

GUIDELINES

DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme towards SDGs to start in 2027

0. General Information

This programme is a joint funding initiative between Kyoto University and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), administered by Kyoto University in Japan and the DAAD Bonn Office in Germany.

To ensure mutual understanding among all participants, research plans must be prepared in English, reflecting the balanced and collaborative nature of the Japan-Germany partnership. Eligible expenses covered under this programme primarily include international airfare and accommodation. Both Kyoto University and DAAD have committed an annual budget to support approximately two new projects per year in the 2027 fiscal year. Funding for the German side is provided by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) through the Programmes for Project-Related Personal Exchanges (PPP).

Early Career Researcher(s) (ECRs) from Kyoto University may visit Germany between April 2027 and March 2029, while researchers from Germany may visit Japan between January 2027 and December 2028.

These guidelines apply to Kyoto University applicants only. German co-applicants should refer to [the DAAD's call for proposals for PPP projects starting in 2027](#).

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 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 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.



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, 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 2028 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.

Doctoral student applicants must obtain consent from their supervisor prior to submitting an application. The supervisor must be a faculty member at Kyoto University, and their 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 them directly.

3. Supported mobility scheme

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

Eligible expenses for Kyoto University applicants include international airfare, accommodation, conference and symposium registration fees, and necessary consumables, up to a maximum of 2,000,000 Yen per project over the two-year funding period. Expenses for researchers visiting from Germany will be covered by DAAD in accordance with its regulations.

Please note that basic personal expenses, equipment, books, salaries, and associate costs are not eligible for funding and must be covered from other sources where necessary. Faculty members participating in the exchange must continue to receive their salary from Kyoto University throughout their visit. Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel insurance.

In addition to financial support, grant recipients will have access to advisory services provided by research administrators (URAs) at Kyoto University and the European Centre in Heidelberg, as well as support from DAAD Tokyo Office staff. These services are designed to connect recipients with relevant academic communities and provide guidance on appropriate funding opportunities available through Japanese, German, and other international agencies.

Note:

- The award amount may be adjusted following an assessment of the proposed visit plan, including the number of participants and trips. The maximum funding per project is 1,000,000 Yen per fiscal year.
- Expenses for short-term visits to Kyoto University by researchers from German universities and research institutions will be covered by DAAD in accordance with its regulations.

4. Application Process

The Kyoto University applicant and their German partner must jointly prepare a common application form (Project Description) and financial plan— to 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 kura-aida@mail2.adm.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 2029. The application deadline for the 2027 fiscal year is August 10, 2026. Funding from Kyoto University will begin on April 1, 2027, while DAAD funding will commence on January 1, 2027.

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

For further information, please contact the AIDA Team at KURA (kura-aida@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp). German applicants should direct their enquiries to Mr. Denis Bolcek at DAAD (bolcek@daad.de).

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

Please note that the DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme and the JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars are separate programmes. German co-applicants must ensure they apply to the DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme. If you intend to apply to the JSPS programme instead, please follow the guidelines for that programme.

5. Restriction on Parallel Applications and Funding

Simultaneous application to the DAAD-Kyoto University Partnership Programme and the JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars is not permitted. Applicants who are already in receipt of funding from other DAAD projects may be subject to funding restrictions under DAAD regulations.

6. Selection Criteria

The application form should describe the objectives of the research project to be conducted with the German partner institution, the plan for ECR visits and expected outcomes, the complementarity between the German and Kyoto University researchers and the nature of knowledge transfer, the significance of the project as an international collaborative research initiative in relation to the United Nations SDGs, plans for developing the research network beyond the programme period, and considerations for diversity.

1) Academic quality and content of the research project (weighting: 70%)

- Subject-related quality and complementarity of the research theme
- Extent of participation of early career researchers
- Contribution of the project to strengthening international research cooperation between Japan and Germany

2) Quality and rigour of project planning and budget (weighting: 25%)

- Feasibility of the proposed visit and activity plan



- Necessity and appropriateness of the requested budget
 - Concreteness of the follow-up plan
- 3) Consideration of diversity (weighting: 5%)
- Gender balance among participating researchers
 - Diversity of career stages among ECR participants

7. Obligations

The principal investigator of a funded project is subject to the following obligations. Failure to fulfil these obligations, or to carry out the research project as planned (except where modifications are necessary to achieve the intended outcomes), may result in the withdrawal of funding. In such cases, repayment of disbursed funds may also be required.

1. The recipient must comply with all applicable laws and university regulations including Kyoto University's Security Export Control requirements.
2. The allocated budget must be executed within each fiscal year. Funds may not be carried over to the following fiscal year. The deadlines for budget execution are 31 March 2028 and 31 March 2029 for the first and second fiscal years respectively for Kyoto University recipients.
3. The recipient must respond to enquiries from KURA staff and attend meetings requested by KURA regarding research progress, both during and after the funding period.
4. The recipient must submit a report on their research outcomes. The report will be published 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/>

KURA provides support services to assist applicants in preparing their applications for this programme. Applicants who wish to arrange a consultation session with a URA are encouraged to submit a request via the Google Form below:

<https://forms.gle/WSP7uULWCDtPzhpw9>

8. Contact

Kyoto University Office of Research Acceleration (KURA)

[AI DA] Team

(Silanka, Kiyota, Sonobe, Kanno, Murakado, Oishi)

E-mail: kura-aida@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

<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.