

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research
Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research
(International Leading Research)
FAQs of Call for Proposals and Grant Delivery

This English version is provided for convenience of prospective KAKENHI applicants who experience difficulty in reading the Japanese original, which should be referred to, in case of dispute.

Last updated: 9 February 2023

[Application Requirements, Organization of the Project Team]

Q1 How does JSPS determine the Principal Investigator's eligibility criteria of whether his/her paper is ranked "Top 10% international joint papers"?

A1 We plan to use commercial databases, analysis tools, etc. in determining whether your paper is a top 10% international joint paper. You should specify at your discretion which databases and other tools to use and/or your own definition of Top 10% (such as subject area, applicable year, date of search, etc.) in the Research Proposal Document, accompanied by evidence (e.g., by attaching screen shot images, etc. to the Research Proposal Document) to enable the reviewers to acknowledge that your paper is a top 10% international joint papers. The international co-authors of your paper do not have to be the Overseas Joint Researchers of this proposal. Note that if you fail to provide evidence or if the definition of Top 10% is extremely arbitrary, reviewers may determine that you are not eligible.

Q2 "Top 10% international joint paper" is not a common indicator in my research area. How does JSPS determine whether a researcher is a "Japanese researcher who has a record of excellent research achievements and an international research network"?

A2 If your research area does not use Top 10% international joint paper as an indicator, you should describe your achievements and results, accompanied by evidence (to prove that such achievements and results actually exist) in the Research Proposal Documents to enable the reviewers to acknowledge that you are a "Japanese researcher who has a record of excellent research achievements and an international research network" in your research area. Your eligibility will also be judged in the review. When providing information available on the web as evidence, please be sure to attach screen shot images and other evidence in addition to the URL links.

Q3 For "internationally outstanding research achievements," can I present achievements and results other than corresponding authorship of top 10% most highly cited paper, experience as a representative of a large international collaboration, and authorship of prominent academic books that are published abroad and highly appraised within the international research community?

A3 For “internationally outstanding research achievements,” you could, based on the characteristics of your research area, present achievements and results that will enable the reviewers to acknowledge that you are a “Japanese researcher who has a record of excellent research achievements and an international research network” in your research area. Your eligibility will also be judged in the review.

Q4 What is the definition of “large” with respect to the eligibility “experience as a representative of a large international collaboration”? Also, are there any restrictions as to how far back I can go in terms of listing my experience?

A4 As “large” could vary depending on the area or content of research, we do not give a specific definition. Please make your own judgment based on the situation in your area of research. There are no restrictions as to when the experience was gained.

Q5 Instead of the requirement of authorship of top 10% international joint paper to show that I have “a record of excellent research achievements and an international research network”, can I provide a “top 1% paper which was not internationally co-authored” as a record of excellent research achievements, and “an international joint paper that is not ranked top 10%” that would evidence my international research network?

A5 When achievements other than a top 10% international joint paper are presented, we will judge in the review whether each such evidence meet the eligibility criteria. You may provide multiple items of evidence instead of a top 10% international joint paper, but you should limit the volume of information within the given number of pages.

Q6 I will be reaching my retirement age in 5 years. Can I still apply for the International Leading Research? Can the research period be shorter than 7 years?

A6 You cannot propose a research plan with a duration of shorter than 7 years. You must be able to continue the research for at least 7 years to be eligible. So, if you anticipate that you will still be eligible for receiving KAKENHI grant after retirement and will be able to continue the research, you can submit your proposal even if you are scheduled to retire in the middle of the research period.

Q7 Due to the long duration of the research period, the Principal Investigator and Overseas Joint Researchers may need to be replaced. Can we plan for changes in members during the project?

A7 As the Principal Investigator plays a central role and bears full responsibility in carrying out the research plan, replacement of PI is not accepted. However, while you are not allowed to plan in advance for changes of PI, JSPS may permit replacement of PI subject to completing the required procedures if, for example, the PI loses eligibility for KAKENHI

application.

Similarly, if you need to replace an Overseas Joint Researcher, you may be permitted to do so subject to completing the required procedures.

