

Overview of the 2025 International Joint Research Matching/Seed Fund Call for
Proposals
Top-level International Network Development Support Program

The University of Tsukuba implements the programs I-I and I-II below to encourage publications of high-quality research results as international co-authored papers, successful acquisition of domestic and international grants, and fostering of early-career researchers by creating or accelerating international networks with top-level research teams* from the Campus-in-Campus (CiC) partner universities and overseas research institutions.

Research teams composed of multiple (two or more) researchers (may include master's and doctoral student(s)) from the University of Tsukuba and research teams composed of multiple (two or more) researchers (may include master's and doctoral student(s)) from overseas research institutions are required to participate jointly. Further, it is also possible to co-fund this project with other expenses.

* The representative of a collaborating top-level international research team must be a researcher who has achieved internationally outstanding research results according to the characteristics of their field and disseminated them widely. The following are examples of such a researcher:

- A researcher affiliated with a research institution recognized worldwide
- A researcher who has published in influential academic journals or presented at prestigious international conferences
- A researcher who has taken leadership or major roles in large-scale international collaborative research projects.
- A researcher who has taken leading roles in international academic societies or organizations.
- A researcher who has authored excellent academic books and other materials evaluated internationally

I Support Program for International Network Development with Top-level Overseas Research Teams

(Starts in the FY 2025), Maximum of 1 million yen per project, total budget: 4 million JPY

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I - I International Network Creation & Acceleration Program through Overseas Travel:
Maximum of 1 million yen per project

I - II International Network Creation & Acceleration Program by holding Symposium or Seminar: Maximum of 1 million yen per project

Application deadline

I Support Program for International Network Development with Top-level Overseas Research Teams

Application deadline: Monday, June 16th

Application Procedure

Applicants should carefully read the details on the open call page (COTRE) and complete all required application documents (in the specified format). Submit these documents via u-Rad. Additionally, please email the application to your department's academic service office and cc the Research Management Office at global_ra@un.tsukuba.ac.jp to ensure that both offices are aware of your application.

- COTRE (call for proposals' details page: all necessary forms):
<https://ura.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/archives/43156>
- u-Rad (submission): <https://u-rad.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/login/>

Important Notes

1. Expenses provided by this program abide by the university regulations.
2. Researchers may submit multiple applications to other international collaboration programs within the university, provided that each application addresses a different research theme.
3. This support program may be offered again in future fiscal years, contingent upon budget availability. Please develop your implementation plan for the current year with a long-term perspective, referring to the strategic overview of the International Collaborative Research Matching & Seed Fund (Figure 1), regardless of whether funding continues.
4. Teams selected in FY2024 that intend to reapply must report on the outcomes of their first-year international collaboration and outline their plans for expanding the international network and strengthening team collaboration in the second year.
5. An implementation report must be submitted within one month after each project ends. After the implementation, there will be a follow-up period during which you may be asked to present progress reports at adopters' meetings or other events. Additionally, support from highly specialized professionals in research and industry-academia collaboration will be provided, and you may be requested to apply for external funding to build international networks.
6. Inquiries: Organization for Strategic Research Initiatives, global_ra@un.tsukuba.ac.jp

