

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) invites attention of Faculty Members, Research Scholars, and Postgraduate Students to the **LOTUS Programme FY2026 Call**, an initiative under the **India–Japan** collaboration framework aimed at strengthening scientific cooperation and youth mobility.



June 9, 2026

(12:00 JST)

Submission
Deadline

June - August 2026

Review Period

Late August 2026

Final Selection
Announcement

October 2026

Programme Start



<https://www.jst.go.jp/program/india/en/call/>



LOTUS Programme FY2026

(India–Japan Research Exchange Opportunity)

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Main Campus, Shalimar, Srinagar Kashmir (J&K) India-190025

About the Programme

The **LOTUS (India–Japan Circulation of Talented Youths in Science)** Programme seeks to:

- Accelerate joint research collaboration between India and Japan
- Promote career development opportunities for young researchers
- Facilitate short- and long-term research stays in Japan

The programme is implemented by Japanese institutions and provides opportunities for Indian researchers to engage in collaborative research, internships, and exposure to advanced scientific ecosystems.

Key Highlights

- **Scale:** Approximately 1,000 Master's, PhD students, and postdoctoral researchers from India to be invited in 2026

Target Fields

- Artificial Intelligence & Intelligent Robotics
- Energy
- Quantum Technologies
- Network & Telecommunications
- Biotechnology
- Material Science
- Semiconductors
- (Other relevant fields may also be considered)

Eligibility

Master's/PhD students and postdoctoral researchers

Age: Up to 40 years

Affiliation: Must remain associated with their home institution in India

Nationality: Open

3rd

Best State
Agriculture
University



7th

Rank in
Agriculture & Allied
Sectors Category

by National
Institutional Ranking
Framework-2025

36th

Rank in
among all State
Public Universities

by National
Institutional Ranking
Framework-2025

75th

Rank in
University
category

by National
Institutional Ranking
Framework-2025

94th

Rank in
Overall
Category

by National
Institutional Ranking
Framework-2025

Programme Types

LOTUS Basic	LOTUS-ASPIRE (New in FY2026)
Duration: Up to 12 months	Duration: Up to 36 months
Focus: Foundation building for joint research and academic exchange	Focus: Advanced collaboration with tangible research outcomes
Support: Monthly living expenses (including accommodation) Limited research and travel support	Support: Monthly living expenses Enhanced research funding and mobility support
Outcome: Joint supervision and strengthening bilateral research linkages	Outcome: Long-term collaboration and measurable research outputs

Application Process

Applications must be submitted by a **Principal Investigator (PI) from a Japanese University/Research Institution**

Direct applications from Indian candidates are not accepted
Interested candidates from SKUAST-K are therefore encouraged to:
Identify potential collaborators in Japan
Coordinate with host researchers for nomination

Financial Support

Living Expenses: Approx. ₹1,40,000 per month

Research & Supervision Support:

LOTUS Basic: ~₹2,90,000/year

LOTUS-ASPIRE: ~₹8,80,000/year

Note: Travel expenses from India to Japan are generally not covered and may need to be supported by the home institution.

Strategic Relevance for SKUAST-K

Participation in the LOTUS Programme offers significant opportunities for:

Enhancing international research collaborations

Building Faculty and Student Exchange Networks with Japanese institutions

Advancing Research in Emerging and Interdisciplinary Domains

Strengthening SKUAST-K's Global Academic Visibility

Advisory for Interested Candidates

Faculty members and Scholars are advised to proactively:

Establish contacts with Japanese Universities/Researchers

Align research proposals with identified priority areas

Seek institutional support for travel and collaboration facilitation