

Toward a World-Acclaimed Funding Agency

As Japan's core funding agency, JSPS is taking the initiative to raise the standard of education and research at Japanese universities to a high internationally competitive level. This includes effort to maximize the fairness and transparency of JSPS's project selection and assessment procedures.

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

- Program operation is carried out in such a manner as to incorporate the needs and views of researchers.
- To lighten the burden of screening examiners and expedite the processing of about 100,000 applications:
 - An electronic system is introduced into the document review process.
 - The number of examiners is increased so as to limit the volume of applications reviewed by each.
- A database of qualified examiner candidates has been compiled by JSPS's Research Center for Science Systems. It enables the best selection of examiners, while adding a higher degree of accountability to the selection process.

21st Century COE Program Initiatives for Attractive Education in Graduate Schools

- The 21st Century COE Program seeks, through the establishment of world-class research and education hubs, to strengthen the international competitiveness and institutional identities of Japanese universities.
- The "Initiatives for Attractive Education in Graduate Schools" program was launched to help foster young researchers rich in creativity.
- The selection and evaluation functions of both programs are performed with optimum fairness by JSPS.

Fostering Next Generation of Researchers

- Steps are being taken to enhance support given to Japanese fellows under JSPS's pre- and postdoctoral fellowship programs. These include establishing:
 - A holistic evaluation process that spans the fellowship process from application screening to post-tenure follow-up.
 - A service framework that provides for smooth return to the workplace after childbearing and infant nursing by adding a "Restart Postdoc" category to the Research Fellowships for Young Scientists Program.

International Collaborations

- An international program committee has been formed so as to allow project selection and assessment to be conducted in a way that takes into account international scientific trends and conditions.
- To support the internationalization of Japanese universities, effective international strategy models are being developed.
- Top-level research collaborations and research hub building are being proactively implemented with scientifically advanced countries of both the East and West.
- With an eye to promoting cross-disciplinary, transnational collaboration in coming decades, an array of programs is provided to foster and network young researchers from around the world.

Awards of Recognition

- International Prize for Biology, awarded in recognition of leading biologists worldwide.
- JSPS Prize, awarded in encouragement of young researchers under 45 with highly demonstrated potential in cutting-edge research fields.

Scientific Outreach

- As one contribution of Grants-in-Aid research to society, the program "Welcome to a University Lab—Science That Inspires and Inspires" was launched to stimulate the interest of junior and senior high school students in science.
- JSPS's University-Industry Cooperation Program provides a platform for facilitating collaboration between researchers of the two sectors, with an aim of coupling academic seeds with industrial needs.