In these cases, JSPS will review the situation of the research team after such replacements in the interim assessment, etc.

Q8 May people of other nationalities become the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigators?

A8 Anyone, regardless of nationality, can become a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigators so long as he/she satisfies the eligibility requirements for KAKENHI application.

Q9 The requirement calls for a research team to have approximately three times as many postdoctoral fellows and graduate students (doctoral course) as PI and Co-Investigators to participate as Research Collaborators. Will our application be accepted with a smaller or larger team? Also, could we have temporary increase or decrease in the middle of the research period?

A9 Although Japanese research teams are expected to be organized with approximately three times as many Research Collaborators as PI and Co-Investigators, the optimum size of a research team may vary depending on the area of research, so applications with a research team of less than three times will be accepted. The appropriateness of the organization of the research team will be judged in the review. Note that Overseas Joint Researchers and their research groups are not included in these numbers, and you can have other Research Collaborators in addition to these PDs and DCs. You may also change the organization of the research team flexibly during the research period to achieve optimum composition based on the progress of the research and Human Resources Development plan, provided that you take measures so as not to interfere with the implementation of the research project. Note that JSPS will review the organization of the research team in the interim assessment, etc.

Q10 Should a Japanese research team be organized consisting only of researchers from a single research institution, or of researchers from several research institutions?

A10 Either way is acceptable, a single research institution or multiple research institutions (without limitation to the number). Be sure to include a Co-Investigator in the research team even if your team is organized with researchers from only one research institution.

Q11 Do the PDs and DCs need Japanese citizenship to participate in the Japanese research team? Can foreign exchange students become a member?

A11 There is no nationality requirement for PDs and DCs participating in the Japanese research team. However, be sure to incorporate plans on dispatching researchers and implementing international exchange in view of the aim “to foster researchers who can play leading roles and the international research community.”

Q12 Do we need to enter the actual names of early-career researchers when formulating the dispatch plan? We cannot plan for researchers to be sent off three years and five years ahead.

A12 In addition to the case in the question, you may be recruiting and hiring PDs after the project has been adopted. We understand that it would be difficult to give actual names of all researchers at the time of submitting the proposal, so just be as specific as possible at this point.

Q13 Do you have to be a postdoctoral fellow or a graduate student (doctoral course) to become a Research Collaborator?

A13 You can have other researchers who are not postdoctoral fellows or graduate students (doctoral course) apart from the members consisting “approximately three times” of the Japanese research team to participate in the project as Research Collaborators.

Q14 May we double-count PDs who are participating as Co-Investigators as PDs participating as Research Collaborators?

A14 PDs participating as Co-Investigators should be counted as Co-Investigators only, and should not be included as Research Collaborators. You should plan your project assuming that those PDs will serve the role of Co-Investigators.

[Research Proposal Document, Research Content]

Q15 Must my research be relevant in the content to the evidence provided in the Research Proposal Document to show that I am a “Japanese researcher who has a record of excellent research achievements and an international research network”?

A15 No, the evidence is to confirm that you have a record of excellent research achievements and an international research network. So your research does not necessarily have to be relevant to the evidence provided. There are no restrictions as to the content of the research.

Q16 When planning the research plan for the application, should we take the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic into consideration?

A16 This research category calls for long-term research plans that will be conducted over a period of seven years. It will be difficult to anticipate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the entire research period, so you should prepare your application based on what is foreseeable at the time of submission. We are planning to encourage reviewers not to put excessive focus on the impacts of the pandemic.

Q17 When planning the joint research with overseas joint researchers for the application, if the countries of the overseas joint researchers have travel restrictions, etc., do we need to coordinate the content of the research proposal with assumptions that the joint research will be conducted after restrictions on entry and departure are lifted?

A17 This research category seeks for long-term research projects that are conducted over a period of seven years. While it is difficult to foresee the situation, etc. of the country of the overseas joint researchers throughout the research period, please prepare your research proposal, in coordination with the overseas joint researchers, with the best possible assumptions based on the situation of the travel restrictions, etc. of the countries of the overseas joint researchers at the time of the application, and provide detailed plans to dispatch early-career researchers abroad on a long-term basis. Note that proposals will be assessed comprehensively in terms of the significance and necessity of the joint international research and feasibility of the research project, including the status of preparation.

