

The G8 Research Councils Initiative
on Multilateral Research Funding
FAQ 2011

Please read the instructions and guidance provided. Experience from the First Call of the G8 Funding Initiative revealed that many of the proposals did not fully address the instructions, especially in the area of the Management Plan in the Full Proposals.

I. Application Process

- Q.1 I understand that the project funding period is from 2 to up to 3 years. May the applicant set the period? Would it be okay to set a period of 2 years and 6 months?
- A. Yes, you could set from 2 years to up to 3 years e.g. 2.5 years according to your research plan. When preparing the proposal, within a consortium each PI should set the same period for his or her projects.
- Q.2 What does the funding cover?
- A. Research costs are covered according to the rules of the respective funding organization. Please consult your respective Funding Agency for details on eligible research expenses.
- Q.3 Is there a limit on the number of researchers who can participate in a project?
- A. No upper or lower limit has been set on the number of researchers but there is a minimum of 3 Principal Investigators – one each from the participating countries. The number of researchers should be optimum for carrying out the joint research project. As this program encourages the fostering of early career researchers, they should be included in project teams.
- Q.4 How should the Leading Principal Investigator (LPI) of a consortium be chosen?
- A. They should be chosen by deliberation among the consortium members. Generally speaking, the LPI's role is to submit the project proposals, oversee project progress, prepare mid-term and final reports and liaise with the Call Secretariat and other members of the consortium. He or she is also responsible for the management of the consortium.

- Q.5 Would it be okay to include within a project a research group from a country other than Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, the UK and the USA?
- A. Yes, but the research group from other countries would NOT be funded by the Initiative.
- Q.6 Is a person allowed to participate in more than one proposal?
- A. If the person is a LPI, then they may only be on one proposal submitted in response to this Call. For other researchers, please consult your respective Funding Agency for guidance.
- Q.7 Is it possible to propose a rather big proposal, for instance 10 PIs in 1 consortium? Or should we propose them to split it in two projects?
- A. As long as the consortium has excellence, it could be acceptable no matter how many PIs in the consortium. You need to describe the excellence of your consortium in your proposal, as well as other proposals from small consortiums do. It should be noted that there is limited funding for this pilot initiative and that maximizing the number of awards is a consideration. “Unfunded” partners are welcome. For further details, please consult your respective Funding Agency for guidance.
- Q.8 If we'd like to confirm whether our project theme coincides with the subject year's program theme, who should we contact?
- A. Please consult your respective Funding Agency for details on eligible research projects.
- Q.9 Is there a paper version of the Pre-proposal/Full Proposal application form?
- A. No, there isn't. Interested consortia are required to submit a Pre-proposal/Full Proposal, using the electronic forms provided by the Call Secretariat: www.isps.go.jp/j-bottom/g8-initiative.html
- Q.10 What language should be used in preparing our Pre-proposal/Full Proposal?
- A. Both the Pre-proposal/Full Proposal submitted to the Call Secretariat by the LPI must be prepared in English.

Additionally, each PI is to submit one copy of a Full Proposal to his/her country's Funding Agency. Each country also requires its own additional format for this

application, each PI should use the procedure set by their country's Funding Agency.

Q.11 Our Leading PI did not submit a Pre-proposal to the Call Secretariat by the due date. Can we still submit our Full Proposal?

A. No, only consortium that submitted a Pre-proposal and passed the first stage of the competition will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

Q.12 Once an application has been submitted, is it possible to submit an amended application?

A. It is acceptable to change the proposals before the deadline for both the Pre-proposal and the Full Proposal.

Q.13 After our Pre-proposal has passed screening, when preparing our Full Proposal, is it possible to add or delete partner countries, project teams, individual researchers or to make other adjustments?

A. The Full Proposals must be closely based on the successful Pre-proposal and changes should not represent a significant deviation from the direction, focus and team composition presented in the Pre-proposal. Therefore only minor inevitable or reasonable amendments e.g. changing affiliation of PIs, adding project teams and/or individual researchers, are acceptable.

It is also acceptable to withdraw your proposals whenever during the evaluation process.

Q.14 Take the case of a consortium comprising four partners or components to the project, is it possible that the number of partners or components will be reduced to three in the screening process?

A. No, selections are made based on each consortium as a unit.

II. Funding

Q.15 For non-EURO countries, do we need to submit our requested funding amounts in Euros?

A. Yes, but Funding Agencies in the non-EURO countries will have to make special provisions for local currency funding requests. Please contact your Funding

Agency.

- Q.16 Can we revise the amount of funding requested in the Pre-proposal when we submit the Full Proposal?
- A. Yes, it is understood that the amount requested in the Pre-proposal is an estimate and that revised budgets may be necessary when preparing the Full Proposal.
- Q.17 After a project is selected, will the full amount of requested funding be provided? After selection, may we change the amount of funding?
- A. The amount of project funding is finally decided by each Funding Agency reflecting the evaluation, peer reviews and panel discussion among panel members in which the adequacy is also evaluated and following each budgetary limitation and funding rule.
After selection, each Leading/Partner PI in the project teams are likely to be required to submit a Project-Implementation Plan in their national funding procedure, the form of which is provided by the Funding Agency in their country. Regarding the possibility of future changes within the awarded amount of funding, please contact your Funding Agency.
- Q.18 May a portion of the allocated funds be used to invite researchers to our country from other countries within the consortium?
- A. No. The funding allocated for each project may only be used to support that country's own researchers and research activities. However, for detailed rules on expenditures, please contact your Funding Agency.
- Q.19 From the perspective of fostering early career researchers, may the funds be used to include the participation of postdoctoral researchers and doctoral/master's students and to send them abroad?
- A. The proactive participation of early career researchers is desired under this program and can be supported according to the terms and conditions of the respective Funding Agency.

For further questions which you could not find here, please contact your Funding Agency.