



INDIA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant for Academic Collaboration (AC) Call for Proposals 2024

1. Overview and Objectives

India-Japan FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant (FRIENDSHIP2.0 Research Grant) aims to enhance sustainable collaboration between IIT Hyderabad (IITH) and academic institutions and/or industries in Japan in association with FRIENDSHIP Scholarship 2.0.

FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant offers two kinds of grants in science and technology, namely (AC) Academic Collaboration and (IC) Industry-University Collaboration. This Guideline is for AC category.

Considering that this is the final opportunity to offer collaboration grants, the AC grant focuses on to main objectives:

- 1) Facilitating student mobility for substantial co-supervision of graduate students through joint research
- 2) Supporting research that addresses social challenges from a multilateral perspective, involving researchers from relevant fields.

2. Application Deadline

12:00 noon Indian Standard Time, October 27 (Friday), 2023

3. Eligibility

The applicant (Principal Investigator, PI) must:

- 1) Be a full-time faculty member of IITH,
- 2) Include at least one master's student or 1st and/or 2nd year students of the five-year doctoral program of IITH, as a research team member who is to write the master's thesis under PI's supervision in 2024.

- 3) Obtain an agreement letter or email from a Co-PI at a Japanese academic institution, confirming their commitment to conduct co-supervision through the joint research and to visit IITH twice for a duration of 7 days each during the grant period. Travelers to IITH can be Co-PI or faculty members of Co-PI's research team.
- 4) Prepare a joint implementation plan for co-supervision of graduate student(s) and further studies/research in Japan with Japanese Co-PI,
- 5) Be able to afford a dedicated or shared lab space for research activities of the funded project,
- 6) Submit only one proposal, regardless of whether it falls under the AC or IC category.
- 7) Not currently conducting FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Joint Research as a PI regardless of whether it is in the AC or IC category.

4. Research Period and Number of Grants

Research Period: January 2024 to December 2026 (36 months)

(Note) The grant period is divided to two in terms of funding: Term I (January 2024 to May 2025) and Term II (August 2025 to November 2026)

Number of Grants: Maximum 9

5. Selection Criteria

- 1) Quality of the research proposal (novelty, rationale, research questions and future perspectives)
- 2) Readiness for and sustainability of collaborative research with the Japanese Co-PI
- 3) Clear assignment of research tasks to each team member, including graduate students
- 4) Detailed and feasible planning for co-supervising master's/doctoral student(s), including student's research in Co-PI's laboratory, if any
- 5) Appropriateness of budget

6. Selection Procedure

- 1) Document Evaluation

Results will be conveyed to each applicant via e-mail by November 13 (Mon). Successful applicants are invited to the interview session.

- 2) General Evaluation by Interview on November 20 (Mon) and 21 (Tue), 2023
- 3) Announcement of the results in early December, 2023

7. Funding Structure

1) Amount of Grant

- Up to INR 2,000,000 including any taxes and duties¹
 Term I (January 2024 – May 2025): Up to INR 1,600,000
 Term II (August 2025 – November 2026): Up to INR 400,000
- The budget is allocated exclusively for expenses to the PI's research team. There is no budget provision for Co-PI's team, except travel costs of Co-PI are separately borne by the Project.

2) Execution of Budget

- Budget execution strictly adheres to the Financial Guidelines of the JICA Project Team, which will be provided to PIs following their selection.
- Procurement is conducted by the JICA Project Team based on the PI's request, all within the approved budget.
- In the case where any major change of budget is needed, the PI must submit a letter, presenting the reason and revised budget, and receive approval by the JICA Project Team.
- The budget of Term I must be executed by May 2025. No leftover budget can be transferred to Term II.

3) Expenses

- PIs can use the budget for three distinct categories, each with its specific budget limit. Additionally, the execution schedule is described in Table 1.
- Exact starting date of Term II will be informed to PIs later. No activities in Japan can be scheduled between June 2025 and August 2025.
- The necessity of each item with immediate relevance to the research methods must be clearly explained in Attachment 4 Budget. Ambiguous explanations will not be accepted.