[Participation of Early-career Researchers (PDs, DCs)]

Q18 In the Application Procedures, there is a mandatory requirement to include “Plans to dispatch PDs and DCs abroad and to implement international exchange with the group of Overseas Joint Researchers (mainly for 2-3 years).” However, this may impact the research activities in Japan considering the team organization after these researchers are dispatched. Is dispatch of researchers mandatory regardless of these conditions?

A18 As it is the aim of this research category to foster excellent researchers who can compete on a global level, it is vital that you send off early-career researchers abroad for as long a term as possible and enable them to be exposed to as much opportunities as possible. As such, it is mandatory that you plan for these initiatives as much as possible in the plan. However, the program does not prohibit early-career researchers from returning home during their dispatch/exchange periods, and allows the project to expend costs to hire Research Collaborators that it needs in order to maintain the Japanese team organization, so please take these advantages into consideration in planning the dispatch/exchange plans.

Q19 What is the definition of “Postdoctoral fellow” in the application requirements?

A19 “Postdoctoral fellow” as used in the application requirements is not a job title name, but rather refers to early-career researchers who are not engaged in full-time research activities; for example, an individual who is age 39 or under and does not have a Ph.D. degree, or who has acquired his/her Ph.D. degree within the past 8 years (including an

individual having acquired a Ph.D. degree within 8 years excluding periods of maternity and/or childcare leave, etc. after acquiring Ph.D.). Those who belong to research institutions other than those of the Principal Investigators/Co-Investigators are also eligible to participate.

Q20 Can the Principal Investigator go abroad for a long period of time? Also, if we plan to appoint a PD as Co-Investigator and dispatch that PD abroad for a long period of time, would such plan be acceptable?

A20 The Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators can go abroad for a long period, provided that he/she does not lose eligibility for KAKENHI during that period, and further provided that he/she can carry out the research plan effectively. Regardless, you must still incorporate plans to dispatch early-career researchers abroad for as long a term. Note that PDs serving as Co-Investigators may also go abroad for a long period of time.

Q21 Must all early-career researchers participating in the project go abroad?

A21 No, we do not require all early-career researchers participating in the project to go abroad. Please formulate an optimal plan to foster early-career researchers, in combination with the supports for their self-reliance in conducting research.

Q22 Can we dispatch PDs of other research institutions abroad using this grant?

A22 Yes, you may do so as long as the affiliated research institutions agree. Make sure that you coordinate closely with their affiliated research institutions, the overseas research institutions accepting them, etc. when you dispatch them.

Q23 Sending graduate students (doctoral students) abroad for 2-3 years might be unrealistic. Can we set shorter dispatch periods and/or implement online measures?

A23 While it is still important for graduate students to spend time abroad for as long as possible and gain various experiences, we will accept plans to include short- and medium-term stays and/or multiple stays as the case may be. We also expect you to utilize online means to carry out your international joint research efficiently. However, in this research category, from the perspective of fostering early-career researchers, we believe it essential for early-career researchers to physically go overseas and gain research experience. Therefore, to the extent possible, you should plan the research project so that the works in which early-career researchers will be involved are mainly conducted abroad.

Q24 Can graduate students in the master's course participate as early-career researchers?

A24 Only postdoctoral fellows and graduate students in the doctoral course should be

considered Research Collaborators in the “Japanese Research Team.” You can still engage master’s course students as other Research Collaborators and dispatch them abroad or elsewhere using the research grant you receive under this research category (provided, you cannot use the grant to dispatch them for the purposes unrelated to this research project, e.g. academic purposes.)

Q25 May we engage early-career researchers that are hired under different research expenditures?

A25 Yes, so long as there are no restrictions under such other research expenditures, you may include early-career researchers who are hired under different expenditures in the Japanese Research Team that you organize under this research category.

Q26 Can we dispatch PDs or other researchers as Research Collaborators abroad even if they are not initial members of the research project? If so, is there any special procedure to follow?

