

Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program
Information Exchange Seminar Program FY2027: Application Guidelines

Applications are now being accepted for the Information Exchange Seminar Program FY2027 as part of the Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program (BRCP). In promoting research and exchange between Japan and the U.S., this seminar is particularly intended to develop new areas of study and to serve as the catalyst of various research and exchanges.

Each seminar will run for 3-5 days and be held to exchange information on research cooperation plans and related activities. Attendees will comprise around 10 researchers from both the Japan and U.S. sides. Seminars will be held alternately in Japan and the U.S.

Due consideration should be given to accessibility to researchers not affiliated with the host organization when proposing seminar dates and locations.

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

Application Guidelines

1. Implementation Period FY2027 (between June 2027 and February 2028)

2. Research fields All brain-related research in the following fields:

1. Cellular/ Molecular
2. Development/ Plasticity/ Restoration
3. Behavioral/ Systems/ Cognitive
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 (*Kakenhi*).

4. Expenses For seminars in Japan: Domestic travel expenses and seminar expenses of Japanese speaker(s).

For seminars in the U.S.: Travel expenses and per diem of Japanese speaker(s).

Seminar expenses will be paid based on the expenditure standards of the National Institutes of Natural Sciences or the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Depending on the contract amount, we may need a bidding procedure, so please make sure to contact us (japan-us-brcp@orion.ac.jp) before signing the contract. If you make a contract without contacting us, we will not be able to reimburse your expenses.

The expenses above are subject to a maximum total of JPY 2,500,000.

Appropriate measures should be put in place for the payment of seminar-related expenses incurred by the U.S. coordinator(s).

As one of the objectives is the fostering of young researchers, this program recommends the active participation of female researchers and that the seminar is held in Japan.

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 2027.

6. Contact with the U.S. Coordinator Applications should only be submitted once unofficial preliminary arrangements have been made with the U.S. coordinator.

It is also vital that close contact is maintained with the U.S. coordinator to negate the possibility of any large-scale or last minute alterations to seminar scheduling.

7. Application Documentation (1) Form 3-1: Information Exchange Seminar Outline FY2027 (in English) (1 x original)
(2) Form 3-2: Biographical Sketch (in English) (PI&co-PI x original)
(3) Record of correspondence with the prospective institute in the U.S. (1 x copy)
(4) Application to be submitted to the U.S. side by the U.S. Coordinator (in English) (1 x copy)
(5) 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 (5) above.

In regard to (2), please make documents for the Japanese and U.S. coordinators.

In regard to (3), please submit a document that can confirm the agreement to hold the seminar 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".

8. Application Deadline Must arrive by September 18, 2026 (Friday)

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

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 complete the seminar by the end of February due to expense settlement procedures.

Successful applicants are required, on completion of the seminar, to submit a post-seminar report (Form 3-3) and publicity photos relating to the seminar.

Applicants will also be required to present their research findings at a debriefing session the following year after the information exchange seminar was held (scheduled in mid-November to early December 2028).

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 2027 Program, applicants are required to note that funds for research were provided by the Japan-U.S. Brain Research Cooperation Program.

11. Reference

Details of the U.S. component of the program are available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-17-326.html>

Details of the Japanese component of the program are available at <http://www.nips.ac.jp/jusnou/> (NIPS website)

12. Additional Information

The U.S. coordinator must also submit the application to the relevant U.S. agency.

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 (6) Content and Purpose of the Seminar, including Topics, Names of Speakers, and Tentative Agenda in Form 3-1.

Applicants are encouraged to submit a research plan based on Form 3-1 before submitting their application officially. The plan should be written in Japanese and be no longer than one page (A4 paper). Early submission will allow NIPS to support your application through early coordination with the relevant U.S. counterparts.

Contact: Research Plan Committee Chair,
National Institute for Physiological Sciences