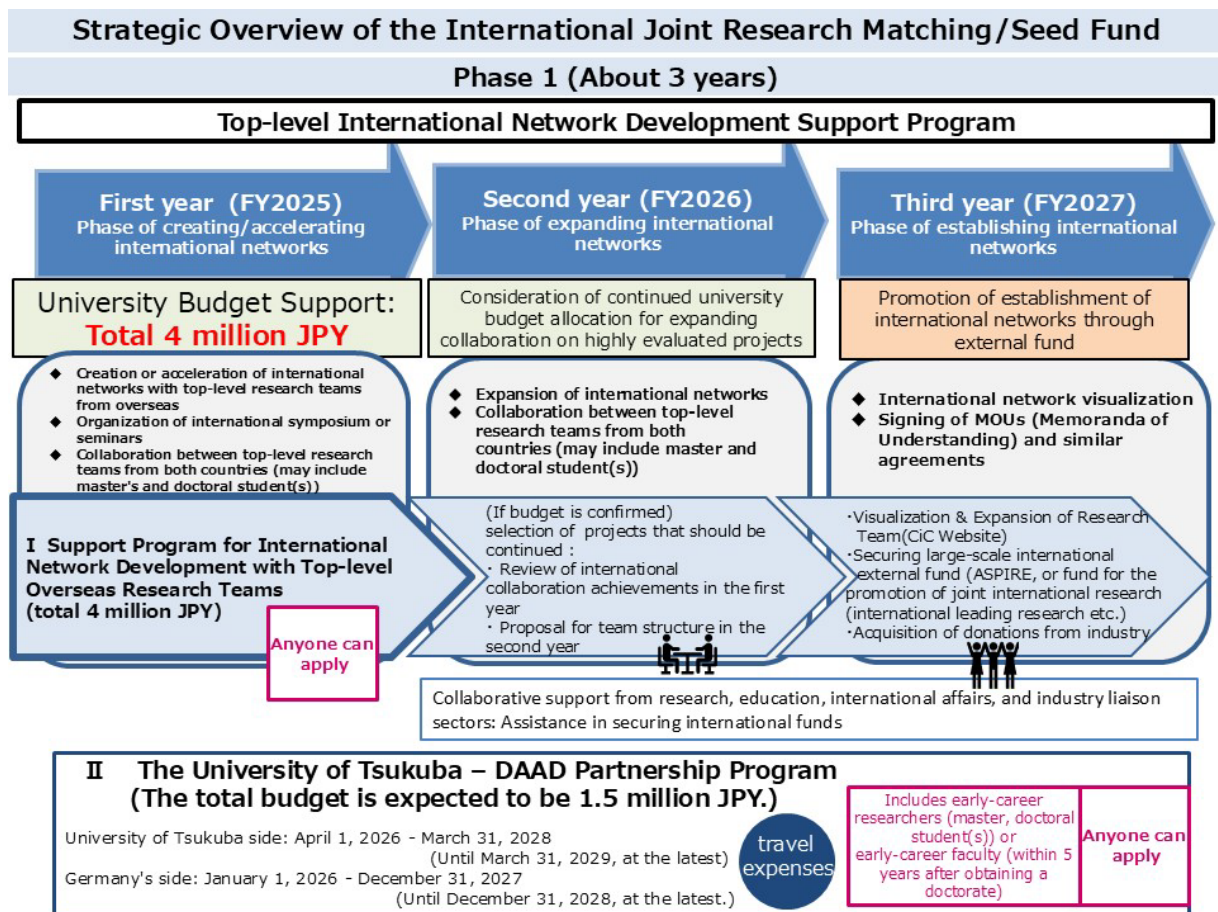


Figure 1 Strategic overview of International Joint Research Matching/Seed Fund



Figure 2 Support Program for International Network Development with Top-level Overseas Research Teams

相手先機関名 Partner Organizations	国・地域 Countries/Regions
ボルドー大学 / University of Bordeaux	フランス / France
国立台湾大学 / National Taiwan University	台湾 / Taiwan
サンパウロ大学 / University of Sao Paulo	ブラジル / Brazil
マレーシア工科大学 / Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	マレーシア / Malaysia
カリフォルニア大学アーバイン校 / University of California, Irvine	米国 / United States of America
ユトレヒト大学 / Utrecht University	オランダ / Netherlands
グルノーブル・アルプ大学 / Universite Grenoble Alpes	フランス / France
オハイオ州立大学 / Ohio State University	米国 / United States of America
ボーフム大学 / Ruhr University Bochum	ドイツ / Germany
アルファラビ・カザフ国立大学 / Al-Farabi Kazakh National University	カザフスタン / Kazakhstan
インド工科大学グワハティ校 / Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	インド / India
国立成功大学 / National Cheng Kung University	台湾 / Taiwan
ルーヴェン・カトリック大学 / Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven)	ベルギー / Belgium

Figure 3 List of Campus-in-Campus (CiC) partner universities

I Support Program for International Network Development with Top-level Overseas Research Teams

1. Purpose

I - I International Network Creation and Acceleration Program through Overseas Travel: Maximum of 1 million JPY per project

This program provides travel and research expenses for overseas travel aimed at creating or accelerating international networks between University of Tsukuba's research teams and top-level overseas research teams. The goal is to facilitate the submission and publication of high-quality international co-authored papers, including conference papers, enhance grant acquisition both domestically and internationally, and promote fostering of researchers from the proposed international joint research.

Please note that applications solely for travel to international conferences or activities that do not involve substantial international collaborative research are not eligible for review.

I - II International Network Creation & Acceleration Program by holding Symposium or Seminar: Maximum of 1 million JPY per project

The purpose of this program is that the University of Tsukuba's research team (consisting of two or more researchers) and an overseas top-level research team (consisting of two or more researchers) jointly organize international symposiums or seminars in order to create research collaboration between the teams. For this purpose, the program provides expenses related to organizing symposiums and seminars, including travel expenses, honoraria, and conference organization expenses.

2. Eligibility for Application:

The full-time researchers of the University of Tsukuba (professors, associate professors, lecturers, assistant professors, junior assistant professors, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, junior researchers, etc.)

- ※ In the selection process, priority will be given to those who have applied for external competitive fundings within the past three years (regardless of the result) or those who currently hold such fundings.
- ※ Researchers employed through university management expense grant or other external funding must obtain permission from the lead researcher or employer for the application and its content.

3. Support Period, etc.

Projects starting from April 1, 2025 and must be completed by March 31, 2026

- ※ Applications are also allowed for projects already underway or completed if they match the program contents. However, in the selection process, projects yet to be implemented will be given priority, and the ones already underway or completed will be considered runners-up.

4. Selection Criteria

I - I International Network Creation & Acceleration Program through Overseas Travel

- Clarity of the purpose of international joint research, the necessity and significance of the creation and acceleration of international networks
- Contents of the proposed international joint research (novelty, originality)
- Team collaboration structure and feasibility
- Expected outcomes (such as the potential for high-quality international co-authored papers, acquisition of domestic and international grants, and fostering of early-career researchers from the proposed international joint research)

I - II International Network Creation & Acceleration Program by holding Symposium or Seminar

- The necessity and significance of international collaboration to be created or accelerated by holding the international symposium or seminar
- The content of the international symposium or seminar (including its uniqueness and potential for establishing new collaborations)
- Expected outcomes (such as the potential for future international joint research and its ripple effect)