INDIA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant

Call for Proposals 2023

1. Overview and Objectives

India-Japan FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant (FRIENDSHIP2.0 Research Grant) aims to enhance sustainable collaboration between IIT Hyderabad (IITH) and academic institutions and/or industries in Japan in association with FRIENDSHIP Scholarship 2.0. Establishing academic collaboration including collaborative degree programs through combination of research grants and scholarship programs is also one of the purposes of this grant.

FRIENDSHIP2.0 Research Grant offers two kinds of grants in science and technology, namely (AC) academic collaboration and (IC) industry-university collaboration.

Based on the findings during the probationary grant program of eight months, FRIENDSHIP 2.0 Research Grant 2023 focuses on both boosting current partnerships to a self-sustainable stage and expanding the research network, by the integration of scholarship programs including supervisors at Japanese universities and alumni who are working for industries. Co-supervision of master's students of the research team is one of the key issues of the grant on a consistent basis.

2. Application Deadline:

11:59 AM IST, October 21, 2022 (Sharp & Hard)

3. Eligibility

The applicant (Principal Investigator, PI) must:

- Be a full-time faculty member of IITH.
- Involve at least one master's student as a research team member, who is to write his/her master thesis under PI's supervision.
- Have obtained an agreement letter, including one week visit to IITH per year during

the grant period, from a Japanese collaborator who is to be registered as Japanese Co-PI. (For IC, involvement of academic researcher(s) in Japan is strongly recommended)

- (AC) Prepare a joint implementation plan for co-supervision of master's student(s) and further studies in Japan with Japanese Co-PI.
- (IC) Obtain agreement letter from Co-PI in Japanese industry on the cost-sharing of JPY200,000 in cash and disclose potential conflicts of interest, if any.
- Be able to afford a dedicated or shared lab space for research activities of the funded project, and
- Not submit more than 1 (one) proposal regardless of (AC) or (IC).

4. Research Period and Number of Grants

Research Period: January 2023 to November 2024 (23 months)
Number of Grants: Total 10

5. Selection Criteria

(AC) Academic Collaboration

1) Quality of the research proposal (novelty, rationale, research questions and future perspectives)
2) Readiness for and sustainability of collaborative research with Japanese Co-PI
3) Clear assignment of research tasks to each team member including graduate students
4) Detailed planning for co-supervising master's student(s) and his/her doctoral studies in Japan
5) Appropriateness of budget

(IC) Industry-university Collaboration

1) Quality of the research proposal (novelty, rationale, research questions and future perspectives)
2) Readiness for and potential of continuous R&D with the Co-PI in industry
3) Clear assignment of tasks to academic and industrial research members including graduate students
4) Practical planning for human resources development at IITH including internship and/or recruitment of IITH students by Japanese companies
5) Appropriateness of budget

6. Selection Procedure

1) Document Evaluation

Results will be conveyed to each applicant via e-mail by November 11 (Fri.). Successful applicants are invited to the interview session.

2) General Evaluation by Interview on November 22 (Tue.), 2022

7. Funding Structure

1) Amount of Grant

- Up to INR 2,000,000 including any tax and duty[1]
- Budget covers expenses by PI's research team only; no budget for Co-PI's team.

2) Execution of Budget

- Procurement according to the approved budget is executed by the JICA Project Team of FRIENDSHIP 2.0 (the JICA Project Team), based on PI's requests. Note that there is no reimbursement of expenses directly made by PIs.
- In the case where any major change of budget is needed, PI must submit a letter, presenting the reason and revised budget, and receive approval by the JICA Project Team.
- Details of budget execution will be given later in financial guidelines.
- (IC) Additional funding from Co-PI should follow the regulations of the corporation that employs Co-PI.

3) Expenses

PIs can use budget for items under the four categories described in Table 1. Intended purposes and relevance to the research topic must be clarified in the budget proposal. The amount includes the tax and duty.

Table 1: Items of Expenses

Category	Budget limit	Description
Research equipment	INR 1,000,000	This category includes tools, devices, and machines. The estimated price of a set of equipment must not be more than INR 800,000[2].
Consumables	INR 1,000,000	This category includes reagents, glassware, books, documents, and data. Consumables are those items that meet either of the following: i) the unit price is not more than INR 29,000 and

---

[1] Under JICA rules, the JICA Project Team is responsible of purchasing all items. Hence, tax exemption will not be applied.

