Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

FAQ on JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan

Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan
Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan

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**Entire Program**

**Same for all fellowships**

Q1001: From when to when does the fellowship period cover?

A: It covers the period from the day a fellow coming from abroad arrives at an airport in Japan, which is day the fellowship starts, to the day that the fellow departs from an airport in Japan, which is the day the fellowship ends. (This does not apply to fellows who reside in Japan before or after the fellowship period.) If, however, the fellow’s departure flight takes off at or after 12 midnight, the previous day may be considered as his/her fellowship ending date.

If fellows remain in Japan after their fellowship ends to continue or conclude their research, the extended period is not included within the fellowship period.
Application Procedure

Q2001: When applying for a fellowship, how do host researchers get issued (reissued) the ID and password needed to access the JSPS Electronic Application System for International Program?
A: They should apply to the admin office of their affiliated research institution. Note that the ID and password for International Program differs from those of the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), Research Fellowships for Young Researchers, and Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers.

Q2002: If I, as a host researcher, am already hosting a fellow, may I also apply to host another fellow?
A: Yes, you may. There is no limit placed on the number of individual fellows that a researcher may host. However, the hosting of multiple fellows should be done in a way that is not disruptive to the hosting system. As there may be limitations placed on plural applications in each recruitment, please check the Application Guideline in advance.

Q2003: If when applying for a fellowship I do not receive a notice of my selection result, may I (host or fellow) apply again for the fellowship (even when also applying for another program)?
A: Yes, you may. When, however, two applications are selected, only one of them will be supported.

Q2004: May the host researcher or fellow apply for another program and receive a research grant under it?
A: The Program “International Fellowships for Research in Japan” places no limitations on overlapping JSPS programs (except for fellowships) nor on programs carried out by other organizations (except for fellowships). (Please check the application qualifications and duplication limitations of the other programs.)
However, fellows under this program may not simultaneously hold another fellowship during their tenure.
If it does not impede the implementation of their research under this and the other program and if the host and fellow continue to fulfil their obligations stipulated in the Program Guidelines, they may apply for another program. However, they should first thoroughly discuss and come to a mutual understanding on applying for the other program or research grant.

Q2005: Can JSPS introduce overseas researchers to host researchers or potential hosts in Japan?
A: No, JSPS doesn’t have the ability to make such introductions.

Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Standard)

Q2201: How do I (host researcher) go about applying for a Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows?
A: After being selected for the fellowship, the host researcher may, as the Principal Investigator, apply for this Grant-in-Aid. Note that the application period differs with the timing of the fellow’s arrival in Japan. Please see the below JSPS website for details.
Eligibility of Host Researchers and Fellows

Same for all fellowships

Q3001: Do I satisfy the application requirements for hosting an overseas researcher, and does the overseas researcher satisfy the eligibility conditions to become a fellow?
A: The host institution should confirm each fellowship program’s application requirements and eligibility conditions based on the Application Guideline. In doing so, if there are any questions about the interpretation of the eligibility requirements, the institution should contact JSPS.

Q3002: Regarding host researcher eligibility, can emeritus or guest professors be considered as “full-time” researchers or the equivalent thereof?
A: Each host institution is to decide on eligibility. To host an overseas researcher however, the applicant must be able to take responsibility to carry out the fellowship program continuously during the period of the fellow's tenure.

Q3003: Before the fellowship starts or during the fellowship period, either the host researcher or the fellow are scheduled to lose our eligibility. Will an application need to be filed to withdraw from the fellowship?
A: No. In such case, please refrain from applying. Under this program, only applications that comport to the specified purpose and period of the fellowship are accepted.

Q3004: I have more than one nationality. How would this be handled?
A: In judging whether you meet the eligibility conditions for becoming a fellow and when filling out your application, please select the nationality of the passport you will use when entering Japan. After that, continue to use the same nationality for your processing in Japan.

Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Standard, Short-term)

Q3101: If I have Japanese citizenship or permanent residency, can I apply for a Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan?
A: No you may not. If, however, you meet its eligibility conditions, you may apply for a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists.

Q3102: May a person apply who has received a professional degree in Japan or an MD or JD in the US?
A: No, as these degrees are not awarded in doctoral courses. You may apply, however, if you obtain a separate doctoral degree (e.g. Ph.D.) or equivalent.

