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Japan

Strategic Japanese-Swiss Science and Technology Programme (SJSSTP)

Joint Research Projects: Call for Proposals 2025

Opening date: 1 April 2025
Closing date: 30 June 2025, 5 PM JST (Japanese side)
30 June 2025, 5 PM CET (Swiss side)

Open to all disciplines

A maximum of 10 joint projects will be funded.

1. Introduction

On 10 July 2007, the Swiss Federal Council and the government of Japan signed a framework agreement on technical and scientific cooperation, the Strategic Japanese-Swiss Science and Technology Programme (SJSSTP). The purpose of this agreement is to facilitate the expansion and strengthening of relations between scientific research organisations, institutes, higher education institutions and other legal entities and natural persons of the States of the contracting parties by creating favourable conditions for cooperation and its development on a mutually beneficial, equitable basis.

Joint Research Projects (JRPs) are one of the funding schemes that resulted from the above mentioned agreement. The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) was mandated by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) to implement the call for JRPs on the Swiss side. After three successful calls in 2016, 2018, and 2022, the SNSF and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) agreed to launch a fourth joint call for proposals to fund JRPs in 2025. The 2025 call will be evaluated by JSPS, with the SNSF adopting JSPS' funding decision.

For more details for Japanese researchers who apply to JSPS, see the [JSPS website](#).¹

2. Joint Research Projects (JRPs)

Grants for JRPs will promote collaborative projects with clearly defined goals involving at least one partner based in Switzerland and one based in Japan. Applications should describe ambitious research and propose innovative approaches. The research is to be carried out at the research facilities involved; reciprocal visits and short stays in Switzerland for researchers from Japan and vice versa are possible within the scope of a JRP.

Project duration: The duration of a JRP is up to 36 months.

3. Research fields

Proposals from all disciplines are eligible.

4. Eligibility

Each proposal for a JRP must have at least one applicant based in Switzerland and one applicant based in Japan; they will be the principal investigators on the Swiss and Japanese side respectively. They bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. Further applicants based in Switzerland and/or in Japan can also participate.

¹ For the Japanese version of the website, please see [公募情報 | スイスとの国際共同研究プログラム \(JRPs\) | 国際共同研究事業 | 日本学術振興会](#)

Eligibility criteria in Switzerland: Applicants requesting funding must meet the eligibility requirements of the SNSF. The [SNSF Funding Regulations](#), the [General implementation regulations](#) and the [Regulations on Project Funding](#) are applicable or applicable *mutatis mutandis* where not stated otherwise. All applicants may only submit one application per call. Project partners as described in Article 11, Paragraph 2 of the SNSF Funding Regulations are not entitled to receive funds from the SNSF if their affiliated institution is located in Japan. Applicants can submit a proposal for a JRP under the present call even if they hold or have applied for another SNSF grant. Moreover, grantees may submit proposals to all SNSF funding schemes during the funding period of a JRP. In either case, substantial thematic overlaps must be avoided and applicants must be in a position to make substantial contributions to each of the research projects (cf. Article 17 of the SNSF Funding Regulations). Please note that the present call is not in conflict with the restrictions applicable to the SNSF's national project funding in accordance with Article 13 of the Regulations on Project Funding.

Eligibility criteria in Japan: Please refer to the [JSPS Call for Proposals](#).

5. Funding

JRP proposals contain two separate budgets: one budget in CHF for the Swiss part (to be paid by the SNSF according to the SNSF's rules) and one budget in JPY for the Japanese parts (to be paid by JSPS according to their own respective rules). The available budget for this call allows for the funding of 10 projects from all disciplines, provided that a sufficient number of high-quality proposals are submitted. The funding per project is sufficient for the Swiss side to support employees' salaries (PhD students, postdocs, other staff) as well as consumables, some minor equipment and mobility costs related to the project and on the Japanese side to support mobility as well as consumables, some minor equipment, and personnel costs related to the project. 50 % of the Japanese budget must be spent on collaboration activities – for more details, please refer to the [JSPS call for proposals](#).

For the funds requested in Switzerland, please refer to the respective data container on *mySNF*. Regarding the funds requested in Japan, please upload the “Financial Form for Japanese Side (Form B)” as a part of proposal. For more details, please refer to the [JSPS website](#). A copy of the “Financial Form for Japanese Side (Form B)” must also be uploaded as a PDF to the data container “JSPS financial form” on *mySNF*.

