

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

The University of Gothenburg is pleased to announce a call designed to support mobility of early-career researchers between the MIRAI universities, as part of the STINT Work Package: *Long-term mobility for PhD students and Early Career Researchers*. This program presents a unique opportunity for extended research stays in Japan with the aim of fostering collaboration in research and education.

### Why should you apply?

The MIRAI long-term mobility scheme will benefit you by:

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

### Eligibility:

- Doctoral students, or early career researchers who obtained their doctoral degree in 2021 or later.
- Applicants must be employed at the University of Gothenburg at the time of application and remain employed during the entire mobility.
- Applicants must be nationally registered (folkbokförd) in Sweden, have its tax domicile in Sweden and be covered by social insurance in Sweden.
- The mobility must take place at one of the [MIRAI partner universities in Japan](#).
- Research endeavors should contribute to at least one of the [MIRAI Global Challenges Teams](#).
- The stay must be a minimum of 5 months and cannot exceed 12 months. The mobility period must be continuous and cannot be divided into shorter stays. The mobility should be completed by December 31, 2026 at the latest.

During the mobility period, researchers will pursue their individual research projects while being integrated into a research group at the host university. PhD students should incorporate the mobility into their ongoing doctoral project, and other researchers are expected to continue their research.

### Funding details

The successful candidate should continue to receive their salary/compensation (with no deductions) from the department at the University of Gothenburg during the whole duration of stay. The funding is hence not intended to cover salary but rather additional costs during the mobility. The mobility is formalized through an abroad contract (URA), locally administered by the respective department. While URA 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](#).

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.
- **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, bench fees or other facilities, up to 3,000 SEK per month may be covered.

### Other conditions:

- Any additional costs above the granted stipend should be covered by the candidate.
- An interrupted stay entails a repayment obligation, details will be regulated in the URA contract.
- The candidate should not receive any other form of external financing to finance this mobility.
- The application needs to be confirmed by the supervisor/mentor/PI/line manager.
- The mobility must be compatible with any eventual contracts with agencies funding their projects.
- The Japanese host university expects to assist with housing as well as provide a workspace, access cards, and necessary facilities.
- Upon completion of their stay in Japan, the candidate should return to Sweden.
- The maintenance allowance provided in the URA agreement replaces any subsistence allowance.
- Upon return it is expected that the candidate will contribute to anchor the value of international and cross-cultural experience in networking, carrying out research and -if relevant- teaching.
- The selected candidate is required to submit a report highlighting the outcomes/results of the mobility no later than January 31, 2027.

### Additional considerations:

As visa processing take time, it is critical to include this in the planning. Applicants are strongly advised to review the visa requirements for Japan. Information is available on [the MIRAI website](#). The URA contract is arranged by the local HR officer at your department. Applicants are responsible to contact their HR officer to understand the expected processing time and requirements.

### Application procedure

Each applicant is expected to contact relevant research groups individually to discuss the opportunities to undertake the long-term mobility period at that university. The [MIRAI contact persons](#) can be used to establish contacts with research groups. Applicants must submit the following documents:

- **Completed application form**
- **Letter of invitation** from the host university in Japan (institution or research group), confirming their willingness to host the applicant.
- **A detailed research plan** outlining expected skill development and research interests and a strategy for long-term collaboration (maximum 2 pages, font size in 12 or larger).
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV) and publication list** (maximum 4 pages, font size in 12 or larger).
- **Motivation letter** describing the proposed plans of the mobility as well as your motivation and commitment and how the mobility is expected to develop your skills and research interests, and/or to stimulate new research ideas (maximum 2 pages, font size in 12 or larger).

The **Head of Department** must sign the application to confirm the mobility, and the conditions connected to the mobility (details specified in the application form).

### 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 the University of Gothenburg.

The selection will strive to allow for as many researchers as possible to participate in the exchange, hence you may be offered funding for a shorter period than applied for (not shorter than 5 months).

### Application submission

Applications must be submitted before **May 15, 2025** to [kristin.radesjo@gu.se](mailto:kristin.radesjo@gu.se). For questions, please contact [Kristin Rådesjö](#). Selection results will be communicated to applicants in mid/end of June.