



Your Guide to Research Funding Opportunities in the EU and Japan



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Why this Funding Guide?

This funding guide meets a request from the research community in Japan to have a single document that brings together funding opportunities in the EU and in Japan.

There is much information available online. The benefit of this guide lies in bringing this information together in one place. Perhaps more importantly, this guide takes as its starting point the ambition of the researcher.

A researcher may be interested in:

- Undertaking doctoral training,
- Undertaking postdoctoral research,
- Working as an established researcher with a mono-beneficiary grant,
- Undertaking international and intersectoral mobility,
- Engaging in international, collaborative, consortium-based research, or
- Turning research results into a business or an innovative product.

This guide is therefore structured according to these interests. Each interest corresponds to a chapter in which the funding possibilities in both the EU and Japan are explained. It is particularly timely in the context of the recent successful conclusion of negotiations between the European Commission and the Government of Japan on Japan's association to Pillar II of Horizon Europe, the EU's flagship research and innovation funding programme. It enables entities based in Japan to lead and coordinate their own research projects under the programme, to apply and receive funding, and to seek closer collaboration with partners in the EU and the other Associated Countries.¹

“Openness and international cooperation must guide the future of science and technology. We believe that scientific cooperation can build bridges, even in challenging geopolitical times. I look forward to strengthening our partnership as Japan joins the 22 countries already associated to Horizon.” Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation

Both the EU and Japan are world leaders in research and innovation. Bilateral relations in research and innovation have developed steadily over the past two decades.² The Delegation of the EU to Japan expresses the hope that this guide can contribute to a deepening of the research collaboration between the two research powerhouses.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_3138

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan/european-union-and-japan-science-innovation-and-digital-relations_en

Frequent Terms EU funding

Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the EU's flagship research and innovation programme for the period 2021–2027. It supports scientific excellence, fosters industrial competitiveness, and addresses global challenges such as climate change and health. The programme promotes collaboration across countries and sectors.

EU Member State

A country that is a full member of the European Union. All EU Member States are automatically eligible for funding under Horizon Europe.

Associated Country

A non-EU country that has signed an agreement with the EU to participate in Horizon Europe under similar conditions to EU Member States, including eligibility for funding. Currently, there are 23 countries associated to the Programme.³ From January 2026 Japan is a country associated to Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe.

Third Country

Any country that is not an EU Member State or Associated Country. Japan is considered a Third Country. These countries may have more limited access to EU funding and participation in Horizon Europe, depending on the specific rules and agreements of the programme.

Beneficiary

A beneficiary is a legal entity that signs the Grant Agreement and is eligible to receive EU funding. Beneficiaries are responsible for implementing the project activities, managing the allocated budget, and complying with all contractual obligations.

Associated Partner

An organisation involved in a Horizon Europe project but not receiving EU funding. It supports the action by contributing expertise, resources, or access to stakeholders. Associated Partners are not signatories to the Grant Agreement and do not bear financial responsibility.

Grant Agreement

A formal contract between the funding body (e.g., the European Commission or the European Research Council) and the grant beneficiaries, outlining the terms and conditions of the funding.

Principal Investigator (PI)

The lead researcher responsible for the scientific content, direction, and implementation of the project.

³ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe_en

1. Are you interested in Pursuing Doctoral Training?

1.1. EU FUNDING

MSCA Doctoral Networks

What is it?	This is an EU funding initiative under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), aimed at implementing doctoral programmes through partnerships among universities, research institutions and infrastructures, businesses, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. The objective is to train highly skilled doctoral candidates.
Organisation	European Commission – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All
Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Doctoral Networks: innovative doctoral training in academic and/or non-academic sectors. • Industrial Doctoral Networks: doctoral candidates work outside academia, developing skills in industry and business, with joint supervision by academic and non-academic organisations. • Joint Doctoral Networks: integrated training leading to joint or multiple doctoral degrees, with joint selection and supervision by awarding institutions.

For organisations

Why should an organisation apply?	Participating in MSCA Doctoral Networks offers unique opportunities for international collaboration, training, networking, and recruitment of talented doctoral candidates from around the world. It enhances an organisation's research capacity and global visibility , while bringing prestige through MSCA support.
Who can apply and how?	<p>International consortia comprising universities, research institutions, businesses, SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises), and other non-academic organisations, provided they meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consortium must include at least three independent legal entities (beneficiaries). • Each entity must be based in a different EU Member State or a country associated with Horizon Europe, with at least one from an EU Member State. • Organisations based in Japan are welcome to join as Associated Partners, provided they secure their own funding to participate in the project. • At least one entity must have the capacity to award a doctoral degree.

Applications must be submitted on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)⁴ by a representative of the coordinating organisation.

Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific conditions apply to Industrial and Joint Doctorates. • All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate. • Resubmission restrictions apply to proposals scoring below 80% in the previous year.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for research, training and networking activities (€1,600 per person-month in the 2025 call), and management/indirect costs (€1,200 per person-month) for beneficiaries • Financial support for researchers: living, mobility, and family, long-term leave and special needs allowances (if applicable) <p><i>Note:</i> Organisations based in Japan are not eligible for direct funding from the EU budget and need to secure their own funding to participate in the project.</p>
Duration	Up to 4 years (5 years for Joint Doctorate projects)
Start date	Typically, the year when results are announced; project start may be postponed by agreement.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	Approx. 11% in 2024 (190 selected from 1,417 proposals)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Doctoral Networks⁵ • National Contact Points for Horizon Europe⁶

Useful to know

- Proposals for doctoral networks may build on existing or planned research partnerships among the participating organisations.
- Additional incentives exist for Industrial and Joint Doctoral Networks.
- The EU contribution is limited to a maximum of 540 person-months per network (e.g., 15 doctoral candidates for 36 months each).

For individual researchers

Why apply for a doctoral training position under MSCA Doctoral Networks?	An MSCA Doctoral Network offers the opportunity to pursue doctoral training within a high-quality, interdisciplinary, and international environment , with collaboration across academic and non-academic sectors . You will gain invaluable experience and receive attractive funding for your research activities. Mobility between the entities of the Doctoral Network may form part of your doctoral training, enhancing your international exposure, network, and career prospects .
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⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

⁵ <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks>

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

Who can apply and how?

Doctoral candidates who meet the following conditions, regardless of nationality:

- Must not already hold a doctoral degree.
- Must be enrolled in a doctoral programme in at least one EU Member State or Associated Country during the project.
- Must comply with the **mobility rule**: in general, must not have resided or conducted their main activity (work, study, etc.) in the country of the recruiting organisation for more than 12 months in the 36 months prior to recruitment.
- For Industrial Doctorates: must spend at least 50% of their time outside academia.

Doctoral candidates must apply for open vacancies offered by MSCA Doctoral Networks projects, which are advertised internationally, including on the [EURAXESS](#)⁷ job portal.

Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific rules apply to Industrial and Joint Doctorates.• Additional criteria may apply depending on the recruiting organisation and position.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living allowance (€4,010 gross per person-month in the 2025 call, adjusted by a country correction coefficient)• Mobility allowance (€710 per person-month)• Additional allowances: family, long-term leave and special needs (if applicable)• Funding for research, training and networking activities (for beneficiaries)
Duration	3–36 months (up to 48 months for Joint Doctorate fellowships)
Start date	Defined by each funded project.
Calls and deadlines	Defined by each funded project.
Success rate	Depends on each funded project.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Doctoral Networks⁸• EURAXESS⁹• National Contact Points for Horizon Europe¹⁰

Useful to know

- Doctoral candidates can undertake secondments to project partners for up to one-third of the fellowship duration (unlimited for Industrial and Joint Doctorates).
- Interdisciplinary collaboration is encouraged. You may work on research projects that combine various fields, expanding your skills and perspectives beyond your primary area of study.
- The European Research Executive Agency and [EURAXESS Japan](#)¹¹ regularly host online MSCA information events.

⁷ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs#job-opportunities>

⁸ <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks>

⁹ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

¹⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

¹¹ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>

MSCA COFUND (Doctoral Programmes)

What is it?	This EU funding initiative under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) co-finances new or existing doctoral programmes managed by organisations established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. It promotes sustainable research training, career development, and international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility for doctoral candidates.
Organisation	European Commission - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All



For organisations

Why should an organisation apply?	MSCA COFUND enables organisations to create or strengthen doctoral fellowship programmes , attracting highly qualified international researchers. It enhances research capacity and innovation potential through international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral collaboration , while aligning with the EU's wider research and innovation priorities.
Who can apply and how?	<p>A single legal entity (e.g., government entity, regional authority, funding agency, university, research organisation, or enterprise) that funds or manages doctoral programmes in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country may apply as the beneficiary. Additional partners from academic or non-academic sectors in Japan are welcome to join as Associated Partners, provided they secure their own funding to participate in the project.</p> <p>Applications must be submitted via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal¹² by a representative of the beneficiary organisation.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects must recruit at least three researchers.• Researcher monthly remuneration and mobility support should comply with programme rules.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COFUND allowance (€3,300 per person-month in the 2025 call): may be used for researcher remuneration, mobility, research expenses, management, and other eligible programme costs• Additional allowances: long-term leave and special needs (if applicable) <p><i>Note:</i> Organisations based in Japan are not eligible for direct funding from the EU budget and need to secure their own funding to participate in the project.</p>
Duration	Up to 5 years (researchers must be supported for a minimum of 3 months)

¹² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Start date	Typically, the year following the call launch (subject to the grant agreement).
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	Approx. 37% in 2024 (30 selected from 81 proposals for doctoral and postdoctoral programmes)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions : COFUND¹³ • National Contact Points for Horizon Europe¹⁴

Useful to know

- Beneficiaries are responsible for supplementing EU funding with institutional or external funds to fully implement the programme.



For individual researchers

Why apply for a doctoral training position supported by MSCA COFUND?	MSCA COFUND doctoral programmes provide competitive funding, structured training in either new or well-established environments, and mobility opportunities across institutions and sectors. They promote mentorship and networking and are highly regarded in the academic community. Being part of a MSCA COFUND programme brings prestige and international recognition to your academic profile.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Doctoral candidates who meet the following conditions, regardless of nationality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not already hold a doctoral degree. • Must be enrolled in a doctoral programme in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country during the fellowship. • Must comply with the <u>mobility rule</u>: in general, must not have resided or conducted their main activity (work, study, etc.) in the country of the recruiting organisation or implementing partner for more than 12 months in the 36 months prior to the programme call deadline. <p>Doctoral candidates must apply for open vacancies offered by funded COFUND projects, which are advertised internationally, including on the EURAXESS job portal¹⁵.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers who are already permanently employed by the host organisation are not eligible for funding.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amounts provided to researchers, such as the monthly remuneration and mobility allowance, are determined by each project. COFUND support may be used to finance these costs. • Additional allowances: long-term leave and special needs (if applicable)

¹³ <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/cofund>

¹⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

¹⁵ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs#job-opportunities>

Duration	The minimum duration of each fellowship is 3 months.
Start date	Defined by each funded project.
Calls and deadlines	Defined by each funded project.
Success rate	Depends on each funded project.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: COFUND¹⁶ • EURAXESS¹⁷ • National Contact Points for Horizon Europe¹⁸

Useful to know

- Doctoral candidates may undertake short-term secondments at implementing or associated partners of the doctoral programme for up to one-third of the fellowship duration.

