

Foundation for Australia-Japan Studies
Rio Tinto Australia-Japan Collaboration
Program
Research Grants
Guidelines 2021

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Foundation for Australia-Japan Studies mission and grant outcomes

The Foundation for Australia-Japan Studies (FAJS) fosters innovative bilateral collaborations between Australia and Japan. Our mission is to elevate the profile of Australia-Japan collaboration in science, technology and innovation and support the people who are transforming the bilateral relationship through these partnerships. We do this by strengthening and transforming Australia-Japan research and scientific collaboration through academic, industry and government partnerships.

To achieve its objectives, the FAJS will use its funding and networks as catalysts to encourage national and sector-wide cooperation of the kind that calls forward serious, transformative responses from Japan. We will support projects of a quality that is likely to attract interest and expanded financial support from the public and private sectors in Australia and Japan.

Projects should meet the following criteria:

- Proposals will include high quality research that is innovative and will contribute to a measurable progression of the Australia-Japan bilateral relationship.
- Projects must demonstrate effective collaboration between Australian and Japanese investigators, including through financial and other (e.g. value-in-kind) contributions.
- Projects should have existing, or well-developed plans for, collaboration between university and industry or government partners and should indicate what other sources of funding are being sought either during the proposed FAJS grant period or to extend the project beyond the original grant period.
- Proposals will explain why FAJS funding is critical to the success of the project
- Proposals will include plans for diversity of participation, including gender balance, and will demonstrate how they contribute to engagement with next-generation researchers and thought-leaders in the bilateral relationship.
- Effective outreach plans are an essential element of projects to maximise the potential to increase mutual understanding and goodwill between the two countries. Projects must demonstrate plans to reach out to the public and/or decision-makers in ways that strengthen Australia's influence and reputation in the bilateral relationship, that generate positive and effective media coverage & commentary on the Australia-Japan relationship, and that promote a contemporary and positive image of Australia capturing the breadth and sophistication of new industries and research capacities.
- Projects will demonstrate expected impact in policy, societal or business fields.

Projects that do not have a research element but are predominantly about strengthening Australia-Japan connections in other ways are encouraged to consider the Australia-Japan Foundation grant program (<https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/foundations-councils-institutes/australia-japan-foundation/Pages/australia-japan-foundation.aspx>)

Priority Areas

The Foundation is open to considering proposals in a wide range of fields that meet the criteria outlined above. This year the Foundation will be particularly interested in projects in the following broad areas that bring together both countries' stated priorities in science, technology, innovation and health and capture research complementarities, namely:

Materials and energy technologies and systems

- examples could include alternative energy sources and systems; combustion technologies; advances in energy carrier systems; developments of biomimetic, structural and other new materials; new developments in mining and resources; novel remote or geophysical sensor technology.

Computing, digital and AI applications and developments

- examples could include big data use and application; cybersecurity developments and systems; new transport systems such as autonomous vehicle development and testing; sensor data processing.

Food, marine and agriculture science and technologies

- examples could include ocean resource technologies; applications of technology from other fields to agriculture such as remote sensing vegetation analysis; new strains of crops; disease and pest management;

Medical science and technology

- examples could include Infectious diseases prevention and control; regenerative medicine; development and improvement of medical devices; translational and clinical applications of research and early science technologies.

Social and physical infrastructure

- examples could include business innovations; changes in business operations resulting from technology (including AI, IoT, etc.); innovation management; social entrepreneurship; social, education, health or transport change and change management; impact of AI and other technology on society and labour force; physical infrastructure maintenance, management and renovations.

The Foundation is willing to consider proposals in other areas that meet the general criteria outlined in the mission statement and the Foundation will view particularly favourably proposals where the research problem addressed has arisen from an industry-identified practical problem or has been jointly developed by a university and industry team.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, the applicant must be applying:

- on behalf of one of the following entity types:
 - an Australian or Japanese company or research institution
 - an Australian or Japanese registered charity, not-for-profit organisation or educational institution such as a university
 - an Australian or Japanese government entity
- and be willing to provide or develop child protection guidelines for your project if it involves people under the age of 18 years.

