



Quick Reference

Please note that you must read the full Call document for guidance before submitting your Expression of Interest

EPSRC-JSPS Core-to-Core Collaboration in Advanced Functional Materials

Call type: Expression of Interest

Closing date: 16:00 on 9 September 2020

Funding Available: EPSRC will contribute up to £2 million for the call, as matched funding to JSPS, for a total of up to two collaborative proposals.

How to apply: Expressions of Interest to be submitted by smart survey <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/JSPSEOI2020/>. Those applications which are deemed to have met the eligibility criteria, and are successful at the EPSRC internal panel assessment will be invited to submit a full application to the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) with their Japanese partners, and a corresponding application to EPSRC in **November 2020**.

Assessment Process: Expressions of Interest will be assessed by an internal EPSRC panel against the eligibility and assessment criteria detailed further within this call. Peer review assessment of the full JSPS proposal will be carried out by JSPS. The EPSRC component will be funded based on advisement by JSPS.

Key Dates:

Activity	Date	Who is Submitting?
Deadline for Expression of Interest	9 September 2020	UK academics to EPSRC via Smart Survey
Deadline for JSPS Application	1 October 2020	Japanese Partners to JSPS
Deadline for JSPS-EPSRC Application	10 November 2020	UK Partners to EPSRC via Je-S

Additional information: For the EPSRC submission there is no limit to the number of submissions per organisation. Members of the UK consortium are required to demonstrate current/relevant peer-reviewed funding (including grants completed within the last 24 months), received as PI, with a total amount of >£2 million. The project must include collaborators from Japan and at least one other country in addition to the UK investigators. The candidate should familiarise themselves with the JSPS application process before applying.

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Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council



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Related themes: Physical Sciences

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Summary

EPSRC, on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Research Councils, is seeking Expressions of Interest for participation in the Japanese Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) Core-to-Core programme (<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-c2c/index.html>). The JSPS Core-to-Core programme is designed to create world-class research hubs in fields considered to be cutting-edge and internationally important in Japan. Hubs are built and operated through sustainable collaborative relations established among research/education institutions in Japan and around the world. The programme does not set its own priority research areas.

Funds from JSPS for research groups in Japan are available for up to five years for multilateral research projects, seminars, research exchanges and

collaborations. Hub collaborations are expected to continue after funding has ended.

This year, the EPSRC is opening a call for applications in the area of 'Advanced Functional Materials', as a matched fund for UK researchers to collaborate with Japanese researchers supported under the JSPS Core-to-Core programme.

Background

International research collaboration and cooperation is a route to maintain the high quality of research output, tackle large scale global research challenges and share expertise. Over the past few years, targeted investments by EPSRC have helped facilitate growing collaborations between Japan and UK based researchers, with collaboration within the area of Advanced Functional Materials being particularly strong.

The Core-to-Core programme is an opportunity to build on previous investment in joint initiatives between Japan and the UK. Furthermore, the programme will build on established collaborations between key groups as well as developing new ones **in the area of advanced functional materials.**

Areas of collaboration are expected to be predominantly within the remit of EPSRC's Physical Sciences theme. Therefore, proposals must principally focus on the physical science of materials rather than their incorporation into devices or use in other applications.

Collaborations are welcome in any areas of advanced functional materials provided they fit within the remit of EPSRC's "Physical Sciences" theme. For example, functional oxides, 2D materials, graphene, electronic structure of materials, polymer materials, and materials for energy applications. Applications to support collaboration focussed on 'Digital design, characterisation and realisation of novel functional materials' are particularly encouraged. This focus complements recent EPSRC investments in development of functional materials and contributes to the EPSRC Priority Framework.

For more information about EPSRC's portfolio and strategies, see our website: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/>

Funding available

The JSPS Core-to-Core programme provides up to ¥18 million (currently equivalent to approximately £123K) per year for up to five years to Japan-based groups with **an equivalent contribution required from two or more partner countries.**

EPSRC will contribute up to £2 million for the call, to match those funds received from JSPS. This is expected to fund approximately two total collaborations depending on the success in JSPS-run peer review.

