

Call for Mobility Plus Project Proposals

Identification information

Partner country:	Japan
Partner organisation:	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
Programme:	Mobility Plus Projects
Period:	1.1.2024 – 31.12.2025

Legal framework

The call is based on the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation of the year 2019 between the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as “CAS”) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (hereinafter referred to as “JSPS”), and in accordance with art. 2 par. 2 of the Act No. 283/1992 Coll., on the Czech Academy of Sciences, as amended, and art. 3 par. 2 of the Statutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Basic definitions

Objectives

- Improvement of scientific cooperation between both Parties;
- Stimulation of involvement of early career researchers and PhD students;
- Supporting research teams aspiring to cooperate on large international projects in the future;
- Enabling the use of methodology, infrastructure and equipment for the mutual benefit of both institutions.

Eligibility criteria

Project proposals from **all research fields** are accepted.

Maximum project duration is **2 years, i.e. 24 months**; extension beyond this period is not permitted.

Project proposals can be submitted:

- **On the Czech side** by the [CAS institute](#);
- **On the Japanese side** by researchers from universities or research institutions in Japan that are specified in Article 2 of the Procedures on the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (*KAKENHI*), issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and they must be eligible to apply for a *KAKENHI* Grant-in-Aid.

In case applicant submits more than one project proposal within one call, only one of them can be funded.

Only two subsequent projects realized by the same research teams can be funded.

Applicant submitting a project proposal following a running project with the same team shall justify the need for a continuing project and describe outcomes of the running project. This shall be stated in the Project Proposal form in the part “Description of the project”.

Research team

Each research team consists of:

- One principal investigator (senior or junior researcher);
- One or more co-investigators.

Research team members are divided into four categories:

- Senior researchers (8 or more years after receiving PhD at the time of submission of the project proposal);
- Junior researchers – postdocs (less than 8 years after receiving PhD at the time of submission of the project proposal);
- PhD students;
- Others (e.g. undergraduate students, engineers, technicians).

On the Czech side:

- All members shall be employees of the CAS institutes.
- Out of the whole team, at least 1/3 shall be junior researchers or PhD students.

On the Japanese side:

- Principal investigator must hold a full-time or equivalent position as a researcher.
- Researchers engaged in research at a university or research institution in Japan (including postdocs, and doctoral or master's students with the enough ability and experience to carry out the proposed research) are eligible to be co-investigators.
- Researchers who belong to an institution/organization in third countries are not allowed to participate.

Financial provisions

Financial contributions shall be calculated and provided in compliance with the valid national legislation and internal regulations of the partner organisations.

Up to 3 (three) 2-year mobility projects shall be selected for funding.

On the Czech side:

- Financial contribution shall be provided by the CAS towards the costs of the Czech research team.
- The maximum financial contribution shall be **CZK 500,000** per mobility project per year.
- Eligible costs:
 - **Mobility costs** (travel and living expenses);
 - **Research costs** directly related to the project implementation (consumables, services, small equipment, and networking – workshops, conferences etc.).
- **Min. 50 % of the requested financial contribution shall be used to cover mobility costs and shall be maintained on the project level as well as yearly.**
- Non-eligible costs: personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 80,000), overheads.
- The course of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means, justification of costs and possible transfers between categories.

On the Japanese side:

- Financial contribution shall be provided by the JSPS towards the costs of the Japanese research team.
- The maximum financial contribution for Japanese researchers is JPY 2,500,000 per project per year (12 months).
- Eligible costs are:
 - Travel expenses including daily allowance, accommodation fee, etc. (min. 50%);
 - Other expenses needed to carry out the joint research projects.

Project proposal submission

Project proposals shall be submitted in parallel to both partner organisations.

On the Czech side:

- Project proposals in Czech or English shall be complete and submitted within the stated deadline exclusively via the “KIS” online application.
- The applicant is requested to register in the KIS online application using the following link <https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/register> and fill in a project proposal. After finishing the proposal, the applicant shall forward it through his KIS account to the director of the respective CAS institute for approval. The director shall approve the proposal by submitting the project proposal to OMS KAV ČR (Division of International Cooperation, Head Office of the CAS) via his KIS account. **Bear in mind that all project proposals shall be submitted by the CAS institute directors by 12 June 2023.**
- Proposals submitted in any other way may be rejected on formal grounds.

By submitting project proposal, the applicant:

- Agrees to processing of personal data contained in the project proposal pursuant to the relevant Czech legislation;
- Declares that the information he/she stated is accurate, true and complete and that he/she is aware that if otherwise they will face all the legal consequences;
- Declares that, if approved, he/she will during the realization of the project follow:
 - [The Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences;](#)
 - [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity;](#)

On the Japanese side:

- JSPS receives applications via its online application system.

Evaluation and Selection

Consists of two-step process:

- At the national level, each partner organisation evaluates submitted proposals based on its internal rules and prepares a ranking list.
- At the international level, both partner organisations exchange their ranking lists, merge them, negotiate the final ranking and approve the proposals selected for funding. Total number of projects approved for funding is dependent on the financial possibilities of both partner organisations.

Criteria for evaluation of project proposals

- **Scientific and formal quality:**

- Quality of project implementation (concept, approach, methodology, time schedule, outcomes);
 - State-of-the-art;
 - Innovation potential and perspective to broaden knowledge;
 - Expected mutual benefits for both research institutes;
 - Potential of project results and its possible outreach.
- **Quality of research teams:**
 - Justification of collaboration needs;
 - Competence and qualification of research team members;
 - Level of involvement of junior researchers and PhD students;
 - Research teams' complementarity;
 - Previous cooperation.
 - **Appropriate project budget.**

Evaluation of the final report

The project results and outputs will be evaluated. For definition of results see the [Methodology for Evaluating Research Organisations and R&D&I Purpose-tied Aid Programmes \(2017+\)](#).

Schedule

11 April 2023	Announcement of the call for project proposals
12 June 2023 23:59	Deadline for submission of project proposals
Sept./Oct. 2023	Completion of the assessment at national level
November 2023	Completion of the joint assessment at international level
Nov./Dec.2023	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
December 2023	Announcement of results

Please be aware that the date of the call and of the deadline for project submission might differ on the Japanese side! Principal investigators, therefore, should be sure that their counterpart submits a matching application by the relevant deadline.

Please note that on the partner side, there is a different project implementation period. For more information, contact your partner. This difference does not affect the implementation period of the Czech research team.

Contact persons

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