

**Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program**  
Group Joint Study Project Program FY2026: Application Guidelines

Applications are now being accepted for Group Joint Study Projects in FY2026 as part of the Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program.

In promoting research and exchange between Japan and the U.S., this program is intended to create a stable collaborative research relationship between the research groups based in Japan and the U.S.

The Group Joint Study Projects will focus on the promotion of research hubs through joint research in critical areas. The projects are tenable at select research institutes in Japan and the U.S. over a continuous two or three year period. Projects will only be considered if they can commence in FY2026. As one of the objectives is the fostering of young researchers before or after the acquisition of a Ph.D., this program recommends the active participation in an experiment, etc. of young researchers.

Applicants should be aware that programs may be subject to change pending final budget decisions.

**Application Guidelines**

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Implementation Period      | Two to three years commencing in FY2026.  |
| 2. Research Fields            | All brain-related research in the following fields:<br>1. Cellular/ Molecular<br>2. Development/ Plasticity/ Repair<br>3. Behavioral/ Systems/ Cognitive<br>4. Neurobiology of Disease  |
| 3. Eligibility                | All applicants must be researchers engaged in brain-related research at a national, public or private university or related research institute in Japan and eligible to apply to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for funding under the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific-Research Program ( <i>Kakenhi</i> ) and students may be included as collaborating members.  |
| 4. Expenses                   | Travel expenses and per diem will be provided for the principal and collaborating researchers on the Japanese side to conduct collaborative research in the U.S. These will be provided in accordance with the National Institutes of Natural Sciences regulations, to a maximum of JPY1.2 million per fiscal year. In addition, the U.S. principal researcher shall make arrangements for the payment of any expenses incurred by the U.S. group that are necessary for the joint study. |
| 5. Selection & Notification   | Applications will be screened by the Research Plan Committee, with final decisions made by the representative of each research field. Notification of results is scheduled for the beginning of January 2026.<br><br>The principal researcher of each successful research group must file an application to continue the relevant research project on an annual basis from FY2026 onwards. This will be reviewed by the Research Plan Committee.  |
| 6. U.S. Principal Researchers | Applications should only be submitted once unofficial preliminary arrangements have been made with the prospective host institute in the U.S.   |
| 7. Application Documentation  | (1) Form 2-1: Application for Group Joint Study Project Program   |

- FY2026 (in English) (1 x original)  
(2) Record of correspondence with the prospective institute in the U.S. (1 x copy)  
(3) Supporting documentation (where required) (1 x copy per document)

All applications must be submitted in a PDF file by E-mail and comprise documents (1) through (3) above.

In regard to (2), please submit a document that can confirm the agreement to hold the joint study with the other party.

Note: The PDF file can be submitted either by signing the printed application and converting it to a PDF file or by electronic signature.

Note: Please download the application forms from <http://www.nips.ac.jp/jusnou/eng/> and prepare the forms with the use of word-processing software. The character size and the font should respectively be 10 point or larger and "Times New Roman".  
In regard to (1), please prepare the form within approximate 5 pages.

8. Application Deadline

Must arrive by September 18, 2025 (Thursday)

9. Mailing Address

International and Research Support Section  
International Relations and Research Cooperation Division  
Okazaki Administration Center  
National Institutes of Natural Sciences  
38 Nishigonaka, Myodaiji, Okazaki, Aichi 444-8585 JAPAN  
Tel: +81-(0)564-55-7137 Fax: +81-(0)564-55-7119  
E-mail: [japan-us-brcp@orion.ac.jp](mailto:japan-us-brcp@orion.ac.jp)

10. Notes

This program is implemented in each fiscal year after the approval of the project master plan by the MEXT. Please note that depending on the approval date, it may not be possible to start the program from April 1. In addition, please be sure to return to Japan by March 15, as expenses must be reimbursed by the end of March.

The principal researcher of each research group will be notified of the necessary procedures for organizing the implementation of the research project. The principal researcher will be responsible for coordinating travel arrangements for collaborating researchers in his or her group.

The principal researcher is required, on completion of the research period, to submit a post-project report (Form 2-3) and publicity photos relating to the Group Joint Study Project. He or she will also be required to present the group's interim report for interim assessment in the second year of the Group Joint Study Project Program and research findings at a debriefing session the following year after the termination of the joint study (scheduled in mid-November to mid-December).

Applicants should be aware that by applying they are consenting

to their name and reports being published on the NIPS website. Moreover, when presenting their achievements in the 2025 Program, applicants are required to note that funds for research were provided by the Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program.

#### 11. Previous Recipients

1) Any applicant who has previously been in receipt of research funding from the Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program and is reapplying for funds should set out his or her reasons for reapplication in detail in Section 8, Research Plan (1) Abstract and Future Outlook of the Entire Research Plan in Form 2-1 (Application)

2) If the applicant belongs to the same laboratory as a researcher who has previously been in receipt of research funding from the Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program, please set out in Section 7, Research Plan at U.S. Institute in Form 1-1 (Application) whether or not the application is related to the previous fund.

3) For the research plan that calls for compliance with the protection of human rights and laws and regulations, please make sure to include the examination situation of the Institutional Review Board, etc. in the record of correspondence with the prospective institute in the U.S.