Eligible costs in Switzerland: The maximum permissible budget for a project is CHF 300'000. The funding categories are:

- Personnel costs (salaries within the salary ranges and rates set by the SNSF and social security contributions of scientific and technical employees); please note that the salaries of applicants and co-applicants are not eligible costs;
- Material costs, if they are directly linked to the research project, in particular material of enduring value, the cost of expendable items, field expenses, travel expenses or third-party charges;
- Direct costs incurred through the use of research infrastructure linked to the research;
- Costs for granting access to research data (Open Research Data, max. CHF 10'000 per project);
- Costs for organising conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research;
- Costs for national and international cooperation and networking activities directly associated with the funded research.

The [SNSF Funding Regulations](#) apply to the Swiss budget. However, overhead costs are not admissible. Please note that costs for open access publications can be requested separately via the SNSF's [OA platform](#).

Eligible costs in Japan: The maximum budget limits for the Japanese side are up to JPY 10,000,000 per fiscal year per project (up to JPY 30,000,000 for the entire project period). For more details regarding the different budget categories, please refer to the [JSPS Call for Proposals](#).

6. Submission

Proposals are to be jointly prepared by the applicants in Switzerland and Japan but will solely be evaluated by JSPS. The main applicant in Japan must submit the proposal to the JSPS Online Application system. For the details, please refer to the [JSPS website](#). The proposal must also be submitted to the SNSF via its electronic submission system [mySNF](#). Hard copies will not be accepted.

After logging in to *mySNF*, the correct funding instrument must be chosen (Programmes (national and international) > Bilateral Cooperation (Initiative of the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation) > Strategic Japanese-Swiss Science and Technology Programme (SJSSTP) > **Strategic Japanese-Swiss Science and Technology Programme: JSPS 2025**).

The application consists of two parts:

- The administrative part, which must be completed directly on *mySNF*.
 - Personal data of the responsible applicant in Switzerland
 - Personal data of the responsible applicant in Japan
 - Personal data of further applicant(s) in Switzerland and/or Japan
 - Data of project partners
 - Information on the employment of all applicants
 - Basic data on the project (e.g. title, research field, starting date, duration, summary)
 - Funding requested from the SNSF
 - Information on authorizations required
 - Other information (e.g., whether the project is related to other SNSF projects, name of the Swiss university/research institution at which the planned project will be implemented, information concerning national and international collaborations, information concerning already available funds or funds requested elsewhere).

- PDF documents that are to be uploaded to *mySNF*:
 - In the data container “project plan”, please upload a copy of the JSPS “Application Form (Form A)” as submitted to JSPS (**form to be downloaded from JSPS website**)
 - The CVs and publication lists of all applicants (in Switzerland and Japan; CVs can follow any format – it is not necessary to use the SNSF’s new CV format)
 - Equipment quotes (if applicable)
 - In the data container “JSPS financial form”, please upload a copy of the JSPS “Financial Form for Japanese Side (Form B)” as submitted to JSPS (**form to be downloaded from JSPS website**)

mySNF: Note that a user account is needed in order to submit proposals via *mySNF*. To open an account, register as a user on *mySNF*. Applicants with existing user accounts need not apply for new ones. For specific questions related to [mySNF](#), contact the support team by e-mail (mynsf.support@snf.ch) or telephone (+41 31 308 22 00).

Good scientific practice: The submitted documents must comply with the principles of [scientific integrity](#). Proposals that contravene the rules of research integrity or good scientific practice will not be considered (cf. Art. 15 Paragraph 2 of the SNSF Funding Regulations).

Deadline for submission of applications: On the Swiss side, the deadline is 30 June 2025, 5PM **CET**. Incomplete applications are not eligible. No request for extension of the deadline will be considered. On the Japanese side, the deadline is 30 June 2025, 5PM **JST** (please note the different time zones). **Applications must be handed in on time in both systems**, otherwise they will not be considered.

Language: All documents must be submitted in English.

7. Evaluation

This fourth joint call within the SJSSTP will be evaluated by JSPS, and the SNSF will follow JSPS's funding decision. For more details, please refer to the [JSPS Call for Proposals](#).

