

## **JSPS Researcher Exchange Program FY2026 CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

This “FY2026 Call for Proposals” is an English translation of the official announcement in Japanese. Applicants should observe the accompanying Japanese Application Guidelines.

([https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bilat/tokuteikoku/shinsei\\_bosyu/2026\\_tokuteikoku\\_boshuyoko\\_jp.pdf](https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bilat/tokuteikoku/shinsei_bosyu/2026_tokuteikoku_boshuyoko_jp.pdf))

If there should be any differences between the original Call for Proposals in Japanese and its translation into English, the original Japanese text is valid.

### **1. Program outline**

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) carries out bilateral cooperative programs with science promotion organizations (counterpart organizations) in the following countries based on agreements for international scientific cooperation. Under them, Japanese researchers visit the counterpart countries. This Program provides them financial support for carrying out research and/or discussions with researchers in those countries. The longer term purpose of these visits is to promote the building of a foundation for joint research and networking that can be sustainably developed.

JSPS receives applications via its Electronic Application System. Please refer to “5. Application procedure.”

### **2. Counterpart countries and organizations**

Counterpart Countries	Counterpart organizations	Type	Maximum number selected researcher	Subject areas
Estonia	Estonian Research Council (ETAG)	Postdoc	1	All areas of Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences
Lithuania (NEW!)	Research Council of Lithuania (RCL)	Postdoc	1	All areas of Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences

Note:

- Japanese researchers may visit only institutions affiliated with counterpart organizations. They should consult in advance with their counterpart researchers as to whether visiting other institutions would be acceptable.
- The number of researchers to be selected may change due to the budgetary situations and/or other conditions relevant to JSPS and its counterpart organizations.
- Please refer to Section 21 ‘Instructions for individual countries’ for further information.

### **3. Eligibility**

Be a researcher affiliated with a research organization stipulated in Article 2 of Rules for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research—KAKENHI (MEXT report No. 110 issued in 1965). At the time of application, be a full-time researcher (tenure not required) who is eligible to receive KAKENHI grants or a researcher who aspires to hold such a full-time position in the future. Must also meet the below two conditions.

\* Stipulated research organizations:

- University or Joint research institute
- Organization under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) that conducts scientific research
- National college of Technology
- Other organization designated by the MEXT minister

- 1) The candidate must be a citizen of Japan or a foreign national with permanent residency status in Japan.
- 2) Persons selected in FY2023, FY2024 and FY2025 for this Program are not eligible to apply in FY2026 for a research visit to the same country based on the MoU/MoC signed by JSPS and the counterpart organization in that country. If the applicant should commit an unethical act and be punished via measures imposed by the host institution, they will be restricted from applying for a JSPS Researcher Exchange Program for a period of five years starting from the day that punishment is administered.
- 3) Please refer to Section 24 'Instructions for individual countries' for eligibility in each counterpart organization.

### **4. Period of stay**

In principle, the researcher(s) must depart Japan during the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

### **5. Application procedure**

#### **1) Electronic Application System**

JSPS receives applications via its Electronic Application System. For details, please see [https://www-shinsei.jsps.go.jp/topkokusai/top\\_kokusai.html](https://www-shinsei.jsps.go.jp/topkokusai/top_kokusai.html)

If the applicant has already obtained an ID and password for the system, they do not need to apply for new ones. If the researcher's affiliated institution has changed, they will need to obtain an ID and password for the International Research Program from the new institution.

Persons who have not received an ID and password to apply for this program from their affiliated institution should obtain an individual application ID and password by accessing the electronic application system at <https://www-kokusai.jsps.go.jp/jsps1/idshinsei/index.html>

#### **2) Application deadline**

Applicant's affiliated institution may have its own application deadline. Please check the deadline with the staff of the affiliated institution in advance.

**Friday, 5 p.m., 5 September 2025 (JST)**

\*Applications will be accepted through the Electronic Application System starting approximately two months before the deadline date.

## **6. Other instructions**

Each applicant may submit only one application. Once application has been submitted, it cannot be replaced.

Applicants who are or have carried out international joint research activities should clearly specify those activities if their content is related to the researcher exchange program for which they are currently applying.

If the counterpart country has put in place immigration restrictions, etc., based on the situation at the time of application, to the degree possible estimate when the applicant will be able to travel and prepare the contents of the application in alignment with planned arrival.

