

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

FY2026 Japanese-American-German FoS Symposium

Application Guidelines for Discussant

October, 2025
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

1. Purpose

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) holds Frontiers of Science (FoS) Symposia for the purpose of contributing to the pioneering of new interdisciplinary domains through cross-disciplinary discussions advanced by excellent young researchers and for fostering future generation of leaders in Japan who possess wide interdisciplinary perspectives. This is the application guideline for young Japanese researchers who wish to participate in the Frontiers of Science (FoS) Symposium.

2. Implementation

Co-sponsored by partner organizations, a FoS symposium will be held in October 2026^{*1} as follows.

	7 th Japanese-American-German Frontiers of Science (JAGFOS) Symposium
Partner Organization	National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH)
Venue	Berlin, Germany
Symposium dates	Thursday 8 – Sunday 11 October, 2026 (4 days)
Travel period	Thursday 8 – Monday 12 or Tuesday 13 October, 2026 (5 or 6 days)
Session configuration	• Biology / Life Sciences • Chemistry / Materials Science • Earth Science / Geosciences / Environmental Sciences • (Applied) Mathematics / Computer Science / Engineering • Physics / Astrophysics • Social Sciences
Participants	72 (24 from each country)
Japanese participants ^{*2}	<u>Discussants: 12 (recruitment target for this symposium)</u> Planning Group Members ^{*2} : 6 Introductory Speakers: 2 Speakers: 4

^{*1} The 12th Japanese-French Frontiers of Science (JFFoS) Symposium is scheduled to be held in 2026, but recruitment has already closed.

^{*2} Planning Group Members are selected by the JSPS FoS Symposium Advisory Board, while Introductory Speakers and Speakers are selected jointly by the Planning Group Members of Japan and counterpart country(ies). Therefore, there is no open recruitment for these positions.

1) Full participant involvement

The JAGFOS symposium will have 72 participants (24 from each country). All participants who will lodge together during the symposium. Irrespective of their own fields of specialization, each participant will attend all of the symposium sessions and engage in active discussions in English with the participants from the other countries.

2) Topics

Six sessions will be held during the symposium in the subject areas, such as Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Mathematics, Physics and Social Sciences. In each session, all of the participants will engage in vigorous and free discussions, which overarch their individual fields, on leading-edge, high-interest topics chosen in each subject area.

An introductory speaker will kick off each session and speakers will pilot the discussion. They will give presentations that describe their topic's attractiveness and feasibilities as leading-edge science, while touching upon problems and obstacles they encountered in advancing their research. They are to bear in mind throughout the session that the participants are not specialists in their specific fields and gauge their language accordingly.

* For past topics, please refer to the JSPS website: <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fos/>

3) Unique format

Differing from general symposiums in which summaries are compiled and conclusions sought, FoS symposiums are not oriented to a specific direction. Rather, they seek to foster free thinking and creativity in excellent young researchers by having them engage each other in discussions that crisscross their various fields of specialization, while encouraging them to challenge novel ideas that can lead to new genres of science.

3. Working Language

English

4. Fields of Participants

All fields of social sciences and natural sciences

5. Targeted Applicants

This open recruitment is targeted to young researchers who participate as “Discussants” on the Japanese side in the JAGFOS symposium. Their roles will be to participate in discussions and give poster presentations. In addition to the discussants who apply via these Guidelines, other discussants will be nominated by the JSPS FoS Symposium Planning Group Members.

6. Applicant Eligibility

As a rule, young researchers* who hold a doctoral degree, belong to one of the below-listed research institutions and who meet all of the following conditions are eligible. Persons who have already participated in a FoS symposium or who have been selected to participate in a future FoS symposium are not eligible. Applicants are reminded to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements when submitting their applications and participating in the symposium.

Conditions:

- (1) Have held a position as a researcher at an eligible research institution designated by Japan's MEXT for a total period of at least five years.

- (2) Have an excellent record of research
- (3) Have excellent ability to hold discussions in English
- (4) Be able to display leadership
- (5) Have a broad interest in research beyond their own field of specialization and actively participate in discussions and poster presentations
- (6) Be available to participate in all of the days of the symposium and to lodge at the venue during the period of the symposium.

Eligible research institutions:

The applicant's institution must be one designated under Article 2 of the "Rules for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research" (issued by the MEXT). They are as follows:

- 1) Universities and inter-university research institutions
- 2) MEXT facilities and other institutions engaged in scientific research
- 3) Technical colleges
- 4) Institutions designated by the Minister of MEXT

*Young researchers: 45 years old or younger or have received their doctoral degree within the past 15 years as of 1 April 2026.

If the applicant's home institution acknowledges that the applicant has interrupted her/his research activities for a total of at least three months due to childbirth or childcare, she/he may apply up to 47 years of age or less with a doctoral degree, or 17 years or less after obtaining her/his doctoral degree.

