



Build ideas to tackle social issues

with global colleagues!

Global Students' Idea Factory 2026



Global Students' Idea Factory 2026

Application guidelines

1. About the Program

■ Overview

The Global Students' Idea Factory invites students to collaborate to tackle social issues with a global perspective using their research ideas. This program provides a platform to share and refine ideas and turn them into impactful actions.

The program aims to incubate project proposals by identifying 5-6 specific challenges, forming a team for each challenge, and designing a narrative to gather research ideas. Students will work in teams to develop an initial proposal, a presentation, and a pathway to the global workshop and final presentation. By participating, you'll be tackling real-world challenges with peers from diverse backgrounds, helping to shape your future as a global change-maker.

Let's build ideas to tackle social issues with global colleagues!

■ Program Highlights

Spring Boost Camp: Intensive two-day collaborative camp with students from Japan and abroad

Global Workshops: Online meetings to refine proposals with international team members

Final Presentation: Showcase your project proposal to judges and industry leaders

Mentorship: Access to academic and experts

Networking: Connect with like-minded students from diverse backgrounds and fields

Recognition: Compete for JAAS Prize (certificate, trophy and prize money 300,000 yen) and receive a certificate of participation

■ Important Dates

(1) Application

- Application Opens January 2026
- Application Deadline 21 February (23:59) 2026
- Participant Notification Mid-March 2026

(2) Spring Boost Camp 18 & 19 April 2026

(3) Global Workshops May - July 2026 (2 online sessions)

(4) Final presentation August 2026

*Detailed dates will be announced on the Global Students' Idea Factory website

**Students from overseas universities will participate in the program remotely

■ Orientation Session

The orientation session will be held online on 2 February 2026 from 12:30 to 13:30.

- Details will be posted on the Global Students' Idea Factory website (<https://global.si-fa.net/>)

- Opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the program

We encourage all interested students to attend!

2. Application and Selection

■ Eligibility

Who Can Apply

- Graduate level students currently enrolled in universities in Japan (Japanese and international students)
- Graduate level students enrolled in overseas universities

Fields of Study

- All fields welcome: natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, engineering, and interdisciplinary studies
- No restrictions on research areas

Requirements

We are looking for challenging research ideas that address social issues from a global perspective, based on your own original ideas and motivation

■ Selection Process

Number of Participants

30 students will be selected through document screening:

- 20 Graduate level students from Japan (Japanese and international students)
- 10 Graduate level students from overseas universities

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- **Attractiveness and interest** of research ideas to address social issues
- **Originality** of the research idea
- **Enthusiasm and passion** for the research idea
- **Diversity** of participants

Selection Committee

Participants will be selected by consensus of judges from JAAS, partner organizations, and academic institutions.

■ Application Procedures

How to Apply

1. Register Online

- Visit the Global Students' Idea Factory website: <https://global.si-fa.net/>
- Complete the **online application form**
- Submit your research idea proposal

2. Required Information

- Personal information and contact details
- Current enrollment status and field of study
- Research idea proposal addressing a social issue
- Explanation of originality and differences from existing projects
- Statement of motivation and enthusiasm

3. Submission Deadline

- **21 February 2026 (23:59 JST)**

After Application

- All applicants will be notified of results by email in mid-March 2026
- Selected participants will receive detailed information about the Spring Boost Camp
- Selected participants must submit:
 - Written pledge (commitment letter)
 - Proof of enrollment (student ID, enrollment certificate, etc.)

Notes: Failure to submit the pledge and proof of enrollment will result in denial of participation in all programs; Applications found to be in violation of the Pledge, such as violations of research ethics or false declarations, will be disqualified.

3. Program

■ Program Structure

Phase 1: Spring Boost Camp (18 & 19 April 2026)

Duration: Two days

Venue: Tokyo

Day 1	Day 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-introductions and research idea presentations• Small group discussions to explore potential topics• All-hands discussion to identify 5-6 social challenges• Team formation (4 students per team)• Social networking dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team-based project proposal development• Presentations from JICA, publishers, and private sector partners• Initial team presentations (5 minutes + Q&A)• Discussion of pathway to final presentation

Topics from 2025 (for reference)

Previous teams addressed:

1. Climate justice
2. Building Future-ready Farms
3. Greenprint
4. Flexible Working Arrangement
5. AI and Mental Health
6. Caring for Carers