When the proposed research involves issues such as a requirement to obtain the research subject's consent or the cooperation of a third party, or consideration in the handling of personal information, or actions related bioethics and/or biosafety (including guidelines and policies used by the counterpart country in conducting international joint research and by the countries/regions in which the research will be implemented), describe the measures and actions planned for handling such issues. This applies to research activities that require approval by an internal or external information committee or ethics jury, such as for research involving questionnaire surveys, interviews and/or behavior surveys (including personal histories and images), surveys of domestic or overseas cultural properties, research involving personal information, the handling of donated specimens, invasive properties, human genome analysis, recombinant DNA, and experimentation with animals. In such cases, describe concretely the status of your processing and procedures.

Should JSPS determine any information in an application to be falsified, plagiarized or otherwise flawed, including a forged signature, the application will be rejected or, if already awarded, the program withdrawn.

## **7. 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.

## **8. Selection criteria**

The following criteria are utilized in the selection process:

- If the research content has high scientific value and if the visit is expected to advance research in the subject field (Scientific value)
- Whether the applicant and researcher in the counterpart country have clearly communicated in advance, and whether the research plan is judged to be both concrete and feasible (Concreteness and feasibility)
- Whether the visit can be expected to spawn joint research and networking that will be sustainably developed in the future (Future potential)

In addition to the above criteria, the following point is also considered:

- When applicants have already conducted a long-term stay in the counterpart country for study and/or research purposes, they must clearly state the significance of revisiting that country.

## **9. Selection procedure**

(1) The selection is carried out through a document review in the first stage and a panel review in the second by the JSPS International Program Committee. Document reviews are conducted by three examiners for each application. For details, please see the following website.

[https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bilat/tokuteikoku/shinsei\\_shinsa.html](https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bilat/tokuteikoku/shinsei_shinsa.html)

Notification of both selection and non-selection based on the screening results will be made to the applicants and the heads of their affiliated research institutions around December 2025. Selected candidate researchers are asked to submit a Form of Proposal in English. Based on it, JSPS will recommend the candidate to the counterpart organization. If the proposal is accepted by the counterpart organization, a notification of adoption will be sent to the applicant and the head of their affiliated research institution around February 2026. If the proposal is not accepted by the counterpart organization, the applicant is not selected. Please note that the notification of results may be delayed due to the review timeline set by the counterpart organizations.

(2) Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing of their approximate place among the non-selected applications.

A: Higher position

B: Middle position

C: Lower position

(3) Selection results can also be accessed on the Electronic Application System.

## **10. Post-selection procedure**

Selected candidate researchers must submit a “Form of Proposal” by the prescribed deadline. If not, their preliminary selection will be cancelled. (Note that counterpart countries may use different procedures. Selected researchers will receive detailed instructions from JSPS.)

## **11. Obligation of Japanese researchers**

(1) Selected Japanese researchers must submit a report, which may be given public access.

(2) Due acknowledgement of support by JSPS and counterpart organizations should be made in any publication resulting from this program.

## **12. Cancellation of selection decisions**

Measures such as the termination of application screening, cancellation of selection decisions, requirement to refund part or all of already paid allowances may be taken when researchers or others are determined to have done the following: misused research funds or committed specific research misconduct (forgery, falsification, plagiarism) when conducting research activities; committed any form of human rights violation (e.g. racial discrimination, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, academic harassment, power harassment, abuse of authority, neglect); violated laws; made false statements in an application (including an unauthorized diversion of signature).

JSPS's policy for handling the misuse of research funds, etc. is specified in the publicly released "Rules for Responding to Misconduct and Misuse of Funds in Research Activities" (Enacted on December 6, 2006 (Rule No. 19 of 2006)). Please refer to it for detailed information.

[https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/guideline/data/regulation\\_e.pdf](https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/guideline/data/regulation_e.pdf)

### **13. Handling of personal information, etc.**

Personal information provided by applicants are strictly handled and managed in accordance with the "Act for the Protection of Personal Information" and JSPS's "Personal Information Protection Policy," and is used solely for the purpose of implementing the program. (JSPS may use personal data when disseminating information about its operations and programs, and it may entrust personal data to external companies for the purpose of conducting electronic processing and management of the data.)

The names, positions and affiliations of the selected researchers and their counterpart researchers, and their research titles, visit durations and reports may be disclosed on JSPS's website and in its publications and circulated to related organizations.

