

MIRAI Japanese-Swedish mobility grant for doctoral students and early career researchers 2026/2027

Linköping University (LiU) is pleased to announce this call for mobility of doctoral students and early career researchers between the [MIRAI network](#) member universities. LiU intends to finance up to two persons. **The programme is open for applications until 31 October 2025.**

The call is open to:

- Early career researchers and doctoral students employed at Linköping University who wish to spend five (5) months at one of the Japanese [MIRAI member universities](#).

Why should you apply?

Participating in this programme offers opportunity to:

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

Eligibility

- Doctoral students and early career researchers who have obtained their doctoral degrees in 2021 or later.
- Applicants travelling from LiU to Japan must be employed at Linköping University at the time of application and remain employed during the entire mobility.
- Applicants travelling from LiU to Japan must be registered in Sweden; must be covered by social insurance in Sweden; must be registered and have tax domicile in Sweden.
- Research endeavors should, where possible, contribute to at least one of the [MIRAI Global Challenge](#) areas.
- The mobility programme funds a 5 month stay. The mobility must be continuous and cannot be divided into shorter stays. It is possible to stay longer than 5 months, no funding will be provided for the additional time. The mobility must be completed by 1 December 2027.

During the mobility period, the doctoral students/researchers are expected to pursue their individual research projects while being integrated into a research group at the host university. Doctoral students should incorporate the mobility into their ongoing doctoral project, and postdoctoral and early career researchers are expected to continue their research. It is expected to engage in a limited amount of teaching activities at the host university, for example giving a guest lecture and/or offering support to bachelor or master students.

Application requirements

Each applicant is expected to contact relevant research groups individually to discuss opportunities to undertake the mobility period at that university. The [MIRAI contact persons](#) can be used to establish contacts with research groups.

Applicants must submit the following documents (font size 12):

- **Completed application form**
- **Curriculum Vitae and publication list** (maximum four pages)
- **Letter of invitation** signed by the head of the research group at the host university.
If you are an applicant at LiU, you should submit an invitation letter that invites you to join a research group at a Japanese MIRAI university.
- **Project plan** (maximum one page)

- **Motivation letter** (maximum two pages) outlining the purpose of the mobility; describing your motivation to participate in the programme; the expected outcomes and impacts; and – if relevant – how the mobility may contribute to educational assignments such as teaching upon return to the home university.

The Head of Department must sign the application to confirm approval of the mobility and justify how 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.

Funding details

The funding applied for in this mobility is not intended to cover salary but rather additional costs incurred as a result of the mobility.

The successful candidate(s) from LiU should continue to receive their salary/compensation (without any deductions) from LiU during the whole duration of stay.

Selected applicants from LiU sign an abroad contract (URA) for employee, to be administered locally by their respective department. While an URA contract states maximum amounts, each URA contract is customized and calculated individually depending on the needs of the candidate.

Funding available to successful candidates as follows (details adjusted according to local regulations):

- **Monthly subsistence allowance:** For Swedes in Japan 6,307 SEK per month (subject to revision by the Swedish Agency for Government Employers).
- **Travel expenses:** Up to 25,000 SEK for round-trip economy-class flights between Sweden and Japan. For LiU researchers, travel must comply with LiU travel policies.
- **Housing:** Accommodation costs 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 (e.g., office space, internet, key cards, etc.), up to 3,000 SEK per month may be covered.

Other conditions:

- All selected candidates are covered by the Swedish State Business travel insurance by Kammarkollegiet.
- Any additional costs above the granted funding should be covered by the candidate.
- An interrupted stay entails a repayment obligation.
- The candidate is responsible for the planning of the stay abroad and for any practical arrangements required, for example insurance for accompanying family members, additional insurances required outside of what Kammarkollegiet covers, accommodation, visas, and similar.
- The candidate from LiU should not receive any other form of external financing for the duration of the 5-month mobility to Japan.
- Upon completion of the stay, the candidate should return to the home university.
- The host university is expected to assist as much as possible with housing as well as provide a workspace, access cards, and necessary facilities for the candidate.
- Upon return the LiU candidate is not required to make a travel report in Primula. The monthly maintenance allowance provided in the URA agreement replaces any subsistence allowance.
- Upon return the LiU candidate is required to submit a report describing the outcomes of the mobility and how it has contributed to his/her research and professional development. The report must be submitted by 10 December 2027.

- Upon return it is expected that the LiU candidate assists in anchoring the value of international and cross-cultural experience in networking, carrying out research and – if relevant – teaching/lecturing.

Additional requirements

Applicants are strongly advised to review the visa requirements for Japan. 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](#).

For LiU candidates, the URA contract is arranged by the local HR officer at your department. As this process may take time, applicants are responsible for contacting their HR officer to understand the expected processing time and requirements. This should be taken into account when planning your mobility.

Selection criteria

The assessment group consists of LiU's deputy deans for research and the deputy vice-chancellor and they strive toward a selection result that includes balanced distribution across disciplines, faculties, and genders. 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 candidate's skills and research interests, and/or stimulate new research ideas.
- The potential of the candidate's mobility experience to be used in his/her educational assignments for the good of others once back at LiU.
- Endeavours should contribute to MIRAI research areas, and educational areas if applicable.

Application submission

Applications must be submitted no later than **31 Oct 2025** to helena.balogh@liu.se. Submit all documents via email. The title of the email should be "*MIRAI Mobility Application for [Your Name]*". Documents must be in PDF format.

Selection results will be communicated to applicants by the end of 2025. The mobility can start at the earliest 1 May 2026 and must be completed by 1 December 2027. For questions, please contact the MIRAI project manager at Linköping University, Helena Balogh helena.balogh@liu.se.

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