

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
FY2027 Japanese-American-German FoS Symposium
Application Guidelines for Discussant

October, 2026
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 2027*¹ as follows.

	8 th Japanese-American-German Frontiers of Science (JAGFOS) Symposium
Partner Organization	National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH)
Venue	Tokyo, Japan
Symposium dates	Sunday 3 – Wednesday 6 October, 2027 (4 days)
Travel period	Sunday 3 – Wednesday 6 or Thursday 7 October, 2027 (4 or 5 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 1st Japanese-Swedish FoS Symposium is scheduled to be held in FY2027. As the details are yet to be decided, a separate call will be issued.

*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 2027.

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 Discussant Application Form
- 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, 30 November to Friday, 4 December 2026 (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 2027.

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.
- 6) Participants are expected to attend the Preparatory Meeting*, which will be held in Japanese a few months before the Symposium.

* Preparatory Meeting:

A Preparatory Meeting is a type of practice session (rehearsal) designed to encourage lively discussion of presentations in English at the Symposium. The Meeting will be held in Japanese to provide participants with a deeper understanding of presentations in research areas outside of one's immediate field of expertise.

14. Others

1) Revocation of selection and other penalties

JSPS will take appropriate measures (e.g., cancellation of screening, revocation of selection, require reimbursement of part or all of allocated funds) in cases of misuse of research funds, specific research misconduct (e.g. fabrication, falsification, plagiarism), unjustifiable acts such as human rights violations (e.g. racism, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, academic harassment, power harassment, abuse of authority, neglect, etc.), violation of laws, or serious falsehoods in application documents (including unauthorized diversion of signatures), etc.

Please refer to the JSPS website below for the “Rules for Responding to Misconduct and Misuse of Funds in Research Activities” (Rule No.19 of 2006) with regard to measures taken by JSPS against misuse of research funds.

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-kousei/sochi.html>

2) Policy Directions for Ensuring Research Integrity in Response to New Risks Associated with Increasing Internationalization and Openness of Research Activities

To advance science and technology and generate innovation, Japan adopts “Open Science,” as a basis policy and will need to actively promote international joint research with multiple partners both now and in the future. At the same time, new risks have accompanied trends toward internationalization and open access to research over recent years. It is feared that such risks will undermine values such as openness and transparency that are at the bedrock of research environments and induce a danger of researchers unwittingly falling into conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment. Amidst this situation, it will be essential for Japan to create a research environment that receives international trust so as to advance international collaboration with counterpart countries and to promote international exchange while maintaining the values that undergird its research environment.

For this purpose, universities and research institutions are required to take actions based on the “Policy Directions for Ensuring Research Integrity in Response to New Risks Associated with Increasing Internationalization and Openness of Research Activities” (promulgated on 27 April 2021 by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation). It will be necessary for them to set rules and establish management systems to preclude such problems as conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment and to independently assure healthy research and equity within their organizations.

From this standpoint, JSPS may, when necessary, contact your affiliated institution to confirm its compliance with the requirement to maintain internal regulations and systems for identifying and managing relevant information.

3) About security export control (Measures against technology leaking abroad)

While research is being carried out on many new cutting - edge technologies in Japan's research institutions, the internationalization of Japanese universities has increased the number of foreign students and overseas researchers in Japan. Under these circumstances, there is an increasing risk of advanced technologies and equipment or materials used in research being leaked out and used in the development and production of weapons and other military-related systems. Accordingly, when research institutions conduct research activities, including those commissioned to them to carry out, they should take systematic measures to ensure that research results and technologies (etc.) that can be diverted for military purposes are not passed to persons feared to carry out prohibited activities such as those involved in the development of weapons or members of terrorist groups.

In Japan, export control (*1) is carried out based on the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act" (Act no. 228, enacted in 1949, hereinafter referred to as "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). Please be sure to follow Japan's laws, guidelines and directives including the requirements of the Foreign Exchange Act. In addition to complying with the Foreign Exchange Act and other Japanese laws, guidelines, and notices, as well as the rules established by your affiliated institution concerning security export control, you are also expected to make efforts to have a firm grasp and clear understanding of the corresponding laws, guidelines, notices, and regulations in the countries, regions, and research institutions involved in your international joint research. If these laws or guidelines are violated in the implementation of research, in addition to legal measures and penalties taken, the allocation of project funding may be cancelled or the decision to allocate funding withdrawn.

