

Memorandum on Reciprocal Research Cooperation
between the
Research Council of Norway (RCN)
and the
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

1. The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Research Council of Norway (RCN), hereinafter referred to as the Parties, wishing to develop cooperation between researchers based in Japan and Norway, 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 Parties 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* calls for opening, under certain conditions, the national funding programmes for applicants from other countries, and thus strengthening cross-border cooperation.
3. Therefore, each Party 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. 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 Party from which the funding is sought.
6. 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.

7. Disbursement of funds to the other country will be subject to 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.
8. The Parties reserve the right to exclude specific schemes from this Memorandum if they deem necessary, but the spirit of this Memorandum is such that exclusions should not be arbitrarily used.
9. 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 Parties are financially disadvantaged by the scheme.
10. The signed Memorandum enters into force on 1 January 2020 and will remain in force for a period of five years. This Memorandum can be extended upon written notice by one Party at least six 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.

The Research Council of Norway:

Japan Science and Technology Agency:

Date: 7 November 2019

Date: 7 November 2019

Signature:



Position: Chief Executive

Signature:



Position: President