¹⁶ <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/cofund>

¹⁷ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

¹⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

1.2. JAPAN FUNDING

Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programme for Research Students

What is it?	It offers scholarships for non-Japanese citizens to study in a master's, doctoral, or professional graduate course ¹⁹ and obtain a degree at a Japanese university .
Organisation	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan
Research fields	All
Why should a doctoral candidate apply?	The MEXT scholarship offers full financial support for your studies in Japan, including tuition fees, as well as language and cultural support , and academic supervision . It presents an excellent opportunity to immerse yourself in Japanese culture , promoting personal growth and cross-cultural understanding . As a prestigious governmental programme, the MEXT scholarship also supports research career development.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individuals wishing to pursue a master's, doctoral, or professional graduate course in Japan.</p> <p>Those intending to pursue a doctoral course (<i>second phase</i> in Japanese ²⁰) in Japan may apply, if they meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be nationals of a country with diplomatic relations with Japan at the time of entry (Japanese nationals and dual nationals with Japanese nationality are not eligible). • Must be under 35 years of age (exceptions may apply). • Must hold a foreign degree equivalent to a master's or a professional degree. University graduates with at least two years of research experience at universities/research centres, demonstrating academic competence equivalent to a master's degree and recognised by the graduate school, or those eligible for enrolment in a doctoral course at a Japanese graduate school for other reasons, may also apply. • Must be willing to learn Japanese. • Should be in good physical and mental health. <p>Applications can be submitted via:</p>

¹⁹ A professional graduate course is a graduate programme in Japan that focuses on advanced practical training in fields such as law, business, education, or public policy, leading to professional qualifications.

²⁰ A Doctoral Course ('Second Phase'), known in Japanese as *hakase koki katei*, refers to the post-master's stage of a doctoral programme in Japan, typically lasting three years. This phase usually focuses on conducting research leading to a doctoral degree. It follows the 'First Phase', which includes master's or equivalent graduate-level coursework.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>Japanese Embassy/Diplomatic Mission</u> in the applicant's country of origin • Certain <u>Japanese universities</u> (under exchange agreements with foreign institutions)
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific academic requirements may apply for certain fields. • <u>Visa requirement</u>: Grantees must obtain a new 'Student' visa at the Japanese overseas establishment in their country of nationality and enter Japan with that status. Those already in Japan must change or renew their status of residence to that of "Student" by the end of the month before the first scholarship payment. • Grantees should contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and their home country by participating in local activities in Japan, cooperating with the Japanese diplomatic mission after returning to their home countries, among other actions.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly allowance (¥145,000 per month for those enrolled in doctoral courses in 2026) • Tuition fees • Travel costs (one round-trip ticket to/from Japan)
Duration	For doctoral courses, the scholarship covers the duration required to complete the course (typically 3 years). A 6-month Japanese language preparation period may be added if required.
Start date	Defined by MEXT or the accepting university. Grantees typically arrive in Japan at the beginning of either the April or October term of the year following the application.
Calls and deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application through the Japanese Embassy/Diplomatic Mission: annual call around April (deadlines vary) • Application through a Japanese university (deadlines vary by institution)
Success rate	No information available.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MEXT Official Website: Scholarships Program</u>²¹ • <u>Study in Japan: Japanese Government MEXT Scholarship</u>²² • <u>Japanese Embassy/Consulate Directory</u>²³ • Host university in Japan

Useful to know

- The application process at the Japanese Diplomatic Missions can be quite competitive and involves multiple stages (documents, interviews, and language tests).

²¹ https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/06032818.htm

²² <https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/planning/scholarships/mext-scholarships/>

²³ https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/over/index.html

Honjo International Scholarship Foundation – Scholarships for Foreign Students

What is it?	This is a scholarship programme for non-Japanese citizens who are studying or planning to study for a master’s or doctoral degree at a Japanese graduate school .
Organisation	Honjo International Scholarship Foundation
Research fields	All
Why should a doctoral candidate apply?	The Honjo International Scholarship provides financial support for your studies and offers the opportunity to join a prestigious academic community in Japan – an experience that can significantly influence your academic and professional future. You are also encouraged to immerse yourself in Japanese culture and language .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individuals wishing to pursue a master’s or a doctoral course in Japan, or those already enrolled, if they meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not hold Japanese nationality. • Must be enrolled in a course beginning in April following the application (new and current students are eligible). • Must have at least 12 months of enrolment remaining before graduation. • Must begin a master’s course by the age of 30, or a doctoral course by the age of 35. • Must be committed to contributing to their home country. • Must have a deep understanding of international friendship and goodwill, attend Foundation events, and join the alumni network. • Must have basic conversational Japanese skills. <p>Applications must be submitted via the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation website²⁴.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent funding from other fellowships or grants is not permitted (exceptions may apply). • Employment is limited to part-time jobs related to academic study or international exchange.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly allowance (¥180,000–¥230,000 per month for Spring 2025) • Conference travel support <p><i>Note:</i> Tuition fees and initial travel costs are not covered.</p>
Duration	1–5 years
Start date	Typically, April of the year following application.

Calls and deadlines Typically, two calls per year.

Success rate No information available. Spring 2025 call offered 10 places.

More information

- [Honjo International Scholarship Foundation: Scholarship for Foreign Students](#)²⁵

Useful to know

- Funded students are encouraged to build strong links with the Foundation by attending its events and engaging with the alumni network, which can offer valuable support and opportunities during and after their studies in Japan.

Rotary Yoneyama Scholarship for Overseas Candidate

What is it?	This scholarship supports international students , including doctoral candidates, who wish to study in Japan . It is aimed at young individuals who embody the Rotary spirit and promotes international understanding and cooperation between Japan and other countries.
Organisation	Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation
Research fields	All
Why should a doctoral candidate apply?	As a Rotary Yoneyama Scholar, you will receive financial support to study in Japan, along with fellowship and mentorship from local host Rotary clubs. The programme connects scholars to the global Rotary network, fostering leadership, personal growth , and future career opportunities .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individuals wishing to study and pursue a degree in Japan (including a doctoral degree), provided they meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be nationals of a country other than Japan at the time of entry. Japanese and dual nationals (with Japanese nationality) are not eligible. • Must reside outside Japan until entering with a “Student” visa. • Must not have previously stayed in Japan before the scholarship period (exceptions apply if total stay was less than 31 days). • Must be under 45 years of age as of 1 April of the award year. • Must plan to enter or transfer to a regular course at a Japanese university or graduate school the year after applying, with the intention of obtaining a degree. • Must have a basic understanding of Japanese. • Must be in good physical and mental health.

²⁴ <https://www.hisf.or.jp/en/scholarship/foreigner/>

²⁵ <https://www.hisf.or.jp/en/scholarship/foreigner/>

	Applications must be submitted via the Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation website ²⁶ .
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants should be enthusiastic about studying, have clear future goals, and respect cultural differences. They must have strong communication skills, understand the aims of the programme, and act on them. • Grantees must participate in Foundation-related activities, such as attending the <i>sewa</i> club's meetings in the sponsor district, submitting biannual reports in Japanese, delivering speeches at club meetings, and actively engaging in club and district activities. • Concurrent funding from other fellowships or grants is not permitted (exceptions may apply). • Former recipients of this scholarship are not eligible.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly allowance (¥140,000 per month for doctoral students in 2025) • Travel costs (up to ¥250,000), including one-way ticket to Japan, domestic travel in the home country and Japan, visa fees, and first-night accommodation in Japan
Duration	2 years
Start date	April or September/October of the year after application. Grantees must arrive before the admission month (e.g., by 31 March for April entry).
Calls and deadlines	Annual call in early October, closing at the end of the month.
Success rate	No information available. Approx. 15 students are selected annually.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation²⁶

Useful to know

- Rotary is a global network of professionals founded in Chicago in 1905 promoting peace and social development.
- Japan has 34 Rotary districts. Applications are evaluated by the Rotary district committee where your chosen university is located, and by the Foundation's committee.

OIST PhD Programme

What is it?	This is a fully funded , five-year interdisciplinary doctoral programme in science and technology at OIST (Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology), delivered entirely in English. Students engage with multiple research units – including at least one outside
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	their primary field – before selecting a thesis topic, enhancing their technical knowledge.
Organisation	OIST (Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology)
Research fields	Science and Technology
Why should a doctoral candidate apply?	OIST provides a unique interdisciplinary research environment, cutting-edge facilities , and supervision from world-renowned faculty, with no departmental divisions. Students receive full financial support and benefit from a global, diverse academic community with opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration . Okinawa's peaceful setting also offers a unique cultural experience .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individuals of any nationality, provided they meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must hold a bachelor's, master's or equivalent degree prior to the admission date in a relevant field of science (e.g., biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering). • Must have English proficiency suitable for postgraduate study. • Must demonstrate academic ability. • Must demonstrate ability to interact effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds. <p>Applications must be submitted via the OIST website²⁷.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-time employment is not permitted.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly allowance (¥2.52–¥3.6 million per year in 2025) • Tuition fees • Relocation support • Conference travel support • Childbirth leave (if applicable)
Duration	5 years
Start date	In the same year as the application or the following year.
Calls and deadlines	Two calls per year. Shortlisted candidates attend an on-campus Admissions Workshop.
Success rate	No information available. Approx. 60 students are selected annually.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OIST admissions²⁷

Useful to know

- On-campus childcare is available for students with children.
- Subsidised housing is available on campus.

²⁶ <https://www.rotary-yoneyama.or.jp/english/overseas>

²⁷ <https://www.oist.jp/admissions>

2. Are you interested in Pursuing Postdoctoral Research?

2.1. EU FUNDING

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

What is it?	This EU programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) supports postdoctoral researchers in conducting research abroad – either within Europe or globally – while acquiring new skills and advancing their careers. Researchers benefit from international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral experience . Mobility options involve relocating to or between EU Member States/Horizon Europe Associated Countries, or to Third Countries not associated with Horizon Europe.
Organisation	European Commission – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All
Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Postdoctoral Fellowships: open to researchers of any nationality moving within Europe or coming from elsewhere. They must be hosted in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country. Global Postdoctoral Fellowships: open to nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. These include an initial research phase (outgoing phase: 12–24 months) in a Third Country, followed by a mandatory 12-month return phase in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
Why should a researcher apply?	MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships offer an opportunity to further your career through international and intersectoral mobility . You can relocate and receive advanced training – including in non-academic sectors . These competitive fellowships cover living expenses, research costs and more. By joining leading research organisations and contributing to innovative projects , you enhance your skills , increase your professional visibility , and contribute to cutting-edge scientific progress .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must hold a doctoral degree or have successfully defended their doctoral thesis before the call deadline. For European Fellowships: no nationality restrictions apply. For Global Postdoctoral Fellowships: must be nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. Must have no more than eight years of research experience after obtaining their doctoral degree (exceptions may apply).

- Must comply with the **mobility rule**: must not have resided or conducted their main activity (work, study, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary (for European Postdoctoral Fellowships) or the host organisation for the outgoing phase (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months before the deadline.

Applications must be submitted jointly by the researcher and a host organisation (beneficiary) based in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country via the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)²⁸.

- Host organisations:** organisations from all sectors in any country (e.g., universities, research institutions, businesses, SME, or other organisations) may host MSCA postdoctoral researchers (eligibility depends on the fellowship type). Organisations in non-associated Third Countries (e.g., Japan) may host researchers for Global Fellowships or short-term secondments.

Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resubmission restrictions apply to proposals scoring below 70% in the previous year. Specific eligibility rules apply for research areas covered by the Euratom Research and Training Programme.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living allowance (€5,990 per person-month in the 2025 call, adjusted by country correction coefficient) Mobility allowance (€710 per person-month) Additional allowances: family, long-term leave, and special needs (if applicable) Funding for research, training and networking activities (€1,000 per person-month), and management/indirect costs (€650 per person-month) for beneficiaries <p><i>Note:</i> Organisations based in Japan are not eligible for direct funding from the EU budget.</p>
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Postdoctoral Fellowships: 12–24 months Global Postdoctoral Fellowships: 24–36 months <p><i>Note:</i> An additional period of up to six months at the end of the project can be awarded to carry out a placement in a non-academic organisation in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.</p>
Start date	Typically, the year the results are announced.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	Approx. 16% in 2024 (1,700 projects expected to be funded out of 10,360 proposals).
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Postdoctoral Fellowships²⁹ EURAXESS³⁰

²⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

²⁹ <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships>

³⁰ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

- [National Contact Points for Horizon Europe](#)³¹

Useful to know

- You can find potential host institutions on [EURAXESS](#)³² and other platforms. Having the support from a host supervisor and organisation is essential for a successful application and postdoctoral experience abroad.
- For European Postdoctoral Fellowships, secondments up to one-third of the fellowship duration can take place at any organisation worldwide. For Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, secondments can last up to one-third of the outgoing phase.
- [EURAXESS Japan](#)³³ frequently organises information sessions about MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and workshops for potential applicants on how to prepare proposals. Some webinars are available [online](#)³⁴.

MSCA COFUND (Postdoctoral Programmes)

What is it?	This EU funding initiative under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) co-finances fellowships for postdoctoral programmes managed by organisations based in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. It promotes advanced research training and career development, while supporting international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral mobility .
Organisation	European Commission – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All
Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellowships based in the EU or Horizon Europe Associated Countries • Fellowships with an outgoing phase outside the EU/Horizon Europe Associated Countries, followed by a mandatory 12-month return phase to a host organisation in one of these countries.

For organisations

Why should an organisation apply?	COFUND enables institutions to attract top international postdoctoral talent , enhance their research excellence , and develop global collaborations . It supports early-career researchers , while also enhancing the institution's reputation .
Who can apply and how?	A single legal entity based in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country (e.g., government entity, regional authority, funding agency, university, research organisation, or enterprise) may apply as the beneficiary.

³¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

³² <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

³³ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>

³⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/@EuraxessLinksJapan>

Additional partners from academic or non-academic sectors in Japan are welcome to join as Associated Partners, provided they secure their own funding to participate in the project.

Applications must be submitted via the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)³⁵ by a representative of the beneficiary organisation.

Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must recruit at least three researchers. • Researcher monthly remuneration and mobility support should comply with programme rules.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COFUND allowance (€4,700 per person-month in the 2025 call): may be used for researcher remuneration, mobility, research expenses, management, and other eligible programme costs • Additional allowances: long-term leave and special needs (if applicable) <p><i>Note:</i> Organisations based in Japan are not eligible for direct funding from the EU budget and need to secure their own funding to participate in the project.</p>
Duration	Up to 5 years (researchers must be supported for a minimum of 3 months).
Start date	Typically, the year following the call launch (subject to the grant agreement).
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	Approx. 37% in 2024 (30 selected from 81 proposals for doctoral and postdoctoral programmes).
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: COFUND³⁶ • National Contact Points for Horizon Europe³⁷

For individual researchers

Why should a researcher apply for a postdoctoral programme supported by MSCA COFUND?	MSCA COFUND-supported postdoctoral programmes provide competitive funding, career development opportunities and structured training in new or well-established environments . They encourage mobility , allowing to work in different institutions and sectors . You will develop your professional skills , and benefit from mentorship and networking opportunities in dynamic environments.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must hold a doctoral degree or have successfully defended their doctoral thesis before the call deadline. • No nationality restrictions apply. However, if the main part of the fellowship is outside the EU or Horizon Europe Associated Country,

³⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

³⁶ <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/cofund>

³⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

the applicant must be a national or long-term resident of an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

- Must comply with the mobility rule: in general, must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, study, etc.) in the country of the recruiting organisation or implementing partner for more than 12 months in the 36 months prior to the call deadline.

Researchers must apply for open vacancies offered by funded COFUND projects, which are advertised internationally, including on the EURAXESS job portal³⁸.

Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers already permanently employed by the host organisation are not eligible for funding.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amounts provided to researchers, such as the monthly remuneration and mobility allowance, are determined by each project. COFUND funding may be used to support these costs. • Additional allowances: long-term leave and special needs (if applicable)
Duration	The minimum duration of each fellowship is 3 months. The typical duration of fellowships varies from 12 to 36 months.
Start date	Defined by each funded project.
Calls and deadlines	Defined by each funded project.
Success rate	Depends on each funded project.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: COFUND</u>³⁹ • <u>EURAXESS</u>⁴⁰ • <u>National Contact Points for Horizon Europe</u>⁴¹

Useful to know

- Short-term secondments are allowed for up to one-third of their fellowship duration (or of the outgoing phase for postdoctoral fellows researching outside the EU or Horizon Europe Associated Countries).

EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grants

What is it?	EUROfusion (European Consortium for the Development of Fusion Energy) is a consortium of European fusion laboratories aligned with the long-term strategy outlined in the <i>European Research Roadmap to the Realisation of Fusion Energy</i> . It supports the education and training of the new generation of fusion scientists by funding individual postdoctoral research projects .
Organisation	EUROfusion (European Consortium for the Development of Fusion Energy, Horizon Europe)

³⁸ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs#job-opportunities>

³⁹ <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/cofund>

⁴⁰ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

⁴¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

Research fields	Fusion Energy
Why should a researcher apply?	This grant offers the opportunity to contribute to cutting-edge work in fusion energy . You will join a leading scientific community, gain access to some of the most advanced fusion research facilities in the world, and work within a well-established and highly respected research network . Receiving this prestigious grant also serves as a recognised distinction in the field of fusion energy.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers or engineers who meet the following conditions, regardless of nationality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have obtained a doctoral degree within two years before the application deadline. • Must propose a research project on a scientific or technical topic aligned with the objectives of the <i>Work Plan for the Implementation of the European Research Roadmap to the Realisation of Fusion Energy</i>. <p>Applicants must jointly prepare the proposal with an institute affiliated with EUROfusion. The application must be submitted by the relevant EUROfusion General Assembly member, who will also commit to employing the candidate during the project.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grantees must be employed by a EUROfusion Consortium member or one of their Affiliated Entities during the grant period.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary • Training and research expenses (amounts vary) • Travel costs (amounts vary) • Indirect costs (partial support)
Duration	Up to 2 years
Start date	Typically, the year following the call launch.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call, typically closing within a few months.
Success rate	No information available. Approx. nine grants are expected in 2026.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>EUROfusion</u>⁴²

Useful to know

- Candidates and supervisors should closely collaborate during the preparation of the work plan.

⁴² <https://euro-fusion.org/>

2.2. JAPAN FUNDING

JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Standard)

What is it?	This programme offers postdoctoral researchers from outside Japan the opportunity to conduct collaborative research under the supervision of host researchers at universities and other research institutions in Japan .
Organisation	JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)
Research fields	All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences
Why should a researcher apply?	Applying for a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship enables you to gain valuable international research experience in Japan with generous financial support . It enhances your career prospects , provides access to top research facilities and resources , and offers the chance to collaborate with leading scientists in Japan – expanding your professional network.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions as of 1 April of the fellowship fiscal year and throughout the fellowship period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a citizen of a country with diplomatic relations with Japan (Japanese citizens and permanent residents of Japan are not eligible). • Must have obtained a doctoral degree within six years of the start date or be scheduled to obtain a doctoral degree before the fellowship begins. <p>Applications can be submitted via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A host researcher</u>, who submits the application via their institution in Japan (jointly prepared by host and candidate). • <u>An overseas nominating authority</u>, which nominates candidates following specific procedures.
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants previously awarded a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship ('Standard' or 'Pathway to University positions in Japan') are not eligible. • Fellows must reside in Japan for the entire duration of the fellowship. • The host researcher must be a full-time researcher (exceptions may apply) affiliated with a research institution specified in Article 2 of the 'Procedure for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research' (KAKENHI) issued by MEXT. This includes universities and inter-university research institutes, MEXT facilities and other institutions engaged in scientific research, technical colleges, and other institutions designated by MEXT. The host must also be eligible to apply for a KAKENHI grant.

What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs (one round-trip ticket to/from Japan) • Monthly allowance (¥362,000 per month in FY2025) • Settling-in allowance (¥200,000) • Overseas travel insurance • Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Research Fellow (a grant to cover cooperative research-related expenses, which can be applied for by the host institution)
Duration	12–24 months
Start date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For calls with deadlines in August/September: between 1 April and 30 September of the following year • For calls with deadlines in April: between 1 September and 30 November of the same year
Calls and deadlines	Two calls per fiscal year, typically with deadlines in August/September and April.
Success rate	Approx. 11% in the first call of FY2025 (120 fellowships awarded).
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Standard)⁴³ • JSPS Overseas Offices⁴⁴

Useful to know

- The following websites can help you find potential host researchers and institutions in Japan: '[researchmap](#)'⁴⁵, '[J-GLOBAL](#)'⁴⁶, '[Database of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research \(KAKEN\)](#)'⁴⁷ and '[JSPS Researchers Network \(JSPS-Net\)](#)'⁴⁸.
- For information on application procedures via an overseas nominating authority, you should contact the relevant [nominating authority in your country](#)⁴⁹ directly.

RIKEN's Special Postdoctoral Researchers Programme

What is it?	This postdoctoral programme offers early-career scientists the opportunity to conduct independent research on a topic aligned with RIKEN's objectives and research fields . RIKEN is Japan's largest and most comprehensive research organisation for basic and applied sciences.
Organisation	RIKEN, Japan

⁴³ <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/e-ippan/index.html>

⁴⁴ https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-contact_us/index.html#u20221212210123

⁴⁵ <https://researchmap.jp/?lang=en>

⁴⁶ <https://jglobal.jst.go.jp/en>

⁴⁷ <https://nrid.nii.ac.jp/en>

⁴⁸ <https://www-jsps-net.jsps.go.jp/>

⁴⁹ https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/e-ippan/long_list.html

Research fields	All areas of mathematical sciences, physics, chemistry, biology, medical science, and scientific and technological engineering relevant to research conducted at RIKEN.
Why should a researcher apply?	The RIKEN programme offers a prestigious opportunity to work at one of Japan's top research institutions, providing access to world-class facilities and cutting-edge technology . You will benefit from autonomy, generous funding, and comprehensive support for career development . The programme also promotes international collaboration and interdisciplinary research .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have obtained a doctoral degree within five years before the year of the call (exceptions may apply) or be scheduled to receive the degree by the date of appointment. • Must be able to start work within the fiscal year of the call. <p>Applicants must contact the RIKEN laboratory where they wish to work to discuss the proposed research. Applications must be submitted via the RIKEN website⁵⁰.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who have previously participated in RIKEN's SPDR or FPR programmes are not eligible.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly remuneration (¥550,000 per month in FY2026) • Commuting allowance (actual cost, up to ¥55,000 per month) • Housing allowance (partial rent payment) • Settling-in allowance • Enrolment in the RIKEN Mutual Benefit Society • Research budget (¥1,000,000 per year) • Additional research support (up to ¥1,000,000 may be granted twice during the programme, subject to approval)
Duration	3 years
Start date	Within the fiscal year as the call.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call, typically launched in April.
Success rate	No information available. Approx. 70 positions offered annually.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIKEN: Special Postdoctoral Researchers Program⁵¹
Useful to know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may also wish to explore other postdoctoral opportunities at RIKEN laboratories⁵².