Q3103: I have more than one doctoral degree. Which degree will be used to calculate the number of years that have passed since I was awarded my degree?
A: It will be date that you received your latest degree.
Q3104: I understand that before starting my fellowship I must submit the original of my Certificate of PhD Award or a copy of my Degree Diploma. What should I keep in mind when submitting these documents?
A: It is necessary to submit the original of the Certificate or copy of your Diploma no later than the day before your fellowship begins. Even when you have satisfied all the requirements for obtaining your PhD, some universities may not issue your Certificate of Ph.D. Award in time to submit it by the day before your fellowship starts due to the scheduling of a degree award ceremony. In such case, check in advance to see whether the Certificate can be issued and submitted to JSPS by no later than the day before the end of the period specified for arrival in Japan in each recruitment round of the subject fiscal year. If it should be difficult to submit the Certificate by that date, please contact JSPS.

The Certificate of Ph.D. Award is not a certificate written by an advisory faculty member, but is issued as an official document by the university. Regarding the content of the Certificate, it should be written in such a way as to attest that your doctoral degree will be issued at the latest by the day before your fellowship starts. A certificate that just shows the last date of your doctoral course or the date you finished defending your dissertation will not be accepted.

**Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Standard)**

Q3201: When submitting my application, I will hold a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC). Would I be eligible to apply for a Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan (Standard)?
A: Yes, if you satisfy the eligibility conditions for the postdoctoral fellowship.

**Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short-term)**

Q3302: I hold citizenship/permanent residency status in an eligible counterpart country and have received a doctorate from a graduate school in Japan. May I apply for this fellowship?
A: No, you may not. As this program is focused on young researchers based in North America and Europe, it is not open to those engaged in research at Japanese universities. If you have received a doctoral degree from a Japanese university, you may try to apply for a Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan (Standard).

Q3303: When will I need to submit evidence that I am a citizen/permanent resident of an eligible counterpart country?
A: After you are selected, you will need to submit a document that shows you are a citizen/permanent resident of an eligible country.

Q3304: How will the UK be treated under this program if it breaks away from the EU?
A: In that case, the UK is still scheduled to be an eligible country under this program.

Q3305: I understand that to apply for this fellowship a person who is not a citizen or permanent...
A resident of an eligible country must be in the process of continuously conducting research over a period of 3 or more years at a university or research institution in an eligible country. How are these years counted?

A: The only years counted are those in which the applicant continuously conducted research while affiliated with a university or research institution in an eligible country. Research conducted during a doctoral course is counted, but not during a master’s course.

The following years are not counted:

(1) When an applicant lived in an eligible country but was not affiliated with a university or research institution in it or when s/he was affiliated with a university or research institution in an eligible country but did not conduct research at it.

(2) When an applicant was affiliated with and conducted research at a university or research institution in an eligible country, interrupted his/her research in that country to do research in a non-eligible, then continued his/her research in an eligible country. Only the applicant’s most recent research period in an eligible country is counted.

Examples of short-term fellowship applicants for the first FY2019 recruitment round (JSPS deadline: 5 October 2018).

- This example satisfies the requirement (3 or more years had been spent in a doctoral course at time of application)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Years counted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OO University (USA)</td>
<td>Completed master’s course</td>
<td>Nov 2013-Oct 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX University (USA)</td>
<td>Taking doctoral course</td>
<td>Oct 2015-Oct 2018 (present)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Continuous research in eligible countries | 3 years

- This example doesn't satisfy the requirement (Not affiliated with a university or research institution in an eligible country at time of application)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Years counted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OO University (USA) Completed master’s course</td>
<td>Apr 2013-Mar 2015</td>
<td>Not counted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX University (USA) Completed doctoral course</td>
<td>Apr 2015-Mar 2018</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No affiliation (USA)</td>
<td>Apr 2018-Oct 2018 (present)</td>
<td>Not counted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Continuous research in eligible countries | None

- This example doesn't satisfy the requirement (Continuous research in eligible countries interrupted)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OO University (USA)</td>
<td>Completed master’s course</td>
<td>Apr 2010-Mar 2012</td>
<td>Not counted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX University (USA)</td>
<td>Completed doctoral course</td>
<td>Apr 2012-Sep 2015</td>
<td>3 years and 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>△△ Research Institute (Australia)</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>Oct 2015-Oct 2016</td>
<td>Not counted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX University (USA) Researcher</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 2016-Oct 2018 (present)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuous research in eligible countries 2 years

**Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan**

Q3501: May persons (overseas researcher) who have already received an Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan apply again for this program?

