

## Quick Reference

**Please note that you must read the full Call Document for guidance before submitting your proposal**

### **EPSRC-JSPS Core-to-Core Collaboration in Advanced Functional Materials**

**Call type:** Expression of Interest

**Closing date:** 16:00 on 23 August 2018

**Funding Available:** EPSRC will contribute up to £2 million for the call, as matched funding to JSPS, for a total of up to approximately two collaborative proposals.

**How to apply:** Expressions of Interest to be submitted via embedded form at <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/coretocorecollab2018/>

Those applications which are deemed to have met eligibility criteria, and are successful at the EPSRC internal panel assessment, will be invited to submit a full application to JSPS with their Japanese partners, and a corresponding application to EPSRC in **October 2018**. Assessment of the full proposals will be carried out by JSPS. Further instructions to candidates successful at the Expression of Interest stage will be provided.

**Assessment Process:** Expressions of Interest will be assessed by an internal EPSRC panel against both the eligibility and assessment criteria for this call. Peer review of the full JSPS proposal will be carried out by JSPS. The EPSRC component will be funded based on advisement by JSPS.

#### **Key Dates:**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Deadline for Expression of Interest	23 August 2018

For the EPSRC submission there is no limit to the number of submissions per organisation. An institutional letter of support will not be required. The candidate should familiarise themselves with the JSPS application process before applying.

#### **Contacts:**

- Marianne Rolph ([marianne.rolph@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:marianne.rolph@epsrc.ukri.org))



Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council

## **EPSRC-JSPS Core-to-Core Collaboration in Advanced Functional Materials**

**Call type:** Expression of Interest

**Closing date:** 16:00 on 23 August 2018

**Related themes:** Physical sciences

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### **Summary**

EPSRC, on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Research Councils, is seeking Expressions of Interest for participation in the Japanese Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) Core-to-Core programme (<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-c2c/index.html>). The JSPS Core-to-Core programme is designed to create world-class research hubs in fields considered to be cutting-edge and internationally important in Japan. Hubs are built and operated through sustainable collaborative relations established among research/education institutions in Japan and around the world. The programme does not set its own priority research areas.

Funds from JSPS for research groups in Japan are available for up to five years for multilateral research projects, seminars and research exchanges and collaborations. Hub collaborations are expected to continue after funding has ended.

This year, the EPSRC is opening a call for applications in the area of 'Advanced Functional Materials', as a matched fund for UK researchers to collaborate with Japanese researchers supported under the JSPS Core-to-Core programme.

## Background

International research collaboration and cooperation is a route to maintain the high quality of research output, tackle large scale global research challenges and share expertise. Over the past few years, targeted investments by EPSRC have helped facilitate growing collaborations between Japan and UK based researchers, with collaboration within the area of Advanced Functional Materials being particularly strong.

The Core-to-Core programme is an opportunity to build on previous investment in joint initiatives between Japan and the UK. Furthermore, the programme will build on established collaborations between key groups as well as developing new ones **in the area of advanced functional materials**.

Areas of collaboration are expected to be predominantly within the remit of EPSRC's 'Physical Sciences' theme. Therefore, proposals must principally focus on the physical science of materials rather than their incorporation into devices or use in other applications. Collaboration could be in any areas of materials, for example functional oxides, 2D materials and polymer materials. Applications to support collaboration in 'Materials for Energy Applications' (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/researchareas/matenergyapps/>) are particularly encouraged. This area complements recent EPSRC investments in this area and contributes to the EPSRC Outcomes Framework.

For more information about EPSRC's portfolio and strategies, see our website: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/>

## Funding available

The JSPS Core-to-Core programme provides up to ¥18 million (currently equivalent to approximately £123K) per year for up to five years to Japan-based groups with an equivalent contribution required from **two or more partner countries**.

EPSRC will contribute up to £2 million for the call, to match those funds received from JSPS. This is expected to fund approximately two total collaborations depending on the success in JSPS-run peer review.

The UK contribution value required by JSPS does not include indirect and estates costs. Therefore these can be asked for in addition to the matched funds. The total value of the grant is not expected to exceed £1 million cost to EPSRC (i.e. £1.25 million FeC). There is an emphasis on travel and researcher exchange with **approximately half of the funds expected to be spent on travel, subsistence, networking and collaboration building activities**.

Please note: Grants awarded through this call will have additional grant conditions, details of which are provided in Appendix 1.4.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The long term strength of the UK research base depends on harnessing all the available talent and the Research Councils have together developed the ambitious RCUK Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/diversity/>.

In line with the RCUK Diversity Principles, EPSRC expects that equality and diversity is embedded at all levels and in all aspects of research practice. We are committed to supporting the research community in the diverse ways a research career can be built with our investments. This includes career breaks, support for people with caring responsibilities, flexible working and alternative working patterns. With this in mind, we welcomes applications from academics who job share, have a part-time contract, need flexible working arrangements or those currently committed to other longer, large existing grants. Please see our Equality and Diversity webpages (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/>) for further information. For those applications with caring responsibilities, please also see:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/basics/caringresponsibilities/>

## Equipment

Equipment is not available through this call.

