Outline of JSPS Core-to-Core Program, FY2026

Notes: This "Outline of JSPS Core-to-Core Program, FY2026" is an English translation of the official announcement in Japanese. Applicants should observe the accompanying Application Guidelines in Japanese (https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-c2c/boshuu_shinsei.html). In the event of any discrepancies between this English translation and the original Japanese version of the Call for Proposals, the Japanese version shall prevail.

I. Program Objective

The Core-to-Core Program comprises two components: A. Advanced Research Networks and B. Asia-Africa Science Platforms. The program is designed to create world-class research hubs in research fields considered to be cutting-edge and internationally important in Japan or to create high-potential research hubs in fields of special importance or significance to Asia and/or Africa and of high priority in Japan. These multilateral hubs are built and operated through sustainable collaborative relations established among research/education institutions in Japan and countries around the world. While advancing research in these fields and building core research and education hubs, the Core-to-Core Program also concentrates on fostering the next generations of trailblazing young researchers.

Core institutions in Japan and in its counterpart countries conduct collaborative research exchanges. They take the form of joint research projects, seminars, and researcher exchanges, which are organized and carried out effectively under the program. Core institutions are expected to continue operating as research hubs after funding under this program has ended.

II. Types of Programs

A. Advanced Research Networks
B. Asia-Africa Science Platforms

III. Applicant Eligibility

(1) Japanese universities and research institutions eligible to apply for this program as a core institution are those specified in Article 2 of the Rules for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). To qualify, institutions or their departments must possess sufficient research funding, equipment/facilities and human resources, and be capable of establishing an organizational structure for implementing the overall research project as a core institution.

* Institutions specified as eligible in the Rules for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research:

1. Universities and inter-university research institutes
2. MEXT facilities and other institutions engaged in scientific research
3. Technical colleges
4. Institutions designated by MEXT

(2) Core institutions play a leading role in conducting collaborative research exchanges under this program. Each must have one project coordinator. S/he must be a full-time researcher or a researcher positioned as full time at the core institution. However, a researcher who is not employed full-time may qualify as a coordinator if his/her affiliated institution guarantees the implementation of the core-to-core project including the provision of an appropriate research environment (e.g. laboratory, equipment, personnel). In any case, the coordinator must be eligible to receive Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI). As the coordinator plays a vital role in carrying out the project plan, care should be taken not to appoint a person to the position who might loss his/her coordinator eligibility or otherwise be unable to perform the coordinator's duties during the full period of the project's implementation.

IV. Period for Application Acceptance

Wednesday, 3 September to Wednesday, 1 October 2025, 5:00 p.m.
(Please note that applicants' affiliated institutions may set earlier deadlines.)

V. Details of Type A. Advanced Research Networks

1. Targeted Research Fields

Research topics considered to be cutting-edge and internationally important in Japan. (All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.)

2. Eligible Countries

At least two or more countries that have diplomatic relations with Japan. (JSPS treats Taiwan and Palestine in this manner.)

3. Application and Selection Process

1) JSPS issues a call for proposals to Japanese universities/research institutions.

2) Those universities/research institutions interested in conducting multilateral collaborations via joint research projects, seminars and researcher exchanges with universities/research institutions in other countries ("counterpart core institutions") consult with each other and develop plans for collaboration under this program.

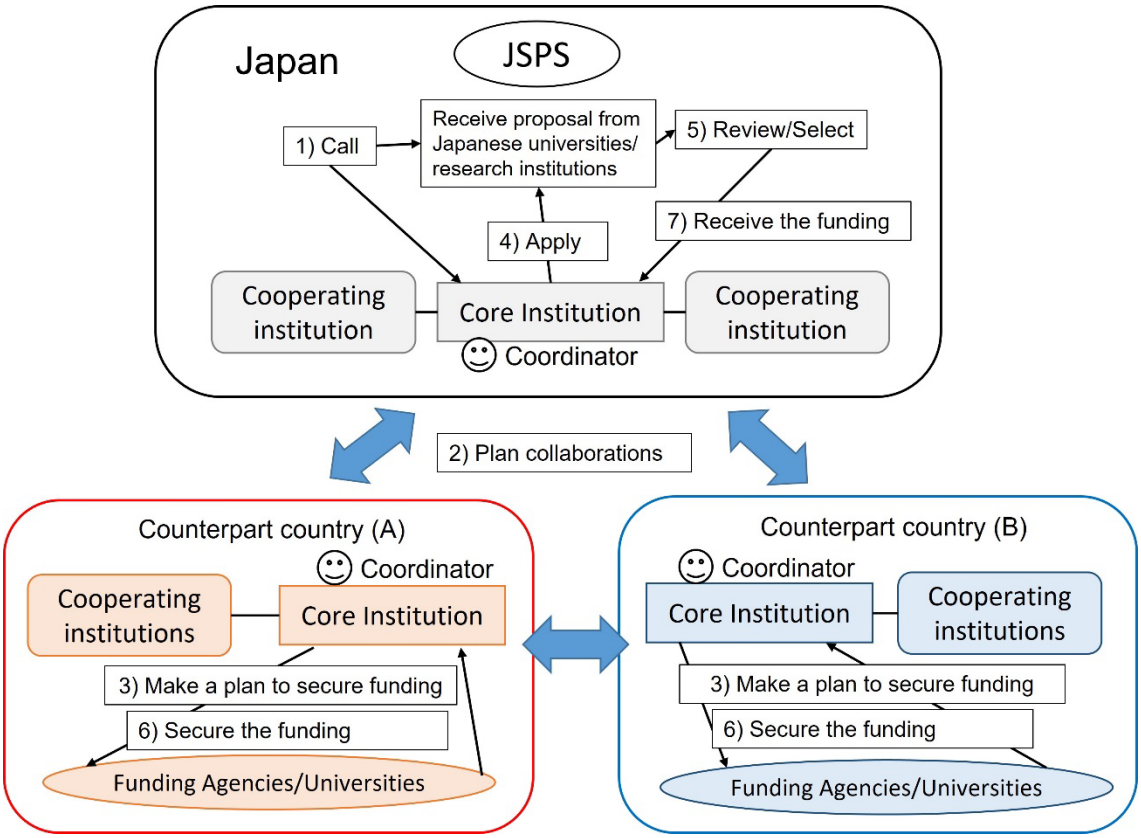
3) All the counterpart core institutions secure the necessary funding to implement the project throughout the project period. If counterpart core institutions are able to obtain

funding under any system in an amount needed to share the cost of the collaborative research, based on either cost-sharing pattern 1 or 2 in Appendix 1, JSPS considers them eligible to participate in this program.