A: Yes, they may.
Preparing an Application

Q4001: Is a certain language specified for filling out the application?
A: Except for places where otherwise instructed, the application should be filled out in either Japanese or English. Proper names and technical terms can be an exception to this rule. When appropriate, supplement them with Japanese or English.

Q4002: When filling out an application on the Electronic Application System, may I (host researcher) use the writing (characters) of the fellow’s country of registration in inputting his/her name and address?
A: In this case, please use English letters because the Electronic Application System does not use the JIS level-1 and level-2 kanji set, external characters, and special characters. The name entered on the application will be printed in the Award Letter issued when the fellow is selected. If after the letter is issued, the Immigration Bureau should require the fellow’s name to be printed in the characters of his/her country when conducting pre-departure processing (e.g. visa application processing), please consult with JSPS.

Q4003: Is altering the application form (WORD format) allowed?
A: No, it is not. Neither the margins of the form, number of pages, order of items, nor page format are to be altered. For details, see the Instructions for the application forms.

Q4004: Are the font size and number of characters specified for each item in the application form (WORD format)?
A: No, they are not. Please use a font size (10 point or higher) that is easy for the reviewers to read and take care that the spacing between words and lines is not too tight. For details, see the Instructions for the application forms.

Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan (Long-term)

Q4601: My fellowship tenure is scheduled to be for five and a half months. May I input the number of days on my application?
A: Application are only made on a monthly basis. A fellowship period noted in an application on a daily basis will need to be adjusted: Please convert the days into months and shorten the period appropriately by submitting the “Application for Schedule Change” after you are selected.
**Processing from Award Letter through Fellowship Tenure (excluding allowances)**

*Same for all fellowships*

**Q5001:** May I change my host researcher or host institution before my fellowship starts or during my fellowship tenure?

**A:** As a rule, you may not. Your selection under this program is based on the joint research stated in your application to be conducted with your host researcher at your host institution and on arrangements made by your host institution to accommodate you. Under special circumstances, however, changes may be approved. In such cases, please contact JSPS.

**Q5002:** May per diem (daily allowance) be paid to fellows?

**A:** Fellows are not allowed to receive per diem regardless of the reason or funding source. (Per diem is already included in the fellows’ maintenance allowances paid by JSPS.) However, researchers under Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short-term, Short-term S) may receive per diem during overseas travel. If such travel is directly related to implementing their research plan, per diem may be paid from the research support allowance.

**Q5003:** May fellows receive payment for travel and lodging when making domestic and overseas research-related trips?

**A:** Yes, they may. Fellows selected in or after FY 2018 may be paid from research support allowance when making overseas trips directly related to the implementation of their research plan. (The rules for using the research support allowance were changed for fellows selected in or after FY 2018.) See Q5002 as to the use of per diem.

**Q5004:** May I change the fellowship starting date entered in the application form and/or other documents submitted after receiving the Award Letter?

**A:** If the change is made before submitting the “Notice of Acceptance” (Postdoctoral Fellows) or “Notice of Agreement and Acceptance” (Invitational Fellows), you may enter the new starting date on these forms and submit it. If the change is made after submitting the Notice of Acceptance or Notice of Agreement and Acceptance or was changed in the past, Postdoctoral Fellows should contact JSPS via their host institution and Invitational Fellows should submit the “Application for Schedule Change”.

**Q5005:** For a fellow to pursue his/her research project at an organization other than the host institution, say for the purpose of using its research facilities, is it possible acquire formal status (unrelated to employment (etc.)) in that organization?

**A:** Yes, it’s possible.

**Q5006:** If a host researcher should lose his/her eligibility to host a fellow (other than death of the host), or if the fellow should lose his/her eligibility (other than death), what should be done?

**A:** Please contact JSPS right away.
If the loss of eligibility occurs on or after the date of the Award Letter and before the date that the fellowship is scheduled to start, processing to withdraw the fellowship is carried out. JSPS will pay no allowances, or will require allowances already paid to be refunded. Fellows will be required to pay their own related expenses, such as airline cancellation fees.