 JF-Nichibunken Fellowship Programme	
What is it?	This programme provides postdoctoral researchers with the opportunity to conduct research in the field of Japanese Studies while being affiliated with Nichibunken (International Research Center for Japanese Studies) in Japan.
Organisation	Japan Foundation (JF) and International Research Center for Japanese Studies, National Institutes for the Humanities (Nichibunken)
Research fields	Japanese Studies (themes exploring Japanese culture from international, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive perspectives in the humanities and social sciences)
Why should a researcher apply?	The JF-Nichibunken Fellowship Programme offers financial support for postdoctoral work, access to valuable resources at Nichibunken , and opportunities for collaboration with international scholars . It also provides an immersive experience in Japan , supporting your professional growth in the field of Japanese Studies.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have received a doctoral degree within six years of 1 April of the fellowship's fiscal year. • Must hold nationality or permanent residency of a country with diplomatic relations with Japan. • Must be in good health and proficient in Japanese or English. <p>Applications must be submitted directly by the researcher via email.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellows are expected to reside in Japan continuously for the entire duration of the fellowship.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs (one round-trip ticket to/from Japan) • Settling-in allowance (¥250,000 in FY2025) • Departure allowance (¥50,000) • Overseas travel insurance • Monthly allowance for living and research expenses (¥400,000 per month) • Dependent allowance (¥10,000 per certified dependent/month)
Duration	6–24 months
Start date	Between 1 September and 1 March following the application deadline.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call, typically closing on 1 December.
Success rate	No information available. A few fellowships (approx. three) are awarded annually.

⁵⁰ <https://www.riken.jp/en/careers/programs/spdr/career2026/>

⁵¹ <https://www.riken.jp/en/careers/programs/spdr/index.html>

⁵² <https://www.riken.jp/en/careers/openings/index.html>

More information

- [JF-Nichibunken Fellowship Program](#)⁵³

Useful to know

- Fellows may apply for accommodation at Nichibunken House.
- While research is based at Nichibunken, fellows may also conduct activities at other institutions with prior consultation and approval from the host advisor/research associate at Nichibunken.
- The Japan Foundation also offers other funding programmes in collaboration with institutions in Japan, such as the [JF-GJS Fellowship programme](#)⁵⁴ for specific fields within Japanese Studies.

3. Are you an Established Researcher interested in Monobeneficiary Grants?

3.1. EU FUNDING

 ERC Starting Grant	
What is it?	ERC Starting Grants are part of the main European Research Council frontier research grants. They support early-career researchers (2–7 years of experience since the completion of the doctoral degree) who have already produced excellent supervised work, are ready to work independently, and show the potential to become research leaders.
Organisation	European Research Council (ERC) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All
Why should a researcher apply?	An ERC Starting Grant gives you the opportunity to lead a pioneering research project with generous financial support . It helps establish your independent research career , fosters innovation , and brings international recognition . The grant also opens doors to valuable collaborations and enhances career progression .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions, regardless of nationality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must have at least 2 and up to 7 years of experience since completing a doctoral degree (extensions are possible under specific circumstances).• Must have a scientific track record demonstrating great promise and an excellent research proposal.• May reside in any country at the time of application.• Must conduct the proposed research at a public or private research organisation (host institution) located in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country. This can be the institution where the applicant already works, or another eligible institution. <p>Applications must be submitted by the researcher (as Principal Investigator) on behalf of the host institution. Calls are published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal⁵⁵ and other official platforms.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants must demonstrate the potential for research independence (e.g., at least one important publication as the main author or without the participation of their doctoral supervisor).• Restrictions on the submission of proposals may apply.• Principal Investigators must spend a minimum of 40% of their working time on the ERC project, and a minimum of 50% of their working time in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

⁵³ <https://www.nichibun.ac.jp/en/research/employment/acceptance/#jf-nichibun>

⁵⁴ <https://gas.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/networking/2025-jf-gjs-fellowship/>

⁵⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of up to €1.5 million • An additional funding of up to €1 million may be awarded to cover eligible 'start-up' costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or a Horizon Europe Associated Country, the purchase of major equipment, access to large facilities, and/or other major experimental and fieldwork costs • Up to 100% of eligible direct costs, plus 25% for indirect costs
Duration	Up to 5 years
Start date	Typically, the year following the call launch.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	Approx. 14% in 2024 (494 selected from 3,474 proposals)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERC Starting Grant⁵⁶ • ERC dashboard⁵⁷ • National Contact Points for Horizon Europe⁵⁸

Useful to know

- National science agencies and universities often provide helpful information.
- ERC Principal Investigators can use their grant to recruit researchers and team members of any nationality for their projects, including those based outside Europe. If you are interested in applying for one of these jobs, search for opportunities on the [EURAXESS portal](#)⁵⁹ using 'ERC' as a keyword.
- [EURAXESS Japan](#)⁶⁰ frequently organises information sessions about ERC Grants and workshops for potential applicants on how to prepare proposals. Some webinars are available [online](#)⁶¹.

ERC Consolidator Grant

What is it?	ERC Consolidator Grants are part of the main European Research Council frontier research grants. They support mid-career researchers (7–12 years of experience since completing their doctoral degree) who are in the process of consolidating their own independent research team or programme.
Organisation	European Research Council (ERC) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All
Why should a researcher apply?	The ERC Consolidator Grant offers substantial funding to support innovative research led by mid-career researchers. It offers independence , resources to build a talented research team , and

⁵⁶ <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/starting-grant>

⁵⁷ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

⁵⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

⁵⁹ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

⁶⁰ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>

⁶¹ <https://www.youtube.com/@EuraxessLinksJapan>

enhances **visibility and recognition within the scientific community**.

Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions, regardless of nationality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have more than 7 and up to 12 years of experience since completing their doctoral degree (extensions are possible under specific circumstances). • Must have a scientific track record demonstrating great promise and an excellent research proposal. • May reside in any country at the time of application. • Must conduct the proposed research at a public or private research organisation (host institution) located in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country. This can be the institution where the applicant already works, or another eligible institution. <p>Applications must be submitted by the researcher (as Principal Investigator) on behalf of the host institution. Calls are published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal⁶² and other official platforms.</p>
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Additional requirements

- Evidence of research independence is expected (e.g., several publications as the main author or without doctoral supervisors)
- Restrictions on the submission of proposals may apply.
- Principal Investigators must spend a minimum of 50% of their working time on the ERC project, and a minimum of 50% of their working time in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of up to €2 million • Additional funding of up to €1 million may be awarded to cover eligible 'start-up' costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or a Horizon Europe Associated Country, the purchase of major equipment, access to large facilities, and/or other major experimental and fieldwork costs • Up to 100% of eligible direct costs, plus 25% for indirect costs
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Duration	Up to 5 years
Start date	Typically, the year following the call launch.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	Approx. 14% in 2024 (328 selected from 2,313 proposals)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERC Consolidator Grant⁶³ • ERC dashboard⁶⁴ • National Contact Points for Horizon Europe⁶⁵

Useful to know

- National science agencies and universities often provide helpful information.

⁶² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

⁶³ <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/consolidator-grant>

⁶⁴ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

⁶⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

- ERC Principal Investigators can use their grant to recruit researchers and team members of any nationality for their projects, including those based outside Europe. If you are interested in applying for one of these jobs, search for opportunities on the [EURAXESS portal](#)⁶⁶ using 'ERC' as a keyword.
- [EURAXESS Japan](#)⁶⁷ frequently organises information sessions about ERC Grants and workshops for potential applicants on how to prepare proposals. Some webinars are available [online](#)⁶⁸.

ERC Advanced Grant

What is it?	ERC Advanced Grants are part of the main European Research Council frontier research grants. They support excellent Principal Investigators with a proven track record of significant research achievements, who are recognised as exceptional leaders in terms of originality and impact of their research contributions.
Organisation	European Research Council (ERC) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All
Why should a researcher apply?	The ERC Advanced Grant provides substantial funding to support innovative research led by well-established and outstanding researchers . It enhances recognition and international visibility, enabling the exploration of innovative ideas, and supports long-term career development.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions, regardless of nationality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have an excellent scientific track record. There are no specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements. • May reside in any country at the time of application. • Must conduct the proposed research at a public or private research organisation (host institution) located in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country. This can be the institution where the applicant already works, or another eligible institution. <p>Applications must be submitted by the researcher (as Principal Investigator) on behalf of the host institution. Calls are published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal⁶⁹ and other official platforms.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Investigators must be exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions. • Restrictions on the submission of proposals may apply. • Principal Investigators must spend a minimum of 30% of their working time on the ERC project, and a minimum of 50% of their working time in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of up to €2.5 million

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funding of up to €1 million may be awarded to cover eligible 'start-up' costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or a Horizon Europe Associated Country, the purchase of major equipment, access to large facilities, and/or other major experimental and fieldwork costs • Up to 100% of eligible direct costs, plus 25% for indirect costs
Duration	Up to 5 years
Start date	Typically, the year following the call launch.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	Approx. 14% in 2023 (255 selected from 1,829 proposals)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERC Advanced Grant⁷⁰ • ERC dashboard⁷¹ • National Contact Points for Horizon Europe⁷²

Useful to know

- National science agencies and universities often provide helpful information.
- ERC Principal Investigators can use their grant to recruit researchers and team members of any nationality for their projects, including those based outside Europe. If you are interested in applying for one of these jobs, search for opportunities on the [EURAXESS portal](#)⁷³ using 'ERC' as a keyword.
- [EURAXESS Japan](#)⁷⁴ frequently organises information sessions about ERC Grants and workshops for potential applicants on how to prepare proposals. Some webinars are available [online](#)⁷⁵.

