

Joint Research Advancement Programme

Call for Proposals

Nagoya University ("Nagoya") and the University of Freiburg ("Freiburg") are seeking proposals for a collaborative joint research project.

The call has been created to provide seed funding opportunities for faculty teams to develop plans for joint research projects integrating students and faculty from both universities and to foster existing connections or ongoing forms of collaboration by combining the strengths of the two universities.

Proposals are intended to support the collaboration on a joint research project between researchers in Freiburg and Nagoya around a topic of common interest. The programme will support research stays at the partner university, joint conferences, virtual seminars as well as activities for Master's students, doctoral candidates and early-career researchers.

A successful proposal will (i) demonstrate a clear potential to be sustainable through external funding sources in the future and (ii) involve a clear collaborative effort between faculty members on both Freiburg and Nagoya sides.

The Partners

Nagoya University, established 1939, is a Japanese national university and major contributor to research and higher education in humanities and sciences, with outreach throughout the Asian continent. Leveraging its historical ties with the numerous technological manufacturing industries of the Tokai region in central Japan, Nagoya University continuously drives innovation and development throughout all domains of society.

The **University of Freiburg**, founded in 1457, is a high-performing research university with a wide variety of disciplines. It is a place where tradition meets forward thinking, the fundamental meets the extraordinary, and regional roots meet internationality: connecting quality – in studies and teaching, in research, and in all other areas of its work – with responsibility for science and research, the environment, and society, and with an openness to new questions, diversity, and equal opportunities.

Overview

1. Proposals for a joint research project must identify and may include up to 4 participants respectively from the University of Freiburg and Nagoya University.
2. A one-time award with no opportunity for renewal.
3. The support per project is worth 7.200 EUR and 1 Mio. Yen in total for 12 months. The budget will be evenly allocated at both sites.
4. The programme will support research stays at the partner university, workshops and conferences, activities for junior researchers and invitations of international partners. The funds cannot be used for faculty salary or stipend, indirect/administrative costs, to hire a consultant or contractor, and for general equipment expenses (laptops, printers, etc.). All expenses are subject to rules and regulations at the home institution. Please inquire with your university contact for clarification if an expense is allowable.
5. Up to -2- joint research projects can be funded.

Proposal format, eligibility, and submission

1. Applicant teams are invited to contact their programme coordinator prior to submitting their application (see below).
2. The completed application form (one pdf file, incl. appendix) with password should be submitted to the programme coordinator (see below) at each Lead Applicant's home institution via email. Please provide the password in a separate email.
3. The appendix should include: a calculation sheet as well as a CV (max. 1 page) per team member.
4. Applicant teams must submit the complete application dossier by the specified deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
5. Eligibility: The call is directed at teams that contain at least one faculty member of the two universities (up to 4). Faculty members (e.g., professors, principal investigators, lead researchers) need to hold a position at their respective university for the duration of the research project. One faculty member each from Freiburg and Nagoya shall be named as joint coordinators of the application.
6. Applications should be written in English.

Proposal Evaluation

1. The selection under the programme is competitive and merit based. A joint selection committee from Nagoya University and the University of Freiburg presided by the respective Vice-Presidents for Internationalization and for Research (or equivalent position) will evaluate and select the joint research project to be funded.
2. Funding priority will be given to projects that:
 - a. Are of high academic quality and will build upon existing connections and, ideally, successful previous collaboration.
 - b. Advance creation of self-supporting, sustainable, collaborative research, and provide a funding plan beyond year 1.
 - c. Strengthen the connectivity and relationship between Nagoya University and the University of Freiburg.
 - d. Create a team with multiple faculty members at each university.
3. Evaluation criteria and weighting:
 - a. The plan to produce a self-supporting, sustainable collaboration programme in the future (50%)
 - b. Potential and plans to create a strong integrated collaboration between the universities with multiple faculty involvement at each institution by building upon previous collaboration within the discipline and thus contributing to the universities' partnership (50 %)

Timeline

The deadline for applications is 31 January 2024 at 23:59 (CET).

Selection decisions will be announced in early March 2024.

Activities of the supported teams should start by 1 April 2024.

By the end of the funding period on 31 March 2025, at the latest by June 30, 2025, applicants are required to submit a joint project report (template available).

Contacts

Please contact the programme coordinator at your home institution prior to submitting an application:

Nagoya University: Roland Berkemeier, Global Multi-Campus (berkemeier.roland@nagoya-u.jp)
University of Freiburg: Kathrin Jehle, International Office (kathrin.jehle@zv.uni-freiburg.de)

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Timeline and process

November 2023

Official launch of the seed funding scheme on the occasion of the NU delegation visit to Freiburg

November 2023 - January 2024

Call for applications is open; deadline: 31 January 2024

February 2024

Evaluation of proposals: pre-selection

Joint Selection Committee meeting at the end of February

Participants UFR: Vice Rector for Internationalization and Sustainability; Vice Rector for Research and Innovation; International Office (advisory).

Participants NU: Vice President for International Affairs, Planning, Evaluation, and Institutional Research; Vice-Presidential Advisor for International Liaison; Global Multi-Campus (advisory).

March 2024

Announcement of funded research project

April 2024

Start of the funding phase

March 2025

End of the funding phase

June 2025

Submission of the joint project report