If the loss of eligibility occurs during the fellowship, processing is to be carried out to shorten the fellowship to the date that the fellowship period ended due to the host and/or fellow losing their eligibility. For this purpose the “Notice of Fellowship Completion (Shortening)” (Postdoctoral Fellows) or “Application for Schedule Change” (Invitational Fellows) is to be submitted. JSPS will only pay allowances that coincide with period before the fellowship was shortened. Already paid allowances rendered inapplicable by the shortened period must be refunded. Fees for flight changes (etc.) are to be paid by fellows themselves. In the case of invitational fellows, however, if the shortening of the fellowship results in a period with fewer days than the minimum stipulated by the program, a fellowship withdrawal is to be processed. In this case, JSPS will pay no allowances, and already paid allowances rendered inapplicable by the shortened period must be refunded. Fees for flight changes (etc.) are to be paid by fellows themselves.

If the “Research Support Allowance Expenditure Report” is not submitted by the host researcher and fellow, a proxy should be asked to prepare and submit them.

Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Standard, Short-term)

Q5101: May postdoctoral fellows work as a part-time lecturer at an organization other than the host institution during their tenure?
A: No, they may not.

Q5102: My spouse is an overseas postdoctoral fellow. May I declare him/her as my dependent? Can JSPS prepare a certificate for that purpose?
A: Please check with the employment section of your institution. JSPS does not issue a certificate related to dependents. Please consult your institution as to whether they can issue the certificate using as reference a copy of the “Certificate of Financial support” and a sample of the certificate contained in the Guidelines.

Q5103: As my flight number (fellow’s flight) is not yet decided, I cannot submit the “Fellowship Commencement and Initial Allowance”.
A: You may leave the space for your flight number blank on the form.

Q5104: The fellow had acquired a post in his own country (other than Japan) before the starting date of the fellowship period and is receiving a salary from that research institution. During his/her fellowship tenure, may s/he continue to receive that salary?
A: If it does not violate the "obligations of the fellow" stipulated in the Guidelines, the fellow may receive a salary from the other institution. However, s/he may not if the institution is located in Japan or if s/he acquired the post on or after the first day of the fellowship period, even if the other
Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan

Q5501: When an invitational fellow gives a lecture or performs similar activities, may s/he receive honoraria paid by funds other than from the research support allowance?

A: Yes, they may. However, it must be in the form of an honorarium, not salary.
**Allowances (Maintenance Allowance, Research Support Allowance and Travel Allowance)**

Same for all fellowships

Q5002: May per diem (daily allowance) be paid to fellows? [written again]
A: Fellows are not allowed to receive per diem regardless of the reason or funding source. (Per diem is already included in the fellows' maintenance allowances paid by JSPS.)

However, researchers under Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short-term, Short-term S) may receive per diem during overseas travel. If such travel is directly related to implementing their research plan, per diem may be paid from the research support allowance.

Q5003: May fellows receive payment for travel and lodging when making domestic and overseas research-related trips? [written again]
A: Yes, they may. Fellows selected in or after FY 2018 may be paid from research support allowance when making overseas trips directly related to the implementation of their research plan. (The rules for using the research support allowance were changed for fellows selected in or after FY 2018.) See Q5002 as to the use of per diem.

Q6001: What kind of funding is the maintenance allowance?
A: It covers the cost (travel expenses) of fellows' daily living while carrying out research activities in Japan. Concretely, it is funding to cover the fellow's lodging and daily expenses (including the cost of meals and travel within the same area).

Q6002: What kind of funding is the research support allowance?
A: The allowance is to be used to cover costs directly related to the implementation of the joint research/surveys and compiling/reporting the results. The host researcher applies for this allowance. Within the parameters of the rules for using the research support allowance, the host should consult with the fellow and reach an agreement on how the allowance will be used and, then, take responsibility for the proper use of the funds in line with the objectives of the research project. Based on its rules and regulations, the host institution is to manage and execute the research support allowance on behalf of the researchers.

Q6003: What in specific are the rules for using the research support allowance?
A: Matters not specified in the rules for using the research support allowance in the Program Guidelines should be supplemented by the host institution based on its own rules and regulations and on the following directives: “Guidelines on the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standards)” (Adopted by the MEXT on 15 February 2007; Revised on 18 February 2014), “Guidelines for Responding to Research Misconduct” (Adopted by the MEXT on 26 August 2014), and “Measures Against Misconduct in Research Activities and Misuse (etc.) of Research Funds” (Rule #19, Adapted by the JSPS on 6 December 2006).
Q6004: In the rules for using the research support allowance, how are such costs as “Consumables” and “Facilities and equipment” defined?
A: Please use the rules established by the host institution.