⁷⁰ <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/advanced-grant>

⁷¹ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

⁷² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

⁷³ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

⁷⁴ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>

⁷⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/@EuraxessLinksJapan>

⁶⁶ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>

⁶⁷ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>

⁶⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/@EuraxessLinksJapan>

⁶⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

3.2. JAPAN FUNDING

 JSPS Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan	
What is it?	This scheme offers an opportunity for mid-career researchers or professors with excellent research achievements from countries outside Japan to conduct collaborative research , deliver lectures , and engage in discussions and academic exchanges with researchers in Japan.
Organisation	JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)
Research fields	All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences
Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term fellowships: for researchers with excellent records of research achievements to conduct collaborative research with Japanese colleagues through extended visits. • Short-term fellowships: for researchers with excellent records of research achievements to visit Japan for a short period for discussions, exchange of opinions, lectures, and other activities.
Why should a researcher apply?	The JSPS Invitational Fellowship for Research in Japan provides access to world-class research facilities , opportunities to collaborate with leading scholars in Japan , and the chance to expand your research network . It offers generous financial support , fosters career progression , and promotes scientific exchange between Japan and other countries.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions as of 1 April of the fellowship fiscal year and throughout the fellowship period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a citizen or permanent resident of a country with diplomatic relations with Japan. Japanese nationals may be eligible if, at the time of application, they have lived abroad for 10 years or more and are considered to have played an active role in that country's scientific community by the host research institution. • Must be a full-time researcher or hold full-time researcher status at a university or research institution outside Japan, with a position equivalent to a professor, associate professor or assistant professor in Japan (including positions such as professor emeritus). Researchers in other roles may apply if they obtained their doctoral degree more than six years ago and are deemed by the host research institution to have continuously conducted research abroad. <p>Applications must be submitted by the host researcher through their institution in Japan. Applicants should prepare the application in collaboration with their host.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The host researcher must be a full-time researcher (exceptions may apply) affiliated with a research institution specified in Article

	<p>2 of the 'Procedure for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research' (KAKENHI) issued by MEXT. This includes universities and inter-university research institutes, MEXT facilities and other institutions engaged in scientific research, technical colleges, and other institutions designated by MEXT. They should also be eligible to apply for a KAKENHI grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellows must reside continuously in Japan throughout the duration of the fellowship.
What is covered?	<p>Long-term fellowships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs (one round-trip ticket to/from Japan) • Monthly allowance (¥387,600 per month in FY2025) • Overseas travel insurance • Research support allowance (up to ¥150,000), applied for by the host researcher <p>Short-term fellowships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs (one round-trip ticket to/from Japan) • Maintenance allowance (¥18,000 per day) • Overseas travel insurance • Research support allowance (up to ¥150,000), applied for by the host researcher
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term fellowships: 2–10 months • Short-term fellowships: 14–60 days
Start date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For calls closing in August/September: between 1 April of the following year and 31 March of the subsequent year • For calls closing in April: between 1 October of the same year and 31 March of the following year
Calls and deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term fellowships: one call per year (deadline in August/September) • Short-term fellowships: two calls per year (deadlines in August/September and April)
Success rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term fellowships: approx. 25% in FY2025 (60 fellowships awarded) • Short-term fellowships: approx. 24% in the first call of FY2025 (85 fellowships awarded)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSPS: Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan⁷⁶ • JSPS Overseas Offices⁷⁷

Useful to know

- Research under these fellowships should contribute to scientific progress both in Japan and other countries. For reference, you can view the list of selected fellows and their research topics on the [JSPS website](#)⁷⁸.

⁷⁶ <https://www.jsp.go.jp/english/e-inv/index.html>

⁷⁷ https://www.jsp.go.jp/english/e-contact_us/index.html#u20221212210123

⁷⁸ <https://www.jsp.go.jp/english/e-inv/adoptlist.html#u2024121221641>

KAKENHI (Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Programme)

What is it?	KAKENHI is a competitive Japanese public research funding programme designed to promote the advancement of scientific research in Japan. It supports projects based on researchers' original ideas, ranging from basic to applied research across all fields. The programme offers a variety of grant categories for researchers.
Organisation	JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)
Research fields	All
Modalities	Grants for established researchers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research S</u>: for creative/pioneering research conducted by an individual or a small number of researchers. • <u>Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research A, B and C</u>: for creative/pioneering research conducted by an individual or jointly by multiple researchers. • <u>Grant-in-Aid for Challenging Research (Pioneering/Exploratory)</u>: for research aimed at radically transforming the existing research framework and/or changing the research direction, with the potential for rapid development. These may be conducted by individuals or multiple researchers.
Why should a researcher apply?	Applying for KAKENHI provides access to substantial funding for independent, original research projects based on innovative ideas. The programme enhances academic credibility and fosters collaboration with leading Japanese institutions.
Who can apply and how?	Individual researchers who meet the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be employed and engaged in research at an institution specified in Article 2 of the 'Procedure for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research' (KAKENHI) issued by MEXT (including universities and inter-university research institutes, MEXT facilities, and other institutions engaged in scientific research, technical colleges, and other institutions designated by MEXT). • Non-Japanese nationals may apply if affiliated with an eligible institution. • Must be registered in the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad). • Must not be a graduate student or belong to other student categories. • Must not be ineligible for grant receipt due to previous violations. <p>Applications must be submitted online via the applicant's institutional office.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants cannot hold multiple KAKENHI grants of the same category as Principal Investigator concurrently. • Restrictions may apply to holding other grants concurrently.

What is covered?

Scientific Research (FY2025):

- S: funding of ¥50–200 million
- A: funding of ¥20–50 million
- B: funding of ¥5–20 million
- C: funding of ¥5 million or less

Challenging Research (FY2025):

- Pioneering: funding of ¥5–20 million
- Exploratory: funding of ¥5 million or less

Eligible costs: direct costs (equipment, materials, travel, personnel, dissemination) and indirect costs

Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Research: 3–5 years • Challenging Research: 2–6 years
Start date	1 April of the fiscal year following selection
Calls and deadlines	Annual call (dates vary by category)
Success rate	Approx. 27% in FY2024 (across major categories)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSPS: Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research: KAKENHI⁷⁹ • MEXT (in Japanese)⁸⁰ • Database of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKEN)⁸¹

Useful to know

- Start your application well in advance. Deadlines at universities and research institutions are usually earlier than the official ones.

⁷⁹ <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/index.html>

⁸⁰ https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shinkou/hojyo/boshu/1351544.htm

⁸¹ <https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/>

4. Are you interested in Pursuing Mobility Abroad?

4.1. EU FUNDING

MSCA Staff Exchanges

What is it?	This EU funding initiative under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) funds short-term international and intersectoral exchanges of staff involved in the research and innovation activities of participating organisations. The objective is to promote innovative international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration in research and innovation by facilitating staff exchanges and knowledge sharing at all stages of the innovation chain, across Europe and beyond.
Organisation	European Commission – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All
Why should an organisation apply?	Staff Exchanges involve organisations from EU Member States, Horizon Europe Associated Countries, and often third countries. The programme provides staff with valuable opportunities for professional development , including acquiring new skills and exposure to international and cross-sectoral research environments . It also enhances the international visibility of the organisation , expands networks , and creates new opportunities for collaboration .
Who can apply and how?	<p>International consortia composed of universities, research institutions, businesses, SMEs, and other non-academic organisations, provided they meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least three organisations must be from three different countries, two of which must be based in different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. Organisations in Japan are welcome to join as Associated Partners, provided they secure their own funding to participate in the project. If all participating organisations belong to the same sector (academic or non-academic), at least one must be from a third country not associated with Horizon Europe. <p>Applications must be submitted on behalf of the consortium via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal⁸² by a contact person from the coordinating organisation.</p>
Additional requirements	Staff selected by the sending organisations to participate in Staff Exchanges:

⁸² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

- Can be researchers at any career stage (from doctoral candidates to postdoctoral researchers), or administrative, technical or managerial staff involved in R&I activities, regardless of nationality.
- Must be engaged in, or linked to, R&I activities at their sending organisation for at least one month prior to the secondment.
- Should return to their sending organisation after the secondment to transfer knowledge and strengthen collaboration.

What is covered?	<p>For organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for research, training and networking activities: €1,300 per person-month (in the 2024 and 2025 calls) Management/indirect costs: €1,000 per person-month <p><i>Note:</i> Organisations based in Japan are not eligible for direct funding from the EU budget and need to secure their own funding to participate in the project.</p> <p>For seconded staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top-up allowance (for travel, accommodation and subsistence): €2,710 per person-month, paid on top of the existing salary Special needs allowance (if applicable)
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects may last up to 4 years. Staff mobility can last from 1 month to 1 year (the secondment of a staff member may be split into multiple stays across one or more beneficiaries or associated partners). The EU contribution is limited to a maximum of 360 person-months per project.
Start date	Depends on grant agreement.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	Approx. 32% (in the 2023 call)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Staff Exchanges⁸³ National Contact Points for Horizon Europe⁸⁴

Useful to know

- Staff Exchanges have the highest rate of non-EU participation among MSCA funding actions.
- Japanese entities must cover the costs of their own participation. The [Japan Society for the Promotion of Science \(JSPS\)](#)⁸⁵ may offer funding to Japanese research entities and researchers participating or wishing to participate in Staff Exchanges, through Bilateral Research Projects or the “Core-to-Core” programme.
- [EURAXESS Japan](#)⁸⁶ frequently organises information sessions about MSCA Staff Exchanges. Some webinars are available [online](#)⁸⁷.

⁸³ <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/staff-exchanges?>

⁸⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

⁸⁵ <https://www.jsp.go.jp/english/e-programs/index.html#u20221221183811>

⁸⁶ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>

⁸⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/@EuraxessLinksJapan>

Canon Foundation Research Fellowships

What is it?	Canon Foundation Research Fellowships are open to highly qualified European and Japanese nationals who wish to undertake a period of research in Japan or Europe , respectively.
Organisation	Canon Foundation in Europe
Research fields	All
Why should a researcher apply?	The fellowship provides financial support for a flexible-duration research stay in Europe or Japan for those with a master's degree. Open to early-career researchers in any field and professional context, it promotes international mobility, professional development, and global recognition .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have obtained a master's degree within the 10 years preceding the application (extensions are possible under certain circumstances) and must hold the degree at the time of submission. • Must be European nationals (including the Balkan and Baltic countries, Israel, Turkey, and the UK) intending to conduct research in Japan, or Japanese nationals intending to conduct research in Europe. <p>Applications must be submitted via the Canon Foundation in Europe website⁸⁸.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference letters and host confirmations must be submitted directly by the referees and host supervisors. • Preference is given to applicants planning new stays in Europe or Japan, rather than extensions of existing ones. • Applicants already receiving concurrent research grant aid from another foundation are not eligible.
What is covered?	Funding of up to €30,000 per year, pro rata (for 2026)
Duration	3–12 months
Start date	Between 1 January and 1 December of the year following the application.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call, closing on 15 September.
Success rate	No information available. Up to 15 fellowships are awarded annually.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canon Foundation in Europe⁸⁸
Useful to know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants are free to choose their host institution in Europe or Japan and do not need to be enrolled or employed at the time of application.

4.2. JAPAN FUNDING

ASPIRE (for Japan-based researchers)

What is it?	ASPIRE (Adopting Sustainable Partnerships for Innovative Research Ecosystem) is a research support programme designed to expand international networks through high-quality joint research and to promote global talent mobility by encouraging leading researchers based in Japan to engage in research activities abroad.
Organisation	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Research fields	AI and Information, Biotechnology, Energy, Materials, Quantum, Semiconductors, and Telecommunications
Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASPIRE for Top Scientists: for established researchers who have already achieved outstanding research results and received substantial research funding. • ASPIRE for Rising Scientists: for promising researchers expected to accumulate international research achievements and become future top researchers in Japan.
Why should a researcher apply?	ASPIRE offers Japan-based researchers valuable funding and opportunities for international collaboration and mobility . The programme will help you to advance research projects , expand your professional networks , and develop your career in a global research environment.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Researchers affiliated with a research institution in Japan (e.g., a university, independent administrative institution, public experimental research institution, public-interest corporation, or company) conducting research at that institution and meeting the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASPIRE for Top Scientists: must be distinguished researchers with strong domestic and international research records, who have secured significant research funding and will lead international collaborative research aligned with the programme's objectives. • ASPIRE for Rising Scientists: must be researchers who have secured the necessary funding and an independent research environment, and are expected to become top researchers. • Must plan to conduct collaborative research with researchers from an eligible partner country. <p>Applications must be submitted via the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad)⁸⁹.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Japan-based research team must include a Principal Investigator (PI), who represents the overall research team in

⁸⁸ <https://www.canonfoundation.org/>

⁸⁹ <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/>

	<p>Japan and leads the project, as well as outgoing researchers who will travel to the partner country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outgoing researchers should generally be students enrolled in an advanced degree course, or researchers who have been working at universities, public research institutions, etc., for no more than 15 years after obtaining their highest degrees. Eligible partner countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States. For EU countries not listed, prior consultation with JST is required. Collaborative research with researchers in multiple countries and regions is also eligible. The Partner PI must already be receiving support from a funding agency in their country or be in the process of applying for such support. Early-career researchers must travel to the partner country and conduct research there for approximately one year. Researchers from the partner country must be invited and included in the Japan-side research team. At least 70% of the research expenses must be allocated to activities promoting international networking and fostering the next generation of researchers.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASPIRE for Top Scientists: funding of up to ¥380 million, or up to ¥500 million including indirect costs (2025 call) ASPIRE for Rising Scientists: funding of up to ¥69 million, or up to ¥90 million including indirect costs (2025 call) <p>Eligible costs: direct costs (travel, personnel, facilities, equipment and consumables, etc.) and indirect costs</p>
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASPIRE for Top Scientists: 5 years ASPIRE for Rising Scientists: 3 years
Start date	Typically, within several months after the call deadline.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASPIRE for Top Scientists: approx. 30% (14 selected from 46 proposals in the 2024 call) ASPIRE for Rising Scientists: approx. 21% (18 selected from 85 proposals in the 2024 call)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASPIRE⁹⁰ JST: Japan Science and Technology Agency⁹¹

Useful to know

⁹⁰ https://www.jst.go.jp/aspire/en/program_e/announce_e/

⁹¹ <https://www.jst.go.jp/EN/>

- Videos with testimonials and further information are available on the [JST ASPIRE YouTube channel](#)⁹².
- [EURAXESS Japan](#)⁹³, in collaboration with JST, has organised information sessions about the ASPIRE programme, which are available [online](#)⁹⁴.

Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship Programme

What is it?	This programme provides researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences conducting Japan-related research with opportunities to travel to Japan and carry out research there.
Organisation	Japan Foundation
Research fields	Humanities and Social Sciences
Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholars and Researchers (Long-Term: 4 to 12 months): for those with a doctoral degree or equivalent professional experience conducting Japan-related research (including comparative research) requiring an extended research stay in Japan. Scholars and Researchers (Short-Term: 21 to 89 days): for those with a doctoral degree or equivalent professional experience conducting Japan-related research (including comparative research) requiring a short-term, intensive visit to Japan. Doctoral Candidates (4 to 12 months): for doctoral candidates conducting Japan-related research (including comparative research), whose research requires travel to Japan to complete their dissertations.
Why should a researcher apply?	The Japan Foundation Fellowships offer full funding for research in Japan , including access to rare resources, academic networks, and deep cultural immersion . These fellowships enhance academic credibility , promote global collaboration , and are flexible to accommodate different career stages .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individuals who meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must hold either the nationality or permanent residency of a country with diplomatic relations with Japan. Must arrange a supervisor or support from advisors or research associates in Japan by the application deadline. Must be in good health and proficient in Japanese or English. Must, in principle, remain in Japan for the entire fellowship period. <p>Applications must be submitted via the Japan Foundation's Online Application Portal (applicants based in the US should follow the procedures outlined on the Japan Foundation New York website).</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application restrictions apply to former recipients of Japan Foundation fellowships.

⁹² <https://www.youtube.com/@JSTASPIRE/videos>

⁹³ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>

⁹⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/@EuraxessLinksJapan>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants who intend to receive other grants covering travel and accommodation costs in Japan during the fellowship are not eligible.
What is covered?	<p>Scholars and Researchers (Long-Term) and Doctoral Candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel costs (one round-trip ticket to/from Japan) Settling-in allowance (¥250,000 in FY2025) Departure allowance (¥50,000) Certificate of health (up to ¥50,000) Overseas travel insurance Monthly allowance for living and research expenses (¥400,000 for scholars and researchers; ¥310,000 for doctoral candidates) Dependent allowance (¥10,000 per person, if applicable) Enrolment fees (up to ¥25,000, if applicable) <p>Scholars and Researchers (Short-Term):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily maintenance allowance (¥17,000 per day) Travel costs (one round-trip ticket to/from Japan) Overseas travel insurance
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholars and Researchers (Long-Term): 4–12 months Scholars and Researchers (Short-Term): 21–89 days Doctoral Candidates: 4–12 months
Start date	Within the fiscal year following the application year.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call, typically closing in December.
Success rate	Approx. 32% (85 selected from 262 proposals in FY2024).
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan Foundation: Grants⁹⁵

Useful to know

- Fellows are expected to contribute to their field and beyond through network building and academic presentations after returning from Japan.
- Information about previously selected fellows is available on the [Japan Foundation's website](#)⁹⁶.

Toshiba International Foundation Fellowships

What is it?	This fellowship supports doctoral candidates in Japanese Studies by enabling short research stays in Japan as part of their ongoing doctoral projects.
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Organisation	Toshiba International Foundation, in partnership with the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS)
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Research fields	Japanese Studies
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Why should a researcher apply?	Toshiba International Foundation Fellowships provide funding for doctoral candidates in Japanese Studies to support a research stay in Japan , offering access to essential resources for the development of doctoral projects related to Japan. The fellowship also promotes networking opportunities with other fellows and researchers in Japan.
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Who can apply and how?	<p>Individuals who meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be doctoral students both at the time of application and during the research stay in Japan. Must be pursuing a doctoral degree in Japanese Studies at a European institution. Must be working on their first doctoral degree. Must not have spent more than two years in Japan (individuals who graduated from a Japanese high school are not eligible). <p>Applications must be submitted online via the EAJS website⁹⁷.</p>
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Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible.
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What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A €7,000 fellowship for travel, accommodation, and research expenses (for the 2025/2026 call)
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Duration	2–3 months
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Start date	No later than February of the year following the application.
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Calls and deadlines	Annual call (deadlines may vary)
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Success rate	No information available.
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More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAJS: Toshiba International Foundation Fellowships⁹⁷ Toshiba International Foundation⁹⁸
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Useful to know

- These fellowships are intended for individuals with limited prior experience in Japan.
- The programme is administered by the EAJS.
- Applicants do not need to be EAJS members at the time of application. However, selected fellows must become EAJS members in order to receive the fellowship.

⁹⁵ https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/program/intel.html#intel_6

⁹⁶ https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/project/intel/study/fellowship/index.html#List_Fellows

⁹⁷ <https://eajs.eu/eajs-activities/toshiba-international-foundation-fellowships/>

⁹⁸ <https://www.toshibafoundation.com/index.html>

Collaborate with top European researchers through the European Research Council's Implementing Arrangements!



This scheme offers a unique opportunity for Japanese researchers to temporarily join ERC-funded research teams in Europe. Through these Implementing Arrangements (IA), you can gain international experience, build new networks, and contribute to cutting-edge research projects in various fields.

Benefits: By participating in the IA scheme, you can:

- Collaborate with top European researchers and contribute to innovative research projects.
- Gain international experience and build new networks.
- Enhance your research skills and knowledge.
- Increase your visibility in the global research community.

Eligibility: The IA scheme is open to **researchers based in Japan supported by Japanese research funding agencies**, namely, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). Researchers of any age and discipline can apply.

Calls are announced annually! To apply, follow these steps:

1. Check the eligibility criteria and application procedures on your agency website.
2. Contact the agency supporting your research to express your interest in the IA scheme.
3. Review the list of ERC teams willing to host researchers based in Japan and identify potential collaborators.
4. Apply directly to your funding agency for support.

Learn More: Visit the [ERC website \(https://erc.europa.eu/homepage\)](https://erc.europa.eu/homepage) and your agency dedicated webpages to learn more about the IA scheme, eligibility criteria, and application procedures.

Take the first step towards an exciting international research collaboration!

5. Do you want to Engage in Collaborative, Consortium-Based Research?

5.1. EU FUNDING



ERC Synergy Grant

What is it?	The ERC Synergy Grants are part of the main European Research Council frontier research funding schemes. They support collaborative projects by small groups of two to four top researchers who jointly address ambitious research challenges that could not be tackled by individual Principal Investigators (PIs) and their teams working independently.
Organisation	European Research Council (ERC) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All
Why should a researcher apply?	The ERC Synergy Grant offers substantial funding to pursue groundbreaking research that requires a collaborative approach . It encourages interdisciplinary cooperation and recognises scientific excellence and leadership in frontier research.
Who can apply and how?	<p>A group of two to four researchers (Principal Investigators) of any nationality working together and contributing complementary expertise and resources to address ambitious research problems may apply, provided they meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a competitive track record appropriate to their career stage. No specific academic qualifications are required. PIs must demonstrate the groundbreaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of their research proposal. • Can be based in any country at the time of application. • Must conduct their research at public or private research organisations (host institutions). This may be the host institution where the applicant already works, or another institution established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. Principal Investigators (PIs) may be hosted by the same or different institutions. • One of the Principal Investigators must be designated as the Corresponding Principal Investigator. • One Principal Investigator per Synergy Grant group – except the Corresponding Principal Investigator – may be hosted and engaged by an institution outside of the EU or Associated Countries (e.g., Japan) at any one time. <p>Applications must be submitted jointly by the group. Calls are published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal⁹⁹ and other official sources.</p>

⁹⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Additional requirements

- Resubmission restrictions may apply.
- Proposals must demonstrate that the research cannot be carried out by a single PI alone.
- Each PI must spend a minimum of 30% of their working time on the ERC project.
- Those engaged and hosted by institutions in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country must spend at least 50% of their working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country (a PI hosted by an institution in Japan does not need to relocate to the EU or Associated Country).
- The composition of a Synergy Grant group is expected to remain unchanged during the project.

What is covered?

- Funding of up to €10 million (in the 2024 call)
- Additional funding of up to €4 million to cover eligible 'start-up' costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or a Horizon Europe Associated Country, and/or the purchase of major equipment, and/or access to large facilities, and/or other major experimental and fieldwork costs
- Up to 100% of eligible direct costs, plus 25% for indirect costs

Duration Up to 6 years

Start date Typically, the year following the application.

Calls and deadlines Annual call

Success rate Approx. 10% in 2024 (57 selected from 548 proposals)

More information

- [ERC Synergy Grant](#)¹⁰⁰
- [ERC dashboard](#)¹⁰¹
- [National Contact Points for Horizon Europe](#)¹⁰²

Useful to know

- Check relevant information and guidance from national science agencies and universities.
- ERC Principal Investigators can use their grant to recruit researchers and team members of any nationality for their projects, including those based outside Europe. If you are interested in applying for one of these jobs, search the [EURAXESS portal](#)¹⁰³ using 'ERC' as a keyword.
- [EURAXESS Japan](#)¹⁰⁴ regularly organises information sessions on ERC Grants. Some webinars are available [online](#)¹⁰⁵.

¹⁰⁰ <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/synergy-grant>

¹⁰¹ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

¹⁰² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

¹⁰³ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

¹⁰⁴ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/@EuraxessLinksJapan>



Collaborative Research under Horizon Europe (Pillar II)

What is it?

Pillar II is a major funding pillar under Horizon Europe aimed at **addressing global challenges** and **enhancing Europe's industrial competitiveness** through clusters of research and innovation activities. It promotes cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-policy, cross-border, and international collaboration by funding consortium-based projects.

Organisation

European Commission, Horizon Europe

Modalities

Collaborative project types with research and innovation (R&I) activities:

- **Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)**: designed to establish new knowledge or explore new or improved technologies, products, processes, services, or solutions. Activities may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration, and validation of a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment (funding rate: up to 100% of eligible costs).
- **Innovation Actions (IA)**: focused on producing plans or designs for new or improved products, processes, or services. Activities may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation, or market replication (funding rate: up to 100% for academic and non-profit legal entities, and up to 70% for profit-making legal entities).

