

Memorandum on Reciprocal Research Cooperation

between the

Research Council of Norway (RCN)

and the

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

1. The Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), hereinafter referred to as the Participants, wishing to develop cooperation between researchers based in Norway and Japan, will hereby establish a Memorandum on Reciprocal Research Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the Memorandum) that outlines the following framework.
2. To develop international opportunities, the Participants recognise the need to support international collaborative research in order to achieve their respective goals. Under this Memorandum, the respective research communities aim to seek simple mechanisms to ensure that overlaps and excessive administrative burden will be avoided in the funding procedures of collaborative research projects. The principle of Money Follows Cooperation (MFC) calls for opening, under certain conditions, the national funding programmes for applicants from other countries, and thus strengthening cross-border cooperation.
3. Therefore, each Participant will reciprocally open its national research project funding schemes to collaborative proposals involving researchers based in the other country if their participation adds significant value to the overall project. For their research activities, the researchers in the other country may request funding, which will result in RCN funding researchers in Japan and JST funding researchers in Norway.
4. The leadership and the main share of the budget to be disbursed will remain in the country where the project is submitted.
5. RCN can cover the following types of costs of Japanese institutions participating in the collaborative projects, further detailed in its applicable regulations:
 - Salaries and social security contribution based on the national wage scale in Japan
 - Research costs (consumables, travel costs, computing time and data, direct costs of infrastructure use).

The following costs are not covered by RCN:

- Equipment

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JST



6. The use and allocation of research funds provided by JST are made under the provisions of each JST program and the terms of the collaborative research agreement between JST and the relevant research institution.
7. This Memorandum serves to simplify the process of applying for funding for collaborative research, by allowing collaborative projects to be funded through normal national procedures. Funding decisions on the proposals will be made in accordance with the normal procedures of the Participant from which the funding is sought.
8. Norwegian researchers in projects funded through JST are required to abide by all JST regulations, and Japanese researchers in projects funded through RCN are required to abide by all RCN regulations.
9. Disbursement of funds to the other country will be made under normal national procedures. In case of RCN, the Norwegian lead institution is responsible for the whole project budget, including the money spent abroad. In case of JST, the allotted share of the whole project budget will be directly disbursed to each recipient institution.
10. The Participants reserve the right to exclude specific schemes from this Memorandum if they deem necessary, but the spirit of this Memorandum is such that exclusions will not be arbitrarily used.
11. The aim of this Memorandum is to achieve a balanced flow of research funds between the two countries, so that neither of the research communities served by the Participants are financially disadvantaged by the scheme.
12. To assist researchers in utilizing the cooperation under this Memorandum, each Participant may make information on the cooperation readily available in English on each of their respective websites.
13. The signed Memorandum commences on 21 May 2025 and will remain effective for a period of five years. This Memorandum can be extended upon written notice by one Participant at least three months prior to the expiration and written approval by the other. The termination of this Memorandum will not affect research projects already approved or in progress under the terms of this Memorandum.
14. The Participants will make a good faith attempt to resolve any problem or matter arising out of or related to this Memorandum amicably.

K. H.



The Research
Council of Norway



The Research Council of Norway:

Japan Science and Technology Agency:

Date: 21 May 2025

Date: 21 May 2025

Signature:

Mari Sundtveit
MARI SUNDTVEIT

Signature:

K. Hashimoto
Kazuhito HASHIMOTO

Position: Chief Executive

Position: President