A26 Yes, you can dispatch non-initial members. Their statuses are the same as those of ordinary Research Collaborators, so there is no special procedure.

[Overseas Joint Researchers]

Q27 Are there any requirements in inviting Overseas Joint Researchers to participate in the research project?

A27 An Overseas Joint Researcher must belong to an overseas research institution, and must agree to carry out the proposed international joint research project in collaboration with the Japanese researchers, but there are no eligibility requirements such as those for Japanese researchers. JSPS will determine whether an Overseas Joint Researcher has excellent research achievements in the review by referencing his/her CV to be submitted as part of the Letter of Intent. Because the Overseas Joint Researchers (and researchers in their group) are not eligible for KAKENHI grant applications, they must be categorized as Research Collaborators under the KAKENHI program. This means that they cannot participate as Co-Investigators (therefore, they are not allowed to receive any share of the grant).

Q28 As Overseas Joint Researchers are required to secure their own funding, specifically how much matching funds or other funding do we need them to obtain?

A28 One of the critical roles of Overseas Joint Researchers in this research category is to accept Japanese PDs and DCs in carrying out the international joint research. Therefore, we anticipate that there are various cases where the project will have to rely financially upon Overseas Joint Researchers in order to build the research environment, which may include

in-kind contribution, for example, securing research space for the accepted Japanese researchers and permission to use the research facilities/equipment. So, "securing their own funding" in this context does not necessarily mean they have to obtain cash such as matching funds. We will not set a bar for costs to be incurred by the Overseas Joint Researchers, so you should make estimations based on what they might need in carrying out the proposed research project.

Q29 At the stage of application, do we need to coordinate in advance with the affiliated research institutions of the Overseas Joint Researchers?

A29 There is probably only so much you can do before the adoption of your proposal, but there are certain matters that you might need to coordinate with the affiliated research institutions of the Overseas Joint Researchers before submitting your application, such as preparations necessary to accept Japanese researchers and ownership of the results (intellectual properties, in particular) of the international joint research. Please discuss in detail in advance with the Overseas Joint Researchers and make necessary arrangements in a timely manner.

Q30 If we plan the research project on the premise that the Overseas Joint Researchers will obtain a matching fund in the future, might we have to terminate the project or otherwise if they fail to obtain such funding?

A30 You do not need to terminate the project immediately, but you must find an alternative means or take measures to carry out the research plan. We will check the status of burden, etc. of the Overseas Joint Researchers in the interim assessment, and if we find that you are having difficulty in continuing on with the research plan (including securing necessary alternative measures), we may determine at that point whether the project should be terminated or otherwise.

Q31 Can we have the participation of multiple Overseas Joint Researchers? Must their research team be equivalent to the Japanese team in terms of scale, etc. (approximately three times)?

A31 There are no restrictions on the number of Overseas Joint Researcher engagements or number of affiliated research institutions. However, we will accept up to three researchers for the submission of the Letters of Intent. There are no requirements as to their status (affiliated research institutions, job titles, etc.) or the number or ages of overseas researchers who will be participating in the project with the Overseas Joint Researchers, so please organize your project team so as to effectively carry out the international joint research.

Q32 Must our research institutions in Japan accept the Overseas Joint Researchers or early-career researchers in their research group? In such case, can we cover those expenses

with this grant?

A32 It is not a mandatory requirement, but, bidirectional human exchange could contribute to fostering of future researchers in the relevant research community. This grant can be used for expenditures directly necessary for the implementation of the research plan, as with other KAKENHI grants.

Q33 In view of ensuring economic and other security, are there any countries that are inappropriate as countries of the Overseas Joint Researchers?

A33 In implementing research projects funded with KAKENHI, research institutions are required to take measures for ensuring research integrity and strict implementation of security export control policy (coping with technology leakage overseas) and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321 (for details, please refer to the Application Procedures). This grant is no exception. You are required to take the same precautions in selecting the Overseas Joint Researchers and in the actual implementation of the international joint research.

[Support by Research Institutions]

Q34 What level of support is expected as a research institution?

