

Call for Applications: MIRAI Japanese-Swedish mobility grant for Early-Career Researchers (2025-2026)

2025-04-03

Call for Applications

Linnaeus University is pleased to announce a 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 and to **host one (1) Japanese researchers** at Linnaeus University in Sweden. The incoming spot for Japanese PhD candidate/ECR will be open to applicants from **Sophia University**.

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 Sophia University must remain enrolled, and ECR researchers must be employed at Sophia University throughout their stay abroad. Similarly, PhD students and ECR researchers at Linnaeus University 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 December 31, 2026, 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 a 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 6 318 SEK per month, tax-free (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.

Sophia University applicants to Linnaeus University

The funding for the incoming Japanese researcher will be paid directly to the Japanese recipient via Kyushu University. *Details on how the payment will be made will come later.*

Monthly subsistence allowance: 6 318 SEK per month.

Travel expenses: 20 000 SEK for round-trip economy-class flights to and from Japan.

Housing: Accommodation costs (rent) in Sweden of 10 000 SEK per month.

Expenses for accompanying family: 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, bench fee or other facilities 3 000 SEK per month may be covered.

Insurance

All recipients will be insured through **Kammarkollegiet**. For incoming Japanese researchers, please see details [here](#). For Swedish recipients, 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. Sophia applicants need approval from Sophia University.

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 January 31, 2027.

Other funding: If the applicant has other funding, they must ensure that it is compatible with any potential contracts with the agencies funding their project (for example FORMAS or VR).

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 is May 15, 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

Call Deadline: May 15, 2025

Assessment period: May 16- June 15, 2025

Participant Announcement: June 18, June 2025

Programme Start: 2025-2026

Programme Conclusion: by December 31, 2026

2025-04-03

Linnaeus University application form

MIRAI Japanese-Swedish mobility grant for Early-Career Researchers to Japan (2025-2026)

The program is open for applications until **May 15, 2025**. Funding is available for a five-month research stay at one of the Japanese universities in MIRAI during 2025–2026. The minimum mobility period is five months, and all stays must be completed by December 31, 2026. PhD students at Linnaeus University or researchers who obtained their doctoral degree in 2021 or later are eligible to apply. Applicants must be **employed** at Linnaeus University at the time of application and throughout the entire mobility period. They must also be **registered in Sweden and covered by Swedish social insurance**

Complete submissions containing the filled-out application form and required attachments are to be made to charlotte.skoglund@lnu.se

Applicant	
Name	
Date of birth	
Swedish social security number	
Address in Sweden	
Department	
Email	
Phone	
Nationalities	
Do you hold Japanese citizenship?	Yes / No
Are you employed at Linnaeus University during the mobility period?	Yes / No
Are you registered in Sweden and covered by social insurance in Sweden?	Yes / No
Is the mobility compatible with any eventual contracts with agencies funding your projects?	Yes / No
Year of doctoral defence (completed or expected):	

Japanese partner within MIRAI	
MIRAI Host University in Japan	
Duration of mobility (minimum 5 months)	From: _____ To: _____ Important: all mobility should be completed by 31 st of December 2026
Name of host professor in Japan	
Email of host professor in Japan	
Research Plan- overview of planned activities to be conducted in Japan.	

<p>Please list possible research projects, educational activities etc.</p> <p>Skills and research interest you intend to develop.</p> <p>A strategy for long-term collaboration.</p>	
<p>Of the four themes of MIRAI, what area is your research related to?</p> <p>Please highlight the challenge(s) that is relevant to your research</p>	<p>Challenge 1: Health and an ageing population (part of SDG 3)</p> <p>Challenge 2: Climate adaptation, disaster and risk management and prevention (part of SDG 13)</p> <p>Challenge 3: Resilient cities and communities - policies, strategies, local governance and urban planning (part of SDG 11)</p> <p>Challenge 4: Energy conversion and storage materials: renewable energy, solar energy conversion, electrification, sustainable processes and resource use (part of SDG 7)</p>
<p>Only for doctoral students:</p> <p>Is the intended mobility approved by your Lnu supervisor(s)? Please list the name(s) and email of your Lnu supervisor(s).</p>	

Resources requested (funding is received in standard amounts, SEK)		
	Applied amount:	Specify
Monthly subsistence allowance Maximum is 6 318 SEK per full month. This is a tax-free maintenance allowance determined and revised twice a year by the Swedish Agency for Government Employers.		
Travel expenses Up to maximum of 20 000 SEK The costs of the travels to and from Japan (economy class) can be covered. This must comply with Lnu travel policies and be booked according to internal rules and regulations at the department.		
Housing Accommodation costs in Japan are reimbursed at an actual cost, up to a maximum of 10 000 SEK per month for rent.		
Expenses for accompanying family If not applicable: 0 SEK Up to a maximum of 30 000 SEK will be provided to cover expenses for one accompanying family member, such as a spouse/partner, and/or dependent children. This could be used to cover cost for example travel costs* and/or to cover part of the maintenance allowance set by the Swedish Agency for Government Employers. <i>*This must be booked according to internal rules and regulations at the department.</i>		
Does the host university charge any visitor fee (for example, for the use of an office)? Up to a maximum of 3 000 SEK per month. List the fees that the host university will charge you for the use of their university facilities		
Total		

The employee is covered by URA insurance. For details on the terms and conditions, please visit Kammarkollegiet's [website](#).