Table 1: Budget limit and execution schedule

Category	Budget limit	Budget execution	
		Term I (Jan 2024 - May 2025)	Term II (Aug 2025 – Nov 2026)
a) Research equipment	INR 1,000,000	Budget for equipment is exclusively allocated for Term I. Delivery must be completed before the end of May 2025	No budget for equipment is allocated in Term II.

¹ Under JICA rules, the JICA Project Team is responsible of purchasing all items. Hence, tax exemption will not be applied.

b) Travel cost from India to Japan for PI and team members including graduate students	No limit (Travel is up to 90 days each time)	Allocation depends on the cost of equipment.	Up to INR 400,000
c) Registration fee for international conferences held in Japan			
Total	INR 2,000,000	Max INR 1,600,000	Max INR 400,000

4) Detail of each category

a) Research equipment:

- This category includes tools, devices, machines and software with a unit cost exceeding INR 32,000 and a lifespan of more than one year.
- The estimated cost of a set of equipment must not be more than INR 800,000. For example, when procuring 10 PCs with a unit price INR 100,000, the estimated price of the set of equipment is INR 1,000,000, which is not allowed for procurement.
- One quotation for each piece of equipment must be submitted as part of the budget plan. Online quotations are acceptable.
- Equipment procurement must be carried out within India.
- Advanced payment is not acceptable.
- Payments are facilitated through international remittance from Japan.

b) Travel costs from India to Japan

- Travel costs for faculty members of PI's research team are covered when traveling for research purposes at the Co-PI's laboratory and for presenting research findings at international conferences held in Japan.
- Travel costs for graduate students from the PI's research team are covered to facilitate their co-supervision at the Co-PI's laboratory in Japan. PIs must create a clear co-supervision plan in cooperation with Co-PI.
- The duration of the stay in Japan must be up to 90 days.
- Specific details regarding the travel costs to Japan are shown in Table 2.
- Team members who are traveling to Co-PI's lab or attending a conference in Japan must be responsible for making their own travel preparations to Japan, including Visa applications, securing suitable airline tickets, hotel reservations, and ensuring compliance with entry/exit regulations under COVID-19 in both Japan and India.

- In the case where a PI sends a graduate student to Co-PI's lab for more than one week, PI must agree with Co-PI how to monitor students' activities including those during the private time in order to avoid any risks of being inflicted any damages.

Table 2: Travel cost to Japan

Items	Condition
International airfare	Only economy class tickets that are refundable and amendable are accepted. One quotation must be submitted as part of the budget plan. Online quotations are acceptable.
Local transportation in Japan	Only the following costs are covered. -Transportation from the international airport in Japan to the accommodation location. -Travel expenses incurred when traveling more than 100 km per day. Taxi costs are NOT covered in any circumstances.
Accommodation	See Table 3
Daily allowance	See Table 3
International travel insurance	International travel insurance is mandatory.
Application for visa to Japan (Short-term Visit only)	Travelers are responsible for applying for the visas individually. The organization to which the Co-PI is affiliated shall act as the inviter and guarantor for the visa application process ² . Visa fees and VFS service ³ charges are covered. Visa fees are INR 500, and VFS service charges are INR 1,200 as of Sep 15, 2023.
Necessary expenses to entry/exit rules and regulations in Japan and India due to COVID-19.	As of 15 Sep,2023, no entry/exit rules and regulations are in practice. However, if such regulations are implemented in the future, expenses such as PCR tests are covered. Detailed information on this matter will be provided in the Financial Guidelines later.

- PIs are required to utilize the budget amount specified in Table 3 for their applications. However, the actual disbursement of funds, as indicated in Table 3, will be made in INR using JICA's latest exchange rate for the conversion from the actual amount in JPY. Additional information regarding this process will be provided to PIs in the Financial Guidelines.