A34 While this research category is designed to support research activities conducted by individual researchers, aggressive cooperation of research institutions is crucial for the smooth implementation of international joint research. In particular, we expect research institutions to effectively provide: support in the appropriate and smooth administration of research grants for researchers dispatched and staying abroad; coordination of the handling of intellectual property rights; administrative procedures for the dispatch of PDs and DCs; development of systems and environment to accept researchers from abroad; conclusion of agreements between research institutions; and other unique support to facilitate the implementation of international joint research. Also, research institutions in this context are intended to mean the research institutions to which the PI and Co- Investigators belong, but may include other research institutions that dispatching Research Collaborators belong to. Note that the affiliated research institutions of Overseas Joint Researchers are not included.

Q35 Should the research institutions prepare the section on the support by research institutions in the application, or should we present some sort of commitment from the research institutions? Also, on what level should the support be provided, institutional level or disciplinary level?

A35 In this context, support by research institutions is intended to include those described in A34 above, but in the Research Proposal Document, we plan to have the Applicant enter the items of support in relation to the research plan that he/she anticipates to receive under the current situation or after the proposal is adopted (if necessary, please

check with your affiliated research institution on the items you have anticipated before submitting your proposal). So, there are no documents or letters that must be prepared by your research institution. There is no designation of the level of support.

Q36 What aspects of the support by research institutions will be reviewed?

A36 The proposals to the International Leading Research category will be reviewed comprehensively based on four rating elements: [A. Significance and necessity of international joint research; B. The content of the research plan; C. Adequacy of fostering early-career researchers; D. Effectiveness of support by research institutions and ideas on feeding back to research institutions]. Research institutions are expected to provide adequate support for the effective implementation of the international joint research if the proposal is adopted.

Q37 What, in specific, are “ideas on feeding back to research institutions” in one of the rating elements?

A37 We expect Principal Investigators to share, not only with those around them but also within their affiliated research institutions, the know-hows and experience gained in implementing the joint international research (including: how the Overseas Joint Researchers and their affiliated research institutions implement the joint international research, content and progress of advance negotiations, handling of intellectual properties, acceptance of dispatched researchers from Japan and preparation needed to accept researchers from abroad, etc.), and not limited to the foregoing, anything that could contribute to the internationalization of research institutions through the performance of the research project.

[Review Process]

Q38 How are the reviews conducted?

A38 In three separate committees of the specialized fields; humanities and social sciences; science and engineering; and biological sciences, we will conduct a preliminary screening if we receive a large number of applications. Then, based on the review comments from the domestic and overseas reviewers, a document review, panel review, and interview will be conducted to select the proposals to be adopted.

Q39 How are overseas reviews conducted?

A39 We will select researchers belonging to overseas research institutions (overseas reviewers) depending on the content of the research proposal, and based on a portion of the Research Proposal Document (Please refer to the Application Procedures (Supplement)), ask them to provide review comments on the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal from a global perspective and also to assign an overall score. As the review

will be made from an international viewpoint, proposals that receive extremely low marks in the overseas reviews will not be adopted.

[Expenses]

Q40 The standard percentage of expenses for Human Resources Development is to be 70% of the proposed total budget. What are the things we should consider? Can we increase or decrease the percentage during the research period?

A40 One of the objectives of this research category is to seek to foster researchers who can play leading roles in the international research community in the future by requiring the participation of many early-career researchers. From the perspective of providing enhanced support for early-career researchers, the FY2022 Call for Proposals requires applicants to allocate, as a standard, 70% of the proposed total budget to expenses for Human Resources Development (i.e., expenses for research activities and training to support early-career researchers to become self-reliant, such as overseas travel expenses for early-career researchers, hiring expenses, research costs that they can use autonomously, etc.).

Meanwhile, these Human Resource Development expenses could fluctuate depending on, for example, the number of early-career researchers, how they are dispatched abroad, or the content of your research plan. As such, applications will be accepted even if the percentage of Human Resources Development expenses for your research plan exceeds or falls below 70%. If the percentage of your proposal falls below 70%, you will be asked to describe in the Research Proposal Document, how you can adequately foster early-career researchers with the proposed amount. Based on your statement, and with reference to the plan for fostering early-career researchers and other information provided in the Research Proposal Document, the review committee will make a comprehensive assessment as to whether the proposed amount of Human Resources Development expenses is appropriate in meeting the objectives of this research category.

