

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
Implementation period:	2020 – 2021

Legal framework

The call is based on Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation of the year 2011 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 countries;
- Stimulation of involvement of young researchers and PhD students;
- Support of 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 institutes (<http://www.avcr.cz/en/about-us/cas-structure/research-institutes/>);
- On the Japanese side by researchers from institutions of higher education or research organisations in Japan that is eligible to receive Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research - KAKENHI.

In case an 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 must 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 (5 or more years after receiving PhD);
- Junior researchers – postdocs (less than 5 years after receiving PhD);
- PhD students;
- Others (e.g. engineers, technicians).

On the Czech side:

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

On the Japanese side:

- Principal investigator must hold a full-time position.
- Researchers conducting research at research institutions in Japan (including technical staffs, postdoctoral researchers and students in doctoral and master courses who are sufficiently capable and experienced to carry out the project) are eligible to be co-investigators. Researchers who belong to institution/organization in third countries are not allowed to participate. For further details see the JSPS call for proposals.

Financial conditions

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

Financial contributions can only be provided during the given project implementation period. Financial contribution for a given year cannot be transferred to another fiscal year.

Institute of the principal investigator is responsible for the management of funds.

Up to 3 (three) projects shall be selected for funding.

On the Czech side:

- Project implementation period is 1. 1. 2020 – 31. 12. 2021 and it is divided into two accounting periods.
- **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.
- Min. 50% of the approved financial contribution shall be used to cover mobility costs: travel, living expenses.
- Min. 30% of the approved financial contribution shall be used to cover research costs: consumables, services, small equipment, and networking.
- Non-eligible costs are: personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 40 000), overheads.
- There are no eligible indirect costs.
- The ratio between mobility (min. 50%) and research (min. 30%) costs shall be maintained on the project level as well as yearly. Transferring financial contributions between these two categories is allowed if the minimal ratio for both categories is maintained.

- The course of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means and justification of costs and transfers between categories.

On the Japanese side (for information only):

- Project implementation period is 1. 4. 2020 – 31. 3. 2022 and it is divided into two accounting periods.
- **Financial contribution shall be provided by JSPS towards the costs of the Japanese research team.**
- Maximum financial contribution is JPY 2 500 000 for 1 year (i.e. 12 months).
- Eligible costs are:
 - International travel between Japan and Czech Republic,
 - Daily allowance, accommodation, and domestic travel in the receiving country and the participants' own country,
 - Expenses related to conducting the research.

Project proposal submission

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

On the Czech side:

- Project proposals in Czech or English must be complete and submitted within the stated deadline exclusively via the “KIS” online application (<https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/login>).
- Proposals submitted in any other way may be rejected on formal grounds.

By submitting project proposal, the applicant:

- Agrees to processing of personal data within the meaning of the Act No. 101/2000 Coll., On Personal Data Protection, as amended;
- 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 of researchers at the Czech Academy of Sciences;
 - The European Charter and Code for researchers;
 - Recommendations of the International Commission "Self-Control in Science" (Recommendations of the International Commission on Professional Self-Regulation in Science).

On the Japanese side (for information only):

The project proposal must be submitted **to the JSPS**. Conditions for submission and relevant form/s are available from the website of the JSPS: <http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-bilat/call.html>.

Evaluation and Selection

Consists of a 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 organizations 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 organizations.

Criteria for evaluation of project proposals

- **Quality of the project:**
 - Scientific relevance (concept, innovative character in relation to the state-of-the art, quality of objectives);
 - Methodology, work plan of activities and outputs;
 - Impact of project results, their dissemination and exploitation.
- **Quality of research teams:**
 - Composition and expertise of research teams;
 - Complementarity, methodology and equipment; previous cooperation and outputs;
 - Justification of collaboration needs.
- **Active involvement of junior researchers and PhD students.**
- **Added value and broader impact of bilateral cooperation.**

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+) (<https://www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=799796>).

Schedule

01 April 2019	Announcement of the call for project proposals
31 May 2019	Deadline for submission of project proposals
September/October 2019	Completion of the assessment at national level
November 2019	Completion of the joint assessment at international level
December 2019	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
December 2019	Announcement of results

!!! Please be aware that on the JSPS side the date of announcement of the call and of the deadline for project submission differs:

Early June 2019: Open the call for applications
21 August to 4 September 2019: Application period

Czech/Japanese principal investigators, therefore, should be sure that their counterpart submits a matching application by the relevant deadline.

Contact persons

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