4) Japanese universities/research institutions submit applications to JSPS after their counterpart core institutions confirm that they have either acquired funding, been selected for funding, or promised such funding. (An application may be submitted while a counterpart's funding request is being processed. If the funding is not obtained, the application will be cancelled.)

5) JSPS reviews proposals received and selects projects.

Application and Selection Process



4. Project Period

From April 2026 through March 2031 (under the FY2026 call)

5. Project Funding

(1) JSPS provides Japanese core institutions with the following funding:

Up to ¥18 million per fiscal year

(2) JSPS covers the following expenses of the Japanese core institutions:

i. International travel expenses
ii. Domestic travel expenses
iii. Cost of goods
iv. Honorariums/personnel cost*

* Personnel costs are limited to short-term employment expenses associated with temporary work. Continuous employment expenses are not covered.

v. Others

6. Number of Projects Slated to Start in FY 2026

About 9 projects

7. Screening Criteria Used in JSPS Reviews

Applications are screened from the following perspectives.

① Scientific/academic merit

- Degree to which the proposed project is recognized as being cutting-edge and unique in the subject research field.
- Whether there is a clear need and value to implement the project with the proposed counterpart institutions.
- Degree to which the collaboration between the core institutions in Japan and the counterpart countries can be expected to yield results of sufficiently high academic value to contribute to the establishment of a world-class research hub.
- Degree to which the project will build upon and expand the core institutions' past international research activities and accomplishments. However, for projects that succeed previously adopted ones, a clear need to for continued support must be demonstrated.

② Fostering young researchers

- Whether the project includes a program for honing the skills and expertise of young researchers.

③ Creating an implementation framework on the Japan side

- On the Japan side, plans to build a world-class research hub should be strategically placed within the core institution's overall education and research program.
- The Japanese core institution should have in place on an institutional level a system for ensuring the ongoing implementation of the proposed project.
- The project should be capable of enlisting the participation of an adequate number of researchers in Japan who are qualified to build a world-class research hub. It should also have an effective scheme for mobilizing cooperation from researchers of different institutions in Japan.

- The Japanese core institution should be capable of continuing its operation as a world-class research hub after funding under this program has ended.
- A system should be established for accommodating gender balance in the project or a plan established for achieving it.

④ Network building between core institutions
- The match-up of core institutions should hold good promise for sustained research collaboration.
- A clear-cut framework for implementing the project, such as a signed cooperative agreement, should be established between the core institutions.
- The project should be expected to contribute to the continuous development of multilateral collaborations between the core institutions in the future.
- Counterpart core institutions must, on an institutional level, have one coordinator and an adequate number of researchers in place to ensure the continuous implementation of the proposed collaborative research exchange. The participation of an adequate number of researchers is an essential qualification.

⑤ Appropriateness of collaborative research plan
- The project should have a clear vision of how to build a world-class research hub in the subject field in Japan.
- Whether advanced consultation has clearly been carried out between the participating coordinators and institutions, and whether the plan for research collaboration is sufficiently concrete to achieve the program objectives and is highly attainable.
- Whether the degree of collaboration laid out in the plan is practicable in terms of its fiscal and operational scope.
- Whether pertinent information has been obtained on the counterpart countries' prospects to secure matching funds.

In selecting projects, an attempt is made to strike a balance among counterpart countries, fields and institutions.

8. Evaluation of Selected Projects

In principle, JSPS's International Program Committee carries out an interim evaluation of projects at their 3-year juncture and also conducts a post-project evaluation. Japanese core institutions should provide all the information requested by JSPS to perform these evaluations, including on the degree of equivalence achieved in cost-sharing. The amount of funding allocated for the fiscal years after the interim evaluation will be based on the results.

VI. Details of Type B. Asia-Africa Science Platforms

1. Targeted Research Fields

Research topics of special importance or significance to Asia and/or African and considered to be of high priority within Japan (All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.)

2. Eligible Countries

At least two Asian and/or African countries that have diplomatic relations with Japan (JSPS treats Taiwan and Palestine in this manner.). However, Type B Asia-Africa Science Platforms does not support multilateral projects that comprise only researchers from institutions in China, Korea, Singapore or Taiwan as they are expected to obtain sufficient funding. (For collaboration with these countries only, please apply under "A. Advanced Research Networks.")

3. Application and Selection Process

1) JSPS issues a call for proposals to Japanese universities/research institutions.

2) Those universities/research institutions interested in conducting multilateral collaborations via joint research projects, seminars and researcher exchanges with universities/research institutions in other countries (“counterpart core institutions”) consult with each other and develop plans for collaboration under this program.