Applicants residing in the European Economic Area (EEA) including the EU and UK must submit a separate letter of consent for using their personal information in line with the provisions of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If application documents contain information on persons residing in the EEA or UK, the said persons' consent must be obtained to use that information.

Personal Information Protection Commission, Government of Japan.

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

[https://www.ppc.go.jp/enforcement/cooperation/cooperation/brexit\\_210628/](https://www.ppc.go.jp/enforcement/cooperation/cooperation/brexit_210628/)

### **14. 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.

### **15. Security Export control (Preventing technology leakage outside Japan)**

Much research on cutting-edge technologies 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). Therefore, when research institutions conduct research activities of any kind, including the contracted program, they should 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) goods and technologies regulated by the FEFTA, it is necessary to obtain permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Selected Japanese Researchers shall comply with FEFTA and all Japanese laws and ordinances, guidelines, and directives, as well as the export control rules and regulations of their affiliated institutions. The researchers shall also make every effort to understand and comply with the laws, regulations, guidelines, and directives of the country in which their host institutions are located, as well as the export control rules and regulations stipulated by their host institutions. If a researcher is found to have violated any of the relevant laws, ordinances, and guidelines, in addition to legal penalties and sanctions, such measures shall be taken as to cancel the assignment of the researcher or to revoke their credentials midway through their tenure, together with possible claim of reimbursement of expenses already paid to them.

(\*1) 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 storage media such as paper, mail, CD, USB memory, but also providing work knowledge and technical assistance at seminars through technical instruction, skill training, etc.

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 contracted program or the provision of technologies already in possession with the use of the contracted 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)”

In accordance with FEFTA, a security export control structure must be established when exporting

List Control Goods or providing List Control Technologies to a foreign country. (\*3) For this reason, prior to entering into a contract (the research start date), Fellows may be asked if they have any plans to export goods and/or technologies that are subject to export restrictions under the FEFTA as a result of this contracted program and, if there is an intent to export, they will be asked whether or not there is a management system in place to control such exports.

(\*3) Exporters are mandated to comply with the "Compliance Requirements for Exporters" set forth in Article 55-10 (1) of the FEFTA. The security export control structure here refers to an organization's internal control system to prevent unauthorized exports and other acts by appropriately exporting List Control Goods or providing List Control Technologies to foreign countries, based on the control system in the "Compliance Requirements for Exporters".

For details on Security Export Control, please see the following websites.

- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: Security Export Control (General)  
<http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/>
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: "Handbook on Security Export Control"  
<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/seminer/shiryo/handbook.pdf>
- Center for Information on Security Export Controls  
<https://www.cistec.or.jp/index.html>
- "Guidance for the Control of Sensitive Technologies for Security Export for Academic and Research Institutions 3rd Edition"  
[https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law\\_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota\\_jishukanri03.pdf](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota_jishukanri03.pdf)
- Notification for Transactions or Acts of Transferring Technology Requiring Permission pursuant to Article 25 (1) of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and Article 17 (2) of the Foreign Exchange Order  
[https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law\\_document/tutatu/t10kaisei/ekimu\\_\\_tutatu.pdf](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law_document/tutatu/t10kaisei/ekimu__tutatu.pdf)

## **16. Registration on 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. As researchmap is linked to e-Rad and many university faculty databases, it allows registered information to be accessed by other systems, obviating the need to reregister every time a researcher wants to submit an application, access a database, or register the same research results. Furthermore, researchmap can be used for surveying the Japanese government's science and technology policies and for statistical purposes. Participants in this program are invited to register on researchmap.

- researchmap  
<https://researchmap.jp/?lang=en>

## **17. 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.

JSPS-Net assists each registered researcher in carrying out their activities on a world stage. By linking up researchers working in the same field and cross different fields, researchers working in the same or in different regions, and connecting them with people who are interested in their research or desirous to support it, JSPS-Net establishes communities and by promoting networking spawns future international exchange while advancing international joint research.

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

Researchers participating in this program are invited to join JSPS-Net.

- JSPS-Net

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

## **18. 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 the JSPS International Academic Collaborations if you have experience with any of the JSPS projects.