The UK contribution value required by JSPS does not include indirect and estates costs. Therefore these can be asked for in addition to the matched funds. The total value of the grant is not expected to exceed £1 million cost to EPSRC (i.e. £1.25 million FEC). There is an emphasis on travel and researcher exchange with **approximately half of the funds expected to be spent on travel, subsistence, networking and collaboration building activities.**

Please note: Grants awarded through this call will have additional grant conditions, details of which are provided towards the end of this document.

Eligibility

Standard EPSRC eligibility rules apply: Research grants are open to UK higher education institutions, research council institutes, UKRI-approved independent research organisations and NHS bodies with research capacity.

Read the guidance on institutional eligibility <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

You can apply if you are resident in the UK and meet at least one of the bullets below:

- are employed at the submitting research organisation at lecturer level or equivalent
- hold a fixed-term contract that extends beyond the duration of the proposed project, and the host research organisation is prepared to give you all the support normal for a permanent employee
- hold an EPSRC, Royal Society or Royal Academy of Engineering fellowship aimed at later career stages
- hold fellowships under other schemes (please contact EPSRC to check eligibility, which is considered on a case-by-case basis).

Holders of postdoctoral level fellowships are not eligible to apply for an EPSRC grant.

In addition to the standard eligibility criteria, the following eligibility criteria apply:

- The proposal must include collaborators from Japan and at least one other country in addition to the UK investigators. Projects are therefore expected to include a minimum of three countries (including the UK and Japan).
- Members of the UK consortium are required to demonstrate current/relevant peer-reviewed funding (including grants completed within the last 24 months), received as PI, with a total amount of >£2 million.

How to apply

Groups wishing to apply for the full proposal call must submit their Expression of Interest via smart survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/JSPSEOI2020/>

This must be done before **16:00 on 9 September 2020**. The following will be asked in the survey:

- Names and institutions of the principal investigator and UK-based investigators, and details of current peer-reviewed funding for members of the consortium, received as PI, cumulatively totalling to > £2 million (as evidence of relevant research portfolio).
- Details of collaboration partners, including those in the UK, Japan and the additional overseas nation(s).
- Strengths of, and justification for, the consortium partners.

- Up to 350 words detailing how the collaboration fits within 'advanced functional materials' and the remit of EPSRC Physical Sciences.
- Up to 350 words detailing how the proposed collaboration will add value to the UK-based investigators.
- Up to 350 words detailing how the collaboration activity and outcomes will contribute to EPSRC strategies.

Please note that this is not intended to restrict detail in the final submission as minor changes will be allowed, however final submissions must still be in line with the EOI submission and the remit of EPSRC Physical Sciences theme.

Submitting an application

Expression of Interest

Expressions of Interest are to be submitted via smart survey form at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/JSPSEOI2020/>.

Full Proposals

Assessment process and criteria

Successful submissions at the Expression of Interest stage will be invited to submit full applications.

Full submissions to JSPS must be led by the relevant Japan-based partner, and the peer-review assessment and setting of criteria will be conducted by JSPS. Any feedback on your proposal will be provided to your Japanese partners by the JSPS. Please refer to the JSPS call document for further details: https://www.jsp.go.jp/english/e-c2c/data/Outline_of_the_Program_rev.pdf.

A concurrent submission should also be made to EPSRC, following the guidelines below. This will not be peer reviewed. EPSRC will make awards as advised by JSPS, based on their peer review. EPSRC will inform applicants whether or not they are successful in receiving the funding. However, EPSRC will not be able to provide the ranking order or feedback from the panel.

Submissions to EPSRC must conform to deadlines set out for both the Expressions of Interest and the JSPS full proposal call. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Submitting an application

Following submission of a full JSPS Core-to-Core proposal to JSPS by the Japanese partners, it is the responsibility of the UK partners to also submit a JSPS-EPSRC proposal to EPSRC. Applicants should ensure they are aware of and comply with any internal institutional deadlines that may be in place. You should prepare and submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>).

When adding a new proposal, you should select:

- Council 'EPSRC'

- Document type 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme 'Standard'
- On the Project Details page you should select the 'EPSRC-JSPS Core-to-Core Collaboration in Advanced Materials 2020' call.