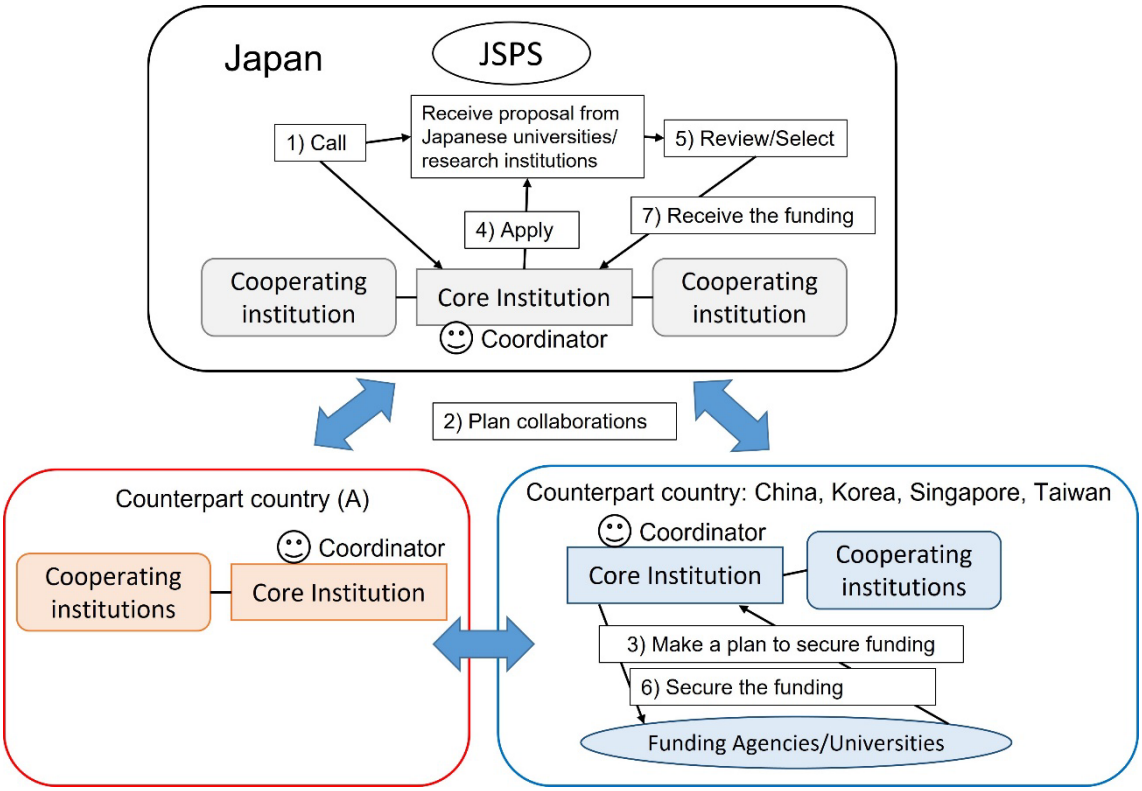
3)※ All the counterpart core institutions secure the necessary funding to implement the project throughout the project period. If counterpart core institutions are able to obtain funding under any system in an amount needed to share the cost of the collaborative research, based on either cost-sharing pattern 1 or 2 in Appendix 1, JSPS considers them eligible to participate in this program.

4)※ Japanese universities/research institutions submit applications to JSPS after the counterpart core institutions confirm that they have either acquired funding, been selected for funding, or promised such funding. (An application may be submitted while a counterpart’s funding request is being processed. If the funding is not obtained, the application will be cancelled.)

※ The above 3) and of 4) processes are necessary only for institutions in China, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan.

5) JSPS reviews proposals received and selects projects.

Application and Selection Process



4. Project Period

From April 2026 through March 2029 (under the FY2026 call)

5. Project Funding

(1) JSPS provides Japanese core institutions with the following funding:

Up to ¥8 million per fiscal year

(2) JSPS covers the following expenses of the Japanese core institutions:

i. International travel expenses
ii. Domestic travel expenses
iii. Cost of goods
iv. Honorariums/personnel cost
* Personnel costs are limited to short-term employment expenses associated with temporary work. Continuous employment expenses are not covered.
v. Others

6. Number of Projects Slated to Start in FY 2026

About 10 projects

7. Screening Criteria Used in JSPS Reviews

Applications are screened from the following perspectives.

① Scientific/academic merit

- Degree to which the proposed project is recognized as being of common interest and special importance to the Asian and African regions and whether it is scientifically meaningful for Japan to conduct priority research in the subject field.
- Whether there is a clear need and value for the Japanese core institution to take the lead in carrying out the research collaboration with counterpart institutions in Asia and/or Africa.
- Degree to which the collaboration between the core institution in Japan and the counterpart countries can be expected to yield results of sufficiently high academic value.
- Degree to which the project will build upon and expand the core institutions' past international research activities and accomplishments. However, for projects that succeed previously adopted ones, a clear need for continued support must be demonstrated.

② Fostering young researchers

- Whether the project includes a program for honing the skills and expertise of young researchers.

③ Creating an implementation framework on the Japan side

- On the Japan side, plans to build a core research hub should be strategically placed within the core institution's overall education and research program.
- The Japanese core institution should have in place on an institutional level a system for ensuring the ongoing implementation of the proposed project.
- The project should be capable of enlisting the participation of an adequate number of researchers in Japan who are qualified to build a core research hub. It should also have an effective scheme for mobilizing cooperation from researchers of different institutions in Japan.
- The Japanese core institutions should be capable of continuing its operation as a core research hub after funding under this program has ended.
- A system should be established for accommodating gender balance in the project or a plan established for achieving it.

④ Network building between core institution

- The match-up of core institutions should hold good promise for sustained research collaboration.
- A clear-cut framework for implementing the project, such as a signed cooperative agreement, should be established between the core institutions.

- As a core research hub in the subject field, the project should be expected to contribute to the continuous development of multilateral collaboration between the core institutions in the future.
- Counterpart core institutions must, on an institutional level, have one coordinator and an adequate number of researchers in place to ensure the continuous implementation of the proposed collaborative research exchange. The participation of an adequate number of researchers is an essential qualification.

⑤ Appropriateness of collaborative research plan
- Whether advanced consultation has been clearly carried out between the participating coordinators and research institutions, and whether the plan for research collaborations is sufficiently concrete to achieve the program objectives and is highly attainable.
- Whether the degree of collaborations laid out in the plan is practicable in terms of its fiscal and operational scope.

In selecting projects, an attempt is made to strike a balance among counterpart countries, fields and institutions.

VII. Application Instructions

(1) Researchers who are eligible to participate in this program are as follows:
   ① Researchers employed at a university or research institute (In the case of Japan, researchers eligible to apply for MEXT Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research)
   ② Postdoctoral researchers at universities or research institutes
   ③ Researchers enrolled in a postgraduate course, either master's or doctoral

(2) One core institution may be established in each counterpart country. Other institutions in each counterpart country will be registered as cooperating institutions.

(3) Funding provided under this program is for implementing projects between Japan and counterpart countries. It is not for supporting travel by Japanese researchers to a counterpart country for conducting fieldwork or surveys carried out only by themselves.

(4) A moderate number of researchers from other countries may participate in projects as collaborating researchers. Regarding the covering of their costs, Japanese institutions should refer to pertinent regulations.

(5) Under JSPS's international programs, researchers who are already representing a project in one of JSPS's program categories are not eligible to concurrently represent a project in another category with some exceptions. (Such researchers are those responsible for implementing an already-selected project as its research representative, coordinator, chief seminar organizer or person in similar capacity. However, the heads of institutions and/or departments who represent the implementing organization are exempted.) For

information on the approval of projects overlapping program categories, see Appendix 2 “Table, Overlapping Program Restrictions.” However, no restriction is placed on duplicate application or duplicate grant receipt between the Core-to-Core Program and Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) program. Once an application is submitted, the project’s representative may not be changed. A person may not assume the role of coordinator in projects under both Type A (Advanced Research Networks) and Type B (Asia-Africa Science Platforms) at the same time.