² Refer to the guideline of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. According to the guideline, "The inviting organization should be a corporate body, an organization, or the state/local government. However, for example, the professor/associate professor can be recognized as the inviting organization if a university extends an invitation for the purpose of exchanges under his/her name". Please consult it with the Co-PI. https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/other_visa.html

³ VFS is an official partner of the Embassy of Japan in India. There is a branch in Hyderabad. Refer to the VFS website. <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/jpn/>

Table 3: Accommodation and Daily Allowance

Category	Accommodation		Daily allowance	
	Budget plan	Actual amount	Budget plan	Actual amount
Professor	INR 7,800 / night max	JPY 11,800 /night max	INR 4,100 /day	JPY 6,200 /day
Assistant Professor	INR 6,600 /night max	JPY 10,100 /night max	INR 3,500 /day	JPY 5,300 /day
Student	INR 5,600 /night max	JPY 8,600 /night max	INR 2,800 /day	JPY 4,300 /day

c) Registration fees for international conferences held in Japan

The fees are covered for faculty members of PI's research team, whether they attend in person or online, specifically for the purpose of making an oral presentation. The registration fees for students are NOT covered.

8. Visit from Japan to IITH by Co-PI's team members

- 1) Co-PI's visit to IITH is mandatory, and the associated travel costs are covered separately by the JICA Project team. Consequently, PIs are not required to include these costs in their budget plan.
- 2) The visits must be planed as below.
 - Term I (from Apr 2024 to May 2025): 7 days including travel time between India and Japan
 - Term II (from Nov 2025 to Nov 2026): 7 days including travel time between India and Japan
- 3) PIs must specify the purpose, provide the name of the individual visiting IITH, indicate the duration of each visit, and provide a tentative schedule in Attachment 3 Time Schedule.

9. Reports and Duties

- 1) Research Ethics
 - Before starting research, PIs are requested to obtain and submit a certificate from the "e-Learning Course on Research Ethics" (<https://elcore.jsps.go.jp/top.aspx>).
- 2) Reports
 - FRIENDSHIP2.0 requests PIs to submit the progress and final reports below; however, any changes in team members and/or research plans must be immediately reported to

the JICA Project Team.

Interim Report: November 30, 2024 and November 30, 2025 (tentative)

Mid-term Report must include any change of team members, including students, the progress of co-supervision and research progress according to the research plan, plans of publications and patent applications, records and plans of travels, progress of the Grant execution, and plans of application for third-party research funding (A table of contents will be provided).

Final Report: December 31, 2026 (tentative)

The final Report must include the final results of co-supervision and the disclosable summary of research achievement according to the research plan, lists of publications, patent applications, and travel records of the Grant execution, and third-party research funding obtained/applied for (A table of contents will be provided).

3) Contribution to FRIENDSHIP2.0

FRIENDSHIP2.0 requests PIs to contribute to enhancing academic and industrial partnerships between IITH and Japan by giving seminars and/or ad-hoc lectures by Co-PI for all IITH faculty and students, inviting FRIENDSHIP scholars/alumni in Japan to online workshops for students, and so forth. Japan Desk will assist PIs in preparing for such events and publicize information on the Japan Desk website.

10. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

FRIENDSHIP 2.0 supports the creation of values through collaborative research between IITH and Japan, encouraging PIs to apply for a patent in India before publishing academic papers. Japan Desk will provide technical support for patent applications in cooperation with the Dean of Research and Development of IITH and according to the IPR policy of IITH.

In this regard, PIs should make ex-ante agreements with research partners in India and/or Japan on the intellectual property rights that are to be produced through the collaboration.

11. Application Form and Submission

Application forms are available on the Japan Desk portal site:

<https://www.iith.ac.in/japandesk/>

Fill in the Application Form and send the following documents to FRIENDSHIP 2.0

< iith.jointresearch.application@gmail.com >

- 1) Application Form (research proposal), including Attachment 1 (CV of the applicant)
- 2) Attachments to the Application Form (2. List of research team members 3. Time schedule: 4. Co-supervising Plan 5. Budget)
- 3) Reference for 4. Budget (specification and budgetary quotations of equipment, and international airline tickets)
- 4) Copy of the letter of Agreement or email from Co-PI

12. Contacts

FRIENDSHIP 2.0: <iith.jointresearch.enquiry@gmail.com>

(CC to IITH Japan Desk: <japandesk.ir@iith.ac.in>)