

DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme towards SDGs to start in 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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1) Programme Objectives

Q1: The application guidelines state that the objective of this programme is to establish international collaborative research networks with the aim of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the future. Could you explain what the SDGs are?

A. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of global goals set for 2016-30 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” adopted by all United Nations Member States in September 2015. The 17 Goals consist of interconnected 169 targets with the aim of leaving no one behind. The SDGs are universal goals and an urgent call for action by all countries, both developed and developing.

Reference: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Q2: Is it necessary for the research project to be directly linked to the achievement of the SDGs?

A. Applicants are eligible to apply if they can explain how their research is related to any of the 17 SDGs, even if their research is not directly linked to the achievement of an SDG goal.

2) Eligibility

Q3: The application guidelines state that Early Career Researchers (ECRs) include students pursuing their doctoral degrees and researchers holding Ph.D. degrees for no longer than 5 years. Is there an age restriction for applicants?

A. There is no age restriction if the applicant meets the ECRs’ requirements of being students pursuing a doctoral degree or researchers holding a Ph.D. degree for no longer than 5 years, excluding time taken for childcare leave.

Q4: Are ECRs themselves eligible to apply for this programme?

- A.** They are eligible to apply for this programme. As stated in Section 2.2. of the Application Guidelines, all applicants must possess a valid qualification to enroll at Kyoto University. This includes doctoral students, researchers, assistant professors, lecturers, associate professors, and professors, as well as those on part-time, fixed-term, and specific fixed-term contracts. For doctoral students, the consent of their academic supervisors is also required. Please also refer to **Q14** below.

Q5: Can faculty members affiliated with Kyoto University who do not meet the ECR criteria apply for this programme?

- A.** Yes, they can. However, the researchers visiting Germany from Kyoto University and/or researchers visiting Kyoto University from German universities or research institutions must meet the ECR criteria in accordance with the project plan. Please also refer to **Q13** and **Q14** below.

Q6: Is it necessary for the same number of ECRs to visit from Kyoto University as from the German universities?

- A.** No, it is not necessary. For example, projects involving one ECR from Kyoto University visiting Germany and two ECRs from Germany visiting Kyoto University are also eligible for funding.

3) Support Offered by the Programme

Q7: Can researchers (such as academic supervisors) or students who do not meet the ECR criteria be visiting Germany using this funding?

- A.** No. The funds provided by this programme may only be used for ECRs' travel expenses to Germany and registration fees for conferences and symposiums.

Q8: Does the maximum amount of 2,000,000 yen cover the costs of researchers from Kyoto University visiting Germany and German researchers visiting Kyoto University?

- A.** No, it is the maximum amount for Kyoto University researchers to visit German host institutions only. Funds for hosting German researchers will be provided by DAAD in accordance with DAAD regulations.

Q9: Do the funds have to be used entirely for one trip?

- A. No, as long as the funds are used within the approved budget, they may be used for multiple trips.

Q10: What forms of support do URAs offer?

- A. URAs offer various forms of support for expanding international collaborative research networks, depending on the career stage of researchers involved in selected projects and the stage of exchange and collaboration with Germany. For example, URAs provide ECRs in the early stages of forming networks with Germany with information on German research institutions, assistance in identifying potential host researchers and procedures, and advice on traveling to Germany. Additionally, staff at Kyoto University's European Centre in Heidelberg can support coordination and collaboration with German universities. Once the ECRs has returned to Japan, URAs will support the launch of specific joint research projects, provide information on external funding opportunities to promote mutual researcher exchanges and assist with applications, and disseminate research results to the public.

For specific examples of support offered by URAs to date, please refer to the following website: <https://www.oc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/exchange/aida/>.

4) Application and Selection Procedures

Q11: Do the application documents need to be prepared and submitted separately by Kyoto University and the German side?

- A. No, please use the "Project Description" (application form) to collaborate and prepare the same document in English. However, the German side must submit additional documents in the required format through the DAAD Portal, in addition to the "Project Description." Submit the completed application by email to the Kyoto University Office of Research Acceleration (KURA) [AI DA] team at <aida@kura.kyoto-u.ac.jp>, and via the DAAD Portal site. Applications that are not submitted by both parties will be excluded from the selection process.

