

GUIDELINES

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

0. General Information

This partnership programme is a joint funding initiative between Kyoto University and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The programme is administered by Kyoto University in Japan and the DAAD Bonn Office in Germany. It seeks to balance research content between Japan and Germany, requiring research plans to be developed in English to ensure common understanding among all applicants. Funding primarily covers international airfare and accommodation costs. The DAAD and Kyoto University have each committed an annual budget to support approximately two new projects from each side in the 2026 fiscal year. Funding for the German side is provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through “Programmes for Project-Related Personal Exchanges (PPP)”. Participants from Kyoto University may visit Germany between April 2026 and March 2028, while those from the German side may visit Japan between January 2026 and December 2027. The following guidelines are applicable only to applicants from Kyoto University. German applicants should refer to the guidelines established by [DAAD’s call for proposals for PPP projects starting in 2026](#).

1. Objectives

The “DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme” aims to foster academic exchange and cooperation between higher education and research institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany and Kyoto University. The programme promotes joint research projects and scientific collaboration in fields connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through funding to increase mobility of junior scholars and Early Career Researchers (ECRs)¹. The objective is to strengthen or initiate long-term bilateral or multilateral collaborative research and partnerships between German universities/research institutions and Kyoto University based on existing or intended partnerships, partnership agreements or similar cooperation arrangements.

2. Eligibility

The Programme is open to scholars/researchers/research groups from Kyoto University in all academic fields—from humanities and social sciences to natural sciences—who have or are planning joint research projects with German partners. All projects must include the exchange of Early Career Researcher(s) (ECRs). Funding from this programme is provided exclusively for the mobility of ECRs affiliated with Kyoto University. Applicants must meet all the following requirements.

1. Individuals visiting Germany must be ECRs, though they may differ from the applicants.
2. All applicants, whether or not they are the same individuals visiting Germany, must possess valid qualifications for enrollment at Kyoto University. This includes doctoral students,

¹ Early Career Researchers (ECRs) include doctoral students and scholars who have held a Ph.D degree for no more than 5 years, excluding time taken for childcare leave.

researchers, assistant professors, lecturers, associate professors, and professors, as well as individuals on part-time, fixed-term, and specific fixed-term contracts.

3. Individuals visiting Germany must belong to one of the following categories: Those with valid qualifications for enrollment at Kyoto University through the end of the 2027 academic year, including doctoral students, researchers, assistant professors, lecturers, association professors, and professors, as well as individuals on part-time, fixed-term, and specific fixed-term contracts.

If an applicant is a doctoral student, they must obtain consent from their supervisor, who must be a faculty member at Kyoto University. The supervisor's name, affiliation and contact details must be clearly stated on the application form, as the Kyoto University Office of Research Acceleration (KURA) may need to contact the supervisor directly.

3. Supported mobility scheme

The programme supports mutual mobility of ECRs between German universities/research institutions and Kyoto University.

Funding covers expenses such as international airfare, accommodation, conference registration fees, and necessary consumables. A maximum of 2,000,000 Yen may be granted to a Kyoto University applicant for a two-year period. Basic personal expenses, equipment and books cannot be supported, and must be provided from other sources when necessary. Salaries and associated costs cannot be funded either. University teachers participating in exchange must continue to be paid by their home institutions during their visit. Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel insurance.

Support available through this programme includes consulting services from Kyoto University's research administrators (URAs) at both Kyoto University and European Centre in Heidelberg, as well as assistance from DAAD Tokyo staff, to connect grant recipients with relevant academic communities and provide information about appropriate funding opportunities from Japan, Germany and other international agencies.

Note:

- The award amount may be reduced from the proposed amount after assessing the appropriateness of each proposal's number of persons/trips, etc. The maximum funding per project per fiscal year is 1,000,000 yen.
- The DAAD will cover the necessary expenses for short-term visits to Kyoto University by German universities and research institutes in accordance with DAAD regulations.

4. Application Process

An applicant from Kyoto University and their German partner must mutually negotiate and submit a common application form (Project Description) to the Kyoto University Office of Research Acceleration (KURA) and DAAD, respectively.

Applicants from Kyoto University must submit their application forms (Project Description and Financing Plan) to the KURA Office via e-mail at aida@kura.kyoto-u.ac.jp.

* The applicant may be any scholar, researcher, or ECR at Kyoto University, provided they have a qualification to remain affiliated with Kyoto University until 31 March 2028. The application deadline

for the 2026 fiscal year is September 1, 2025. Funding from Kyoto University will begin on April 1, 2026, while DAAD funding will commence on January 1, 2026.

Download the application form: <https://www.research.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/aida-koubo/#documents>

For further information, please contact Kyoto University at <aida@kura.kyoto-u.ac.jp>.
(For German applicants: contact Mr. Denis Bolcek at <bolcek@daad.de>.)

*Additionally, applicants must submit a common application form to DAAD via the DAAD-Portal. Please refer to DAAD's Call for Proposals page ([Programm des Projektbezogenen Personenaustauschs](#)) (in German) for the procedure and confirm these steps with your German co-applicants.

Note:

The DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme and the JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects are separate programmes. German co-applicants should apply specifically to the DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme. If you wish to apply to the JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects instead, please follow the guidelines for that specific programme.

5. Restriction of Parallel Applications and Receipt

It is prohibited to apply simultaneously to the DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme and the JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars. Recipients of funds from other DAAD projects may be subject to restrictions on receiving funds in accordance with DAAD rules in Germany.

6. Selection Criteria

- Clarity of how the research project plan and expected outcomes align with programme objectives.
- Clear justification of budget necessity for the proposed travel plan.
- Scientific value of the research project.
- Potential contribution of ECRs' short-term stays to mutual network formation.
- Feasibility of the concept for developing the established or strengthened research network (short-term outcomes).
- Medium to long-term development potential for international bilateral or multilateral research cooperation toward SDG achievement.

7. Obligations

The applicant of an adopted project — i.e. the recipient of the funds — has the following obligations. Failure to fulfil these obligations, or to execute the research project as planned (except for modifications necessary to achieve better results), may result in the withdrawal of the award. We may also demand the return of the funds that have been disbursed.



1. The recipient must comply with all relevant laws and university rules including Security Export Control of Kyoto University.
2. The recipient must execute the budget by 31 March 2028. Funds cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year in Japan. The recipient must execute the budget for each fiscal year by 31 March 2027 and 31 March 2028, respectively.
3. The recipient must accommodate inquiries or requests for meetings by KURA staff regarding the progress of their research during or after the support period.
4. The recipient must submit an achievement report on their research results. The report will be posted on the Kyoto University website.)
 - Reports by ECRs and exchange students (in English)
<https://www.oc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/exchange/aida/en/>
 - Reports by ECRs and exchange students (in Japanese)
<https://www.oc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/exchange/aida/>

If applicant wishes to have a premium support by URA from KURA office, please contact aida@kura.kyoto-u.ac.jp before submission of an application form.

8. Contact

Kyoto University Office of Research Acceleration (KURA)

[AI DA] Team

E-mail: aida@kura.kyoto-u.ac.jp.

Tel: 075-753-5108 (ext.16-85735) (Sonobe, Ayukawa, Kanno, Silanka, Kiyota, Murakado)

<https://www.research.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/aida/>

Note: If there is any conflict or inconsistency between the English and Japanese versions of this document, the Japanese version shall prevail.