After completing the application:

- You must Submit document' which will send your application to your host Organisation's administration
- Your host Organisation's administration is required to complete the submission process. Applicants should allow sufficient time for your Organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date

EPSRC must receive your application by **16:00 on 10 November 2020**.

Guidance on the types of support that may be sought and advice on the completion of the research proposal forms are given on the EPSRC website (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/>) which should be consulted when preparing all proposals.

Guidance on writing the full EPSRC-JSPS application

The following documentation will be required:

1. **Je-S form:** Filled in as usual outlining the resources requested from EPSRC and appropriately describing the objectives, summary and academic beneficiaries. Instructions on how to calculate the breakdown for costing are listed below (section 1.3).
2. **Justification for Resources:** Must adhere to usual EPSRC standards.
3. **Case for Support:** This should comprise a single document in two sections: Firstly, the JSPS proposal which will be in Japanese. Secondly, an English language case for support. It is expected that the English language Case for Support is structured similarly to the standard mode EPSRC grants (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/preparing/writing/casefor-support/>). Please note, owing to the Japanese application not being page limited, there are no page limits for this document.
4. **Other Attachment:** Attach a list of all partners, including their full name, affiliation and country as 'other attachment'.

EPSRC will not fund a project if it believes that there are ethical concerns that have been overlooked or not appropriately accounted for. All relevant parts of the Ethical Information section must be completed. Further guidance on completing the Je-S form can be found at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/EthicalInformation.htm>. EPSRC guidance can be found under Additional Information.

For advice on writing proposals see:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/preparing/>

Resources

EPSRC will contribute up to £2 million for this call in matched funding.

The JSPS core-to-core programme will provide up to ¥18 million (currently roughly equal to £123k) per year for up to 5 years. The UK component should be match funding, and therefore will be limited to ¥90 million. This value is currently approximately **£615k over five years**. Please note: actual value of exchange rate should be calculated at the point of submission to JSPS and may fluctuate slightly. Please indicate the exchange rate you have used in your justification for resources, indicating where you obtained it.

Indirect and estates costs are not included in this total, and can be asked for on top of the matching funds. The total cost to EPSRC (i.e. the matched funding + the indirect and estate costs) **should not be greater than £1 million**.

The following example shows how this can be calculated:

JSPS contribution £123k per year (currently roughly equivalent to ¥20 Million)

Total grant contribution £180k per year made up of:

For example if the indirect and estates costs are £60k, which will not be counted towards the Japanese total.

£120k everything else (directly allocated, directly incurred etc.), this cost will be count towards the Japanese total.

The grant is then costed as usual:

EPSRC contribution $£180k \times 80\% = £144k$

University contribution $£180k \times 20\% = £36k$

JSPS and EPSRC stipulate that **at least half** of requested resources (not including indirect and estate costs) must be spent on travel, subsistence, networking and collaboration building activities. **Standard EPSRC rules around travel apply**.

Assessment

Assessment process

Expressions of Interest will be assessed by an internal EPSRC panel. Decisions on eligibility will be made using the criteria above. Those who do not meet eligibility criteria will be informed and will not be invited to submit a full proposal.

Following assessment by an internal panel against the assessment criteria listed below, successful applications will be invited to coordinate with Japanese partners and these Japanese partners will be responsible for submitting an application to JSPS for matching funds. It is advised that discussions with your Japanese partners regarding their application to the JSPS call are initiated prior to the EPSRC EOI outcome. To ensure that the parties involved can meet the submission deadlines.

Full submissions to JSPS must be led by the relevant Japanese partner, with applications for match funds from EPSRC submitted by the UK partners in

November 2020. The peer-review assessment on the full JSPS proposal will be conducted by JSPS, and results will be conferred to EPSRC who will then fund the UK part of the collaboration.

In the event of this call being substantially oversubscribed as to be unmanageable, EPSRC reserve the right to modify the assessment process.

