

## **SP+ Fund 2026 Application Guidelines (ECR Program)**

(Fund to Support International Research Collaboration with Strategic Partner Institutions, Etc.)

### **Purpose of the Fund**

In order to promote cross-disciplinary research exchange by each of its faculties and departments and promote collaborative research and personnel mobility in new academic fields, Kyoto University has concluded Strategic Partnership Agreements with the five universities indicated below (hereinafter referred to as “SP institutions”) based on agreement at the presidential (executive) level.



The SP+ Fund is intended to further deepen sustainable research exchange with SP institutions and support progressive international research collaboration with multiple institutions centered around each SP institution. The fund has two main programs: **the General Program**, which provides support for international research projects in collaboration with SP institutions, etc., and **the ECR (early-career researcher) Program**, which provides support for ECR exchanges with SP institutions.

These application guidelines are for the **ECR Program**.

As mentioned above, the ECR Program provides travel expenses for dispatching early-career researchers to engage in research at SP institutions or to invite early-career researchers from SP institutions to engage in research at Kyoto University.

\*One early-career researcher may be dispatched or invited per application.

\*The destination of early-career researchers dispatched from Kyoto University must be one of the university’s SP institutions.

Please refer to the next page for details.

Travel Period	July 2026– March 2027
Eligible applicants	<p>1: Full-time faculty members at Kyoto University (professors, associate professors, lecturers, assistant professors)</p> <p>*If the person to be dispatched from Kyoto University is a graduate student or researcher scholar, the application must be submitted via their supervisor.</p> <p>*Before applying, please confirm that you will continue to be employed by Kyoto University for the duration of the project being applied for.</p> <p>2: The project representative from the counterpart institution must be affiliated with the counterpart institution at the time of application.</p>
Eligible support recipients (early-career researchers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master’s course students</li> <li>• Doctoral course students</li> <li>• Assistant Professors or Research Scholars who have completed a master’s or doctoral degree within 10 years as of April 1, 2026 (the number of years that have elapsed since obtaining the degree are calculated excluding any periods of pre/postnatal leave and childcare leave).</li> </ul> <p><u>Please confirm the following before applying:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The recipient must be employed by Kyoto University or the SP institution for the duration of the project being applied for (or in the case of students, they must continue to be enrolled).</li> <li>➤ In the case of early-career researchers dispatched from Kyoto University, there must be no problems regarding the researcher’s effort management or business trip procedures.</li> </ul>
Amount of funding award	Up to 200,000 JPY (National Taiwan University) or 800,000 JPY (other SP institutions) per award.
Use of the funding	Travel expenses for dispatching/inviting early-career researchers (transport expenses, accommodation fees, other miscellaneous expenses).
Application Procedures	After confirming the terms and conditions on the following pages, please have <b><u>your faculty/department’s administrative office</u></b> submit all of the required application documents as <b><u>PDF files</u></b> to the International Relations Section of Kyoto University’s International Affairs Office (apply-intl@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp).
Application deadline	<p>Deadline for submission to the International Affairs Office: April 24 (Fri.), 2026</p> <p>*Please note that the deadline for submission of the documents to the administrative office of each faculty/department is earlier than the deadline above. Please be sure to confirm the deadline for submission to your faculty/department’s administrative office.</p>
Application documents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SP+ Fund 2026 Application Form (ECR) (applications can be submitted in either Japanese or English)</li> <li>2. SP+ Fund Application Agreement Forms (ECR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For applicants from Kyoto University</li> <li>• For early-career researchers (not required if the fund recipient and applicant are the same person)</li> <li>• For hosting researchers (not required if the hosting researcher and applicant are the</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>same person)</p> <p>3. CVs:</p> <p>(a) In the case of a researcher being dispatched from Kyoto University to an SP institution: the CV of the early-career researcher from Kyoto University and the hosting researcher at the partner institution</p> <p>(b) In the case of a researcher from an SP institution being invited to Kyoto University: The CVs of the early-career researcher from the SP institution and the hosting researcher at Kyoto University</p> <p><b><u>*All CVs should be a maximum of two A4 pages per person in either case.</u></b></p>
Selection Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistency and clarity of the application plan</li> <li>• Continuity of collaborative relationships (continuation of collaborative activities after the period of the visit that is being applied for, joint applications for external funding, etc.)</li> <li>• Contribution to strengthening the relationship between Kyoto University and the SP institution.</li> <li>• Necessity and validity of the expenses applied for</li> </ul> <p>* Priority will be given to young researchers who are traveling with a project plan different from the General Program.</p> <p><b><u>*Priority will be given to themes related to planetary health in the case of visits to or from the University of Hamburg.</u></b></p> <p>For reference:  About Planetary Health (Planetary Health Alliance website)  <a href="https://www.planetaryhealthalliance.org/planetary-health">https://www.planetaryhealthalliance.org/planetary-health</a></p>
Number of funding awards	Approximately 10 projects in total
Announcement of successful applications	Announcement of successful applications: Mid-June 2026

For the General Program, please refer to “SP+ Fund 2026 Application Guidelines (General Program)”

Contact for inquiries:

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