(6) Japanese coordinators who are now or have been supported under any of JSPS’s international programs are required to state their correlations (if any) with the Core-to-Core program for which they are applying.

(7) If the applying institution is receiving or is scheduled to receive funding from another funding program* that is relevant to the proposed project, it must state so and clearly describe the relationship of that funding to the project. Projects that are already receiving funding from another funding program will not be supported in duplicated areas.
* Here, a "funding program" is a program for supporting an organization.

(8) Your application form will be printed out in black and white (gray scale) and mailed to reviewers. Please be careful so that the contents you create can be clearly seen when printed out.

VIII. Obligation of Japanese Core Institutions

Core institutions are to establish a website and proactively post information about the project both during and after the funding period. Though JSPS does not participate in negotiations over rights to results yielded through the project’s implementation, core institutions are to acknowledge JSPS’s support by mentioning the “JSPS Core-to-Core Program” when announcing the results.

IX. Miscellaneous

(1) Disciplinary actions, including revocation of selection
In cases of misuse of research funds, specific research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, violation of laws, or falsification of application documents, including unauthorized forging of signatures, JSPS will take appropriate actions, including cancelling the screening, revoking the selection, and requiring reimbursement of all or part of the allocated funds.
Please refer to the Rules for Responding to Misconduct and Misuse of Funds in Research Activities (Rule No.19 of 2006) for details regarding actions taken by JSPS against misuse of research funds.
https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/general/english/e-inv/guideline/data/regulation_e.pdf

(2) Legal and regulatory compliance

If the proposed research plan involves any research that requires appropriate procedures based on guidelines or laws, including those of the partner countries or regions where the international collaborative research will be conducted, applicants must describe in the application form the measures and actions they will take to ensure that the research is conducted in accordance with the relevant guidelines and laws. This provision applies to research activities that would require the consent and cooperation of individual research subjects, consideration of the handling of personal information, and efforts to address bioethics and biosafety. Examples include written or oral surveys that involve the handling of personal information; action surveys, including personal histories and videos; national and international cultural heritage surveys; the use of donated samples; research involving invasiveness; human genetic analysis research; genetic recombination experiments; and animal experiments that require approval by information committees, ethics committees, or other bodies within or outside the research institution. Applicants must also provide a detailed description of the status of these procedures.

(3) Pursuit and implementation of research plans involving international joint research

Coordinators who are or have been involved in international collaborative research activities should clearly indicate in their application to this program the relevance of their current or past collaborative research activities to their plans.

If there are restrictions on entry to or departure from partner countries, coordinators should prepare an application that specifically details the researchers' reciprocal travel (to/from Japan) with a clear outlook based on the situation at the time of application.

(4) Safeguarding research integrity against new risks associated with the internationalization and openness of research activities

In order to advance science and technology and generate innovation in Japan, Japan has adopted Open Science as a primary guiding principle and must continue to actively promote international collaborative research with diverse partners. At the same time, new risks associated with the internationalization and open access of research activities in recent years have raised concerns that the fundamental values of the research environment, such as openness and transparency, may be undermined and that researchers may be unwittingly exposed to conflicts of interest and obligations. Under these circumstances, it is essential for Japan to establish an internationally reliable research environment in order to promote the necessary international cooperation and exchange, while protecting the values that form the fundamental basis of the research environment.

Therefore, it is important for universities and research institutions to autonomously ensure the soundness and fairness of research (research integrity) by researchers, universities, and research institutions. To this end, universities and research institutions must develop relevant regulations and management systems, including conflicts of

interest and responsibilities, based on the *Policy Directions for Ensuring Research Integrity in Response to New Risks Associated with Increasing Internationalization and Openness of Research Activities* (adopted by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on April 27, 2021).

(5) Security export control (Measures to prevent technology leaks abroad)

●About security export control

Many new cutting-edge technologies are currently being researched in Japanese research institutions, and the internationalization of Japanese universities has increased the number of foreign students and researchers in Japan. Under these circumstances, there is an increasing risk of advanced technologies and equipment or materials used in research being leaked abroad and used in the development and production of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Therefore, in carrying out research activities, including those contracted out to them, research institutions should take systematic measures to ensure that research results and technologies that could be diverted for military purposes are not transferred to persons or parties, such as WMD developers or members of terrorist groups, who might carry out proscribed activities.

In Japan, export control (*1) is carried out based on the *Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act* (Act No. 228, enacted in 1949), hereafter referred to as the Foreign Exchange Act. Under this Act, when technologies or materials are to be exported (provided), permission must as a rule be obtained from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Japanese laws, regulations and directives, including the requirements of the Foreign Exchange Act, must be complied with at all times. If any of the laws or guidelines are violated in the conduct of research, the allocation of project funding may be cancelled or the decision to allocate funding may be revoked, in addition to legal action and penalties.

(*1) Japan's security export control system is based on international agreements and is implemented mainly through two rules: the *List Control and the Catch-all Control*. Under the List Control, the export or provision of materials and/or technologies related to carbon fiber, computerized numerically controlled machines or other items or technologies exceeding a certain level of specifications and/or functions generally requires the permission of the Minister of METI. Under the Catch-all Control, if materials and/or technologies that are not subject to the regulations of the List Control are to be exported or provided, and certain regulatory requirements (use, consumer and information requirements) are met, permission must be obtained from the Minister of METI.

Not only goods exports, but also technology provision is subject to the Foreign Exchange Act. Prior approval must be obtained when providing List Controlled technologies to non-

residents of Japan, including residents who fall under the special categories (*2), or when providing such technologies outside of Japan. Technology transfer includes not only the provision of technical information such as blueprints, specifications, manuals, samples, and prototypes in paper format, via email, and on media such as CDs, DVDs, and USB flash drives, but also the transfer of working knowledge through technical consulting, skills training, and technical support seminars.

Additionally, activities such as the admission of foreign students and joint research may involve a significant amount of technology exchange that may be subject to the Foreign Exchange Act. It should be noted that the provision of technology obtained through this program as well as technology already owned as a result of the implementation of the program may also be subject to the regulations.

Furthermore, international students funded by foreign governments may, even if they hold valid residence status, fall into specific categories of residents subject to export control regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act. Accordingly, host institutions must carefully assess the sources of scholarships and other financial support provided to international students.