Note that you may change the amount and usage of the Human Resources Development expenses in accordance with the progress of your research and the plan for fostering early-career researchers during the research period, provided that you take measures so as not to impede the progress of the research project.

Q41 Do you have restrictions on the breakdown of research expenditure, for example, a requirement to use more than 50% of the expenditure for travel expenses?

A41 No, we do not plan to have any restrictions on the breakdown of how you use the expenses. You may determine the balance of each expense appropriately according to the content of your research plan.

Q42 Will the “environmental expenses” and “tenure start-up expenses” to be provided in addition to the research grant, be provided to the research institutions like the indirect expense?

A42 As both expenses are to be provided as expenditures necessary for the implementation of the research plan, they will be allocated to the Principal Investigator as direct expenses.

“Environmental expenses” are expenses needed to carry out your research project, and should cover items that can be expended from direct expenses (e.g., costs to hire research supporters, overseas travel expenses, research equipment, supplies, furniture and fixtures, books, facility usage charges, etc.). “Tenure start-up expenses” are expenses allocated to Co- Investigators (PDs) and Research Collaborators (PDs, DCs,) who are hired by research institutions as researchers with tenure (including tenure-track position) for them to start up their research. (Research Collaborators must satisfy the eligibility criteria and become Co-Investigators.)

Q43 How will the “environmental expenses” and “Tenure start-up expenses” to be provided in addition to the research grant be delivered? What are the approximate amounts?

A43 “Environmental expenses” will be allocated at the time of provisional grant decision in addition to the provisional amount of grant. The maximum amount shall be around 30 million yen per research project. Amounts will be determined based on the situation, etc. of adoption. You should submit a request for payment together with the request for grant delivery of the first fiscal year.

You may apply for “tenure start-up expenses” when hired as a researcher with tenure, any time after the date of provisional grant decision of the research project (by submitting a request for change in grant delivery). The maximum amount per such researcher is 3 million yen (in 100,000 yen increments), and up to total 21 million yen for each research project throughout the research period. Details will be notified separately to the Principal Investigators at the time of provisional grant decision.

Q44 Do we have to include the content of “environmental expenses” and “tenure start-up expenses” in the Research Proposal Document?

A44 Because the “environmental expenses” and “tenure start-up expenses” are to be provided separately in addition to the research grant, do not include them in your Research Proposal Document, nor in the estimation of your research budget.

Q45 Can I add the “cost of replacement staff” as permitted in the “Fostering Joint International Research (A)” to secure substitutes while the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigators are staying abroad for a long period?

A45 Because this research category does not require the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigators to travel abroad, you are not allowed to add the “cost of replacement staff” which is permitted in the Fostering Joint International Research (A). However, you can utilize the buyout expenses. Please consider using the buyout system if you need a substitute for educational duties.

[Administration of Expenses while Staying Abroad]

Q46 Are early-career researchers or other researchers allowed to expend necessary costs abroad during their stay?

A46 Yes, researchers can expend necessary costs from the expenses of this research category while they are staying in other countries, provided that expenses must be managed by the research institution under the responsibility of the PI or Co- Investigator, just like domestic expenditures.

Q47 How should the research institution manage expenditures if a researcher wishes to purchase equipment, etc. abroad which will be used at an overseas research institution?

A47 As a general rule, the affiliated research institution (research institution in Japan) will be responsible for the ordering, delivery, and inspection of items, just like managing other KAKENHI grants. The research institution shall, for example, establish the procedures for reimbursements and appropriate rules on sampling method, percentage, etc., and conduct regular sampling as well as subsequent checks.

If the overseas research institution can handle similar ordering, delivery, inspection, and other administrative tasks as the affiliated research institution (for example, if the overseas research institution signs an agreement to perform the administrative tasks under the responsibility of the affiliated research institution), such tasks can be performed by the overseas research institution. Even in such cases, the affiliated research institution will still assume the primary responsibility in the event of misconduct, etc.

