



## MIRAI2.0 – Joint seed funding of Japan-Sweden collaborative projects and short courses

### **Call for collaborative projects and short courses for PhDs and postdocs**

To strengthen collaboration between Japan and Sweden in research, education, and innovation, MIRAI2.0 is launching a call for seed funding to support promising collaborative initiatives. The objective is to encourage further development of existing and new collaborations between MIRAI2.0 member universities based on innovative projects and new ideas. This call is divided into two tracks, one for joint projects and the other for joint short courses for PhDs and postdocs.

Call deadline: 1 December, 2022

Submission: Proposals (the official application form from [www.mirai.nu/funding](http://www.mirai.nu/funding) with attachments) should be compiled into one (1) PDF and addressed to: [mirai@gu.se](mailto:mirai@gu.se) with CC to the MIRAI 2.0 Project Manager<sup>1</sup> at the applicants' university.

#### **Joint Projects:**

Employees from MIRAI2.0 member universities will be able to jointly suggest a project in their field that has the potential to lead to e.g. externally funded research, jointly authored papers, larger-scale collaborations, etc.

Up to 20 projects will be selected for funding. Each proposal will be funded with maximum of 67 000 SEK to Swedish project partners and a maximum of 400 000 JPY to Japanese project partners. Funding may be spent on interactive activities aimed to foster collaboration, such as workshops, seminars and meetings including travel costs, as well as virtual activities. Funding may also be used for pilot study costs or salary costs creating focused time to prepare joint applications for external research grants.

#### **Short courses for PhDs and postdocs:**

Employees from MIRAI2.0 member universities will be able to jointly suggest a short course for PhDs (doctoral students) and postdoctoral researchers, taught in English, to be organized in physical, digital or blended mode during 2023.<sup>2</sup>

Up to two (2) courses will be selected for funding. Each course will be funded with a maximum of 200 000 SEK or 2 687 000 JPY. Funding may be spent on costs directly connected to the planning and execution of the course such as travel, hotel and remuneration for lecturers and invited speakers, venues, food, consumerables and communication. Courses must be open to PhD students from all MIRAI2.0 universities.

Funding may not be used to cover overhead costs. Spending must be in accordance with internal rules and regulations of the applicant's university.

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<sup>1</sup> List of MIRAI 2.0 Project Managers <https://www.mirai.nu/contact/>

<sup>2</sup> Examples of PhD Courses from MIRAI 1.0 can be found at <https://www.mirai.nu/phdcourses>

## Eligibility

All proposals are expected to be of high academic quality and have innovation potential. They must fulfill the following criteria:

- All applicants must be employees at one of the MIRAI2.0 member universities<sup>3</sup>.
- Proposals must include participants from at least one (1) Swedish and one (1) Japanese MIRAI2.0 member university.
- Those project teams that received the first round of seed funding may apply for the second call of funding, but they are expected to indicate the achievement they have already made, and specify how the project will be further developed if they receive funding again. They are also expected to indicate which other funds they have identified as relevant to apply for in the future.

*Note: PhD students cannot be included as main applicants of a proposal.*

## Selection Criteria

Proposals should relate to at least one (1) of the MIRAI2.0 topics: *Ageing, Artificial Intelligence, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Materials Science, Sustainability.*

Project proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. The potential to initiate new, or further develop existing, collaboration of high scientific quality between Sweden and Japan within the scope of MIRAI2.0.
2. The involvement of, or focus on, early career researchers<sup>4</sup> and/or doctoral students.

Proposals for PhD short courses will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. The potential to enhance the academic skills of PhD and Post docs in both countries
2. The potential to further develop research and/or teaching collaboration between Japan and Sweden.
3. A well-defined and justified choice of format and scope clearly demonstrating the impact of the course.

MIRAI2.0 especially encourages proposals:

- involving co-applicants from additional Swedish and Japanese MIRAI2.0 member universities (in addition to the two (2) main applicants).
- with a cross-disciplinary approach involving applicants/researchers within several of the MIRAI2.0 topics.
- that have a gender consideration/balance (see application form).
- where the main applicants have participated in MIRAI2.0 Research and Innovation (R&I) week, on November 15-18, 2022, at Kyushu University, Japan.

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<sup>3</sup> List of MIRAI 2.0 member universities <https://www.mirai.nu/about-mirai/>  
MIRAI 2.0 Associate partners/members are not eligible for seed funding. Applicants from Linköping University cannot apply for seed funding for joint projects.

<sup>4</sup> Within 10 years of awarded PhD degree

## Procedure

The procedure is a one-step process. A full proposal must be submitted to MIRAI2.0 via the seed funding call e-mail: [mirai@gu.se](mailto:mirai@gu.se) (with CC to the MIRAI2.0 Project Managers at the applicants' University) by deadline 1 December, 2022.

Proposals (application form and attachments) must be compiled into one document and submitted electronically in PDF format. Applicants will receive confirmation by email upon successful receipt of their proposals.

## Application

The proposal should contain the following information:

- Details of main applicants (one per country) and co-applicants (if applicable) including short CVs (maximum two pages – in PDF). The CV should indicate the applicants' competence and relevance for the project.
- Description of project/course, maximum three pages (font 11pt Arial, 1.5 line spacing, 3 cm margin all around), clearly describing:
  - The objective of the project/course
  - How the project/course relates to the MIRAI2.0 topics and the selection criteria (see above)
  - Timeline, planned activities and budget (use template in application form).
  - The contribution of each partner. (How each applicant will contribute with expertise to the project/course and, for joint projects, the possible contributions of research outcome to the literature of the related research area).
  - Available resources, including existing funding, that may supplement the activities in the project/course.

## Evaluation and selection process

Project applications will be evaluated by MIRAI2.0 Thematic Expert Groups and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Advisory Group (TEG/IEAG)<sup>5</sup> based on the selection criteria. TEG/IEAG will shortlist and nominate projects for funding to the MIRAI2.0 General Assembly.

Applications to organize short courses for PhDs and postdocs will be evaluated by MIRAI2.0 Responsible committee (GA RC) based on the selection criteria. GA RC will nominate projects for funding to the MIRAI2.0 General Assembly.

Taking into account the balance between MIRAI2.0 topics and universities, the MIRAI2.0 General Assembly will make the final decision of selected applications. Selected projects/courses will be announced on 20 January, 2023.

## Implementation and Report

Projects can start directly after the grant contract has been signed and funding must be spent during 2023.

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<sup>5</sup> TEG/IEAG consist of senior researchers/experienced staff within the MIRAI2.0 topics. Each application will be evaluated by at least one Swedish and one Japanese TEG/IEAG member.

MIRAI2.0 will consider approving changes/adaptations of the planned project activities if unanticipated circumstances occur.

A final report, using the MIRAI2.0 final report template, should be submitted to MIRAI2.0 within two months of the end date of the project. All selected projects must be completed no later than 31 December, 2023.