Phase 2: Global Workshops (May - July 2026)

Format: Online meetings (2 sessions)

Duration: 2.5 hours per session

- Peer mentoring sessions between teams
- Feedback from external experts
- Refinement of project proposals
- Preparation for the final presentation

Phase 3: Final Presentation (August 2026)

Format: Hybrid (in-person and online)

Venue: Tokyo

Program

- Team presentations (10 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A)
- Talk session with Alumni
- Awards ceremony
- Networking reception

■ Award and Recognition

JAAS Award

- Certificate, trophy, and **research grant of 300,000 yen**
- Awarded to the team with the most outstanding presentation

Additional Recognition

- All participants receive a Certificate of Participation from JAAS
- Potential awards from cooperating organizations
- Media coverage and networking opportunities

4. Supports & Rules

■ Financial Support

No Participation Fee

The program is completely free for selected participants.

Transportation and Accommodation

The host (JAAS) will cover the following costs for participants from Japanese universities:

- Transportation between participants' school and the venue in Japan
- Accommodation during the Spring Boost Camp and final presentation
- Meals during program events

■ Important Notes for Applicants (**MUST-READ**)

Research Ethics

- Please ensure you understand and respect research ethics before applying
- Applicants found in violation of research ethics will be disqualified

Originality and Declaration

If there are existing projects or related laboratories similar to your research idea, you **must declare** at the time of application:

- The differences between your idea and existing projects
- The originality of your approach

Intellectual Property Rights

- All intellectual property rights related to submitted documents belong to the applicant
- **However:** Presentations and summaries will be made public
- If you are considering patent applications, please apply with caution
- Final presentations may be broadcast live or made available on the Internet

Commitment Requirements

Selected participants must:

- Attend the full Spring Boost Camp (18 & 19 April)
- Participate in online global workshops (May – July)
- Attend the final presentation (August)
- Work collaboratively with team members
- Submit all required documents and comply with program rules

Language

- The program is conducted primarily in English
- Participants should be comfortable presenting and discussing in English

■ Privacy Policy

Personal Information

The Global Students' Idea Factory Executive Committee will handle personal information in accordance with JAAS's "Personal Information Protection Policy" (<https://jaas.science/policy/>) and comply with all relevant laws and regulations.

Purpose and Scope of Use

Your personal information will be used for:

- Procedures necessary to implement the workshop, meetings, and final presentation
- Operations related to the program (application processing, screening, awards, publicity)
- Communication from the secretariat
- Media coverage (video, photographs, interviews) for publicity purposes
- Questionnaires to verify program results and inform participants of related events
- Aggregated analysis (processed to prevent individual identification)

Your Rights

- You will be notified if the purpose of use changes
- You may request disclosure, correction, or discontinuation of use of your personal information
- Such requests will be hand

5. Organizers and Contact Information

■ Organizers and Partners

Host

Japanese Association for the Advancement of Science (JAAS)

Website: <https://jaas.science/>

Cooperating Organization

Students Innovation Nexus Advancement Platform Systems (SINAPS)

Website: <https://www.sinaps.or.jp/>

Supporting Organization

Science & Technology Diplomatic Circle (S&TDC)

Sponsors and Donors

Please visit the Global Students' Idea Factory website for the latest information on sponsors and supporting organizations.

■ Contact Information

Global Students' Idea Factory Website

<https://global.si-fa.net/>

Check the website regularly for:

- Latest program updates
- Orientation session schedules
- Application portal
- Frequently asked questions

Global Students' Idea Factory Executive Committee

For program inquiries:

Email: contact@global.si-fa.net

Japanese Association for the Advancement of Science (JAAS)

For inquiries about the host organization:

Address: Soubun.com Co., Ltd. 7-12-16 Nishiogu, Arakawa-ku, Tokyo 116-0011 JAPAN

Tel: +81 3-3893-0111

Email: info@jaas.science

Join Us in Building a Better Future!

The Global Students' Idea Factory is more than a competition—it's a transformative experience that will:

- Expand your global network
- Develop your research and presentation skills
- Connect your ideas to real-world impact
- Open doors to international collaboration
- Empower you as a global change-maker

We look forward to receiving your application and working together to tackle social issues with innovative research ideas!

Application deadline: **21 February (23:59) 2026 (23:59 JST)**

Apply now at: <https://global.si-fa.net/>