Q48 If the overseas research institution is to perform the ordering, delivery, inspection, and other administrative tasks, could the affiliated research institution retain copies of the original documents, etc. rather than the originals?

A48 As a general rule, the affiliated research institution must retain the original documents since the affiliated research institution is responsible for managing direct expenses.

Q49 Are we allowed to donate the equipment, etc. that we purchased abroad to the overseas research institution upon completion of our research at said institution?

A49 Yes, you may donate them if you have achieved the goals of the research using said equipment, etc. and have no plans to use them in the future, and if the rules of your affiliated research institution do not prohibit you from doing so. For the purpose of effective utilization of expenses, consider effective options other than purchasing, such as using equipment they have at the overseas research institution or renting them.

Q50 If we ask the overseas research institution to manage the KAKENHI grants, must we also hand over the indirect expenses?

A50 No, you do not have to hand over the indirect expenses. However, if the affiliated research institution deems necessary, it may use the indirect expenses to pay for any costs, etc. necessary for the overseas research institution to manage the grant.

[Other Questions]

Q51 Am I eligible for “suspension and restart of KAKENHI funded research due to research stay abroad, etc.” under this research category?

A51 No.

Q52 Can I apply in parallel for international collaboration programs of JSPS?

A52 Yes, you can apply for other KAKENHI grants so long as you comply with the restrictions on parallel grant application/receipt of other KAKENHI categories, not only international collaborations. For other competitive funding schemes, you should check to make sure that you do not fall under “Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Overconcentration in Grant Allocation” before you submit your applications.

Q53 What kind of assessment will be conducted for the interim assessment and ex-post assessment?

A53 Details on the assessment, such as specific timing, content, focus, assessment criteria, and handling of assessment results will be notified separately.
Note also that the status of use, etc. of environmental expenses to create research environment and start-up expenses (usage, contribution to research activities, etc.) will also be reviewed at the interim assessment, etc.

(Added Feb. 9, 2023)

Q. In light of the recent social conditions and international trends, must we take gender balance and other factors into account in fostering early-career researchers ?

A. Internationally, gender balance is acknowledged in all aspects of society. The research community is no exception. As one important objective of the International Leading Research category is to foster early-career researchers in a global environment, researchers are expected to be well aware of these international conditions and to be sensitive to gender balance and diversity in fostering human resources for the advancement of science in Japan. In order to enable reviewers to make a more explicit assessment of the diversity-sensitive aspects of the applicants' plans to foster early-career researchers, the following revision to the review criteria ("Rules Concerning the Review and Assessment for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research") is proposed. Applicants are advised to take note when submitting their applications.

Rules Concerning the Review and Assessment for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research
Annex 16: Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research (International Leading Research), Assessment Criteria for Review

i. Assessment Criteria [Rating Elements] (Excerpt)

C. Appropriateness of the plan for Fostering Early-career Researchers

- Does the research proposal provide a specific plan for fostering early-career researchers that leverages the internationally advantaged research environment, functions of the international network, etc.? Could we expect to see the effects?
- Does the research proposal have an organically coordinated system to foster early-career researchers within the research team, and could we expect that system to foster excellent researchers?
- Does the research proposal clearly describe initiatives that will not only enable early-career researchers to carry out the research project, but also support their self-reliance, and can we expect to see sufficient effects?

→Proposed revision (the underlined wording to be added)

C. Appropriateness of the Plan for Fostering Human Resources

- Does the research proposal provide a specific plan for fostering human resources which leverages the internationally advantaged research environment, functions of the international network, etc.? Could we expect to see positive outcome?
- Does the research proposal have an organically coordinated system to foster early-career researchers with consideration for diversity within the research team, and could we expect that system to foster excellent researchers?
- Does the research proposal clearly describe initiatives that will enable early-career researchers to carry out the research project and also become self-reliant, and can we expect those initiatives to be sufficiently effective?

The proposed revision above will be finalized after deliberation by the JSPS Scientific Research Grant Committee and posted on the JSPS website in early March 2023.

*The wording is yet to be officially finalized and is subject to changes.