Research fields

- Horizon Europe Pillar II actions are structured into six thematic clusters: Health; Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society; Civil Security for Society; Digital, Industry & Space; Climate, Energy & Mobility; Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment. For each cluster a 'Work Programme' is published, which lists specific call topics (funding opportunities). Each topic includes the recommended scope, expected outcomes, and budget.
- Although a broad range of research fields is included, proposals must align with a specific call topic within a cluster (this is a top-down approach).

Why should an organisation apply?

Horizon Europe Pillar II enables researchers and organisations to engage in large-scale **international collaborations** and supports **cutting-edge applied research**. Participation can facilitate **knowledge exchange, influence policy and industry**, and enhance **scientific reputation** and **networking** opportunities.

Who can apply and how?

- Consortia of organisations** meeting the following conditions:
- The consortium must include at least three legal entities from three different EU Member States and/or Horizon Europe Associated Countries (unless specified otherwise). At least one must be from an EU Member State.
 - Organisations based in Japan are welcome to join. Since from January 2026 Japan is a country associated to Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe, entities based in Japan who are partners in proposals selected for funding are funded automatically from the Programme.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_3138

Applications must be submitted online for the relevant call within the chosen cluster. Calls are published on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)¹⁰⁷ and other official platforms.

Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals must correspond to specific call topics. Specific requirements vary by call.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding amounts vary by call. Eligible costs: personnel, equipment, travel, consumables, subcontracting, dissemination, and project management <p><i>Note:</i> Organisations based in Japan are not eligible for direct funding from the EU budget and need to secure their own funding to participate in the project.</p>
Duration	Typically, 3–5 years, depending on the call and project.
Start date	Typically, 6–12 months after the call deadline, depending on the evaluation and grant agreement process.
Calls and deadlines	Calls have been opened annually or biannually.
Success rate	Varies depending on the call.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horizon Europe¹⁰⁸ EU Funding & Tenders Portal¹⁰⁹ Europe's research and innovation community platform¹¹⁰ CORDIS - EU Research Results¹¹¹

Useful to know

- You can find relevant funding opportunities by searching for specific topics on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)¹⁰⁹.
- The typical consortium size ranges from 7 to 20 partners.
- The main responsibility for preparing the proposal lies with the coordinator who is an entity based in the EU or one of the Associated Countries.

¹⁰⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

¹⁰⁸ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

¹⁰⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

¹¹⁰ <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/home>

¹¹¹ <https://cordis.europa.eu/>

5.2. JAPAN FUNDING



JSPS Bilateral Research Projects

What is it?	This programme provides financial support to Japan-based scientists conducting bilateral joint research projects and seminars in collaboration with research teams in other countries.
Organisation	JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)
Research fields	All. However, specific fields may be required for Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars with JSPS's Counterpart Agencies.
Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars with JSPS's Counterpart Agencies: for research/seminars conducted with researchers affiliated with JSPS's designated counterpart agencies in selected countries. (B) Open Partnership Joint Research Projects/Seminars: for research/seminars with researchers worldwide who reside in countries with diplomatic relations with Japan.
Why should a researcher apply?	JSPS Bilateral Research Projects provide Japan-based researchers with funding, opportunities for international collaboration , and access to advanced research facilities . The programme fosters global networking, career development , and exposure to new research perspectives . Successful participation enhances credibility and helps establish long-term partnerships with institutions outside Japan.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must hold a full-time or equivalent position as a researcher (exceptions may apply) at a university or research institution in Japan specified in Article 2 of the 'Procedure for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research' (KAKENHI) issued by MEXT. Eligible institutions include universities and inter-university research institutes, MEXT facilities, and other institutions engaged in scientific research, technical colleges, and other institutions designated by MEXT. Must be eligible to apply for a KAKENHI grant. <p>Applications must be submitted online via the JSPS website¹¹². The applicant, serving as the Principal Investigator (PI), is responsible for the overall joint research/seminar plan.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JSPS delegates the administrative management of research projects and seminars to the Japanese PI's affiliated institution. Specific requirements apply to participants from Japan, as well as PIs and participants from counterpart and third countries. Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars with JSPS's Counterpart Agencies follow specific conditions and application rules.

¹¹² https://www.shinsei.jsps.go.jp/topkokusai/top_kokusai.html (in Japanese only)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions may apply regarding participation in overlapping programmes.
What is covered?	<p>Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars with JSPS's Counterpart Agencies (FY2025 call):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Research: funding of ¥1–2.5 million/year per project Joint Seminars: funding of ¥1.2–2.5 million per seminar <p>Open Partnership Joint Research Projects/Seminars (FY2025 call):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Research: funding of ¥2 million/year per project Joint Seminars: funding of ¥2 million per seminar <p>Eligible costs: international travel, domestic travel, other expenses (e.g., consumables, personnel/honoraria, printing, communication), meeting expenses in Japan (for seminar schemes)</p>
Duration	<p>Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars with JSPS's Counterpart Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Research: 1–3 years Joint Seminars: within 1 week <p>Open Partnership Joint Research Projects/Seminars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Research: 1–2 years Joint Seminars: within 1 week
Start date	Typically, the year following the application.
Calls and deadlines	Annual calls
Success rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Partnership Joint Research Projects: approx. 21% in the FY2025 call (45 selected from 215 proposals) Open Partnership Joint Seminars: approx. 29% in the FY2025 call (7 selected from 24 proposals)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JSPS: Bilateral Programs: Joint Research Projects/Seminars¹¹³ JSPS counterpart agencies¹¹⁴

Useful to know

- The Open Partnership scheme can cover expenses for Japan-based participants involved in MSCA Staff Exchanges.

¹¹³ <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-bilat/joint.html>

¹¹⁴ <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-links/>

JSPS Core-to-Core Programme: (A) Advanced Research Networks

What is it?	This programme provides funding to core institutions in Japan to conduct collaborative research activities (exchanges) with counterpart institutions in other countries. These activities include joint research projects, seminars, and researcher exchanges.
Organisation	JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)
Research fields	All research fields are eligible, with an emphasis on topics that are cutting-edge and of international importance to Japan.
Why should an organisation apply?	This programme offers researchers in Japan opportunities for international collaboration and financial support for joint research activities . It promotes innovation and networking, helping researchers establish long-term, high-impact partnerships. Participation supports career development and strengthens global scientific cooperation.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Japanese universities and research institutions specified in Article 2 of the 'Procedure for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research' (KAKENHI) issued by MEXT. Universities and inter-university research institutes, MEXT facilities, and other institutions engaged in scientific research, technical colleges, and other institutions designated by MEXT may apply as a core institution, provided they meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have sufficient research funding, equipment, and human resources, and be capable of establishing an organisational structure to implement the research project as a core institution. Must designate one project coordinator who holds a full-time or equivalent position at the core institution. Must develop plans for multilateral collaborations involving joint research projects, seminars, and researcher exchanges with universities/research institutions in other countries (counterpart core institutions). <p>Applications must be submitted by the Japanese core institution to JSPS. Before submission, counterpart core institutions must confirm that they have secured, been selected for, or received assurances of funding.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of counterpart core institutions from at least two countries that have diplomatic relations with Japan is required.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of up to ¥18 million per fiscal year for the Japanese core institution (for FY2026 call) Eligible costs: international travel, domestic travel, materials and supplies, personnel/honoraria, other expenses
Duration	Approx. 5 years

Start date	April of the year following the application
Calls and deadlines	Annual call
Success rate	Approx. 35% in FY2025 (8 selected from 23 proposals)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSPS: Core-to-Core Program¹¹⁵

Useful to know

- You can view selected projects from previous calls on the [JSPS website](#)¹¹⁶.
- The JSPS Core-to-Core Programme can cover expenses for Japan-based participants involved in MSCA Staff Exchanges.

6. Do you want to Turn Research Results into a Business/Innovation?

6.1. EU FUNDING

ERC Proof of Concept

What is it?	The ERC Proof of Concept is a complementary funding scheme for ERC Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy grantees . It supports researchers who have already received an ERC grant for a frontier research project and now wish to explore the commercial or societal innovation potential of their research.
Organisation	European Research Council (ERC) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All
Why should a researcher apply?	This funding bridges the traditional gap between academic research and the early stages of marketable innovation . It will allow you to explore commercial or societal applications of your ERC-funded research – such as patenting, creating spin-outs or start-ups – thereby enhancing research impact and opening doors to new partnerships and investors .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Principal Investigators (PIs) of any nationality who already hold an ERC frontier research grant (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced or Synergy), provided they meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be in an ongoing main grant, or in a main grant that ended after 1 January of the year preceding the application. • Must demonstrate the link between the idea to be taken to proof of concept and the original ERC frontier research project. • Can reside in any country at the time of application. • Must intend to conduct their research in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. <p>Applications must be submitted by the PI. Calls are published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal¹¹⁷ and other official platforms.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PI may submit only one application per call. • The host institution must engage the PI for at least the duration of the project. • The host institution must be a legal entity (public or private) established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country created under national law; or it may be an International European Interest Organisation (such as CERN, EMBL, etc.), the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) or any other entity created under EU law. • Resubmission restrictions apply.

¹¹⁵ <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-c2c/>

¹¹⁶ https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-c2c/adopted_a.html

¹¹⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIs of ERC Synergy Grants must obtain written consent from all other PIs involved in the Synergy project before applying.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of €150,000 (in the 2025 call) Eligible costs: direct costs (personnel, subcontracting, purchase costs, other costs) and indirect costs
Duration	18 months
Start date	Typically, within several months after the call deadline.
Calls and deadlines	Annual call with multiple cut-off dates.
Success rate	Approx. 35% in the 2024 call (245 selected from 698 proposals)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERC: Proof of Concept¹¹⁸ ERC dashboard¹¹⁹ National Contact Points for Horizon Europe¹²⁰

Useful to know

- There are multiple deadlines (cut-offs) each year – usually two or three – which gives you flexibility to apply when the project is ready, rather than rushing to meet a single deadline.

European Innovation Council: EIC Pathfinder

What is it?	EIC Pathfinder is a funding programme under Horizon Europe that supports early-stage, high-risk research aimed at developing and scaling up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations . Its goal is to help create new markets and provide solutions to global challenges.
Organisation	European Innovation Council (EIC) under Horizon Europe
Research fields	All fields of science, technology and application
Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIC Pathfinder Challenges: for projects that contribute to the specific objectives of a predefined thematic area (Pathfinder Challenge) EIC Pathfinder Open: for projects in any field, without predefined thematic priorities.
Why should a researcher apply?	Applying for this programme allows you to engage in visionary research , push the boundaries of science, and bring high-impact technologies closer to real-world applications . You will have support for innovation development of your project results, and commercialisation and scaling-up of innovations.
Who can apply and how?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIC Pathfinder Open requires consortia of at least three independent legal entities, with at least one established in an EU

¹¹⁸ <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/proof-concept>

¹¹⁹ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

¹²⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

Member State and at least two established in different EU Member States or Associated Countries.

- EIC Pathfinder Challenges may also accept **single applicants or small or larger consortia** (minimum of two partners).
- Eligible applicants include universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners, and natural persons.
- Legal entities based in Japan are welcome to join as Associated Partners, provided they secure their own funding to participate in the project.
- Proposals must present a long-term vision for a radically new technology with potential to create new markets and provide solutions for global challenges.