Q6005: How should we determine what cost items are under the research support allowance?
A: Please use the rules established by the host institution.

Q6006: When can we begin using the research support allowance?
A: As a rule, on or after the day that the fellowship period starts. If, however, preparation is needed to carry out the research project under this program and the fellow agrees on the use of the funds, the allowance may be used before the fellowship’s starting date.

Q6007: Who may use the research support allowance?
A: Under the responsibility of the host researcher, both s/he and the fellow may use the allowance at their own discretion. If the host researcher and fellow approve, items purchased by them may be used by other researchers to carry out research activities.

Q6008: May the research support allowance be used by fellows for travel on the days of their arrival in and departure from Japan?
A: Yes, they can. However, the allowance may only be used for travel between the airport in Japan and the host institution. The fellow’s domestic travel allowance is used for that purpose.

Q6009: During the continuous stay in Japan after expiration of fellowship, can host researcher and fellow receive the project-related delivery of goods and provision of services paid for from the research support allowance?
A: No, they can’t. Such goods and services must be concluded by the end of Fellows’ tenure.

Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan
Q6501: The fellows’ air ticket is used for flights between the country of their affiliated research institution and Japan. If a fellow has business in a third country immediately before arriving in or departing from Japan, can JSPS provide him/her with an air ticket to the third country?
A: If the organization with which the fellow has business cannot provide the tickets, JSPS may pay for them. In this case, the fellow should contact JSPS before booking flights with the JSPS’s designed travel agency. If, however, the cost of the tickets exceed the limit that JSPS pays for international air tickets, the fellow will be required to cover the difference.
Oversea Travel Insurance (while in Japan)

This FAQ is applicable for fellows whose tenure started from August 31, 2017. Please note that the below are general answers, and fellows should consult with the insurance company or insurance agent for individual cases.

Q7001: Would fellows need to apply for insurance?
A: No. When filing a claim, fellows should consult Tokio Marine International Assistance.

Q7002: When would the policy certificate be issued?
A: Once the Notice of Fellowship Commencement is received, the policy certificate will be orderly issued from the beginning of the following month. The policy certificate will be mailed to the host institution. It could be kept anywhere.

Q7003: What period is the insurance valid?
A: It is valid from 0:00 midnight JST of your first tenure date, till 24:00 JST of your last tenure date. During this period, there could be cases where injury/sickness before arrival to Japan or after leaving Japan may be covered.

Q7004: If an insurance certificate is necessary for visa application, could it be issued?
A: The insurance company would issue an English certificate for you. If this is the case, please contact the insurance agent.

Q7005: If the fellow comes to Japan with family, could the family apply for the overseas travel insurance? Also, if the fellow remains in Japan after tenure, could the insurance be extended?
A: It would be possible if the contractor is Japanese. However, insurance premiums would have to be self-paid. For further procedure, please consult the insurance agent.

Q7006: If the fellow temporary leaves Japan during tenure, would insurance be valid?
A: If the trip is for work, it would be valid. However, if the designated country is the departed country before coming to Japan, and 30 days have passed, the insurance would temporary be invalid (Insurance would start again once re-entered to Japan.) If tenure ends without re-entry, insurance will expire at end of tenure.

Q7007: If an injury occurred during research activities such as fieldwork or natural science experiments, would it be covered under insurance?
A: Yes. However, injury from radiation contamination or projection accidents are not covered. If the fellow accidentally started a fire and burnt an equipment, the accident's compensation would fall under liability during (work) job duties, thus would not be covered under insurance.
Q7008: If the fellow caused someone’s injury, would it be covered under insurance?
A: Yes. However, as the case of Question 7007, if the accident falls under liability during (work) job
duties, it would not be covered.

Q7009: Would dental care or hospital visits for treating chronic diseases be covered under insurance?
A: No, they would not be covered.
Q8401: Will there be a recruitment for Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Pathway to University Positions in Japan)?
A: No, there won’t. There may be a future recruitment after the program content is amended. Currently, there is no schedule for conducting a recruitment, however.