

JICA FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant 2023 Q&A Session (19th October 2022)

Category	No.	Question	Answer by project
Funding structure			
Travel from India to Japan	1	In the Attachment 4. Budget, c) travel from India to Japan, there is only a mention of associate professors and professors but no assistant professors. What is the rate for assistant professors?	The rate is same as the ones for Associate professors. Accommodation is INR 6,600 per night, and allowance is INR 3,500 per day.
	2	For quotations on airfare, is it ok to prepare a screenshot or download via a website, or should applicants need to contact a travel agency?	Online quotation is ok for the application purpose. Submit the official quotation after selection.
	3	What is the estimation of the local transportation cost in Japan?	An example of local transportation is your movement from the airport to a hotel or university. For application purposes, an estimation is enough. Once your proposal is selected, we will go through it in detail
Travel from Japan to India	4	Will the travel cost for both Co-PI and Co-researcher be covered by the project?	Yes, however, there is a restriction, i.e. max two times visit, 7 days each, during the grant period.
	5	Co-PI can visit Japan for one week per year under this grant; however, in the budget section, there is no mention of allowance for Co-PI. Does this mean the Co-PI has to cover the travel costs to India by him/herself?	Travel costs of Co-PI will be covered separately by the JICA project team; there is no need to include Co-PI's travel cost in the budget.
	6	Do I need to describe which particular week the Co-PI will visit in my application?	Please specify in your schedule (Attachment 3) roughly.
	7	Is only Co-PI eligible for travelling to India, or can Co-researcher visit in place for Co-PI?	The project can support travel costs of Co-PI or Co-PI's research team members to India. However, the grant will not cover any costs for students including doctoral students, but cover the cost for faculty members. If the research team member is employed (post-doc), the project will cover the cost.
	8	Can faculty members from Japan extend his or her stay in India using other grants?	No, Japanese members who visit IITH with this grant cannot extend their stay. Do not use other grants for part of the visit to IITH and follow the JICA project rule.
	9	When applying for industry collaboration, can the academic member also visit India?	Yes, if this academic researcher from Japanese university/research institute is a member of Co-PI's research team but not from the industry, the travel will be covered by the grant.
Equipment	10	Does the budget for equipment need to be below the 10 lakhs as stated in the guideline or can it be over the limit? It is possible to negotiate with vendors after I am selected?	Appropriateness of budget is crucial for selection. If your budget is over the limit that the project requests, we will evaluate your budget appropriateness as low. Please keep in mind that it will affect your evaluation.
Consumables	11	In guideline (page 4), it is stated that the unit price for consumables should be less than 29,000 INR. Does this mean the PI is unable to submit consumables that exceed the amount, for example, antibodies?	The project will allow purchase of consumables of unit price above 29,000 INR, under the consumable category, if the durability is less than one year. Antibodies are used for experiments and are recognized to have a durability of less than one year.
	12	What level of details does the project request in the budget for consumables?	The project understands it's difficult to list all in detail, but needs to know how each consumable is related to the research purpose of the grant. (eg: listing like "chemicals" will not be enough)
Consumables and equipment	13	Do I need to submit a quotation for both consumable and equipment?	Only one quotation for equipment is required. No quotation is necessary for consumables.
Subject of grant	14	Will Japanese collaborator not receive any financial support apart from travel costs to India?	Correct
	15	Are students eligible for receiving travel costs?	This research grant cannot be used for students' costs - including all travel, and conference registration fees. Please utilize an alternative fund to cover such costs for students
	16	Would the grant cover furnishing costs for lab as consumables?	These costs will not be covered. This grant covers only costs for purchasing items that are specifically related to the proposed research.
	17	Will equipment such as laptop be covered under the grant?	Laptops for general use will not be accepted. Explain how PI and the research team members will use the laptop for research purposes.
Execution of the budget	18	If I acquire the grant, will the procurement follow the same process as the first batch (i.e. PI prepares 3 quotations for equipment -> project prepares PO -> conducts wiretransfer)	Yes, the same procedure will be taken in the second batch

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Eligibility, selection and other points			
Eligibility	19	Are assistant professors eligible for this grant?	Yes, if you are a full time employee at IITH, you are eligible to apply.
	20	Past collaboration with Co-PI is mentioned in application form (3rd section), is it required to have past collaboration or can it be a new collaboration?	A new collaboration is welcome. But if you have previous collaboration (any communication between the Co-PI, including meetings), please describe in your application.
	21	In the guideline, there is a description "Involve at least one master's student as a research team member, who is to write his/her master thesis under PI's supervision." What does it mean?	Co-supervision of master's students is mandatory. Students are required to write his/her thesis as one of the outputs of the joint research.
Selection criteria	22	Is preparing a study plan of students in Japan mandatory?	A plan for co-supervision of master's students (s) is mandatory from the viewpoint of establishing sustainable collaboration with the Co-PI. Accordingly, further studies in Japan with Japanese Co-PI are ardently expected but not mandatory at all.
	23	Is it required that students conduct the research in Japan?	No, it is not required. It is appreciated that students visit Co-PI's lab for conducting research or studying in the Co-PI's lab by utilizing funds other than the JICA grant.
	24	Would it be better to submit an application for an AC with a letter of support from the industry or IC project with a support letter from the academia.	There is no recommendation or preference, it would depend on the situation of your collaboration
PI's team member	25	Expectation to have one master student is understood. Is it possible to also include a PhD student?	The project request to assign at least one master's student every year, always. It is fine to have both master's and PhD students in your research team.
Partner	26	Is there a restriction on the eligible universities which the PI can collaborate with?	We don't have any restrictions on partner universities. Any academic institution or university from Japan is ok.
	27	Is it possible to submit the application with two universities?	Application is only one, if you can collaborate with two universities, one should be Co-PI and the other should be Co-researcher.
	28	Is there a requirement or restriction of the Co-PI's team member?	No restrictions for Co-PI's research members or students, except for military personnel.
	29	Regarding the Co-PI team, is it required to have Co-researcher or is Co-PI enough?	Only Co-PI is enough; but including more members is recommendable from the viewpoint of research quality and sustainable partnerships.
	30	Is it required to involve an academic researcher in IC?	It is not mandatory; however, we strongly recommend including one researcher from the academic sector from Japan.
Cost sharing with industrial partners	31	Industrial collaboration -there is a commitment for IC of 200,000 JPY. Is there a template available for the IC to submit to the project?	We don't have any template. A free-style agreement letter is fine as far as the project can confirm that there is an agreement on the cost sharing.
	32	How will the money for IC (200,000 JPY) be transferred?	The project will not be involved in this part. Follow the IITH regulations.
	33	Is there a restriction of how the money from the industrial partner will be used?	There is no restriction as far as it is consistent with the IITH regulations, except purchasing military-related items.
Agreement from Co-PI	34	Is an email confirmation from the Co-PI enough?	Yes, an email or a letter from Co-PI is acceptable.
Research Topic	35	Any there any restrictions of subject in Science?	No. As far as it's in science and technology, any topic is ok, except those related to military issues.
Number of grant	36	How many grants will be awarded?	Total 10 for both AC and IC