- LinkedIn

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

## **19. Others**

- (1) JSPS will not bear responsibility for any injury, sickness or accident incurred during travel related to the program. Please be sure to purchase international travel insurance (sickness and accident). JSPS does not pay for travellers' insurance.
- (2) JSPS does not support the issuing of visas or the arrangement of accommodations related to this program. If the Japanese applicants are already at an overseas institution, please check your visa status to confirm that it permits you to carry out your research plan.
- (3) Later changes in the visit plan may result in cancellation of support.
- (5) Researchers on both sides must negotiate with each other to ensure the protection and proper distribution of intellectual property resulting from the program, in accordance with the laws and regulations of their countries. JSPS does not participate in such negotiations.

## **20. JSPS contact information**

Overseas Fellowship Division

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

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

TEL: +81 (0)3-3263-2368, 2480

Email: tokuteikoku \* jsps.go.jp (replace \* with @)

URL: <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-bilat/researcher.html>



Call Center (Only for questions regarding JSPS's electronic application system)  
TEL: 0120-556739 (Inside Japan only)

## 21. Instructions for individual countries

### Estonia (ETAG)

Eligibility	Researchers who have obtained a doctoral degree or who are expected to obtain one by 31 March 2026. (Including prospective researchers in the social sciences and humanities who have accrued the required doctoral course credits.)
Duration	6-12 months
Expenses from ETAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International airfare</li> <li>- Maintenance allowance: 1,600 EUR/month</li> <li>- Family allowance: 500 EUR/month</li> <li>- Accommodations: 1,000 EUR/month (researcher should pay any amount over)</li> <li>- Expenses for domestic travel in Estonia: 650 EUR/year</li> </ul>
Expenses from JSPS	Expenses for domestic travel in Japan (including family members)
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The host Institution must be a positively evaluated R&amp;D institution that is a legal entity registered in Estonia. List of evaluated institutions is provided in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS): <a href="https://www.etis.ee/Portal/Institutions/Index/?">https://www.etis.ee/Portal/Institutions/Index/?</a> Only the institutions with evaluated "Yes" can be the host institutions.</li> <li>- The Estonian host researcher must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification and have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS) by the submission deadline. If the doctoral degree was obtained outside of Estonia, its equivalence to an Estonian doctoral degree must be recognized by either the Estonian ENIC-NARIC Centre or the Host Institution, in accordance with the Regulation of the Government of the Republic of April 6, 2006, No. 89, which covers the evaluation and academic recognition of documents proving foreign education and the corresponding qualifications. More information can be found here: <a href="https://harno.ee/en/enicnaric">https://harno.ee/en/enicnaric</a>.</li> </ul>
Contact information	<p>Ms. Katrin Saar, Senior Advisor, Department of International Research Cooperation Estonian Research Council Soola 8, Tartu 51004, Estonia (Tel) +372 53335625 Email: <a href="mailto:katrin.saar@etag.ee">katrin.saar * etag.ee</a> (replace * with @)</p>

**Lithuania (RCL)**

Eligibility	Researchers who have obtained a doctoral degree or who are expected to obtain one by 31 March 2026. (Including prospective researchers in the social sciences and humanities who have accrued the required doctoral course credits.)
Duration	1-12 months
Expenses from RCL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- International airfare</li><li>- Maintenance allowance: 1,500 EUR/month</li><li>- Family allowance: 500 EUR/month</li><li>- Accommodations: 1,000 EUR/month (researcher should pay any amount over)</li><li>- Expenses for domestic travel in Lithuania: 650 EUR/year</li></ul>
Expenses from JSPS	Expenses for domestic travel in Japan (including family members)
Others	The host Institution in Lithuania can only be Lithuanian research and higher education institution that is included in the Register of Education and Research institutions: <a href="https://www.aikos.smm.lt/en/StudyProgramm/EducationProviders/SitePages/Home.aspx?ss=18c1c0bc-7df7-4f26-949b-c67824b7f896">https://www.aikos.smm.lt/en/StudyProgramm/EducationProviders/SitePages/Home.aspx?ss=18c1c0bc-7df7-4f26-949b-c67824b7f896</a> , under the categories “Higher education institution” or “Research institute”.
Contact information	Ms. Asta Aleksandraviciene Programme Coordinator Research Council of Lithuania Gedimino pr. 3, 01103 Vilnius. Lithuania (Tel) +370 676 18 297 Email:asta.aleksandraviciene * lmt.lt (replace * with @)