The evaluation results will be communicated to the main applicants in Switzerland by the SNSF, and to the main applicants in Japan by JSPS.

The following schedule is envisaged:

Call for proposals	01 April 2025
Closing date of call for proposals	30 June 2025
Communication of final decisions on proposals	November 2025
Start of research (researchers in Switzerland)	01 January – 01 March 2026
Start of research (researchers in Japan)	01 January 2026

8. Reporting

SNSF reporting: The main applicant in Switzerland is responsible for the reporting to the SNSF. Standard SNSF regulations apply for both the financial and the scientific reports.

JSPS reporting: The main applicant in Japan is responsible for the submission of the scientific and financial report to JSPS every fiscal year.

9. VAT

In Switzerland (SNSF funding): The JRP grants are not subject to VAT or other taxes and charges. However, research expenses are not excluded from VAT. Therefore, all costs budgeted in a JRP (e.g., equipment, consumables, etc.) can be charged to the programme, VAT included, unless the research institution (e.g., university, public research organisation, etc.) is able to recover the VAT.

In Japan (JSPS funding): For details, please see the [JSPS Call for Proposals](#).

10. Payments

SNSF funding: Standard SNSF rules apply. In principle, the budgets for JRPs are transferred in annual instalments to the affiliated institution of the main applicant in Switzerland at the beginning of a project year.

JSPS funding: In principle, the budgets for JRPs are transferred in annual instalments to the affiliated institution of the main applicant in Japan at the beginning of every fiscal year.

11. Publications and intellectual property

The grantees are obliged to publish research results obtained in the JRPs in appropriate form and according to SNSF and JSPS standards.

Grantees must consult both the Swiss and Japanese host institutions concerning their internal intellectual property regulations. For market-oriented projects, it is important that an agreement is made before the project starts.

12. Contact

At the SNSF

Isabelle Fellner
Swiss National Science Foundation
International Co-operation division Wildhainweg 3,
P.O. Box CH-3001 Berne
Website: <http://www.snsf.ch>
E-mail: international@snf.ch or isabelle.fellner@snf.ch
Telephone: +41 (0) 31 308 24 49

At JSPS

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
International Research Cooperation Division II,
International Program Department
5-3-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083
Website: <https://www.jsps.go.jp/>
E-mail: bottom-up@jsps.go.jp
Telephone: +81-(0)3-3263-1860/1918

13. Annexes

Annex 1: JSPS Application Form – **Example** (please download the form from the JSPS website and submit a copy of the file transferred to JSPS on mySNF via the data container “project plan”)

Abstract

Please provide **within 1 page** a summary of your research proposal including the research objectives, research method, etc.

Follow the below Notes when filling out this application form. Then, delete this entire text box when completing the form.

Note 1

A document review of your application will be conducted under the basic section of the Review Section Table for JSPS International Collaboration Programs, from which you should select your proposal's review category using the JSPS online application system. For details, please see the following website.

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bottom/shinsa.html>

Note 2

1. Follow closely the instructions in 申請書作成の際の注意事項 (Notes on preparing an application).
2. Write this Form in English.
3. Complete the form using a font size of 10-point or larger.
4. Leave in intact the title and instructions on the upper part of each page.
5. Do not exceed the maximum number of pages specified in the instructions. If there are blank page(s), leave them as they are (do not eliminate any pages).

本留意事項の内容を十分に確認し、提出時にはこのテキストボックスごと削除してください。

留意事項①：

電子申請システム上で選択した小区分に基づいて書面審査が行われます。詳細は本会ウェブサイトを確認してください。

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bottom/shinsa.html>

留意事項②：

1. 作成に当たっては、「申請書作成の際の注意事項」を必ず確認してください。
2. 英語で作成してください。
3. 本文は10ポイント以上の大きさの文字等を使用してください。
4. 各頁の上部のタイトルと指示書きは動かさないでください。
5. 指示書きで定められた頁数を超えないでください。なお、空白の頁が生じてても削除しないでください。

Research Objectives and Research Methods, etc.

Please describe concretely and clearly **within 4 pages** your research objectives and research methods, etc., primarily focusing on the following items. Charts and diagrams may be used if desired.