For more information on equipment funding, please see:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/>

## Eligibility

For information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive EPSRC funding, see the EPSRC Funding Guide:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/>

A list of eligible organisations to apply to EPSRC is provided at:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

## How to apply

Groups wishing to apply for the full proposal call must submit the Expression of Interest via the form on the EPSRC call page:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/coretocorecollab2018/>

This must be done before **16:00 on 23 August 2018**. The following will be asked in the survey:

- Names and institutions of the principal investigator, and details of current peer-reviewed funding for the UK-based investigators (as evidence of relevant research portfolio).
- Details of collaboration partners, including those in the UK, Japan and the additional overseas nation.
- Strengths of, and justification for, the consortium partners.

- Up to 350 words detailing how the collaboration fits within 'advanced functional materials' and the remit of EPSRC Physical Sciences.
- Up to 350 words detailing how the proposed collaboration will add value to the UK-based investigators.
- Up to 350 words detailing how the collaboration activity and outcomes will contribute to EPSRC strategies.

Please note that this is not intended to restrict detail in the final submission as minor changes will be allowed.

## Assessment

### Assessment process

Expressions of interest will be assessed by an internal panel. Decisions on eligibility will be made using the criteria above. Those who do not meet eligibility criteria will be informed and will not be invited to submit a full proposal.

Following assessment by an internal panel, successful applications will be invited to coordinate with Japanese partners and these Japanese partners will be responsible for submitting an application to JSPS for matching funds. Full submissions to JSPS must be led by the relevant Japanese partner and the peer-review assessment will be conducted by JSPS. Application for match funds from EPSRC will be coordinated in October 2018; further instructions will be provided. Details of the process for full submission can be found in Appendix 1.

In the event of this call being substantially oversubscribed as to be unmanageable, EPSRC reserve the right to modify the assessment process.

### Assessment criteria

#### Expression of Interest

The EOI will be assessed by EPSRC staff on:

- How the research fits into advanced functional materials areas. The proposed research must sit predominantly within the 'Physical Sciences' remit of EPSRC.
- Whether the proposed collaboration fits with the current EPSRC "Physical Sciences" strategy for the relevant materials research area(s).
- The proposed investigator team including overseas collaborators. This must include collaborators from Japan and **at least one other country in addition to the UK investigators**. Projects are therefore expected to include a minimum of three countries (including the UK and Japan). Justification of proposed collaborators is required, detailing their contribution(s) to the proposed research.
- Details of current/recent relevant peer-reviewed funding for the UK-based investigators (including grants completed within the last 24 months), from EPSRC or other sources.

## Full Proposals

Assessment of invited full proposals will be through the JSPS part of the application.

## Feedback

EPSRC will not be able to provide feedback from JSPS processes and peer review.

## Moving forward

Submissions to this call will **not** count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy. Further information about the policy can be found at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/basics/resubpol/rua/>

## Key dates

Activity	Date*
Expression of Interest closing date	23 August 2018

\*EPSRC aims to adhere to the key dates as published, however there may be exceptions where the sift, prioritisation or interview meeting may have to change due to panel member availability.

## Contacts

**Any enquiries related to the EPSRC proposal call should be directed to:**

Physical Sciences central email ([PhysicalSciences@epsrc.ac.uk](mailto:PhysicalSciences@epsrc.ac.uk))

or:

### Marianne Rolph

Portfolio Manager, Physical Sciences  
EPSRC  
Polaris House  
North Star Avenue  
Swindon SN2 1ET

Tel: 01793 44 4002

E-mail: [marianne.rolph@epsrc.ac.uk](mailto:marianne.rolph@epsrc.ac.uk)

Queries on the Core-to-Core programme should be sent directly to:

### Polly Watson

International Programme Coordinator  
JSPS London  
14 Stephenson Way  
London NW1 2HD

Tel: 020 7255 4660

Fax: 020 7255 4669

E-mail: [polly@jsps.org](mailto:polly@jsps.org)

# Appendix 1: Full Proposal Peer Review Process

## 1.1 Assessment process and criteria

Full submissions to JSPS must be led by the relevant Japan-based partner and the peer-review assessment, and setting of criteria, will be conducted by JSPS. Any feedback on your proposal will be informed to your Japanese partners by the JSPS.

A concurrent submission should also be made to EPSRC, following the guidelines below. This will not be peer reviewed. EPSRC will make awards as advised by JSPS, based on their peer review. EPSRC will inform whether or not you are successful in receiving the funding. However, EPSRC will not be able to provide the ranking order or feedback from the panel. Please refer to the JSPS call document for further details: [https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-c2c/data/Outline\\_of\\_the\\_Program\\_rev.pdf](https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-c2c/data/Outline_of_the_Program_rev.pdf)

Submissions to EPSRC must conform to deadlines set out for both the Expressions of Interest and the JSPS full Proposal call. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

## 1.2 Submitting an application

When your partner submits to JSPS you must also submit to EPSRC. You should prepare and submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>).