7. How to apply

Application is made via the applicant's affiliated institution.

8. Funding

JSPS and the counterpart sponsoring organizations will cover the cost of the participants' roundtrip travel from/to their affiliated institution and the symposium venue and their meals and lodging during the symposium, according to the rules of the sponsoring institutions.

9. Application Procedure

- 1) Documents to be submitted by applicant's institution

- Form 1 List of Applicants (the cover letter for the other Forms)
- Form 2 Basic Information of Discussant Applicant
- Form 3 Short CV of Discussant Applicant
- Form 4 Recommendation Letter for Discussant Applicant
- Form 5 Agreement with Regard to the Handling of Personal Information(*For People Residing in the European Economic Area (EEA) and the U.K.(see section 14.7))

- 2) Document preparers

Form 1 is to be prepared by the admin office of the applicant's institution, Form 2, 3 and 5 by the applicant, Form 4 by the Recommender.

- 3) Submission Methods

Applicant's institution submits the below-listed forms to JSPS. JSPS receives applications only from institutions (not directly from individuals). The forms should be submitted as electronic data using the file transfer system "Box." JSPS will provide information on using this system to applying institutions upon receiving a request via e-mail.

(Form submission process)

	Document preparer	Submission method (Box)
Form 1	Applicant's institution	Excel (Official Stamp not required)
Form 2	Applicant	Excel and PDF
Form 3		PDF
Form 4	Recommender	PDF
Form 5	Applicant	PDF

If the content of the Excel document differs from that of the PDF, the PDF takes precedence.

10. Receipt deadline

Applicants

Applicants should submit Form 2 through 5 by their institution's deadlines.

* Deadlines may vary by institution, so please check with your institution in advance.

Applicant's institution

Applicant's institutions are to upload their set of forms to "Box" within the following period:

Monday, 1 December to Friday, 5 December 2025 (no later than 17:00 JST)

11. Selection and Criteria

(1) Selection

Selection of all discussants are made by the FoS Symposium Advisory Board, established within JSPS.

(2) Criteria

The primary selection criteria are outlined as follows.

- (i) Have an excellent record of research achievement
- (ii) Have the ability to engage in lively discussions in English
- (iii) Be able to demonstrate leadership skills
- (iv) Have a broad interest in research beyond their own field of specialization and actively participate in discussions and poster presentations
- (v) Have the potential to become a future leader in Japan's scientific research arena, equipped with a broad, interdisciplinary perspective.

12. Notice of Selection Results

Notification to the applicants' institutions will be sent out around March 2026.

13. Other Points to Bear in Mind

- 1) Documents should be prepared using prescribed formats. (Available on the JSPS website)
- 2) After documents are submitted, they cannot be changed or amended.
- 3) Submitted documents are not returned.
- 4) Inquiries regarding selection results are not accepted.

- 5) JSPS bears no responsibility for accidents, injuries or illnesses that occur during the period of the symposium or during travel to and from it.

14. Others

1) Measures against the Misuse of Funds and Misconduct in Research Activities

JSPS will take appropriate measures (e.g., cancellation of the participant's selection) in cases of misuse of research funds, specific research misconduct (e.g., fabrication, falsification, plagiarism), unjustifiable acts (e.g., discrimination, harassment), or violation of laws. For reference regarding handing of funds misuse and misconduct, see the "Rules for Responding to Misconduct and Misuse of Funds in Research Activities."

- Rules for Responding to Misconduct and Misuse of Funds in Research Activities:
https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-kousei/data/fuseitaiou_kitei.pdf

2) Ensuring Research Integrity Against New Risks as a Consequence of the Globalization and Openness of Research Activities

In order to promote the augment of science, technology, and innovation in Japan, we must continue to enhance overseas joint research with various partners based on the principle of open science. Concurrently, the new risks as a consequence of the globalization and openness of research activities have been possible to impair the basis of research environment such as openness and transparency, and to unknowingly involve researchers to take risk of a conflict of interest or a conflict of responsibilities. In such climate, it is vital for our country to build a globally reliable research environment to protect the values that constitute the basis of research environment while encouraging necessary global collaboration and international exchanges.

Therefore, universities and institutions are required to establish regulations/rules and control management related to the conflict of interest and the conflict of responsibility based on "Policy on Measures to Ensure Research Integrity Against New Risks as a Consequence of the Globalization and Openness of Research Activities (April 27, 2021, Decision of Council for Science, Technology and Innovation)." It is significantly essential for researchers and universities/institutions to proactively ensure the research integrity in each research activity.

