Application Guidelines for "Leap into the World! International Research Networking Support Program"

1. Overview

1.1 Objectives

This program, established through the Daiichi-Sankyo "Habataku" Support Program for the Next Generation of Researchers, aims to accelerate the development of international collaborative research networks at the University of Tsukuba and foster new synergies across diverse basic research fields. Its objectives include the creation of international joint research projects, increased publication of high-quality co-authored papers, and long-term contributions to solving global challenges.

To achieve these objectives, we will provide support for international collaborative research and provide support both to prospective applicants and to selected projects. Specifically, an Advisor System will be implemented during the application preparation phase to offer guidance on the formation of international research teams, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and facilitate research exchange. Following project selection, the International Double Mentor System will provide ongoing strategic support —such as mentorship, international networking, acquisition of foreign funding, and promotion of academic-industry collaboration— to strengthen the foundation of international engagement. Researchers at the University of Tsukuba will play a central role in building and leading these networks, contributing to the advancement of basic research both domestically and globally. The program also encourages the active participation of early-career researchers, including graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to engage in international collaborations. By nurturing researchers who can thrive on the global stage, the program aims to strengthen the foundation of Japan's basic research capabilities in a sustainable manner.

2. Scope of Support

The program seeks proposals for international collaborative research projects that help build a foundation for sustained international cooperation and enhance visibility within global academic communities.

Eligible projects should aim to:

1. Build or expand international networks that support cutting-edge research and development

2. Promote international brain circulation and offer top-tier international research opportunities to early-career researchers, contributing to the development of the next generation of top researchers.

2.1 Funding Amounts and Number of Projects: Up to 3.2 million JPY per project x 5 projects

   Indicative Budget Allocation per Project
- Project Support Funds (see "2.3 Eligible Expenses" for details): Up to 2.7 million JPY
- International Double Mentor Support Costs (e.g., honoraria, travel expenses): Up to 0.5 million JPY

2.2 Funding Period: August 2025 to February 2027

2.3 Eligible Expenses
  Funding may be used for, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Overseas travel costs
2. Costs associated with joint research activities
3. Personnel expenses for international network building
4. Costs for organizing workshops and related events
5. Expenses for research dissemination and publication

2.4 Advisor System
  Applicants may use the "Advisor System" during the proposal preparation phase to receive expert advice on forming international teams and establishing interdisciplinary collaboration. If you wish to make use of this system, please contact the office listed in Section 7, "Contact Information."

3. Eligibility
3.1 Eligible Research Areas: All fields of basic research

※**Definition of Basic Research:**
  Research that seeks to generate academic knowledge or conceptual innovation, without direct emphasis on commercialization or short-term implementation, and that aspires to contribute to the advancement of science and society over the next 10, 20, or even 100 years.

3.2 Eligibility Requirements
・Applicants must be full-time researchers at the University of Tsukuba.
・Applications must be submitted by an international research group that includes the applicant.

◆Requirements for the Research Group Composition:
- At least 4 core members (minimum 2 from Japan and 2 from overseas)
- At least 2 early-career researchers (minimum 1 from Japan and 1 from overseas)

※**Definition of Early-career Researchers:**
Graduate students (Master's or Ph.D. level) or researchers **within 8 years** of obtaining their Ph.D. (excluding any career interruptions due to childbirth, childcare, caregiving, etc.)

4. Application Process

Before applying, please carefully read the following website, which provides details about this call, as well as these guidelines, and prepare your application accordingly.
<URL: https://ura.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/archives/44938>

4.1 Application Form
Downloadable from the following links:
<URL: https://ura.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/archives/44938>

4.2 Submission
Submit the completed forms via the university's internal application management system (u-Rad). For more information: <https://ura.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/u-rad>

4.3 Application Deadline: June 16 (Mon), 2025

5. Review and Selection

5.1 Review Process
Applications will be reviewed through a combination of document screening and interviews, followed by final evaluation by a review panel.

5.2 Evaluation Criteria
The selection will be made based on the evaluation criteria outlined below.

(1) Clarity and significance of expected outcomes from international collaboration (e.g., research synergy, development of early-career researchers)
(2) Clarity and significance of the contribution to strengthening basic research capabilities through international cooperation

(3) Clear objectives and importance of the proposed research, including high originality and a strong degree of innovation
(4) Well-established team structure and research environment to support the project's objectives
(5) Specificity, feasibility and appropriateness of proposed methods and implementation plans

5.3 Notification of Results
  Expected in early August 2025

6. Miscellaneous

(1) The use of funds provided through this program shall be in accordance with the university's internal regulations.
(2) By February 2027, the representative of each research group must submit a report using the designated format provided by the program office.
(3) By the end of FY2026, the program office will support the research groups in disseminating their results through public outreach activities. Research outcomes will be communicated both domestically and internationally to enhance visibility, including outreach to international media and academic institutions. These efforts aim to increase global recognition and broaden the social impact of the research from an international perspective.
(4) A final presentation meeting will be held by the end of the program. The representative of each research group will be asked to present the project outcomes.
(5) When publishing the results obtained through this program (e.g., academic publications and presentations), please include the following in the acknowledgment section, etc.
    [Japanese] 第一三共「はばたく次世代」応援寄付プログラム
    [English] Daiichi-Sankyo "Habataku" Support Program for the Next Generation of
              Researchers
This requirement also applies to any future publications released after the conclusion of the program's support period.

7. Contact
Organization for Strategic Research Initiatives (OSRI),
Research Management Office
global_ra@un.tsukuba.ac.jp