- (1) The objectives of your project and methods used to implement it. The unique characteristics, significant points, and originality of the project compared to ~~the~~ previous research (if any).
- (2) The positioning and significance of your project within the body of related research conducted in Japan and abroad.
- (3) What you intend to clarify or advance through this research and to what extent you intend to do so.
- (4) Details on how your research plan and methods will achieve your research objectives.
- (5) The need for and significance of collaboration with the counterpart country.
- (6) The project's contribution to fostering young Japanese researchers.
- (7) Expected societal impacts and future prospects for the research after the project is completed under this program.

2 Research Objectives and Research Methods, etc. (continued from the previous page)

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Preparation Status and Implementation Plan, etc.

Please concretely describe within 2 pages the preparation status of your proposal and your implementation plan.

- (1) Preparation Status: Your negotiation and exchange process with the Principal Investigator (PI) of the counterpart country.
- (2) Implementation Plan: Respective responsibilities of Japanese and counterpart researchers as well as visiting/accepting plans for researcher exchange per each fiscal year.

(1) Preparation Status

(2) Implementation Plan

3 Preparation Status and Implementation Plan etc. (continued from the previous page)

Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research and the Research Environment

With a view to showing the feasibility of the Japanese PI and main participants being able to carry out the research plan, please give **within 2 pages** descriptions of (1) your past research activities and the details of their achievements, and (2) the research environment including research facilities and equipment, research materials, etc. to be provided for conducting the proposed research. If applicable, describe concretely this project's relevance to your other international research activities (not limited to JSPS programs) and their results. Moreover, if there have been periods of absence from your research activities, you may explain them under description (1) above.

Delete this entire text box when completing this form.

Notes

1. The descriptions you provide in this column are to explain the feasibility of the research plan. When citing research achievements (research papers, books, patents, invited talks, etc.), they should not take the form of an exhaustive listing but be selected in a manner that gives supporting evidence of the applicant's ability to conduct the proposed research.
2. Sufficient information for the reviewers to identify the research achievements should be given.
In the case of a research paper, for example, relevant bibliographic information, including the title of a paper, the author(s), the title and volume of the journal, the publication year, and the article's pages should be given.
3. Only research papers that are already published or accepted for publication can be cited.

本留意事項の内容を十分に確認し、提出時にはこのテキストボックスごと削除してください。

留意事項

1. 研究業績（論文、著書、産業財産権、招待講演等）は、網羅的に記載するのではなく、本研究計画の実行可能性を説明する上で、その根拠となる文献等の主要なものを適宜記載してください。
2. 研究業績の記述に当たっては、当該研究業績を同定するに十分な情報を記載してください。例として、学術論文の場合は論文名、著者名、掲載誌名、巻号や頁等、発表年（西暦）、著書の場合はその書誌情報、など。
3. 論文は、既に掲載されているもの又は掲載が確定しているものに限って記載してください。

4 Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research and the Research Environment (cont. from the prev. page)

Ability of Counterpart Researchers to Conduct the Research

Please describe **within 1 page** the past research activities and research accomplishments (e.g., authored papers) of the PI and main participants in the counterpart country.

Delete this entire text box when completing this form.

Notes

1. The descriptions you provide in this column are to explain the feasibility of the research plan. When citing research achievements (research papers, books, patents, invited talks, etc.), they should not take the form of an exhaustive listing but be selected in a manner that gives supporting evidence of the counterpart researchers' ability to conduct the proposed research.

2. Sufficient information for the reviewers to identify the research achievements should be given.

In the case of a research paper, for example, relevant bibliographic information, including the title of a paper, the author(s), the title and volume of the journal, the publication year, and the article's pages should be given.

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2. 研究業績の記述に当たっては、当該研究業績を同定するに十分な情報を記載してください。例として、学術論文の場合は論文名、著者名、掲載誌名、巻号や頁等、発表年（西暦）、著書の場合はその書誌情報、など。

3. 論文は、既に掲載されているもの又は掲載が確定しているものに限って記載してください。

Costs overview on Switzerland side

Please fill in the table with the Swiss budget (**within 1 page**).
This overview does not replace the Swiss budget entered in the *mySNF*.
The total should be the same as the total in the "Budget"-section in the *mySNF*.

(in CHF)	Travel costs	Costs of goods	Personnel costs	Others	Total
FY2025					
FY2026					
FY2027					
FY2028					
Total					