(*2) Residents of the specific categories refer to those who are heavily influenced by non-residents. The categories are specified in Article 1(3)(k)(1) to (3) of the Service Transactions or Activities Requiring License under Article 25(1) of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and Article 17(2) of the Foreign Exchange Act.

In order to comply with the Foreign Exchange Act, it is essential to implement a security export control system when List-controlled goods or technologies are to be exported or provided abroad. (*3) Therefore, it is necessary to determine whether the project involves the provision of goods or technology that are subject to export restrictions under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act at the inception of the research project (the date of the contract). If the intent is to provide them, there are cases when it will be necessary to verify whether there is a control system in place by the time that the research starts (the day the contract is concluded). If the intention is to provide them, the existence of a control system may be investigated.

(*3) Exporters are required to satisfy the Chapter VI-3 Compliance Standards for Exporters and Persons Conducting Similar Transactions stipulated in Items 10-1 of Article 55 of the Foreign Exchange Act. The Export Control system stipulated here is based on the control system in the Standards. This means that an internal control system needs to be established for proper exports/provisions of List-Controlled goods and technologies and for advance prevention of illegal exports.

Details on Security Export Control are contained on the following websites.
https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/ (In Japanese)
https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/seminer/shiryo/handbook.pdf (In Japanese)
https://www.cistec.or.jp/english/index.html
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/t10kaisei/ekimu__tutatu.pdf (In Japanese)

●About the Japanese Version of the Bayh-Dole System

[Regarding the Overseas Transfer of Intellectual Property Rights Related to Commissioned Research and Development Under the Japanese Version of the Bayh-Dole System]

An expert meeting on economic security legislation was held on 4 June, 2024 to discuss necessary measures for preventing technology leakage and risk management in R&D programs supported by the government. As a result, a report titled "Proposal on Measures to Prevent Technology Outflow of Critical Technologies for Economic Security – Measures in Government-Supported R&D Programs" was compiled. Based on its recommendations, relevant ministries and agencies, as well as related organizations, are mandated to work together in implementing measures to prevent technology leakage. The proposal also includes matters related to the implementation of the Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole system based on Article 17 of the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act.

Under the Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole system, intellectual property rights arising from government-commissioned research and development can be attributed to the contractor (such as private companies). However, when transferring such intellectual property rights to a third party, prior approval from the government is required, except in cases of transfers to subsidiaries or parent companies.

Therefore, in cases where the transferee’s subsidiary or parent company is a foreign company such when 1) a Japanese subsidiary of a foreign company transfers intellectual property to its parent company, when 2) a subsidiary of a domestic company becomes a subsidiary of a foreign company through M&A or other means and sells or transfers its business to the foreign company, or when 3) the headquarters of a domestic company relocates abroad and becomes a foreign company, there is a possibility that the results of government-commissioned research and development may not be effectively prevented from flowing overseas.

Based on this, the proposal states that when transferring intellectual property to a parent company or subsidiary that is a foreign company, the contractor must provide prior notification of such. The commissioning party must confirm the prior notification and

ensure that thorough coordination is carried between the commissioning and contracting parties.
Accordingly, with such commissioned projects, the content of the proposal is to be reflected in the commissioning contract. Thus, when transferring intellectual property to foreign companies or other entities, ensure that prior notification is provided to JSPS and obtain approval in accordance with the contract terms.

(6) Strict Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321
With respect to the strict implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, a request has been issued through the document titled "Strict Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321" (Administrative Notice dated June 25, 2024, issued by the International Affairs Division, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology). Paragraph 11 of Resolution 2321 stipulates, as a general principle, the suspension of scientific and technological cooperation with individuals or organizations that are officially supported by, or represent, North Korea.
When preparing internationally co-authored papers featuring collaboration among multiple countries, there is a possibility of unintentional involvement of North Korean researchers as co-authors, even if there is no direct collaboration between your institution’s researchers and those from North Korea.
Therefore, please ensure that thorough verification is conducted during the manuscript drafting stage and prior to paper submission, and take appropriate measures as necessary.
Details of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321 can be found at:
https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000211409.pdf (In Japanese)

(7) Promotion of open access to the research papers supported by this program
JSPS endorses a general policy of promoting open access. All research papers funded by public grants including KAKENHI are, in principle, given open access.
However, in cases where copyright or other issues make open access difficult, or where the repository infrastructure of the researcher's institution is not compatible with open access, this does not apply.
JSPS’s open access implementation policy is described in the following webpage:
https://www.jsps.go.jp/data/Open_access.pdf (In Japanese)

(8) Management of Research Data
JSPS has established a policy that stipulates JSPS’s basic principles regarding the storage, management, and publication of research data generated during research activities funded by research grants provided by JSPS.
Researchers selected for this program are required to comply with the data policies and other regulations of their research institutions. They must also prepare a Data Management Plan (DMP) that describes the policies and plans for the storage, management, disclosure, and non-disclosure of research data generated as a result of

their research activities. Researchers must conduct their research activities in accordance with the DMP for the storage, management, and disclosure of their research data.

JSPS's basic policy on the handling of research data can be found on the following webpage.
https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/open_science/basic_policy.pdf

(9) Acknowledgements in research papers

When publishing research results from a project under this program, researchers should acknowledge JSPS support in their publications. The acknowledgement should also include a chronological program number that will be assigned to their research project when it is selected.

Examples of acknowledgements in research papers are as follows:
[English]
This work was supported by JSPS Core-to-Core Program, (grant number: JPJSCCA12345678).
[Japanese]
本研究は、【日本学術振興会研究拠点形成事業】（課題番号：JPJSCCA12345678）の支援を受けたものです。

(10) Data Disclosure from NBDC

The Life Science Database Integration Project (https://biosciencedbc.jp/), implemented by the Bioscience Database Center (NBDC) of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), is promoting the integrated use of life science databases created by various research and other institutions. Additionally, in the report "Progress and Future Directions of the Life Science Database Integration Project" (dated January 17, 2013), it was stated that NBDC (now the NBDC Project Promotion Office, Information Infrastructure Division) would take the lead in expanding the range of projects eligible for data and database provision.
Based on these considerations, we ask for your cooperation in the publication of the following types of data and databases related to the life sciences obtained through this program.