Q12: Can I apply in German?

- A. No. Researchers from Kyoto University and Germany will collaborate to prepare the application in English, the common language, and both parties will submit it.

Q13: In the "General Information" section of the "Financing Plan" form, who should

be entered in the "Principal Investigator" field under "About PI at Kyoto University"?

- A.** Please enter the name and affiliation of the applicant from Kyoto University. The applicant may be an ECR who will be staying in Germany, or another person (such as a supervisor).

Q14: If the applicant is a Ph.D. student, is the name of the academic supervisor required in the application form?

- A.** Yes. When ECRs who are doctoral students apply, please enter the name and affiliation of their academic supervisor at Kyoto University in the "Supervisor at Kyoto University if necessary" section of the "Financing Plan" form under "General Information". Funding for this programme will be provided through the supervisor.

Q15: If the applicant from Kyoto University is a Ph.D. student with no research achievements, is it necessary to submit a "Research Profile" as a required document for the DAAD portal site?

- A.** If the applicant from Kyoto University is a doctoral student, please submit the research profile of their supervisor. Please use the template provided on our website or any other format of your choice.

Q16: How will the selection process be conducted?

- A.** According to the "6. Selection Criteria" outlined in the application guidelines, the AI DA programme administrators will make a comprehensive decision on whether to accept or reject applications. In some cases, the programme administrators may interview applicants. An external selection committee formed by DAAD will make the final decision on who will be accepted.

5) Procedure after being selected

Q17: What obligations will be imposed on the selected applicants and ECRs visiting Germany/Kyoto University?

- A.** In addition to complying with the relevant regulations and implementing the project in accordance with the research plan described in the application form, they will be required to cooperate in the following activities before and after the travel period to ensure the smooth implementation of the program as a whole (see "7. Obligations" in the application guidelines):
- Responding to inquiries or requests for prior meetings from the URAs at KURA
 - Submitting a report upon return to home institution and cooperating in its web publication

- Participating in follow-up activities to promote the development of the international collaborative research network even after this programme ends.

Q18: What should an applicant do if changes need to be made to the research plan described in the application form?

- A.** Contact the AI DA team at KURA as soon as possible. Changes to the plan will be approved if they are truly necessary to achieve the desired results. However, please note that the funds must be used within the financial year specified in the plan.

Q19: Is it possible to travel to and stay in European countries other than Germany (third countries) during the period of stay in Germany?

- A.** Yes, it is possible. However, this is limited to cases where it is necessary to deepen exchanges with German host researchers in other European countries, or where such travel is deemed beneficial for the selected project's research. If you are unsure, please consult the AI DA team prior to traveling. The following example may help:
e.g.) ECRs visiting from Kyoto University will participate in international conferences and research meetings held in third European countries, which German host researchers are scheduled to attend, and will give research presentations and exchange opinions.

Q20: The amount provided by this programme is insufficient to cover the costs of my desired period of stay in Germany. Is it possible to combine the funds from this programme with other research funds to extend my stay?

- A.** You can combine the funds provided by this programme with any other research funds that you or your research institution may have. However, you must comply with the rules governing the use of these additional funds. Please consult your department's accounting officer for specific procedures.

6) Restriction of Parallel Applications and Receipts

Q21: Is it possible to apply for the JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars or other Japanese-German exchange programmes offered by DAAD such as DAAD Scholarships simultaneously?

- A.** Simultaneous applications are not permitted.

Q22: If the German co-applicant mistakenly applied to the JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars instead of the DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme, resulting in a mismatch, would the application still be considered for the DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme?

- A.** No, it would not be considered. Please ensure that there is no mismatch between the programmes applied for by Kyoto University and the German side.

Q23: Can recipients of JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars and DAAD Scholarships receive funding from this DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme at the same time?

- A.** No, recipients cannot receive funding from both programmes at the same time. Recipients of JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars funding or DAAD Scholarships are not eligible for funding from the DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme.
- DAAD funding recipients are subject to funding restrictions in accordance with DAAD rules.

Contact: Kyoto University Office of Research Acceleration (KURA)

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