17 September 2025

**RESEARCH DIVISION COMMUNIQUÉ**

FINAL REMINDER: SA-JAPAN (JSPS) JOINT RESEARCH MOBILITY CALL 2026/2027

Dear Staff

**PLEASE NOTE: BOTH NRF AND INTERNAL CLOSING DATE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2025**

***Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF through the link***: [*https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za*](https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za)

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Japan, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are **NOT** eligible to apply under this programme.

**South Africa:**

* The South African applicant must have a **PhD.**
* This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology, or science council.
* Proposals submitted by an applicant based at a historically advantaged institution without a research partner from an HDI will be ineligible and will not be submitted for review. The research partner from an HDI, in this case, can serve as a co-applicant in the proposal. Please note that co-applicants are also required to have a PhD.
* Joint projects involving young researchers (through reciprocal research visits and mini sabbaticals), postdoctoral fellows, and paying attention to government equity targets by ensuring a balanced involvement of female and black researchers will be positively considered and receive a higher rating
* Each PI is allowed to submit only one proposal, under penalty of exclusion.

**Japan:**

Japanese PIs must hold a full-time or equivalent position as a researcher at a university or research institute in Japan that is eligible to receive Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research - KAKENHI. However, there are cases when a researcher not employed in a full-time position may be eligible.

**COMPULSORY ATTACHMENTS**

PIs must attach the required compulsory documents in PDF format in the following order:

1. CVs of partner Principal Investigators.
2. Budgets of partner Principal Investigators.
3. Budget division of the South African team, in particular budget sharing between the historically advantaged and HDIs.

**NOTE: Failure to submit compulsory documents will result in the disqualification of the application and will make the entire project ineligible**.

**IMPORTANT TO NOTE**:

Applicants are advised to **remove** the **CAMPUSES** from which they are based when completing their applications and **ONLY** select **University of KwaZulu-Natal**.

For further queries, kindly contact: **Ms Nondumiso Radebe** at [radeben4@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:radeben4@ukzn.ac.za) or Ext 8431 OR **Mrs Patricia Ngwenya** at [ngwenyap@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:ngwenyap@ukzn.ac.za) or call Ext 3272

**Issued by the University Research Division**