Assessment criteria

Expression of Interest

The Expression of Interest will be assessed by EPSRC staff on:

- How the research fits into advanced functional materials areas highlighted. The proposed research must sit predominantly within the 'Physical Sciences' remit of EPSRC.
- Whether the proposed collaboration fits with the current EPSRC "Physical Sciences" strategy for the relevant materials research area(s).
- The proposed investigator team including overseas collaborators. This must include collaborators from Japan and at least one other country in addition to the UK investigators. Projects are therefore expected to include a minimum of three countries (including the UK and Japan). Justification of proposed collaborators is required, detailing their contribution(s) to the proposed research. EPSRC has no restriction on the third partner country, therefore any queries around the suitability of the third partner country should be directed to JSPS.
- Details of current/recent relevant peer-reviewed funding for the UK-based investigators, received as PI, from EPSRC or other sources (including grants completed within the last 24 months). **The total amount of funding must be >£2 million.**

Full Proposals

Assessment of invited full proposals will be through the JSPS part of the application. Please refer to the JSPS call document for further details: https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-c2c/data/Outline_of_the_Program.pdf.

Feedback

EPSRC will not be able to provide feedback from JSPS processes and JSPS peer review.

Additional grant conditions (AGCs)

Grants will be subject to the standard UK Research and Innovation grant conditions however the following additional grant conditions will be added to this call:

- Once funded, applicants will be required to demonstrate continued support and funding for the non-UK based parts of the consortium. This support should be detailed in the final annual progress reports.

- If the funding from JSPS and the third partner country is either not agreed or withdrawn after the project has started, the EPSRC reserves the right to terminate the EPSRC grant.
- In addition to the requirements set out in RGC 7.4.3, the Grant Holder is responsible for providing annual progress reports against non-financial performance metrics. A detailed list of performance metrics and instructions for reporting will be agreed with the Grant Holder upon commencement of the grant.
- Applicants will be required to invite EPSRC representation to large networking events.

Moving forward

Submissions to this call will **not** count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy. Further information about the policy can be found at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/basics/resubpol/rua/>

Key dates

Activity	Date*
Expression of Interesting Closing Date	9 September 2020
Deadline for JSPS Application Submission to JSPS	1 October 2020
Deadline for JSPS-EPSRC Application Submission to EPSRC	10 November 2020

*EPSRC aims to adhere to the key dates as published, however there may be exceptions where the sift, prioritisation or interview meeting may have to change due to panel member availability.

Contacts

Any queries related to the EPSRC Expression of Interest and subsequent full proposal should be directed to:

Physical Sciences central email (PhysicalSciences@epsrc.ukri.org)

Or

Alex Broomsgrove

Senior Portfolio Manager, Materials & Physical Sciences
 EPSRC
 Polaris House
 North Star Avenue
 Swindon
 SN2 1ET
 Email: alexander.broomsgrove@epsrc.ukri.org

Queries relating to the Core-to-Core programme should be directly sent to:

Polly Watson

International Programme Coordinator
London Office
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
14 Stephenson Way
London
NW1 2HD
Tel: 02072 55 4660
Email: enquire@jsps.org

Please note that the JSPS Core-to-Core programme is not a joint programme with other funding agencies including the EPSRC.

Please use the links below to see specific guidance on:

- [resubmissions](#)
- [repeatedly unsuccessful applications](#)
- [equipment](#)
- [use of animals \(if relevant\)](#)
- [responsible research and innovation](#)
- [ethical considerations](#)
- [equality, diversity and inclusion](#)

DORA - We are committed to support the recommendations and principles set out by the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA). You should not use journal-based metrics, such as journal impact factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an investigator's contributions, or to make funding decisions

Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Alex Broomsgrove	29/07/2020	1	N/A
Alex Broomsgrove	21/08/2020	2	Updated Key Dates

Je-S attachments Check List

As well as the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) Application Form, the following documents must be submitted:

Attachment Type	Maximum Page length	Mandatory/Optional	Extra Guidance
Case for Support	No maximum page length	M	This should comprise a single document in two sections: Firstly, the JSPS proposal which will be in Japanese. Secondly, an English language case for support.
Justification for Resources	Two pages	M	
Other attachment	No page limit	M	Attach a list of all partners, including their full name, affiliation and country as 'other attachment'
Equipment Quotes	No page limits	O	Require in line with standard EPSRC equipment guidelines.
Equipment Business Case	Two pages each	O	Required for any items or combined assets with a value above the OJEU limit.

Please ensure you adhere to the above attachment requirements when submitting your proposal. Any missing, over length or unnecessary attachments may result in your proposal being rejected.