

UKRI-JST Joint Call on Artificial Intelligence and Society Frequently Asked Questions

This version: 8 May 2018

This document may be updated to reflect those questions most frequently raised for the call. It is highly recommended that potential applicants review the online version of this document on the ESRC website (rather than a saved or cached version) before contacting ESRC for advice.

General submission questions

When will the competition open/close?

The call will open from 8 May 2019. Please note that applicants must submit two separate proposal per application, to UKRI and JST-RISTEX. The deadline for the UK submission is **16:00 UK time on 17 July 2019**. The deadline for the Japanese submission is **12:00 noon Japan time on 17 July 2019**.

Can a late submission be accepted?

Applications received after the call closing date will not be processed and will be automatically rejected.

What is the maximum duration of a grant?

The maximum duration of a grant is 36 months.

When will decisions be announced?

Applicants will be informed of decisions in late November 2019.

How much can be applied for in this call?

Applicants may apply between £360,000 to £500,000 (100% fEC) for UK associated resources from UKRI. If successful, UKRI will meet 80% of the full economic costs and the host institution is expected to support the remaining 20%. Japanese applicants may request up to ¥30m for Japanese associated resources from JST-RISTEX.

When can projects start?

Successful projects are expected to start in January 2020.

How many proposals will be funded?

We expect to fund between 5-7 joint proposals.

Questions on how to apply

How do I apply?

Applicants must submit two separate proposals (one proposal to UKRI and one proposal to JST-RISTEX) per application.

The UK proposal should be completed and submitted via UKRI's Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

For submission to JST-RISTEX, please refer to their call guidance.

Can my proposal be interdisciplinary?

Interdisciplinary proposals across the breadth of the social sciences, arts and humanities are strongly encouraged. Collaborations with disciplines outside of the social sciences, arts and humanities are also encouraged. However, proposals must have a majority focus within ESRC and AHRC remit to be deemed eligible.

Can disciplines outside of the social sciences be included in the project proposals?

Yes, they can if they are an integral part of and support the thematic areas and approaches of this call. However, the proposal should be predominantly within the social sciences and arts and humanities. If you have any doubt as to whether your proposal is predominantly within the social sciences, please contact the Joint AI and Society Team.

Eligibility

Who can apply for this call?

Applicants should be a collaborative group between UK and Japan consisting of both UK and Japanese researchers. The UK principal Investigator must be based at a research organisation eligible for UKRI funding.

For eligibility of Japanese partners, please refer to the [call guidance from JST-RISTEX](#).

Do applicants have to be permanent members of staff to apply for this call?

No, applicants do not need to be permanent members of staff to apply. However, they must be accommodated by their research organisations and provided with appropriate facilities to carry out the project.

Do Japan-based partners have to be Japanese citizens?

No, there is no requirement for Japanese citizenship. The Japanese partners must be based at a Japanese host institution(s).

Does the principal investigator have to be a UK citizen?

No, there is no requirement for UK citizenship. The UK researchers must, however, be based at a UK host institution(s). Applications must be submitted by a UK research organisation eligible for UKRI funding (<https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>).

Can other nationalities apart from Japan or UK apply for this call?

Applicant's nationality is not relevant for eligibility, and a person of any nationality can apply to this call. However, applicants (including principal investigators and co-investigators) must be based at a UK or Japanese eligible institution.

Is the inclusion of international Co-Is outside of Japan allowed?

The focus of this call is to foster collaboration between UK and Japanese researchers to advance social science, arts and humanities research in the area of artificial intelligence and its impact for society. Therefore, the inclusion of international co-investigators beyond these two countries is not permitted under this call.

Are associated studentships allowed under this call?

No, inclusion of associated studentships is not allowed under this call.

Questions about the application process

Do I need to register Japanese partners through Je-S system?

No, Japanese partners do not require a Je-S account and should not be entered as investigators on the Je-S application. Instead, their names must be listed in the International Application Form, which is a separate mandatory attachment for this call.

Where should Japanese partners be entered in the proposal?

Japanese partners should not be listed as applicants (principal investigator nor co-investigators) in UKRI proposal. Instead they should be listed in the International Application Form, which is a separate mandatory attachment for this call.

Is there a percentage limit or an ideal split between UK and Japan costs?

No, projects are free to allocate resources as appropriate for the project, but it is expected that projects will justify the balance of partners engaged on both sides.

What costs are eligible?

Only UK associated costs should be requested within the UK proposal submitted via Je-S. Costs associated with Japan should be requested in the JST-RISTEX submission.

For UK submission, please see [ESRC Research Funding Guide](#) for eligible costs. There will be different eligibility rules for Japanese costs, so please follow JST-RISTEX's guidance or contact them directly with any queries (r-ecosystem@jst.go.jp).

Where do I enter Japan associated costs?

The UK submission should not include resources for Japan. Resources associated with Japan should be applied to directly from JST-RISTEX in the Japanese submission. However, you need to include the total funding amount requested from JST-RISTEX in International Application Form. Costs associated with the Japanese component of a project should be applied to JST-RISTEX.

Which sections and attachments should be identical for both the UK and Japanese submissions?

- Objectives
- Summary
- Academic beneficiaries
- Impact summary
- Ethical information

Attachments

- Case for support

- Pathways to Impact
- International Application Form

Where can I find an International Application Form?

An International Application Form is available from the [call announcement page](#). This is a mandatory document for this call.

Do I need to include CVs as attachment?

No. Information on CVs for both UK and Japanese applicants are requested as part of International Application Form. Therefore we do not require separate CVs from applicants as attachments. In order to complete your application the Je-S system must recognise that all mandatory attachments are uploaded, therefore please upload a blank document in the CV section, which will enable you to finalise your submission.

What is assessment process of this call?

Proposals submitted to this call will be assessed by independent peer reviewers selected by both UKRI and JST-RISTEX. For those proposals above the quality threshold, UK peer review comments will be sent to applicants, and applicants will have an opportunity to respond.

Please note that JST-RISTEX will include an interview stage for shortlisted Japanese investigators as part of their standard procedure. Please ask your Japanese collaborators to contact JST-RISTEX directly (r-ecosystem@jst.go.jp) if they have any questions about this process.

Proposals will be then considered by a joint panel of UK and Japan experts. The Panel will provide funding recommendations to the funders.

Who can I contact for information not covered in the call specification, Je-S guidance and this FAQ document?

Please contact:

Joint AI and Society Team

Email: jointaisocietycall@esrc.ukri.org