-Prepared Case for support, including details of the applicant's track record (8 sides of A4 page limit)
- Justification of resources for UK costs (2 sides of A4 page limit)
- Finance annex detailing Japanese costs (4 sides of A4 page limit)
- Pathways to impact (2 sides of A4 page limit)

- Data management plan (1 side of A4 page limit)
- CVs for both Japanese and UK Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators (2 sides of A4 page limit per CV, to include list of publications)
- Institutional letters of support for UK ROs (2 pages of A4 page limit)
- Project partner letters of support (2 pages of A4 page limit)

If your project includes human participation, animal usage or stem cell usage please also include:

- Human Participation letter (2 sides of A4 max)
- Use of Animals letter (2 sides of A4 max)
- Use of Stem Cells Letter (2 sides of A4 max)

These should be submitted as letters of support.

Applicants wishing to use any NERC facilities must contact the facility to seek agreement that they could provide the service required. You must obtain a 'Technical Assessment' form completed by the service provider, which should be attached in Je-S as an 'Other attachment'.

Japanese PIs' Registration

Japanese PIs are required to register their basic information via [JSPS online application system](#). Japanese PIs are not required to submit their applications to JSPS, and are required to submit CVs of Japanese PI and Co-Is and financial forms through UKRI.

Registration for Japanese PIs via [JSPS online application system](#) will be open from 10 July and closes at 16:00 (Japan local time) 14 August.

Further application guidance will be made available before the call opens on **10 July 2018**.

Applications that do not meet the requirements will be deemed ineligible.

Key Dates

28 June 2018	Call documentation made available online and Intention to Submit open
10 July 2018	Call opens on JeS for submission of full applications
24 July 2018	Intention to submit deadline
14 August 2018	Call closes on JeS (Deadline for Japanese PIs to register via JSPS online application system)
August 2018 - October 2018	Peer Review
W/C 29 October	Principal Investigator Response
W/C 3 December 2018	Joint UKRI-JSPS panel meeting
January 2019	Successful projects announced
14 February 2019	All successful projects to start

*Please note that these dates are subject to change by UKRI/JSPS

Grant Start Dates

Due to the funding restrictions of the UKRI budget, **grants must start by 14 February 2019 at the very latest**. Contrary to normal UKRI terms and conditions, the start of the grant **may not** be delayed by up to 3 months from the start date shown in the offer letter. Grants may start on any directly incurred cost heading.

Please refer to the [UKRI terms and conditions](#) for information on what the starting procedure entails and please inform the relevant support staff in your organisation of this requirement to ensure the project starts on time.

Assessment criteria and decision making process

Once a proposal has been received by UKRI and JSPS, it will be considered according to eligibility and adherence to the call criteria by both funding agencies. Providing the criteria are satisfactorily met, the proposal will be sent to expert peer reviewers representing both JSPS and UKRI for comment. Applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to peer review comments.

UK principal investigators will be sent their peer reviews via the Je-S system and asked to provide a PI response to the reviews within 5 working days. The PI response should be completed in consultation with Japanese counter parts but will need to be submitted by the UK PI through Je-S.

Subsequently, proposals will be considered by an independent expert JSPS-UKRI assessment panel which will make final recommendations for funding. Funding recommendations from the panel will be subject to approval by each of the national funding agencies. There will be one review process and a single decision on each proposal. However please note that proposals will only be funded if both funding agencies are in agreement. It is anticipated that final funding decisions will be communicated to applicants in January 2019 with successful projects commencing no later than **14 February 2019**.

To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive and at a standard equivalent to that normally expected to be supported by each funding organisation.

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

Assessment Criteria
Research excellence of the proposal
Relevance and fit to scope of the proposal to the call topics – including potential outcomes and impact
Strength and appropriateness of proposed partnership and collaboration
Project management structure and resources, including value for money
The possibility of future sustainability of the project

Contacts

Any enquiries related to this call should be directed to:

UKRI

Siân Summerton

Email: intcallenquiries@rcuk.ac.uk

Phone: +44 (0) 01793 444012

Lauren Clarke

Email: intcallenquiries@rcuk.ac.uk

Phone: +44 (0) 1793 444265

JSPS

Atsuko Nakatsuka

Email: bottom-up@jsps.go.jp

Telephone: +81-(0)3-3263-1724/1918

Je-S Helpdesk

Email: jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1793 444164

Available Monday to Thursday 08.30-17.00 UK time and Friday 08.30-16.40 UK time (excluding bank holidays and other holidays).

Annex 1

Background of the Funders

UKRI

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) are an independent organisation with a strong voice for research and innovation, both to government and internationally, we are supported and challenged by an independent chair and board. We are principally funded through the Science Budget by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) are responsible for investing public money in research in the UK to advance knowledge and generate new ideas which lead to a productive economy, healthy society and contribute to a sustainable world. Each year UKRI invest around £6 billion in research covering the full spectrum of disciplines from the medical and biological sciences to astronomy, physics, chemistry and engineering, social sciences, environmental sciences and the arts and the humanities. UK Research and Innovation brings together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England. UKRI's mission is to be a trusted partner and to ensure research and innovation continues to flourish in the UK.

JSPS

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) is Japan's leading funding agency and is largely funded through annual subsidies from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

Established in 1932 with an imperial endowment, JSPS has promoted the advancement of academic research carried out based on the free ideas of researchers themselves in all disciplines from humanities and social sciences to natural sciences. Additionally, JSPS administers a number of bilateral and multilateral programmes for scientific cooperation and exchange under memorandums of understanding concluded with its various counterpart foreign academic institutions around the world.