

Second call for applications: MIRAI Japanese-Swedish mobility grant for Early-Career Researchers (2025-2027)

Call for Applications

Linnaeus University is pleased to announce a second call within the MIRAI collaboration: *STINT Work Package ECR: Longer-Term Mobility for PhD Students and Early Career Researchers*. This program presents a unique opportunity for Linnaeus University to send candidates for extended research stays in Japan and to welcome Japanese researchers from the [MIRAI network partners](#), fostering deeper collaboration in research and education.

Through this initiative, Linnaeus University opens for **two (2) PhD candidates or Early Career Researchers (ECR)** going to Japan.

This mobility is funded by **STINT (The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education)**.

Purpose

The purpose of the long-term mobility is to establish, continue and deepen collaborations with MIRAI universities. The MIRAI long-term mobility scheme will help you:

- Broadening and deepening your skills and research interest.
- Facilitating mobility and sharing of ideas.
- Stimulating new research ideas.
- Building your network amongst researchers at MIRAI universities.

Eligibility

Early Career Researchers: Applicants must either be currently enrolled as a doctoral student or have obtained their doctoral degree in **2021 or later**.

Employment: PhD students at Linnaeus University must remain enrolled, and ECR researchers must be employed, at Linnaeus University for the entire duration of their time abroad.

Linnaeus University researchers with a completed PhD must hold a **permanent position** at Linnaeus University or be employed as an **assistant lecturer** or **postdoctoral researcher**. Linnaeus University applicants must be registered (folkbokförd) in Sweden and **covered by social insurance in Sweden**.

Duration of Stay: The stay must be a minimum of **5 months** continuously. The mobility should be **completed by November 1, 2027**, at the latest.

Mobility partner for outgoing Linnaeus researchers: The mobility must take place at one of the [MIRAI partner universities in Japan](#).

Global Challenge Teams: Research endeavors should contribute to at least one of the MIRAI Global Challenges Teams areas.

During the mobility period, researchers will work on their individual projects while being integrated into a research group. PhD students should align the mobility experience with their ongoing studies, while postdoctoral researchers are expected to continue their research. Participation in teaching, seminars, or workshops is encouraged if opportunities arise, but it is neither mandatory nor a requirement for the application.

Funding

The candidate should continue to receive their salary/compensation (without any deductions) from the home university during the duration of stay. The funding for the mobility is hence not intended to cover salary but rather additional costs during the mobility. Any additional costs above the granted funding should be covered by the candidate. An interrupted stay will result in a repayment obligation for the recipient.

Linnaeus University applicants to Japan

All selected **Linnaeus University** applicants sign an URA contract, which will be administered locally by the HR partner for the respective department. While the URA contract states maximum amounts, each URA contract is customized and calculated individually depending on the needs of the candidate. The employee is covered by an URA insurance through Kammarkollegiet.

Please note that your department's HR partner arranges the URA contract. Since this process may take time, applicants are responsible for reaching out to their HR partner to understand the expected processing time and requirements. Be sure to factor this into your mobility planning. Funding is available in standard amounts from the URA contract as follows:

Monthly subsistence allowance: Maximum 6 307 SEK per month tax-free (sum from July 1, 2025, subject to revision twice a year by the Swedish Agency for Government Employers).

Travel expenses: Up to 20 000 SEK for round-trip economy-class flights to and from Japan (must comply with Lnu travel policies).

Housing: Accommodation costs (rent) in Japan are reimbursed based on actual expenses, up to a maximum of 10,000 SEK per month.

Expenses for accompanying family: Up to 30 000 SEK for accompanying family members (spouse/partner and/or dependent children), which may be used for travel costs and/or to cover maintenance allowance.

Visitor fees: If the host university charges fees for office space or other facilities, up to 3 000 SEK per month may be covered.

Insurance

All recipients will be insured through **Kammarkollegiet**, see link under *Linnaeus University applicants to Japan*. If you have a **preexisting medical condition**, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have sufficient coverage for that during your time abroad as well as having **home insurance** covering your accommodation abroad. Please note that insurance for accompanying family members can be included in the insurance from Kammarkollegiet.

Other conditions for the mobility

Return Obligation: Upon completing their stay abroad, researchers are required to return to their home country and resume their role at their home university.

Research Placement and Collaboration: Researchers must have a designated research host at the host university. **Each applicant is responsible for contacting relevant research groups at the host university** to discuss potential opportunities for the mobility period. The MIRAI contact persons can be used to establish contacts with research groups.

Departmental Approval: Linnaeus applicants must include approval from the applicant's home university **Head of Department to confirm approval** of the mobility and justify why the project is of strategic value to both the applicant and the department, as well as acknowledge any additional costs beyond the granted amount and confirm that the URA contract will be administered locally.

Post-Mobility Reporting: Upon completing the research period abroad, researchers must submit a report to Linnaeus University detailing their contacts, research activities, and other academic outcomes achieved during the mobility period no later than **November 1, 2027**.

Other funding: The candidate should *not* receive any other form of external financing to fund the mobility.

Host University Support: The host university is expected to:

- Waive any administrative fees associated with the visit.
- Assist, where possible, with securing housing.
- Provide a workspace, access cards/keys, and any necessary resources to facilitate the research.

Additional considerations: Applicants are strongly advised to review the visa requirements for Japan and Sweden. As visa processing can take time, it is important to include this in the planning of the mobility period. Additional information is available on the MIRAI website and the respective countries embassies.

Selection criteria

The selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Motivation and commitment to participate in the programme.
- The potential of the mobility to develop the applicant's skills and research interests, and/or stimulate new research ideas.
- Balanced distribution between disciplines/faculties at Linnaeus University.

Submission procedure and deadline

Applicants must complete and submit an application form along with the following supporting documents:

- **Completed application form**
- **Invitation Letter** A formal invitation from the Japanese institution or research group confirming their willingness to host the applicant.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV) and publication list** A concise overview of the candidate's qualifications and experience.
- **Motivation Letter** A personal statement explaining the applicant's reasons for pursuing the mobility opportunity.

Application procedure

The application deadline for the second call is October 31, 2025 by e-mail to charlotte.skoglund@lnu.se The applications are processed by the Office of External Relations, prioritized by the Linnaeus University Steering Group for MIRAI and decided by the Vice-rector for Internationalisation Daniel Alvunger.

Timeline

Second Call Deadline: October 31, 2025

Assessment period: November 3-15, 2025

Participant Announcement: November 17, 2025

Programme Start: 2025-2027

Programme Conclusion: by November 1, 2027