3) The Security Export Control

Much research on cutting-edge technology is being conducted in Japan's research institutions. Along with Japan's advancing internationalization, there has been an increase in the number of foreign students and overseas researchers residing in Japan. This has increased the risk of advanced technologies and research materials and equipment leaking out and for them to be used in the development and production of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Research institutions are to take systematic measure to keep research results and products that can be diverted to military use out of the hands of WMD developers, terrorist groups, and other persons whose activities are suspect.

In Japan, export controls (*1) are carried out under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949) (hereinafter referred to as "FEFTA"). Therefore, in principle, in order to export (provide) cargo and technology regulated by the FEFTA, it is necessary to obtain permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Starting with the FEFTA, researchers must follow all of Japan's pertinent laws and ordinances,

guidelines, and directives. If research is conducted in violation of these laws and ordinances, measures and penalties prescribed in them may be enforced along with the termination of the researcher's research funding or his/her scheduled allocation of research funding.

(*1) Export controls

Japan's Security Export Control System established on the basis of international agreements mainly consists of (1) "List Control" which requires permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry in principle when exporting goods or providing technologies that carry specifications and/or functions higher than certain levels, such as carbon fiber and numerically controlled machine tools, etc., and (2) "Catch-all regulation" which requires permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry when exporting goods or providing technologies that are not subject to regulation under the List control but do fall under certain regulatory requirements (application requirements, consumer requirements and/or informed requirements).

Not only export of goods but also provision of technologies can be subject to regulation under the FEFTA. When providing a "List Control" technologies to nonresidents (including residents in the Specific Categories (*2)) or providing it in a foreign country, prior permission for the provision is required. "Provision of technologies" includes not only providing technical information such as design drawings, specifications, manuals, samples, and prototypes via paper, mail, storage media such as CD, DVD, USB memory, but also providing work knowledge through technical instruction, skill training, etc. and technical assistance at seminars.

Researchers should be aware that there may be cases in which technologies subject to regulation under the FEFTA are involved when mentoring foreign students and/or doing joint research activities with overseas groups. Please also bear in mind that the provision of technologies acquired in the program or the provision of technologies already in possession with the use of the program may also be subject to restrictions.

(*2) The term "Specific Categories" refers to the types of residents that are heavily influenced by nonresidents. It also indicates the specific types of residents who fall under the clauses in 1.(3)Sa ① thru ③ of the "Notification for Transactions or Acts of Transferring Technology Requiring Permission pursuant to Article 25 (1) of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA) and Article 17 (2) of the Foreign Exchange Order (FOE)"

4) Registration of the Researcher Information in researchmap

"researchmap" is, as a general guide to Japanese researchers, Japan's largest researcher information database. Registered information on research results can be openly disseminated over the Internet using researchmap. As researchmap is linked to e-Rad and many university faculty databases, it allows registered information to be accessed by other systems. Furthermore, the Japanese Government plans to further utilize researchmap, so please register your researcher information on the researchmap site. When registering, be sure to indicate that you have received support from this program.

- researchmap
<https://researchmap.jp/>
- Example description: Planning Group Member (PGM) / Introductory Speaker (IS) / Speaker / General Participant of the xxth J-XX Frontiers of Science (FoS) Symposium supported by JSPS

5) Registration on JSPS-Net

JSPS Researchers Network (JSPS-Net) is a social networking service that facilitates new collaborations within a worldwide researcher community. It is mainly aimed at Japanese and overseas researchers residing in Japan or abroad, overseas researchers scheduled to come to Japan, and the international programs staff of universities and other institutions.

As JSPS-Net provides functions in supporting the establishment of researcher communities, it's hope that you will take good advantage of its support when expanding your own circle of colleagues.

- JSPS-Net

<https://www.jsps-net.jsps.go.jp/>

6) 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 “JSPS International Academic Collaborations” on the platform if you have experienced participating in any of JSPS programs.

- LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/jsps-international-academic-collaborations>

7) Handling of Personal Information

With regard to personal information contained in application materials, it shall be strictly controlled in accordance with the “Act on the Protection of Personal Information” and JSPS’s own regulations for protecting personal information. JSPS will use such information exclusively for implementing its programs. (This may involve the provision of personal information to external companies commissioned to electronically process and manage program-related data.)

If selected for this symposium, discussants should note that their name, title and affiliated organization may be given public access.

For applicants residing in the European Economic Area (EEA) including the EU and in the UK, please submit a “Consent Form for Handling Personal Information” in accordance with the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). If the application documents to be submitted contain information about EEA and the UK residents, please first obtain consent from those persons to handle their personal information in the way stipulated above.

Please see the following sites for more detailed information on GDPR.

* Personal Information Protection Commission Japan

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

https://www.ppc.go.jp/enforcement/cooperation/cooperation/brexit_210628/

8) 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.

15. Making Inquiries

Frontiers of Science Team

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