Supporting signature from head of the department*	
Strategic value (for the department):	
Name	
Department	
Email	
Phone	
Date and signature	

Signature applicant	
Name	
Date and signature	

* The application must be signed by the head of department who thereby approves to the application and assures that any extra costs, which are not covered through the long-term mobility programme, will be covered by the department or the applicant. The approval also includes that permission to undertake the mobility alongside with the research/studies of the applicant is granted from the supervisor/head of department. It also needs to be justified why the mobility is of strategical value to the applicant and for the department and confirmed that the URA contract will be administered locally.

Submit the following documents with this application form:

- (I) **Letter of invitation from the host university** A formal invitation from the Japanese institution or research group confirming their willingness to host the applicant.
- (II) **Curriculum Vitae (CV) and publication list** A concise overview of the candidate's qualifications and experience.
- (III) **Motivation Letter (maximum 2 pages)** A personal statement explaining the applicant's reasons for pursuing the mobility opportunity.

Application deadline: May 15, 2025. All documents submitted via email must be in PDF format. The title of this email should be "*MIRAI Mobility Application for NAME*". Completed applications should be submitted to charlotte.skoglund@lnu.se

Linnaeus University application form

MIRAI Japanese-Swedish mobility grant for Early-Career Researchers to Sweden (2025-2026)

The program is open for applications until **May 15, 2025**. Funding is available for a five-month research stay at Linnaeus University during 2025–2026. The minimum mobility period is five months, and all stays must be completed by December 31, 2026. PhD students or researchers who obtained their doctoral degree in 2021 or later at **Sophia University** are eligible to apply. Applicants must be enrolled or employed at Sophia University at the time of application and throughout the entire mobility period

Complete submissions containing the filled-out application form and required attachments are to be made to charlotte.skoglund@lnu.se

Applicant	
Name	
Date of birth	
Social security nr	
Address in Japan	
Department	
Email	
Phone	
Nationalities	
Do you hold Japanese citizenship?	Yes / No
Are you employed at Sophia University during the mobility period?	Yes / No
Is the mobility compatible with any eventual contracts with agencies funding your project?	Yes / No
Year of doctoral defence (completed or expected):	

Sophia University researcher at Linnaeus University	
Duration of mobility (minimum 5 months)	From: _____ To: _____ Important: all mobility should be completed by 31 st of December 2026
Name of host professor at Linnaeus University	
Email of host professor at Linnaeus University	
Research Plan- overview of planned activities to be conducted in Japan.	
Please list possible research projects, educational activities etc.	

<p>Skills and research interest you intend to develop.</p> <p>A strategy for long-term collaboration.</p>	
<p>Of the four themes of MIRAI, what area is your research related to?</p> <p>Please highlight the challenge(s) that is relevant to your research</p>	<p>Challenge 1: Health and an ageing population (part of SDG 3)</p> <p>Challenge 2: Climate adaptation, disaster and risk management and prevention (part of SDG 13)</p> <p>Challenge 3: Resilient cities and communities - policies, strategies, local governance and urban planning (part of SDG 11)</p> <p>Challenge 4: Energy conversion and storage materials: renewable energy, solar energy conversion, electrification, sustainable processes and resource use (part of SDG 7)</p>
<p>Only for doctoral students:</p> <p>Is the intended mobility approved by your Sophia University supervisor(s)? Please list the name(s) and email of your Sophia University supervisor(s).</p>	

Resources requested (funding is received in standard amounts, SEK)		
	Applied amount:	Specify
Monthly subsistence allowance 6 318 SEK per full month.		
Travel expenses 20 000 SEK The costs of the travels to and from Japan (economy class) can be covered.		
Housing Accommodation costs 10 000 SEK per month for rent.		
Expenses for accompanying family If not applicable: 0 SEK Up to a maximum of 30 000 SEK will be provided to cover expenses for one accompanying family member, such as a spouse/partner, and/or dependent children. This could be used to cover cost for example travel costs and/or to cover part of the maintenance allowance.		
Does the host university charge any visitor fee (in Sweden called bench fee) for example, for the use of an office? 3 000 SEK per month. List the fees that the host university will charge you for the use of their university facilities.		
Total		

All foreign guests at Linnaeus University, as well as their accompanying family, are covered by a collective insurance (*Insurance for foreign visitors*) at Kammarkollegiet. It covers, among other things, emergency medical care, emergency dental care, accidents and certain property protection. 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.

Supporting signature from head of the department at Linnaeus University	
Strategic value (for the department):	
Name	
Department	

Email	
Phone	
Date and signature	

Supporting signature from Sophia University	
Name	
Department	
Email	
Phone	
Date and signature	

Signature applicant	
Name	
Date and signature	

Submit the following documents with this application form:

- (I) **Letter of invitation from the host university** A formal invitation from the Swedish department or research group confirming their willingness to host the applicant.
- (II) **Curriculum Vitae (CV) and publication list** A concise overview of the candidate's qualifications and experience.
- (III) **Motivation Letter (maximum 2 pages)** A personal statement explaining the applicant's reasons for pursuing the mobility opportunity.

Application deadline: May 15, 2025. All documents submitted via email must be in PDF format. The title of this email should be "MIRAI Mobility Application for NAME". Completed applications should be submitted to charlotte.skoglund@lnu.se