

**Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program**  
Researchers Dispatched to the U.S. Program FY2026: Application Guidelines

Applications are now being accepted for the Researchers Dispatched to the U.S. Program 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 particularly intended for young researchers before or after the acquisition of a Ph.D. to learn new ways of thinking and skills and to seize opportunities to start joint Japan-U.S. research by participating in U.S. research.

Participants in the Researchers Dispatched to the U.S. Program will take part in joint research in a U.S. host institute in FY2026. They are expected to produce outstanding results through their research, and to maintain close and cooperative relationships with their host institute after the period of dispatch has been completed.

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

**Application Guidelines**

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| 1. 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> ) or students enrolled in a doctoral program at a Japanese university. In principle, applications except students are only considered from applicants who obtained a PhD within 10 years as of September 18, 2025. (Applicants who obtained the degree on or after September 19, 2015) |
| 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. Period                    | Maximum 11 months (In case of applicants who are enrolled in a Ph.D. program at a Japanese university, at least 1 month and less than 2 months)<br>(Must not overlap into two financial years)   |
| 4. Expenses                  | Travel and living expenses provided<br>(in accordance with the National Institutes of Natural Sciences rules, etc.)  |
| 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.  |
| 6. Contact with U.S.         | 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 1-1: Application for Researchers Dispatched to the U.S. Program FY2026 (in English) (1 x original)<br>(2) Form 1-2: Curriculum Vitae of Applicant for Researchers Dispatched to the U.S. Program FY2026 (in English) (1 x original)   |

- (3) Letter of acceptance by the prospective institute in the U.S. (1 x copy)
- (4) 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 (4) above.

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 3 pages.

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| 8. Application Deadline    | Must arrive by September 18, 2025 (Thursday)   |
| 9. Mailing Address         | International and Research Support Section<br>International Relations and Research Cooperation Division<br>Okazaki Administration Center<br>National Institutes of Natural Sciences<br>38 Nishigonaka, Myodaiji, Okazaki, Aichi 444-8585 JAPAN<br>Tel: +81-(0)564-55-7137 Fax: +81-(0)564-55-7119<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:japan-us-brcp@orion.ac.jp">japan-us-brcp@orion.ac.jp</a>  |
| 10. Notes                  | <p>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.</p> <p>Successful applicants are required, on completion of their period in the U.S., to submit a post-dispatch report (Form 1-3) and publicity photos relating to the researchers dispatched to the U.S Program. Applicants will also be required to present their research findings at a debriefing session, the following year after their dispatch (scheduled in mid-November to mid-December 2027).</p> <p>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 2026 Program, applicants are required to clearly specify their institute of affiliation in Japan, and note that funds for research were provided by the Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program.</p> |
| 11. Additional Information | <p>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 7, Research Plan at U.S. Institute in Form 1-1 (Application).</p> <p>2) If the applicant belongs to the same laboratory as a researcher who has previously been in receipt of research funding from the</p>   |

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 letter of acceptance by the prospective institute in the U.S.