No.	Data type	Releaser	Releaser's URL
1	Summary of constructed, publicly open databases	Integbio Database Catalog	https://integbio.jp/dbcatalog/
2	Data contained in constructed, publicly open databases	Life Science Database Archives	https://dbarchive.biosciencedbc.jp/
3	Among the two,	NBDC Human	https://humandbs.dbcls.jp/

	data/databases related to humans	Database	

(11) Undergoing External Verification in accordance with the Basic Guidelines for Proper Conduct of Animal Experiments

Research institutions such as universities that conduct animal experiments are required to comply with the "Basic Guidelines for Proper Conduct of Animal Experiments at Research Institutions" (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Notification No. 71, 2006, hereinafter referred to as the "Basic Guidelines"). In particular, the Basic Guidelines emphasize the proper conduct of animal experiments based on the 3Rs principle: use of alternatives (Replacement), reduction in the number of animals used (Reduction), and refinement of procedures to minimize pain and distress (Refinement).

In particular, the Basic Guidelines stipulate that the head of a research institution shall ensure transparency in the implementation of animal experiments by regularly inspecting and evaluating the institution's compliance with the Basic Guidelines. Additionally, it's stipulated that effort should be made to have the results of these inspections and evaluations verified by external parties outside the institution. If when applying for this program your research involves animal experimentation, ensure that your affiliated research institution undergoes external verification. If only certain facilities within your affiliated research institution have undergone external verification, ensure that the institution as a whole undergoes the verification process.

Basic Guidelines for Proper Conduct of Animal Experiments at Research Institutions (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Notification No. 71, 2006)
https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/hakusho/nc/06060904.htm

(12) National BioResource Project (NBRP)

The National BioResource Project (NBRP) has contributed to the advancement of life science research in Japan by strategically collecting and preserving important bioresources that serve as the foundation for basic and fundamental life science studies. These resources are stored at NBRP's core facilities and provided to universities and research institutions. To continue contributing to the advancement of life science research in Japan, it will be necessary to continuously collect valuable bioresources. Therefore, we ask for your cooperation in contributing to NBRP's collection efforts by depositing* any bioresources developed through this program that can be made available (limited to those targeted by NBRP) For bioresources already maintained by NBRP (including animals, plants, microorganisms, cells, genetic materials, and information), it is encouraged that they be used from a perspective of conducting research efficiently.

*Depositing: This is a procedure that allows the use (storage and provision) of relevant resources within this program without transferring any associated rights. By specifying detailed provision conditions in a deposit agreement, restrictions on usage, citation requirements in publications, and other usage conditions can be imposed on users.

NBRP Core Facility Upgrading Program – List of Targeted Bioresources and Representative Institutions; https://nbrp.jp/resource/

(13) Development of institution systems based on *Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research*

All research institutions participating in this project are required to comply with the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research," as issued by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) on August 26, 2014. These guidelines must be followed at all times, both in the application process and during the course of the research activities.

If, as a result of an examination of the status of the institution's systems based on the above guidelines, MEXT finds deficiencies there, MEXT may take measures such as reducing the indirect costs of all competitive research funds allocated by MEXT and independent administrative institutions under the jurisdiction of MEXT.

Details of the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" can be found below:

https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/26/08/1351568.htm (In Japanese).

(14) Submission of a current status checklist in accordance with the *Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research*

At the outset of research projects in this program, participating research institutions are required to submit a checklist, (hereinafter referred to as *Checklist for Research Misconduct*) detailing the current accommodation status of the Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research. (Failure to submit this checklist will result in the project being unable to proceed.)

Therefore, participating research institutions should download the relevant forms from the website The Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad), fill in the forms, and submit (upload) the forms via e-Rad to MEXT's Office for Research Integrity Promotion, Research Environment Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau by the start date of the research.

Research institutions that have already submitted a FY2025 Checklist are exempt from the above requirements. However, they must submit the FY2026 Checklist no later than September 30, 2026

For details on the Checklist, see the following website.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1420301_00008.html (In Japanese)

(15) Measures taken against misconducts in research activities in light of *Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research*

The following strict measures will be taken if acts of misconduct are found in research activities conducted under this program:

(i) Measures including rescinding of funding contracts

When specific research misconduct (fabrication, falsification, plagiarism) is discovered in the conduct of a research project under the program, JSPS may, depending on the circumstances, modify or cancel its contract with the institution and demand a refund of all or part of its project funding. JSPS may also exclude such institutions from contracting in the following fiscal years.

(ii) Measures including restrictions on application and eligibility for the program

When a researcher has committed a specific research misconduct or when a researcher who has not directly committed such an act but is found to have a certain level of responsibility for the misconduct due to neglecting his/her duty to care as a person responsible for the research paper or report, JSPS may, depending on the degree of maliciousness involved in the misconduct and the degree of responsibility neglected, prohibit the researcher to apply for the program and restrict his/her participation eligibility for the program. JSPS also may refrain from providing any of JSPS research fundings, according to the Rules for Responding to Misconduct and Misuse of Funds in Research Activities (effective from 6 December 2006). Participation in the program will be restricted for the fiscal year in which the specific misconduct is discovered.
https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-kousei/data/fuseitaiou_kitei.pdf

The imposing of restrictions on application and eligibility for the program will be reported to the sections in charge of disbursing competitive research funds at MEXT and incorporated administrative agencies under its jurisdiction and to other ministries and agencies and incorporated administrative agencies under their jurisdictions (hereinafter referred to as Competitive research funding programs related to other ministries). This may restrict application for and eligibility to participate in competitive research funding systems linked to MEXT.

(iii) Measures for researchers whose applications and eligibility are restricted under other competitive research funding systems and the basic research funds

Researchers who are subject to restriction of eligibility for application and/or participation for other competitive research funding systems affiliated with MEXT than this program will also be subject to restriction of eligibility to apply for and participate in the program. Such competitive research funding systems include government subsidies for operating expenses to national universities/interuniversity research institutions and incorporated administrative agencies under MEXT jurisdiction, government subsidies for basic

expenses to private educational institutions, and other ministries'/agencies'competitive research funding systems due to specific research misconduct in research activities.

(iv) Public reporting of cases of improper conduct
Misconduct committed in research activities carried out under this program will, as a rule, be made public by MEXT, to include the name, type and field of the incident, the funding category involved, a summary of the misconduct, and the measures taken by the research institution and funding agency.

The Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research require research institutions to report their investigation results promptly when misconduct is determined to have been committed. Accordingly, research institutions are expected to carry out this process expediently.
https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1360483.htm

(16) Obligation to complete research ethics education coursework

In order to preclude research misconduct, researchers participating in research activities under this program are to complete research ethics education coursework before their joint research project starts or attend a lecture conducted by a research institution on research ethics education based on the *Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research* (issued on 26 August 2014 by MEXT).
Once a project is selected for the program, the institution affiliated with the coordinator must ensure that all members of the Japanese team receive education on research integrity—such as by completing research ethics education coursework—prior to the date designated by JSPS.

For the Sound Development of Science—The Attitude of a Conscientious Scientist (Editing Committee "For the Sound Development of Science")
https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/general/j-kousei/data/rinri_e.pdf
e-Learning Course on Research Ethics (eL CoRE)
https://elcore.jsps.go.jp/top.aspx
APRIN e-learning program (eAPRIN)

(17) Registration of Researcher Information in re*searchmap*

In Japan's largest researcher information database, *researchmap*, registered information on research results can be openly disseminated on the Internet. As *researchmap* is linked to e-Rad as well as to many university faculty databases, it allows registered information to be accessed by alternative systems. Using *researchmap* precludes the need for researchers to re-register the same research information in multiple application forms and databases.

As information registered in *researchmap* can be effectively used for such purposes as conducting studies related to the formulation of government's S&T policy and compiling statistics, participants in this program are encouraged to actively sign up for *researchmap*.
https://researchmap.jp/

(18) Registration on JSPS-Net

The JSPS Researchers Network (JSPS-Net) is a social media oriented to researchers who have participated in JSPS programs. It networks researchers who are carrying out activities across national borders and supports the creation of researcher communities.

Researchers in the same and different research fields, researchers who work in the same regions, researchers who are interested in other researchers' work, and international program administrators can establish communities and form networks on the JSPS-Net platform, upon which each registered member can conduct future-oriented international exchange or launch and advance international joint research.

JSPS-Net also provides a service for matching Japanese researchers who wish to host young researchers or overseas researchers with such researchers looking for a host.

JSPS would appreciate coordinators' cooperation in joining JSPS-Net.
https://www-jsps-net.jsps.go.jp/

(19) Registration of LinkedIn

LinkedIn is the world's largest professional networking platform with more than one billion registered users in over 200 countries and regions. It serves as a hub for professionals around the world to share and exchange job and career information and generate financial opportunities.

Information about JSPS is also available on LinkedIn. We hope you will follow the JSPS International Academic Collaborations if you have experience with any of the JSPS projects.
https://www.linkedin.com/company/jsps-international-academic-collaborations

(20) Handling of personal information

Personal information provided by applicants will be handled according to the Act on the Protection of Personal Information and JSPS's Personal Information Protection Policy, and be used solely for the purpose of implementing the program (which includes sending out information on JSPS and the program and providing participant data to external contractor(s) conducing electronic processing and management of the program).
The names, positions and affiliations of both the Japanese and counterpart PIs and

participants, research project/seminar titles, budget plans, implementation periods and reports may be disclosed via JSPS's website and publications, and informed to related organizations.

In the case of joint research projects involving researchers residing in the European Economic Area (EEA), including the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom, the handing of personal information as described above must be executed in agreement with the relevant researchers, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the UK GDPR.

https://www.ppc.go.jp/enforcement/infoprovision/laws/GDPR/

https://www.ppc.go.jp/enforcement/cooperation/cooperation/brexit_210628/(In Japanese)

(21) Use of Generative AI

Using generative AI when preparing your application risks an unintentional infringement of copyrights and leakage of personal or confidential information. It is the applicant's responsibility to consider this risk when deciding whether to use generative AI.

(22) JSPS shall not be liable for any disability, illness or other accident that may occur during the period of the implementation of the project.

(23) If the selected proposal becomes impossible or difficult to implement during the project implementation period due to a natural disaster or other unforeseen circumstances, support for the project may be suspended.

(24) The ownership of the rights to the research results of the Core-to-Core Program shall be determined by each core institution in accordance with the laws and regulations of Japan and the partner country, and the JSPS shall not be involved in this matter. Core Institutions shall establish ownership of intellectual property rights in advance through bylaws or other written formats.

X. JSPS contact information

International Research Cooperation Division I
International Program Department
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
Address: 5-3-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083
(E-mail) core-to-core*jsps.go.jp
Note: Please replace the asterisk (*) with the at sign (@) when sending an email.

Appendix 1

Cost-sharing between Japan and counterpart countries

A. Advanced Research Networks

The patterns shown here in Type A (Advanced Research Networks) are applied to Type B (Asia-Africa Science Platforms) in the cases of cost-sharing with institutions in China, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan.

Pattern 1

Courtiers / Cost Items		Coverable by JSPS	※ Counterpart Countries
Japan-side researchers	International airfare	✓	X
	Maintenance allowance in counterpart country	✓	X
	Travel cost in Japan	✓	X
	Research grant	✓	X
Counterpart-side researchers	International airfare	X	✓
	Maintenance allowance in Japan	X	✓
	Travel cost in home country	X	✓
	Research grant	X	✓
Cost for holding seminars in Japan		✓	X
Cost for holding seminars in counterpart country		X	✓
Research facilities costs at core institution		X	X

※ For sharing costs during the project period, core institutions are to obtain “matching funds” from science-promotion agencies, core institution’s own resource, regular budgets (etc.), and other funding organizations in their respective countries. For this purpose, it is desirable to use a funding scheme similar to that of the Core-to-Core Program, which supports research exchanges. However, if it should not be possible for a core institution to obtain such financial support from a funding agency or external funding source, part of its own research funds may be allocated to the research exchange as “matching funds. ”

Pattern 2

Cost Items \ Countries		Coverable by JSPS	※ Counterpart Countries
Japan-side researchers	International airfare	✓	X
	Maintenance allowance in counterpart country	X	✓
	Travel cost in Japan	✓	X
	Research grant	✓	X
Counterpart-side researchers	International airfare	X	✓
	Maintenance allowance in Japan	✓	X
	Travel cost in home country	X	✓
	Research grant	X	✓
Cost for holding seminars in Japan		✓	X
Cost for holding seminars in counterpart country		X	✓
Research facilities costs at core institution		X	X

