



STINT Financed Seed Funding MIRAI 2024-2026

Call For Seed Funding from the STINT Grant

As per the grant awarded by STINT, MIRAI 2024-2026 is launching a call for seed funding to support promising research collaborative initiatives. The objective is to encourage further development of existing and new collaborations between MIRAI member universities based on innovative projects and new ideas.

Call deadline: 28 February 2025

Submission: Proposals (the official application form from www.mirai.nu/funding with attachments) should be compiled into one (1) PDF and addressed to: mirai@umu.se with cc to the MIRAI Project Managers¹ from the GCT Chair university.

Joint Research Projects:

Researchers from Japanese and Swedish MIRAI member universities will be able to jointly propose a project idea which falls within one of the GCT areas that has the potential to lead to a longer and potentially more substantial collaboration. Projects could include, but are not limited to, preparing applications for external funding, collaborating on analyzing or publishing existing data, and conducting preliminary or pilot research. At least 12 projects will be selected for funding, a minimum of 3 per GCT. Each proposal will be funded with a maximum of 138,300 SEK and a maximum 250,000 JPY*. Funding may be spent on any activity deemed necessary to achieve the project goals and could include activities such as workshops, seminars and meetings, and virtual activities. Funding may also be used for pilot study, salary and travel costs that are necessary.

MIRAI especially encourages projects:

- That includes or has a focus on early-career researchers
- Involving co-applicants from other Swedish and Japanese MIRAI partner universities in addition to the two (2) main applicants' universities
- With cross-, inter- or multidisciplinary approaches
- That have a gender consideration/balance

Eligibility

All proposals are expected to be of high academic quality. They must fulfill the following criteria:

- Proposals must include co-main applicants from one (1) Swedish and one (1) Japanese MIRAI member university. Main applicants must be employees of the university. Note: PhD students cannot be included as **main** applicants of a

¹ List of Mirai Project Managers <https://www.mirai.nu/contact/>

proposal; however, they as well as researchers from other MIRAI partner universities may be listed as co-applicants

- Project teams that successfully receive seed funding in earlier MIRAI calls may apply for further funding, but they are expected to indicate the achievement they have already made and specify how the project will be further developed if they receive funding again. They are also expected to indicate which other funds they have identified as relevant to apply for in the future.

Selection Criteria

Proposals should relate to at least one (1) of the MIRAI Global Challenges:

- Health and an ageing population
- Climate adaption, disaster and risk management and prevention
- Resilient cities and communities – policies, strategies, local government and urban planning
- Materials for Energy Conversion and Storage: renewable energy, solar energy conversion, electrification, sustainable processes and use of resources

Project proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality
- The potential to initiate new, or further develop existing, between Sweden and Japan within the GCT area.
- The involvement of, or focus on, early-career researchers and/or doctoral students.

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 descriptions and CVs should focus on achievements and competencies that are relevant for the project.
- Description of project, maximum three pages (font 11pt Arial, 1.5-line spacing, 3 cm margin all around), clearly describing:
 - The objective of the project including the scientific background and the potential of the project to move the field forward.
 - How the project relates to the selection criteria (see above)
 - Timeline planned activities and budget (use template in application form).
 - Expected concrete outcomes of the project
 - The contributions of each partner
 - Available resources, including existing funding, that may supplement the activities in the project
 - Signed statement from the respective department/university that agrees

to co-finance OH.

Procedure

A full proposal must be submitted to the MIRAI e-mail address: mirai@umu.se (with CC to the MIRAI Project Managers at the main co-applicants' universities) by the deadline of **28 February 2025**. 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 submission of their proposals.

Evaluation and selection process

Project applications will be evaluated by MIRAI Global Challenges Teams (GCTs) based on the selection criteria. GCTs will shortlist and nominate projects for funding to the MIRAI Board of Directors (BoD) meeting on March 5, 2025. BoD will nominate projects for funding to the MIRAI General Assembly that will decide by March 15, 2025. Considering the balance between MIRAI topics and universities, the MIRAI General Assembly will make the final decision of selected applications. Selected projects will be announced on **20 March 2025**.

Implementation and Report

Projects can start directly after the grant contract has been signed and funding must be spent during MIRAI's seed funding project period. Changes/adaptations of the planned project will be considered if unanticipated circumstances occur. Proposed changes should be submitted to mirai@umu.se for approval before implementation.

A final report, using the MIRAI final report template, should be submitted to MIRAI within two months of the end date of the project. All selected projects must be completed, and a final report submitted **no later than 31 December 2026**. These final reports will be published on MIRAI website and some of projects might be requested to give a presentation or prepare something especially to external stakeholders, to ensure a wide dissemination of MIRAI outcomes.

****Japanese Member Universities Only:***

Successful Projects to be funded independently by the Japanese side

Based on the independent budget management of the Japanese side, the successful main applicant from a Japanese member university will be funded with a maximum of 250,000 JPY, in addition to (separate from) the above grant to the Swedish main applicant. This grant should be used for activities mentioned in the application form and should comply with the above seed funding criteria. This grant is supported by the Japanese annual membership fees and is administered by the Japanese coordinating university as the secretariat in Japan.