

Japan – Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

The official national call announcement for Japan is published on the JST website:

http://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce_smart_water2019.html

→ Who can apply?

Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a domestic Japanese research institution (or who would fulfil this requirement by the start of the research project if not currently affiliated with a research institution in Japan), regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply.

“Domestic Japanese research institution” in Japan refers to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and Research Institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations and enterprises, etc. that satisfy predetermined requirements designated by MEXT. Please refer to the MEXT homepage for more information:

http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1301688.htm

In addition to the joint application process, Japanese applicants will have to register their applications on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad):

<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>

Applicants must complete a research ethics training program conducted by the research institute with which they are affiliated and then declare the completion of the program to JST within 30 days after the deadline of the call for proposals. If it would be difficult for them to undertake a program provided by their own institute, they should contact JST to register for a research ethics program provided by CITI Japan. Unless applicants complete a research ethics program, their application will be deemed ineligible for funding.

Funded researchers will also have to complete a Consortium Agreement and should consult with their own institutions regarding their respective regulations. Further guidance can be found on the JST website:

<https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/research/contract/contract.html> (available in Japanese only)

→ What types of funding are eligible for researchers in Japan?

The level of the funding available to Japanese researchers may be up to 6,000,000 Japanese Yen including 30% of indirect costs per year (i.e. overall around 18,000,000 Japanese Yen for the three years of funding). Funding will be made in Japanese Yen.

1. Eligible direct costs

In principle, eligible direct costs are those costs directly necessary for accomplishing the research, indicated below from 1.1 to 1.4. Please refer to the guidance documents available at the following link for further details of eligible direct costs (available in Japanese only).

<https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/research/contract/contract.html>

1.1 Research materials and small-scale research equipment

Research equipment, spare parts, prototypes, software (in-line product), and purchase of books, reagents, materials and consumables

1.2 Personnel costs

Personnel costs of the researchers, temporarily staff, etc., who are hired for the research, and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers

1.3 Travel costs

Travel costs and associated living expenses of the Project Leader as well as research project members registered in the research project plan, and costs of inviting external experts

1.4 Expenses for the organisation of small scientific events in Japan

Rental costs for the event venue, food & beverage (excluding alcohol) costs and other costs which are deemed to be necessary for organizing the event

2. Eligible indirect costs

Please refer to the following link for the provisions regarding indirect costs:

<http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/shishin2.pdf>