(*1) Japan's security export control system is carried out based on international agreements via predominately two rules: "list rule" and "catch - all rule." Under the list rule, when materials and/or technologies related to carbon fiber, computerized numeric - controlled machinery, or other items to be exported (provided) exceed specified specifications and/or functions, permission must as a rule be obtained from the Minister of METI. Under the catch - all rule, when materials and/or technologies not applicable to regulations under the list rule are to be exported (provided) but do fall under certain regulatory requirements (usage, consumer and inform requirements), permission must be obtained from the Minister of METI.

Not only the export of goods but also the provision of technologies is subject to the Foreign Exchange Act. When list-rule technologies are to be provided to non-residents of Japan (including residents who fall under (*2) specific categories) or to be provided outside Japan, permission must be obtained in advance. Included in the provision of technologies is technical information or data contained in blueprints, specification documents, manuals, specimens, prototypes and other items provided via paper, email, CD, DVD, USB flash drive, or other recording media.

Also included is working (processing) knowledge provided via technical guidance or training and through technical support via seminars. Various controls are imposed under the Foreign Exchange Act with regard to technology exchange when hosting students from foreign countries and conducting joint research and other activities with them. Please bear in mind that the provision of technologies (etc.) obtained through this program and of technologies (etc.) already possessed

through use in this program may also be subject to regulation.

In addition, foreign students who receive funding for studying abroad from foreign governments may, even if they have residence status, fall under specific categories of residents subject to export control regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act. Therefore, host institutions should appropriately assess the status of scholarships and other financial support provided to international students.

(*2) The “specific categories” are those in which a resident (limited to natural persons) is strongly influenced by a non-resident. These categories are stipulated in 1(3)(k)(1) to (3) of the “Service Transactions or Activities Requiring License in Accordance with Paragraph 1, Article 25 of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and Paragraphs 2 through 4, Article 17 of the Foreign Exchange Order.”

Pursuant to the Foreign Exchange Act, it is necessary to establish a system for security export control when list - controlled goods or list - regulated technologies are to be exported/provided overseas. (*3)

Accordingly, it will be necessary to verify whether goods and technologies subject to export control under the Foreign Exchange Act are scheduled to be provided via this program. 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).

(*3) Exporters are required to satisfy the “standards for export, etc.” stipulated in item 10-1 of article 55 of the Foreign Exchange Act. The security export-control system stipulated here is to be based on a system for managing the “standards for export, etc.” That is, an internal control system is to be established for properly carrying out the export/overseas provision of list-controlled goods and list-regulated technologies and for preventing in advance 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/daigaku/guidance5.pdf>

https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law_document/tutatu/t10kaisei/ekimu__tutatu.pdf (In Japanese)

4) Registration of Researcher Information in researchmap

“researchmap” (<https://researchmap.jp/>) is a researcher information database in Japan operated by JST.

Registered information on research results can be openly disseminated over the Internet. As researchmap is linked to e - Rad and many university faculty databases, it allows registered information to be accessed by other 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.

- 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

The JSPS Researchers Network (JSPS - Net) is a social networking service 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 information for Japanese researchers who wish to host early-career Japanese researchers or overseas researchers, as well as for early-career researchers seeking a host.

JSPS would appreciate PIs' cooperation in joining JSPS - Net.

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

6) Registration on 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

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) conducting electronic processing and management of the program).

The names, positions and affiliations of participants and reports may be disclosed via JSPS's website and publications, and informed to related organizations.

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/EU/>

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 Symposium Team

International Research Cooperation Division I

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

5-3-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083, Japan

Phone: +81-(0)3-3263-1944

Email: fos[at]jsps.go.jp (please replace "[at]" with @.)

URL: <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fos/>