※ For sharing costs during the project period, core institutions are to obtain “matching funds” from science-promotion agencies, core institution’s own resource, regular budgets (etc.), and other funding organizations in their respective countries. For this purpose, it is desirable to use a funding scheme similar to that of the Core-to-Core Program, which supports research exchanges. However, if it should not be possible for a core institution to obtain such financial support from a funding agency or external funding source, part of its own research funds may be allocated to the research exchange as “matching funds. ”

B. Asia-Africa Science Platforms

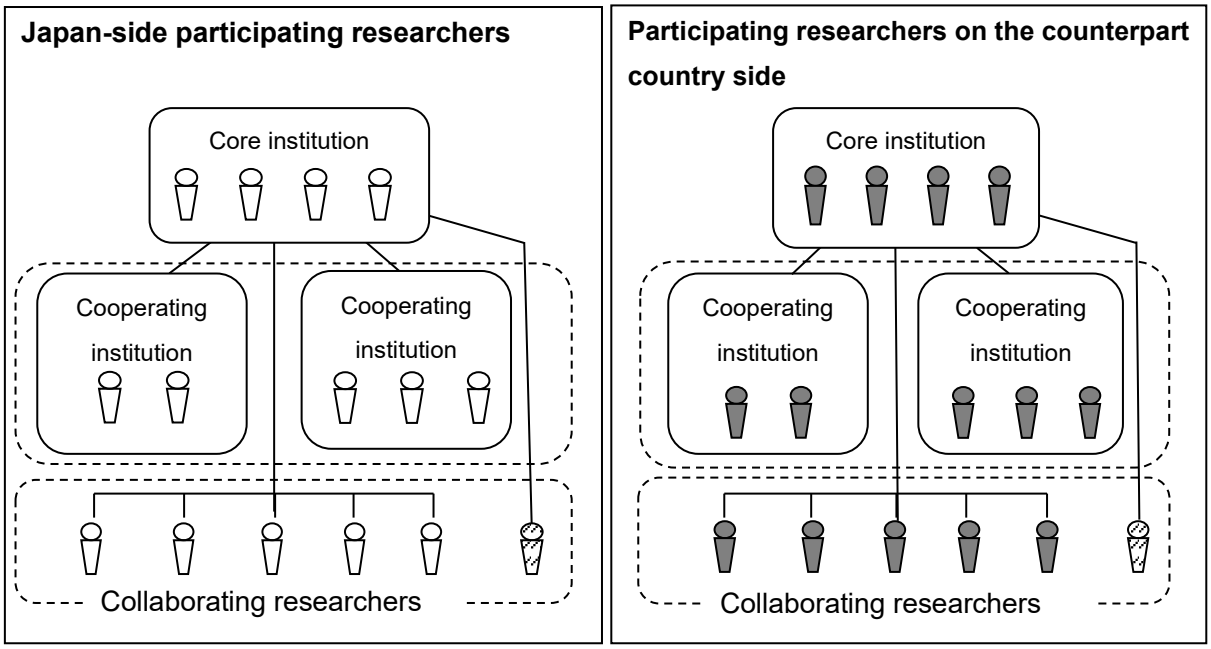
Cost-sharing with institutions in China, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan follow the patterns shown in Type A (Advanced Research Networks) on pages 12-13.

Cost Items	Coverable by JSPS
Japan-side researchers	
International airfare	✓
Maintenance allowance in counterpart country	✓
Travel cost in Japan	✓
Research grant	✓
Other-side researchers	
International airfare	✓
Maintenance allowance in Japan	✓
Travel cost in home country	X
Research grant	✓
Cost for holding seminars in Japan	✓
Cost for holding seminars in counterpart country	✓
Research facilities costs at core institution	X

Types of participating researchers

Types of Japan-side participating researchers	Within Japan	Researchers affiliated with the core institution
		Researchers affiliated with cooperating institutions
		Collaborating researchers
	Other countries	Researchers from outside the country approved by the Japan side (called “Japan-side collaborating researchers”).

Types of participating researchers on the counterpart country side	Within the counterpart country A	Researchers affiliated with the core institution
		Researchers affiliated with cooperating institutions
		Collaborating researchers within the counterpart country
	Other countries	Researchers from outside the country approved by the counterpart country side (called “Counterpart country-side collaborating researchers”).
	Within the counterpart country B	Researchers affiliated with the core institution
		Researchers affiliated with cooperating institutions
		Collaborating researchers within the counterpart country
	Other countries	Researchers from outside the country approved by the counterpart country side (called “Counterpart country-side collaborating researchers”).



Researchers affiliated with universities and research institutions in Japan

Researchers affiliated with universities and research institutions in the counterpart country

Researchers affiliated with universities and research institutions in countries outside Japan and the counterpart country

Appendix 2

Overlapping Program Restrictions

This table shows the overlapping restrictions on the following two categories of applicants.

1. A researcher who applies for a project under Program A as a representative of a new project while concurrently applying for an international scientific exchange project under Program B.
2. A researcher who already has been working as the representative of a project under Program A while concurrently applying for an international scientific exchange project under Program B.

Program A \ Program B		① Bilateral Programs (Joint Research Projects/ Seminars)	② International Joint Research Program	③ Japanese-German Graduate Externship	④ JSPS Core-to-Core Program	⑤ A3 Foresight Program
		New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal
①Bilateral Programs (Joint Research Projects/Seminars)	New Proposal	△	○	○	○	○
	Continued	△	○	○	○	○
②International Joint Research Program	New Proposal	○	—	▲	▲	▲
	Continued	○	—	×	×	×
③Japanese-German Graduate Externship	New Proposal	○	▲	—	▲	▲
	Continued	○	×	—	×	×
④JSPS Core-to-Core Program	New Proposal	○	▲	▲	—	▲
	Continued	○	×	×	—	×
⑤A3 Foresight Program	New Proposal	○	▲	▲	▲	—
	Continued	○	×	×	×	—

Notes

○: The researcher may be the representative of two projects in overlapping programs.

△: The researcher may apply for both programs but may not be the representative of two projects in overlapping programs if they are with the same counterpart country. (S/he must choose one of the overlapping programs.)

▲: The researcher may apply for both programs but may not be the representative of two projects in overlapping programs. (S/he must choose one of the overlapping programs.)

×: The researcher may not apply for the projects under Program B. Note that an application made in the last fiscal year of the project duration under Program A is acceptable.

— : In principle, the researcher may apply with one research topic under the same program. (S/he must work on a research topic proposed for a project under Program A when selected for a project under Program A.)