

SOUTH AFRICA / JAPAN JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH COLLABORATION

2018 Call for Joint Research Project Proposals

Closing Date: 5 September 2018

A maximum of four joint projects will be funded for this call

On 28 August 2003, South Africa signed an agreement on cooperation in science and technology with Japan, followed two years later by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The implementation of the NRF/JSPS MoU led to annual cycles of joint research funding between the two countries. Following twelve successful joint calls for proposals, between 2005 and 2015, the NRF is pleased to announce the 13th call for 2018, and herewith invite all interested parties to submit their applications, by a date no later than that indicated.

Aims of the Programme

This Programme aims to:

- contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the funding of joint research activities in specified research fields;
- provide an opportunity for young researchers in the two countries to meet and interact;
- support the advancement of basic research; and
- contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

Areas of Cooperation

Joint research proposals may be submitted in the following designated thematic areas prioritised by both countries:

- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Natural Sciences.

Please note for South Africa:

Joint projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral co-operations will be favourably considered. Also, the joint projects that involve young scientists and pay attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality) will be positively considered and will receive a higher rating

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of two years from January 2019 to December 2020.

Who may apply?

An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Japan, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme.

South Africa:

This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD.

Japan:

Japanese PIs must hold a full-time or equivalent position as a researcher at a university or research institute in Japan that is eligible to receive Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research - KAKENHI. However, there are cases when a researcher not employed in a full-time position may be eligible. Such persons must be eligible to apply for a KAKENHI grant-in-aid and his/her affiliated institution must judge them able to implement the project and to provide an appropriate research environment (e.g., laboratory, equipment, personnel) for it.

How do I apply?

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner. Proposals must be received in both Japan and South Africa. Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or Japan, but not both countries, will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding. The evaluation of applications from both countries should have positive ratings before consideration for funding. Neither the NRF nor JSPS will be held responsible for non-submission of the application in the partner country.

South Africa:

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF by accessing the link: <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to “My Applications” and select “Create Application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying: **South Africa/Japan Call for Joint Research Proposals 2019**.
- Remember to complete all sections of the application as indicated on the online application form.
- Please attach the necessary documents in PDF format in the following order: CV and the budget of partner.
- Failure to submit compulsory documents will result in the disqualification of the application.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Completed applications will go to the host institution for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in this document will not be considered.
- Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission System will not be accepted.
- No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF.
- Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.
- Please contact your institution’s research office if you have any queries.

Japan: Application forms for Japanese applicants may be downloaded from the JSPS website (http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-bilat/semima/shinsei_bosyu.html).

Which activities may I apply for?

The purpose of this call is to support research projects and mobility of researchers, scientists, post-docs and doctoral students between the two countries. Funding will be made available for the following joint research activities undertaken as part of the joint research project:

- **Research related costs:** including field work and publication costs (Up to 15% of the funds may be used for consumables and small equipment)
- **Mobility:** The exchange visits of researchers, postdocs and doctoral students.
- **Workshops, seminars or networking events:** holding meetings alternately in South Africa and Japan.

In the case of meetings, research visits and exchanges of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of joint research projects and the attendance of seminars, symposia and other meetings funded under this agreement, ***the sending side will be responsible for financing international travel, visas, and medical insurance, while the receiving party will be responsible for financing the accommodation and subsistence of their international partners.*** Local travel and fees relating to the organisation of events (venue, catering, audio-visual equipment etc.) will be the financial responsibility of the host investigator which is to be paid from his / her allocation of the joint funding.

The following may **NOT** be funded from the funds allocation:

- Consultant's fees
- Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)
- Large equipment
- Project management fees
- Overheads
- Salaries and temporary staff fees.

How much may I apply for?

Funding will be available for a maximum of two years for 2-year collaborative research projects jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. In both countries, all the approved projects will obtain funding support from the two parties in terms of the cost of activities mentioned above. Apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities in both countries are encouraged to solicit other funding resources.

South Africa:

The total amount of funding requested from the NRF should not exceed **R1 000 000**. Funding will be made available for a maximum of two years, to be paid in annual installments (**R500 000 per year**) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2019.

Japan:

The total amount requested from JSPS should not exceed **JPY 2,500,000** per fiscal year.

Please do take note that:

- should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines;
- a **maximum of 4 joint projects** will be funded for this call; and
- scientific and financial reporting on the project is an **OBLIGATORY** condition of funding in subsequent years.

How are applications evaluated?

Following the closing date indicated below, applications will be submitted to recognized national experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality of the intended research project including feasibility of the joint research plan, adequacy of the scientific method and the competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams involved.
- Alignment with national priorities in each country
- Plausibility of the described further cooperation perspective.

Particular emphasis is to be placed on the training of students and young researchers achieved through research and the transfer of knowledge and know-how aimed at socio-economic development. The integration of young researchers and students, and the exchange of post-doctoral researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of students and researchers from previously disadvantaged communities.

Following local evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the NRF and JSPS based on the results of the evaluations done in both

countries. Please note that, although the two Parties undertake to execute the evaluation and selection process as quickly as possible so as to notify applicants of the results, the nature of the bilateral process requires the alignment of the commencement of each phase of the process with the partnering country, whose schedules may differ significantly.

Project follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report will be submitted in English by both the South African and the Japanese project leaders no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- The report will mention the outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- The joint publications by the researchers will mention the support from the NRF and JSPS.

Intellectual property

The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

When is the closing date for applications?

Applications for both South Africa and Japan must be submitted by **5 September 2018**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding. Please note that neither the NRF nor JSPS will be held responsible for applications that were not received. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country.

Where can I obtain more information?

At Stellenbosch University: mjc@sun.ac.za (proposal) or dominiquem@sun.ac.za (budget)

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