Applications from consortia are acceptable, provided you have a lead applicant who is the main driver of the project and is eligible as per the list above.

What the Grant may be used for

You must use the grant for the following activities:

- The project outlined within the application.

You can use the grant to pay for costs detailed in your budget and grant agreement, including:

- Economy class airfare (domestic & international), modest accommodation costs, meals and travel allowances, other transport,
- Communication and translation,
- Venue hire and catering for promotional events that present research results to appropriate stakeholders,
- Advertising and promotion, graphic design, photography and printed material,
- Only one participant per conference or meeting and only where the participant is a principal speaker and the subject of the conference is of direct relevance to the grant opportunity.
- Costs directly related to the project where agreed with the Foundation, including essential equipment and salaries for research assistants or fixed-term early career researchers. This may include reasonable overheads in line with the policy of the applicant institution and subject to approval by the Foundation.

You can only spend grant funds on eligible grant activities as defined in the grant details in your grant agreement.

What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot normally use the grant for the following:

- salaries for researchers employed by universities or by the applicant institution in continuing positions;
- to cover retrospective costs or recurrent funding of activities;
- activities which are already commercially viable in their own right;
- activities which will provide commercial advantage to the applicant (e.g. promotion of the applicant's own business);
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation (except where application for a follow on grant is included in the project budget and approved by FAJS);

- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone, rent, honorariums or administrative charges levied by the applicant's organisation. (If the lead applicants' institution normally charges room rent etc to specific projects, applicants should discuss this with FAJS in advance).
- We do not generally fund travel and accommodation for attendance at conferences or meetings, unless such activities are considered by the Foundation to be of direct relevance to its objectives. To be considered, a substantial program should exist in the sidelines or around the conference and there should also be a strong argument for the selection of applicant(s).

Selection criteria

1. **Relevance:** Alignment with the strategic objectives of the Foundation.
2. **Salience:** Demonstrable outcomes that will contribute to trade, investment, policy or societal aspects of the bilateral relationship.
3. **Innovation:** Originality of research, contribution to innovation and the advancement of knowledge.
4. **Track Record:** Research experience and standing of participants.
5. **Networks:** Potential for building new networks and links between industry, universities and government or other multiplier effects of the research activity.
6. **Sustainability:** Prospect for sustained activity beyond the grant period.
7. **Diversity:** Evidence of efforts to achieve a diverse research group, including efforts to achieve gender balance and involvement of young researchers and any relevant minority groups.
8. **Co-contribution:** Evidence of concrete contributions either financial or in-kind from any partners or other research grant bodies. Some examples of in-kind contributions could be access to data or equipment, or provision of research time by partner employees.

Funding Amounts and Conditions

Grant applications should be for a minimum of AUD\$50,000. The maximum for a single award is unlikely to be more than AUD\$150,000 though the Board may make higher awards if it considers the project warrants it.

Grants will normally run for one year but no-cost extensions of up to 12 months may be considered to take the full length of the project to 24 months at a maximum. In 2021 extensions may only be available for shorter periods.

Evidence of contributions from other sources either in cash or in kind will strengthen the application.

Multi-year awards to the same applicant or consortium will generally not be considered.

Awards to the same application or consortium in consecutive years are unlikely and would require evidence of exceptionally strong performance in the first award period.

How to apply

Applicants should fill in the Expression of Interest form and upload supporting documents through the online system. The link to the online application system can be found at <https://www.fajs.org> once a new grant round is open. The EOI form requires, among other information, the following:

- Project summary (max. 2 pages) that includes responses to the selection criteria
- Short budget and budget justification
- Declaration of all named applicants that they agree to participate (email is sufficient)
- Indication the lead applicant has the endorsement of their institution (email is sufficient)
- If the lead applicant is from a university then details of main industry partner or other non-university partner (e.g. names of companies, NGO, government department, other non-university research institution etc.)