



World Premier International Research Center Initiative

JAPAN



Science Pioneering the Future

What is WPI?

The World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI) is a program launched by Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in 2007.

It establishes highly visible, international research centers that assemble top-notch researchers from around the world and that, while creating dynamic environments, boast a lofty standard of scientific investigation.

Why WPI?

Amidst intensifying competition for the world’s best brains within the international science community, Japan seeks to create research centers that operate as hubs which promote the international circulation of superb researchers hailing from countries around the world.

How WPI supports?

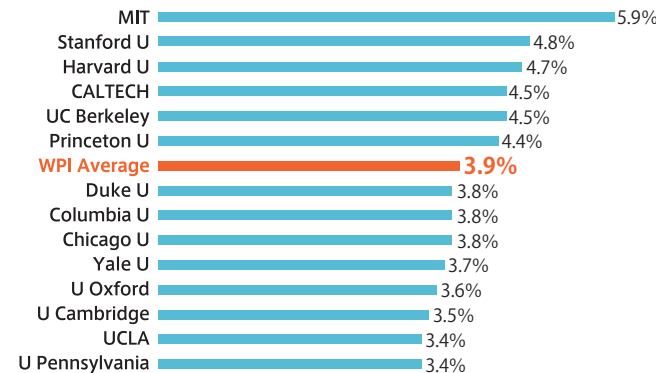
Universities and research institutions throughout Japan that propose projects expected to yield leapfrog results are chosen to form WPI centers. The government provides financial support* for these international research hubs.

* As a rule, WPI centers receive yearly funding in an amount from ¥700 million to ¥1.4 billion for ten years.

WPI’s Four Missions

1. Science

WPI advances research at the highest pinnacle of world-leading science.

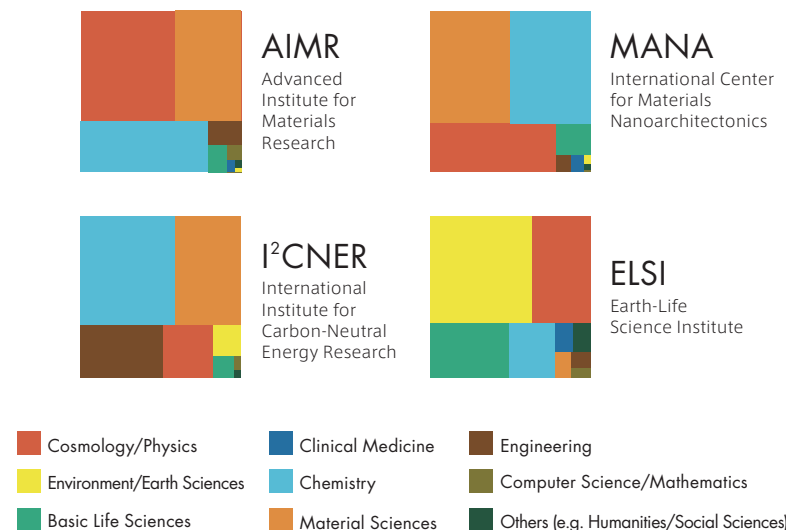


Top 1% of Papers by Citations

Percentage of papers among the top 1% cited from 36 leading research institutions around the world during the period 2007-2015 (based on data from Clarivate Analytics)

2. Fusion

WPI fuses research in innovative ways that create new interdisciplinary domains.



Distribution by field of papers produced by each WPI center

Based on data of papers issued by each center during the period from its establishment to 2018

3. Globalization

WPI creates vibrant international research environments that attract frontline researchers from around the world.



The average percentage of overseas researchers at WPI centers (2018)

Versus 7.8% at Japan’s national universities in 2017

4. Reform

WPI spearheads the organizational reform of Japan’s universities and research institutes.

- ✦ Research and administrative environments in which English is used as the working language
- ✦ Top-down management systems
- ✦ Secures contributions from companies and foundations
- ✦ Shares know-how amassed by the centers on the website WPI Forum
- ✦ Establishes environments that foster interdisciplinary research
Tea time for researchers of different fields, open-space mixed labs, etc.



Tea time at Kavli IPMU

13 WPI Centers



Tohoku University
Advanced Institute for Materials Research (AIMR)



The University of Tokyo
Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (Kavli IPMU)



Kyoto University
Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS)



WPI Osaka University
Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFReC)



National Institute for Materials Science
International Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics (MANA)



Kyushu University
International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research (I²CNER)



University of Tsukuba
International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine (IIIS)



Tokyo Institute of Technology
Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI)



Nagoya University
Institute of Transformative Bio-Molecules (ITbM)



The University of Tokyo
International Research Center for Neurointelligence (IRCN)



Kanazawa University
Nano Life Science Institute (NanoLSI)



Hokkaido University
Institute for Chemical Reaction Design and Discovery (ICReDD)



Kyoto University
Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Biology (ASHBi)



Logo

The WPI logo adopts the motif of a bird, symbolizing the program's driving concept of "upward flight." In its beak, the bird carries a seed of new innovation. The radiant red dot over the "i" serves to light the path ahead in pioneering the frontiers of scientific discovery.



About the WPI



WPI Forum



MEXT

Basic Research Promotion Division, Research Promotion Bureau
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959, Japan
Phone: +81 3 5253 4111
Email: toplevel@mext.go.jp
URL: www.mext.go.jp/en/policy/science_technology/researchpromotion/title01/detail01/1374076.htm



JSPS

Center for World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI Program Center)
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
5-3-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083, Japan
Phone: +81 3 3263 0967
Email: jspstoplevel@jpsps.go.jp
URL: www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-toplevel
Facebook: [facebook.com/wpi.japan](https://www.facebook.com/wpi.japan)