When adding a new proposal, you should select:

- Council 'EPSRC'
- Document type 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme 'Standard'
- On the Project Details page you should select the 'EPSRC-JSPS Core-to-Core Collaboration Advanced Materials' call.

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to EPSRC. Please allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date. The EPSRC proposal should be submitted to EPSRC anytime between 25 September and 25 October 2018. EPSRC must receive your application by **16:00 on 25 October 2018**.

The following documentations will be required:

1. **Je-S form:** Filled in as usual outlining the resources requested from EPSRC and appropriately describing the objectives, summary, academic beneficiaries and impact. Instructions on how to calculate the breakdown for costing are listed below (section 1.3).
2. **Justification for Resources:** Must adhere to usual EPSRC standards.
3. **Case for Support:** This should comprise a single document in two sections: Firstly the **JSPS** proposal which will be in Japanese. Secondly, an

English language case for support. There are not page limits for this document.

4. **Other Attachment:** Attach a list of all partners, including their full name, affiliation and country as 'other attachment'.

Applicants should use the Ethical Information section on the Je-S form to demonstrate to peer reviewers that they have fully considered any ethical issues concerning the material they intend to use, the nature and choice, current public perceptions and attitudes towards the subject matter or research area. EPSRC will not fund a project if it believes that there are ethical concerns that have been overlooked or not appropriately accounted for. All relevant parts of the Ethical Information section must be completed. If the research will involve human participation or the use of animals covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 it is recommended that applicants pay particular attention to the guidance highlighted below. EPSRC reserves the right to reject applications prior to peer review if the Ethical Information sections are not completed correctly.

Further guidance on completing the Je-S form can be found at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/EthicalInformation.htm>. Other relevant guidance includes: EPSRC's policy on animal use in research (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy/>) and the Responsible Innovation Framework (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

Please note that on submission to EPSRC all non-PDF documents uploaded onto Je-S are converted to PDF, the use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document.

In addition, where non-standard fonts are present, and even though the converted PDF document may look unaffected in the Je-S System, when it is imported into the Research Councils Grants System some information may be removed. We therefore recommend that where a document contains any non-Page 10 of 15 standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams etc.), the document is converted to PDF prior to attaching it to the proposal.

For advice on writing proposals see:

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/preparing/>

### 1.3 Resources

EPSRC will contribute up to £2 million for this call in matched funding.

The JSPS core-to-core programme will provide up to ¥18 million (currently roughly equal to £123K) per year for up to 5 years. The UK component should be match funding, and therefore will be limited to ¥90 million. This value is currently approximately £615k over five years. Please note: actual value of exchange rate should be calculated at the point of submission to JSPS and may fluctuate slightly. Please indicate the exchange rate you have used in your justification for resources, **indicating where you obtained it.**

Indirect and estates costs are not included in this total, and can be asked for on top of the matching funds. The total cost to EPSRC (i.e. the matched funding + the indirect and estate costs) **should not be greater than £1 million.**



JSPS and EPSRC stipulate that **at least half** of requested resources (not including indirect and estate costs) must be spent on travel, subsistence, networking and collaboration building activities. Standard EPSRC rules around travel apply.

## 1.4 Assessment process

Peer review will be carried out on the full JSPS proposal and decision made by JSPS. Results will be conferred to EPSRC who will then fund the UK part of the collaboration.

## 1.5 Additional Grant Conditions (AGCs)

Grants will be subject to the standard RCUK grant conditions, however the following additional grants conditions will be added to this call:

- Applicants will be required to demonstrate continued support and funding for the non-UK based parts of the consortium.
- Applicants will be required to provide EPSRC with annual reports of activities, results and value added to the consortium, provided through the relevant EPSRC contact.
- Applicants will be required to invite EPSRC representation to large networking events.

Queries on the Expressions of Interest should be sent to Marianne Rolph ([marianne.rolph@epsrc.ac.uk](mailto:marianne.rolph@epsrc.ac.uk)) at EPSRC.

Queries on the Core-to-Core programme should be sent directly to Polly Watson ([polly@jsps.org](mailto:polly@jsps.org)) at JSPS London.

Please note that the JSPS Core-to-Core programme is **not** a joint programme with other funding agencies including the EPSRC.

## Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Marianne Rolph	17/07/2018	1	N/A

## Je-S attachments Check List

### Standard:

Attachment Type	Maximum Page length	Mandatory/Optional	Extra Guidance
Case for Support	No maximum page length	M	This should comprise a single document in two sections: Firstly, the JSPS proposal which will be in

			Japanese. Secondly, an English language case for support.
Justification for Resources	2 pages	M	
Other attachment	No page limit	As required, at EPSRC request only	Attach a list of all partners, including their full name, affiliation and country as 'other attachment'

Please ensure you adhere to the above attachment requirements when submitting your proposal. Any missing, over length or unnecessary attachments may result in your proposal being rejected.