



JAPAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE

日本学術振興会

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March 6, 2018

Dear ERC Grant Holders who interested in hosting a JSPS Research Fellow:

Thank you for expressing a willingness to host JSPS Research Fellows under the FY2018 program "Research Visits of JSPS Research Fellows to ERC-supported European Teams."

Using the above program, a JSPS Research Fellow expresses a desire to carry out research while staying at your laboratory. With much appreciation, we look forward to your cooperation in facilitating the hosting in Europe of Japanese researchers.

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) is Japan's core research funding agency. One of our functions in advancing scientific research is to provide support for researchers.

In May 2015, JSPS entered into an Implementing Agreement with the European Commission (EC) and European Research Council (ERC), under which the program "Research Visits of JSPS Research Fellows to ERC-supported European Teams" was started with the ERC. Its function is to proactively dispatch young Japanese researchers overseas in cooperation with the ERC. JSPS Research Fellows are postdoctoral researchers and doctoral students selected for "JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientist." Each year, about 10,000 applications are received for JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientist, among which about 10% of postdocs and 20% of doctoral students pass through the narrow gate of a highly competitive selection process. The selectees are truly young researchers of high future potential. Some 90% of them go on to securing full-time employment in research positions. In Japan, this fellowship program is widely known as being the "gateway to success."

We believe this ERC-JSPS collaborative program, which allows European researchers who receive ERC grants to host a JSPS Research Fellow in their labs, to be very meaningful in terms of advancing scientific research in both Japan and Europe.

Again, we look forward to and very much appreciate your cooperation in carrying out this collaborative program.

Overseas Training Program Division
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for Japanese Researchers hosted by the European Research Council grantees in Europe

In line with Article 4 of the Agreement between *the European Community and the Government of Japan on cooperation in Science and Technology* signed on November 30th, 2009¹, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for Japanese researchers is hereby established between the European Commission and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) (hereinafter individually referred to as "Side" and collectively referred to as "Both Sides" or "the Sides").

Research opportunities are intended to be provided in line with the terms set out in this Arrangement. This Arrangement does not create any legally binding obligations.

1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

Both Sides intend to provide opportunities for recipients of JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (hereinafter referred to as "JSPS Fellows")² to pursue research collaboration with European colleagues already supported through the EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants.

Both Sides intend to facilitate the use of the ERC-funded projects to host JSPS Fellows. It is expected that collaborations will occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit or on topics of mutual interest.

2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

This collaboration is intended to create new partnerships of mutual benefit between European and Japanese researchers by enabling JSPS Fellows to conduct research visits in ERC-supported European teams.

The duration of their visits to ERC-supported European teams will not exceed the limit of duration for overseas visit stipulated in the Program Guidelines for JSPS Fellows³.

3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION

The Sides intend to use the following set of operational steps:

The European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) would solicit expressions of interest (EoI) from Principal Investigators (PIs) holding ERC grants in hosting JSPS Fellows.

The ERCEA would send to the JSPS a listing of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects as well as the contact information of the PIs.

The JSPS would provide JSPS Fellows with the relevant information on the collaborative opportunity that describes the goals of the programme as defined by the European researchers

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/policy/japan_agreement.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none.

² <http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-pd/>. The actual target group(s) of the JSPS Fellows can be determined in consultation with the ERC at the time of the call published by the JSPS.

³ http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-pd/pd_tebiki.html

and provides application procedures, eligibility considerations, and relevant policies and requirements, as appropriate.

4. STEERING GROUP

The Sides intend to set up a Steering Group consisting of two representatives from each Side. As necessary, each Side may designate a limited number of additional participants to the meetings. It will be co-chaired by a representative of the JSPS and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA. Operational guidance and management plans consistent with the needs of the respective Sides in order to implement this Arrangement will be adopted by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group will review the activities under this Arrangement and decide if any adjustment will be necessary on a periodic basis. The Steering Group will meet upon request from either Side, and its meetings will be held virtually or alternately at the JSPS and the ERCEA headquarters.

5. FUNDING

Activities under this Arrangement should be subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to the applicable laws and regulations, policies and programmes of each Side, and to the terms in this Arrangement.

(a) The JSPS

JSPS Fellows continue to receive their stipend and Grants-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows during the period of the European visit and their travel expenses can be covered, according to the Program Guidelines for JSPS Fellows or the regulations of their organisation in Japan. Through this collaboration, the JSPS also supports the travel expenses, pending availability of funds.

(b) The ERC

Visiting JSPS Fellows may be incorporated into the research teams of the ERC-funded Principal Investigators (at the Host Institution of the ERC projects) for the duration of the visit, so that any relevant expense can be claimed under the ERC grant supporting the team and the activity as noted below. Sufficient flexibility exists for the ERC grant to support the visiting researcher with no separate direct funding arrangement between the visiting researcher and the ERC being required. ERC grantees are expected to establish and decide in advance with the visiting JSPS Fellow the research conditions, which should give sufficient consideration to an enabling environment for the research visits and also be in line with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host institution. The costs which can be reimbursed under the ERC grant must be eligible within the terms of the grant agreement⁴ and the maximum amount of the ERC grant may not be increased for this purpose. Eligible cost categories include:

(1) Living allowances in EU countries on a per diem basis, or any other applicable modality of the Host institution, in line with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host Institution, commensurate to the level of experience of the individual visiting career researchers.

⁴ Essentially, this means the costs must be (a) incurred for the sole purpose of meeting the grant's objectives, (b) be incurred during the duration of the project and (c) correspond to the usual management and accounting practices of the host institution of the Principal Investigator.

(2) Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the Japanese researchers that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

6. DURATION

Cooperation further to this Arrangement is intended to commence from signature and to continue for the remaining duration of the Agreement, unless otherwise terminated by either side upon ninety days advance notice in writing to the other side, or sooner by mutual consent in writing.

Signed in duplicate at Tokyo on this twenty-ninth day of May 2015 in the English language.

For the European Commission



Wolfgang Burtscher
Deputy Director-General

For the Japan Society for the
Promotion of Science



Yuichiro Anzai
President