

**[Call for Proposal] NRF-Japan Basic Scientific Cooperation
Program between NRF and JSPS 2026
- Joint Research Projects and Joint Seminars -**

The National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF), upon the agreement with Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), announces the call for the “Korea-Japan Basic Scientific Cooperation Program (Joint Research Project and Joint Seminar) 2026”.

June, 2025

Hong, Won-hwa

President

National Research Foundation of Korea

[NOTE]

The maximum number* of Research and Development task that one researcher may perform simultaneously is inapplicable to this program.

**** S&T(3 projects as PI, 5 project as Co-I) / Humanities and social science(2 project as PI, 3 project as Co-I)***

1. Program Overview

1.1. Objectives

- Obtain the latest S&T knowledge and internationalize research capability.
- Promote the development into large scale research projects through establishing a cooperation network among researchers.

1.2. Features

- Program Category : Joint Research Projects / Joint Seminars
 - ※ An applicant can apply for only one category at a time, and participate in only one project whether as a Principal Investigator(PI) or as a participating researcher.
 - ※ A proposal title should be exactly identical between the partners.
- Eligible Field : All fields of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences
 - ※ Please note that “Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences” of the eligible field means all fields including mathematical sciences, physical sciences, chemistry, engineering, biology, agricultural sciences, medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy. And you must choose only one subject area. (refer to the below.)
- Program Summary by Category

Category	Subject Area*	Grant		Commencement	Number of New Project
		Funding(KRW/Yr)	Period		
Joint Research	1) Humanities and Social Sciences	15,000,000	2 years	2026.4.1.	15
Joint Seminar	2) Science and Engineering 3) Biology and Medicine 4) Interdisciplinary Study	8,000,000	1 year**		5

- * An applicant can choose only ONE subject area, and it MUST CORRESPOND to that of Japanese partners. Proposals with different subject areas may be excluded from the evaluation.
- ** A period of seminar should be less than a week, and it may be held only once either in Korea and Japan within a year(April 1st, 2026 ~ March 31st 2027).
- ※ For Joint Seminars, the sending side covers international travel expenses while the receiving side covers domestic travel expenses and daily allowances. Costs associated with holding seminars are covered by the receiving side(the host country).
- ※ For Joint Research Projects, NRF and JSPS will cover the costs of its own country's participants.

<NOTES>

1. Details are subject to change based on the agreement between funding agencies.
2. The funding above is for Korean researcher applying to NRF. Partner researcher is encouraged to check respective agency's rule for the funding.
3. (Joint Research only) Funding grant includes indirect expenses(Less than 5% of direct expenses). ※ The indirect expenses are not supported for Joint Seminar
4. The program is aimed at building the network and base for research exchange activities, rather than conducting research itself. Therefore, when counting the costs of research equipment and materials is necessary, the relevance of the use thereof during the research should be specified in the proposal.

5. The names of partner organizations & researchers should be stated in application form(in English).
6. An applicant should find and identify the most relevant research area code when the applicant registers the proposal via e-R&D, NRF's electronic R&D system(<https://ernd.nrf.re.kr>).
7. A due date for submission may vary depending on partner organization. The **applicant is encouraged to check the period of submission and its results with his/her partner researcher.**
 ※ ONLY jointly(simultaneously) submitted proposals are subject to evaluation.

2. Application Guidelines

2.1. Eligibility

- Researchers at universities/institutes as defined in Article 2 of the Framework Act on Academic Promotion, and be eligible to apply with the official nomination of the head of the affiliated institution.
 ※ Partner researcher should meet qualifications by JSPS.
- Researchers who are **NOT** restricted under the followings:

[Joint Research Projects Only]

- ① A researcher, as of the commencement date, who is currently participating or intends to participate as PI in other NRF funded international cooperation programs*
 ※ Short-term research exchange(international symposium/seminar/airfare funding) programs are NOT included.
 * **NRF funded International Cooperation Program**
 NRF-NSFC Joint Research, NRF-JSPS Joint Research, NRF-NSFC Key Joint Research, A3 Foresight Program, ROK-GER Cooperation Program(DFG,DAAD,AvH), NRF-NORDIC Cooperation Program, ROK-US Cooperation Program in Humanities, Research Exchange(bilateral/unilateral), NRF-IIASA Cooperation Program, NRF-CSTEC Young Researcher Exchange Program(dispatched researchers only)
- ② A researcher under restriction by Enforcement Decree of National Research and Development Act as of the last day of submission. An applicant who gets restriction after the submission must report to NRF. and the respective proposal will be excluded from evaluation.
- ③ A researcher funded by the NRF, and has not yet submitted the final report on the respective projects within due date.
- ④ A researcher who intends to submit the same research already funded by either the NRF or other funding agencies. ※ NTIS inspection and expert review will decide redundancy.

[Joint Seminar Only]

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- ③ A researcher who intends to submit the same research already funded by either the NRF or other funding agencies.

