



## MIRAI2.0 – Joint seed funding of Japan-Sweden collaborative projects

### Call for collaborative projects

To strengthen collaboration between Japan and Sweden in research, education, and innovation, MIRAI2.0 is launching a call for seed funding to support promising collaborative initiatives. The objective is to encourage further development of existing and new collaborations between MIRAI2.0 member universities based on innovative projects and new ideas.

Researchers from MIRAI2.0 member universities will be able to jointly suggest a project in their field that has the potential to lead to e.g. externally funded research, jointly authored papers, larger scale collaborations, joint programs, short course for PhD and Post-Docs etc.

Up to 30 projects will be selected for funding. Each proposal will be funded with maximum of 67 000 SEK to Swedish project partners and a maximum of 400 000 JPY to Japanese project partners. Funding may be spent on interactive activities aimed to foster collaboration, such as workshops, seminars and meetings including travel costs, as well as virtual activities. Funding may also be used for pilot study costs or salary costs creating focused time to prepare joint applications for external research grants, joint programs, and courses. Funding may not be used to cover overhead-costs. Spending must be in accordance with internal rules and regulations of the applicant's university. Co-financing is not required.

Call deadline: 1 November, 2021

Submission: Proposals (the official application form from [www.mirai.nu/funding](http://www.mirai.nu/funding) with attachments) should be compiled into one (1) PDF and addressed to: [mirai@gu.se](mailto:mirai@gu.se).

In addition to that, each applicant should CC their MIRAI 2.0 Project Manager<sup>1</sup> in the email when sending in the application.

### Eligibility

All project proposals are expected to be of high academic quality and have innovation potential. They must fulfill the following criteria:

- All applicants must be employees at one of the MIRAI2.0 member universities<sup>2</sup>.
- Projects must include participants from at least one (1) Swedish and one (1) Japanese MIRAI2.0 member university.

*Note: PhD students cannot be included as main applicants of a proposal.*

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<sup>1</sup> List of MIRAI 2.0 Project Managers <https://www.mirai.nu/contact/>

<sup>2</sup> List of MIRAI 2.0 member universities <https://www.mirai.nu/about-mirai/>. MIRAI 2.0 Associate partners/members are not eligible for seed funding.

## Selection Criteria

Projects should relate to at least one (1) of the MIRAI2.0 topics: *Ageing, Artificial Intelligence, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Materials Science, Sustainability*. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. The potential to initiate new, or further develop existing, collaboration of high scientific quality between Sweden and Japan within the scope of MIRAI2.0.
2. The involvement of, or focus on, early career researchers<sup>3</sup> and/or doctoral students.

MIRAI2.0 especially encourages projects:

- involving co-applicants from additional Swedish and Japanese MIRAI2.0 member universities (in addition to the two (2) main applicants).
- with a cross-disciplinary approach involving applicants/researchers within several of the MIRAI2.0 topics.
- that have a gender consideration/balance (see application form).
- where the main applicants have participated in MIRAI2.0 Research and Innovation (R&I) week (Digital event June 7-11, 2021) or in the follow up workshop/activity that each MIRAI2.0 theme is expected to run after the R&I week

## Procedure

The procedure is a one-step process. A full proposal must be submitted to MIRAI2.0 via the seed funding call e-mail: [mirai@gu.se](mailto:mirai@gu.se) (with CC to the MIRAI2.0 Project Managers at the applicants' University) by deadline 1 November, 2021.

Proposals (application form and attachments) must be compiled into one document and submitted electronically in PDF format. Applicants will receive confirmation by email upon successful receipt of their proposals.

## Application

The proposal should contain the following information:

- Details of main applicants (one per country) and co-applicants (if applicable) including short CVs (maximum two pages – in PDF). The CV should indicate the researcher's competence and relevance for the project.
- Project description, maximum three pages (font 11pt Arial, 1.5 line spacing, 3 cm margin all around), clearly describing:
  - The objective of the project
  - How the project relates to the MIRAI2.0 topics and the selection criteria (1-2, see above).
  - Timeline, planned activities and budget (use template in application form).
  - The contribution of each partner. (How each applicant will contribute with expertise to the project and possible contributions of research outcome to the literature of the related research area).
  - Available resources, including existing funding, that may supplement the activities in the project.

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<sup>3</sup> Within 10 years of awarded PhD degree

## **Evaluation and selection process**

Applications will be evaluated by MIRAI2.0 Thematic Expert Groups and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Advisory Group (TEG/IEAG)<sup>4</sup> based on the selection criteria. TEG/IEAG will shortlist and nominate projects for funding to the MIRAI2.0 General Assembly. Taking into account the balance between MIRAI2.0 topics and universities, the MIRAI2.0 General Assembly will make the final decision of selected applications.

Selected projects will be announced on 15 December, 2021.

## **Implementation and Report**

Projects can start directly after the grant contract has been signed and funding must be spent during 2022.

Depending on the development of restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, MIRAI2.0 will be flexible in approving changes/adaptations of the planned project activities.

A final report, using the MIRAI2.0 final report template, should be submitted to MIRAI2.0 within two months of the end date of the project. All selected projects must be completed no later than 31 December, 2022.

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<sup>4</sup> TEG/IEAG consist of senior researchers/experienced staff within the MIRAI2.0 topics. Each application will be evaluated by at least one Swedish and one Japanese TEG/IEAG member.