Applications must be submitted via the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)¹²¹.

Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific conditions apply to EIC Pathfinder Challenges.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants of up to €3 million for Pathfinder Open, and up to €4 million for Pathfinder Challenges (in 2025) Additional funding may be available to test the innovation potential of research outputs. Access to coaching, mentoring and networking opportunities Eligible costs: direct costs (personnel, subcontracting, purchase costs, other costs) and indirect costs
	<i>Note:</i> Organisations based in Japan are not eligible for direct funding from the EU budget and need to secure their own funding to participate in the project.
Duration	Flexible; typically, between 2 and 5 years.
Start date	Varies by call deadline and evaluation timeline; typically, a few months after selection.
Calls and deadlines	Calls have been opened annually or biannually.
Success rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIC Pathfinder Challenges: approx. 8% in the 2024 call (31 selected from 401 proposals) EIC Pathfinder Open: approx. 4% in the 2024 call (45 selected from 1,110 proposals)
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Innovation Council: EIC Pathfinder¹²² National Contact Points for Horizon Europe¹²³

Useful to know

- The EIC regularly organises online events to present details of the EIC Pathfinder programme and upcoming calls.

¹²¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

¹²² https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-pathfinder_en

¹²³ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

- Projects funded through EIC Pathfinder may be eligible to apply for further support under [EIC Transition](#)¹²⁴ and [EIC Accelerator](#)¹²⁵, and may also participate in the '[Next Generation Innovation Talents' scheme](#)¹²⁶, which offers fully funded internships for researchers and aspiring innovators.

6.2. JAPAN FUNDING

 Moonshot Research and Development Program	
What is it?	Moonshot is the Japanese government's programme for research and development aimed at solving major societal challenges through ambitious, high-risk, high-impact research and innovation . It is implemented by research funding agencies through calls for Project Managers (who work under the direction of a Programme Director overseeing multiple projects) and for Performers (who work under a Project Manager), with opportunities available to researchers both from Japan and abroad.
Organisation	Cabinet Office of Japan; implemented by JST, NEDO, BRAIN and AMED.
Research fields	Science, Technology, and Innovation (e.g., advanced AI, quantum technologies, disease prediction, achieving sustainable resource management, and more)
Why should a researcher apply?	Participating in a Moonshot R&D project offers you the opportunity to be part of high-risk, high-impact research and development that addresses pressing societal issues. The programme provides access to substantial, long-term funding , and promotes innovative approaches . It also encourages international collaboration and can enhance your leadership profile.
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers from universities, research institutes, or private companies may apply in response to an open call, regardless of nationality.</p> <p>The application process and requirements vary depending on the specific call and position. In general, applicants should meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must reside in Japan after their appointment. • Should have a strong research track record and the ability to pursue ambitious, high-risk, high-impact research aligned with the Moonshot goals. <p>Applications must be submitted via the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad)¹²⁷.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals must align with one of the Moonshot programme's defined goals • Interdisciplinary and high-risk approaches are encouraged.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding amounts vary by call and project. • Eligible costs: direct costs (purchase of goods, travel, personnel and others) and indirect costs

Duration Varies depending on the call, typically between 2–5 years.

¹²⁷ <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/>

¹²⁴ https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-transition_en

¹²⁵ https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-accelerator_en

¹²⁶ https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/bas/innonext-next-generation-innovation-talents-initiative_en

Start date	Varies depending on the call.
Calls and deadlines	Calls are issued periodically; deadlines vary.
Success rate	Varies by call and Moonshot's programme goal.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Office: Moonshot Research and Development Program¹²⁸ • JST: Moonshot Research & Development Program¹²⁹ • NEDO: Moonshot Research and Development Program¹³⁰ • BRAIN: Moonshot R&D Program for agriculture, forestry and forests¹³¹ • AMED: Moonshot Research and Development Program¹³²

Useful to know

- You can learn more about the Moonshot Programme through the [JST's Moonshot YouTube channel](#)¹³³.

JST ACT-X Program

What is it?	ACT-X (Advanced Challenging and Transformative Research in eXcellence) supports early-career researchers with challenging ideas to develop research that fosters scientific and technological innovations , leading to social and economic transformation . The programme bridges the gap between academic research and practical applications, while nurturing independent research careers.
Organisation	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Research fields	Diverse fields of Science and Technology (e.g., AI, life sciences, materials science, mathematical science, information science)
Why should a researcher apply?	Applying for this programme offers you an opportunity to receive funding and mentorship for innovative research ideas , with the potential to transition from academic concepts to practical applications . It will develop your independence as a researcher, while increasing your contributions to societal and economic innovation .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions, regardless of nationality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have obtained a doctoral degree within the last 8 years, or a bachelor's degree within the last 13 years if they have not acquired

¹²⁸ <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/moonshot/top.html>

¹²⁹ <https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/index.html>

¹³⁰ https://www.nedo.go.jp/english/news/ZZCA_100007.html?from=b

¹³¹ https://www.naro.go.jp/laboratory/brain/english/moon_shot/index.html

¹³² <https://www.amed.go.jp/en/program/list/18/03/001.html>

¹³³ <https://www.youtube.com/@jst9842>

	<p>a doctoral degree (excluding periods of maternity/parental/childcare leave).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be capable of conducting research independently as a Principal Investigator. • Students in master's and doctoral programmes must submit a memorandum of confirmation, through which academic supervisors assume certain responsibilities. • Must be affiliated with a research institution in Japan at the time of selection and remain in Japan throughout the project. • Must be able to manage administrative procedures in Japanese. <p>Applications must be submitted via the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad)¹³⁴.</p>
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Additional requirements

- The applicant must complete the educational programme for research integrity at the affiliated research institution or the JST-provided educational programme by the application deadline.
- Restrictions apply for multiple programme applications within the Strategic Basic Research Programmes (an applicant may only submit one research proposal to the CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X or AMED-CREST programmes in the same fiscal year).

What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of ¥4.5–¥6 million per project for direct costs (in FY2025) • Optional acceleration phase providing up to ¥10 million per year • Eligible costs: direct costs (purchase of goods, travel, personnel and others) and indirect costs
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Duration	Up to 2 years and 6 months, plus an optional 1- year acceleration phase.
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Start date	Typically, October of the application year or later.
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Calls and deadlines	Calls have been announced annually in April, with specific deadlines and research areas defined each year.
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Success rate	No information available.
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More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JST: ACT-X¹³⁵ • JST: Outline of Strategic Basic Research Programs¹³⁶
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Useful to know

- Research Supervisors oversee Principal Investigators, while Research Area advisors are assigned to each researcher and provide mentorship and guidance.
- Participating in ACT-X will connect you to a network of young researchers in Japan, leading to future collaborations.

¹³⁴ <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/>

¹³⁵ <https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/act-x/en/about/index.html>

¹³⁶ <https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/gaiyo.html>

JST CREST Program

What is it?	CREST (Core Research for Evolutionary Science and Technology) supports team-based, network-oriented research to address critical issues facing Japan. It funds ambitious, fundamental research projects that contribute to science and technology innovation . Under the management principles of a research area specified by the Research Supervisor, teams are led by top-level Principal Investigators from industrial, academic, or government institutions and train young researchers while advancing research.
Organisation	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Research fields	Diverse fields of Science and Technology (e.g., life sciences, information and communication technology, environment, energy, nanotechnology)
Why should a researcher apply?	CREST offers you large-scale, long-term funding for ambitious, cutting-edge research with real-world impact . It supports the training of early-career researchers and fosters collaboration among top researchers across academia and industry .
Who can apply and how?	<p>Individual researchers who meet the following conditions may apply as Principal Investigators/Research Directors, regardless of nationality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be affiliated with a research institution in Japan, where the proposed research will be conducted (researchers not currently affiliated with a research institution or affiliated with a research institution abroad are eligible if they plan to join a Japanese research institution upon selection). • Should be able to take full responsibility for the planning and execution of the research project throughout the entire period. • Must have completed the educational programme for research integrity at their affiliated research institution or through the JST-designated educational programme by the application deadline. <p>Applications must be submitted via the Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad)¹³⁷.</p>
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Principal Investigator may organise a research team involving multiple researchers. • Additional rules apply for team composition and research coordination.
What is covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of ¥150–¥500 million per team (in FY2025) • Eligible costs: direct costs (purchase of goods, travel, personnel and others) and indirect costs
Duration	Up to 5 years and 6 months

Start date	October of the application year or later
Calls and deadlines	Calls have been announced annually in April, with specific deadlines and research areas defined each year.
Success rate	No information available.
More information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JST: CREST¹³⁸ • JST: Outline of Strategic Basic Research Programs¹³⁹

Useful to know

- JST regularly offers English-language webinars explaining calls for CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X programmes.

¹³⁷ <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/>

¹³⁸ <https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/en/about/index.html>

¹³⁹ <https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian/en/top/gaiyo.html>

General Recommendations for Researchers Intending to Move to Europe or Japan

Whether you are relocating to Europe or Japan for research, early preparation is crucial for making the most of available funding opportunities. The following general tips can help guide your move.

Start Early

Most calls are published regularly. Funding applications typically open several months before the intended start date. Identify relevant programmes in advance and carefully review their deadlines, required documents, and eligibility criteria. Some documents may take time to obtain, so start early in gathering them. Be sure to read the specific guidelines for each funding opportunity, and ensure your proposal or research plan aligns with the priorities of the funding body or host country.

Build Networks and Collaborations

Engaging with potential host institutions or researchers early can help you identify additional opportunities, strengthen your applications, and facilitate smoother integration upon arrival. Many grants require institutional backing or established collaborations. Information on funded projects is available on EU and Japanese databases (e.g., <https://cordis.europa.eu>).

Prepare for Administrative Procedures and Stay Updated

Check visa, residence, and work permit requirements well in advance by contacting the relevant authorities (e.g., embassies, immigration offices). Also, familiarise yourself with administrative steps to be completed after arrival (e.g., opening a bank account, registering for healthcare and pension systems, among others). Universities and research institutions often have international offices or dedicated staff who can assist with your relocation and integration. Stay informed with any changes in visa or immigration policies.

Research Living and Working Conditions

Understand the cost of living in your destination, including expenses for housing, transportation, and daily needs. Ensure you have adequate funds to cover initial and ongoing costs, as some grants may not fully cover living expenses or may only become available after arrival. Additionally, make sure you have access to the local healthcare system in your destination country.

Learn the Language and Culture

Familiarise yourself with the local research culture, professional norms, and expectations regarding work-life balance. In Europe, English is sufficient to conduct research activities. In Japan, some funding opportunities may require basic Japanese communication skills; learning the language would also facilitate and enrich your daily life.

With careful planning and preparation, you can ensure a smooth transition into your new research environment!

Useful Links



EU Funding & Tenders Portal

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>



EURAXESS: Coming to Europe

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/information/coming-europe>



EURAXESS Japan

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>



EURODOC: The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers

<https://eurodoc.net/>



European Commission: Choose Europe: Advance your research career in the EU

https://commission.europa.eu/topics/research-and-innovation/choose-europe_en



European Commission: Horizon Europe

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan>



European Commission: Fellowships and individual research grants

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/fellowships-and-individual-research-grants_en



Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/>



Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

<https://www.jst.go.jp/EN/>



Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT)

<https://www.mext.go.jp/en/>



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan: VISA

https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/



National Contact Point for Horizon Europe in Japan

<https://www.ncp-japan.jp/en/>



STUDY in JAPAN: Government-approved information site

<https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/>



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