[2] The estimated price is not based on the unit price of individual equipment, but on the total price of a set of equipment to be procured. Examples are as below.
OK example: Purchasing five PCs with a unit price INR 100,000 and one measuring instrument with a unit price INR 500,000.
NG example. Purchasing 10 pcs of PC with a unit price INR 100,000 (Reason: excess of the estimated price)
The cap of estimated price might be changed due to the fluctuation of exchange rate.

		the number of usable years is less than eleven (11), ii) the unit price is more than INR 29,000, but the number of usable years is less than one (1).
Travel cost from India to Japan[3]		Travel cost is covered for the purpose of research at Co-PI's lab or oral presentation at international conferences held in Japan (Faculty staff of PI's research team only). Traveling must be maximum twice during the grant period. The period of staying at one travel must not be more than 14 days including travel time between India and Japan[4]. Any travel costs of students including domestic travel for research purposes are NOT covered.
Registration fee for international conference		Registration fees for international conferences held in Japan or online are covered.

4) Others

- (AC) Travel costs of Co-PI or/and faculties of the Co-PI's research team (max two persons) to visit India are separately borne by the JICA Project Team. The visits must be twice or less for total in the grant period, and the period of staying at one travel must not be more than 7 days including travel time between India and Japan.

- (IC) Travel costs of Co-PI in industry are not covered while those for registered academic researchers of the Co-PI's research team are covered. The number of trips and duration are the same as for AC.

8. Reports and Duties

PIs are requested to obtain and submit a certificate from "e-Learning Course on Research Ethics" (https://elcore.jsps.go.jp/top.aspx) before starting research.

Japan Desk of IITH requests PIs to submit progress and final reports below; however, any changes of team members and/or research plan must be immediately reported to Japan Desk.

- Mid-term Report: November 30, 2023

  Mid-term Report must include any change of team members students, the research achievement according to the research plan, plans of publications and patent applications, records and plans of travels, financial record, and plans of application for third-party research funding (A table of contents will be provided).

- Final Report: November 30, 2024

  Final Report must include the research achievement according to the research plan, list of publications, patent applications, travels, financial record, and third-party

---

[3] Only economy class of airline tickets is allowed. Non-refundable and non-amendable tickets will not be accepted.
[4] PIs are required to apply for their own VISA and research appropriate airline tickets.

research funding obtained/applied for (A table of contents will be provided).

Japan Desk also requests PIs to contribute to the enhancement of academic and industrial partnerships between India and Japan through giving seminars and/or ad-hoc lectures by Co-PI for all IITH faculty and students, inviting long-term trainees in Japan to online workshops for students, and so forth. Japan Desk will assist PIs in preparing for such events and publicize information on the Japan Desk website.

9. Intellectual Property Rights

FRIENDSHIP 2.0 supports creation of values through the collaborative research between IITH and Japan and therefore encourages PIs to apply for a patent in India before publishing academic papers. Japan Desk will provide technical support for patent application in cooperation with Dean of Research and Development of IITH and according to the IPR policy of IITH.

In this regard, PIs should make ex ante agreement with research partners in India and/or Japan on the intellectual property rights that are to be produced through the collaboration.

10. Application Form and Submission

Application forms are available on the Japan Desk portal site:

https://www.iith.ac.in/japandesk/

Fill in the Application Form and send the following documents to FRIENDSHIP 2.0

< iith.jointresearch.application@gmail.com >

1) Application Form (research proposal) of either AC or IC, including Attachment 1 (CV of the applicant)
2) Attachments to the Application Form (2. Members and research tasks: 3. Time schedule: 4. Budget)
3) Reference for 4. Budget (specification and budgetary quotations of equipment)
4) Letter of Agreement from Co-PI

11. Contacts

FRIENDSHIP 2.0: <iith.jointresearch.enquiry@gmail.com>

(CC to IITH Japan Desk: <japandesk.ir@iith.ac.in>)