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## **Call announcement summary: Call for Proposals: Japan (JSPS) – South Africa Bilateral Call 2026 (NRF)**

Please note that the **Japan (JSPS) – South Africa Bilateral Call** is now open on **NRF Connect** under the **Research Grants** category.

**UFS internal closing date: 4 September 2026**

### **Background:**

South Africa and Japan have strengthened their scientific collaboration through a science and technology cooperation agreement signed in 2003, followed by an MoU between the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) in 2005. This partnership has established annual joint research funding calls between the two countries. Building on the success of previous funding rounds, the NRF has launched its 23rd joint call for research proposals in 2026 and invites interested researchers to submit applications by the specified deadline.

### **Programme aims:**

The programme aims to strengthen scientific collaboration between South Africa and Japan by funding joint research projects in priority fields. It seeks to advance scientific knowledge, support fundamental research, create opportunities for early-career researchers from both countries to collaborate and build networks, and enhance research capacity development.

### **Areas of cooperation:**

This call will only support joint research proposals within the **Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and the Humanities**. Please note that for South Africa, joint projects by historically disadvantaged institutions and individuals (HDIs) that involve young scientists and pay attention to a balanced involvement of women and men researchers (gender equality) will be positively considered and will receive a higher rating.

### **Financial support:**

South Africa:

The total amount of funding requested from the NRF should not exceed R900 000 (R450 000 per annum). Funding will be made available for a maximum of two years, to be paid in annual instalments and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2027.

Japan:

The total amount requested from JSPS should not exceed JPY 2 500 000 per fiscal year (up to JPY 5 000 000 in total) per project.

### **Duration of the projects:**

Projects will be supported for a period of two years (2027 to 2028).

### **Research activities to be supported:**

- Mobility: The exchange visits of **researchers, postdocs, and doctoral students**, including support for research fieldwork.
- Small equipment and consumables.
- Workshops, seminars, or networking events: holding meetings alternately in South Africa and Japan.

*\*Please consult the attached framework and annex for further information on eligibility criteria, application procedure, the scorecard used for proposal assessment, and budget exclusions.*

*For more information and assistance with proposal writing, please contact:*

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Call framework/guidelines:

- [Japan SA Call Guideline](#)