2.2. How to Apply : Online Application via IRIS system ※ URL : <https://www.iris.go.kr>

2.3. Schedules

Open Call	Application	Deadline
June 4 th 2025	June 4 th 09:00 KST, 2025	September 3 rd 16:00 KST, 2025

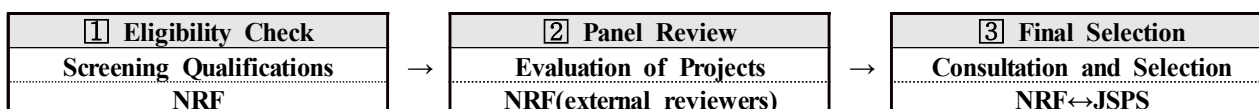
<NOTES>		
1. PI application and organization approval should all be done within application period. Application without approval from organization is not accepted.		
2. The above schedule is for those applying to the NRF. Partner PIs are encouraged to check application schedules from JSPS.		
3. A new subscriber to the KRI site must join the IRIS(www.iris.go.kr) before joining the KRI. After that, it will need to obtain “국가연구자번호 (National researcher's registration number)” through an NRI site that can be accessed through the IRIS.		
☞ Join the IRIS → Access to the NRI → Obtain the Researcher's Number (“국가연구자번호”)		

2.4. Requirements ※ Forms for each requirement is enclosed.

- Research Proposal
 - ※ Proposal should be focused on research exchange/networking plan between partners and the impact through collaborative activities.
- Personal Information Collection and Use Consent Form (for only Korean side)

3. Evaluation and Selection Procedures

3.1. Evaluation Procedures



※ Each Procedure except for the final selection is conducted according to the protocols of each agency

3.2. Criteria

[Joint Research Projects Only]

Criteria	Evaluation Indicators	Score
Research Plan (40)	Creativity and necessity of research project	10
	- Validity, feasibility and innovation of research objectives	
	Fidelity of plans and adequacy of implementation system	20
	- Previously conducted exchange activities, and basis for cooperation	
Research Capability (30)	- Validity and concreteness of exchange(technical/personnel) plans	
	- Distribution of workload between partners, and validity of plans	
	Budget allocation adequacy	10
Research Impact (30)	Capability and research performance of a Principal Investigator	15
	Capability and research performance of a partner researcher/institute	15
Research Impact (30)	Expected effects of research result and utilization plans	10
	- Contribution to globalization(establishment of network, strengthening cooperation, etc.)	
	Possibility of further development to domestic/international cooperation	20
Total		100

[Joint Seminar Only]

Criteria	Evaluation Indicators	Score
Research Plan (60)	Necessity and validity international joint seminar - Previously conducted exchange activities, and basis for cooperation	10
	Fidelity of seminar program - Adequacy of participants and program contents - Distribution of workload between partners, and validity of plans	30
	The scale and quality of seminar at the international level	15
	Budget allocation adequacy	5
Research Capability (15)	Principal Investigator's capability of planning and performing international events	15
Research Impact (25)	Possibility of further development to international cooperation	25
Total		100

3.3 Selection

- Selection is finalized through consultation among funding agencies(NRF-JSPS).
- Agencies may not select any projects if they are under-qualified for funding.

4. Project Management

4.1. Submission of Reports ※ Forms and other details(how to submit, lengths etc.) will be provided by the NRF.

- (Joint Research Projects only) Must be submitted to the NRF one month before the end of the current year(Mid-term report) and Must be submitted to the NRF within 60 days after the end of project(Final report)
- (Joint Seminar only) Final report : should be submitted to NRF within 60 days after the end of project.

4.2. Management of Research Fund

- Provision : NRF provides contracted fund to a lead institute after concluding contract.
- Management : A lead institute is responsible for management of research funds.
- Use : Fund should be used according to the proposal for contract and [*Management Guideline for International Cooperation Program*].
 - ※ Must use Research Credit Card and be managed through EZbaro System(<https://www.ezbaro.go.kr>)
- Financial Report(adjustment) : A financial report shall be submitted via Ezbaro system within three months after the end of the research.
 - ※ For other details, refer to the Management Guideline for International Cooperation Program.

4.3. Research Outcome and Acknowledgement

- A lead institute(or PI) should register/upload research outcomes to IRIS system for five years after the end of the project. The NRF may request a lead institute(or PI) to submit research outcome in hard copy.
- In any research outcome(thesis, journal, etc.) acknowledgement should be stipulated.

< Acknowledgement >

- (KOR) 이 논문(저서)은 20**년도 한국연구재단의 국제협력사업의 지원을 받아 연구되었음 (Project No.)
- (ENG) *This work was supported under the framework of international cooperation program managed by the National Research Foundation of Korea(Project No., FY20**)*

- Other details shall conform to the *[Management Guideline for International Cooperation Program]*

5. Schedules

Application		Eligibility Check & Exchange the List	Evaluation & Selection	Announcement	Commencement
Start	End				
June 4 th , 2025 KST	September 3 rd 16:00, 2025, KST	October, 2025	From December to January	February, 2026	April 1 st 2026

※ Schedules may change upon the agreement between funding agencies(NRF-JSPS).

6. Contact Point

Agency	Name	Contact	
NRF	Jihye Shin(Ms.)	Email	sophie1207@nrf.re.kr
		Phone	+82-(0)2-3460-5742
JSPS	HORIUCHI Yumemi(Ms.)	Email	kenkyouka13@jsps.go.jp

※ Please find below the URL for the call for proposals for the JSPS.

[Japanese] https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bilat/semina/shinsei_bosyu.html

[English] <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-bilat/call.html>