

JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan

Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan (Short-term)

Application through Overseas Nominating Authorities

FY 2024 (Second Call) Application Guidelines

*In these guidelines, Overseas Nominating Authorities are referring to the following institutions,
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA)
The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT)

1. PURPOSE

To provide opportunities for pre-/post-doctoral researchers from the US, Canada and Europe (*) to conduct cooperative research under the guidance of their hosts cooperative research with leading research groups in universities and other Japanese institutions.

*Eligible countries are the US, Canada, European Union countries (as of 1 April 2023), the UK, Switzerland, Norway and Russia.

2. FIELDS OF RESEARCH

All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences are included under this program.

3. DURATION OF FELLOWSHIPS

1 to 12 months

This fellowship is provided in full month units.

Note 1: The fellowship period covers the period from the day a fellow (invited overseas researcher) coming from abroad arrives at an airport in Japan, which is the day that the fellowship starts, to the day that the fellow departs from an airport in Japan, which is the day that the fellowship ends. (This does not apply to fellows who reside in Japan before or after the fellowship period.)

Note 2: As a fellow's tenure may start anytime during the period stated in the Application Guidelines, there are cases when it will end in the following fiscal year.

Note 3: The fellow must reside in Japan continuously over the duration of the fellowship. The duration of the fellowship may not be divided into multiple stays.

4. STARTING DATE

Fellows must start their Fellowship in Japan before **31 March 2025**.

Note: When setting the starting date of fellowships, adequate time should be allowed for application processing: e.g. application screening by the nominating authority and selection decision-making by JSPS (about three months).

5. CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

Persons are eligible to apply who satisfy the following two conditions as of 1 April 2024 and during the fellowship period.

- (1) Be a citizen or permanent resident of Sweden. Also eligible are persons who have been engaged in research continuously over a period of at least three years at a university or research institution in Sweden. They must be from a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan or be from Taiwan or Palestine, and have conducted research continuously for three or more years before the application submission deadline (15 July 2024), and must possess an excellent research record.
- (2) Have obtained their doctoral degree at a university outside Japan within six years of the date that the fellowship goes into effect (on or after 2 April 2018), or currently be enrolled in a doctoral course at a university outside Japan, and scheduled to receive a Ph.D. within two years from the time that their research starts in Japan. Whether or not the candidate is employed in a full-time position is not considered.

- Note 1: A person who has previously been awarded a fellowship under the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan ([Standard (P)], [Short-term (PE)] and [Pathway to University positions in Japan (PU)]) are not eligible. This Short-term Fellowship is only awarded once per researcher.
- Note 2: A person who possesses a resident card with a mailing address in Japan at the time of the application deadline set by nominating authority are not eligible.
- Note 3: A Japanese citizen who is also a permanent resident of one of countries stipulated above is not eligible.
- Note 4: Researchers who have continuously carried out their research for three or more years minus time taken for maternity and/or parental leave. (Every four weeks of leave is counted as one month, with any remaining weeks also counted as one month. These months are subtracted from number of years that the researcher has continuously carried out their research.) In this case, separate submission documents are required. Please consult with JSPS in advance.
- Note 5: Researchers who obtained their Ph.D. within six years minus time taken for maternity and/or parental leave. (Every four weeks of leave is counted as one month, with any remaining weeks also counted as one month. These months are subtracted from the number of years elapsed since the researcher's Ph.D. was received.) In this case, separate submission of documents is required. Please consult with JSPS in advance.
- Note 6: A person selected as a fellow need to submit a diploma or doctoral degree certificate (if they have not yet obtained the degree, a prospect certificate must be submitted) before the fellowship starting date. (Not required when submitting the application).
- Note 7: If a document certifying the Ph.D. acquisition status is not submitted by the deadline, the fellowship will be cancelled or withdrawn. Details are set out in the Program Guidelines sent with the Award Letter.
- Note 8: If it becomes known after being selected that a candidate does not possess application eligibility, their selection may be cancelled or the eligibility terminated during the fellowship period. In such cases, the candidate may be required to reimburse JSPS their already-paid allowances.

6. HOST RESEARCHER ELIGIBILITY

Host researchers are required to satisfy the following two conditions at the time of application, selection, and during the fellowship period.

- (1) Be affiliated with a research institution specified in Article 2(*) of the Procedure for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) (*), be eligible to apply for a KAKENHI grant, and wish to host an overseas researcher.
- (2) Be a full-time researcher. However, researchers who are not employed full time may be eligible if the host institution judges them able to execute their responsibility to carrying out the program uninterruptedly throughout the fellow's tenure including providing them a suitable research environment (e.g. laboratory, space, facilities and personnel), in the same way that a full-time researcher would be able to do.

*Eligible host institutions specified under the above MEXT Procedure are as follows:

- 1) Universities and inter-university research institutes
- 2) MEXT-affiliated institutions engaged in research
- 3) Colleges of technology
- 4) Institutions designated by the Minister of MEXT

A fellow's host researcher may not be changed during the fellowship tenure. Therefore, if it is known at the time of application that the host researcher will retire, due to reaching retirement age or other reason, during a candidate's fellowship tenure, - they should not be a host researcher.

7. TERMS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The amounts of financial support are scheduled to be as follows. They are subject to change for budgetary reasons.

- (1) Airfare: A round-trip air ticket (based on JSPS's regulations)
- (2) Maintenance Allowance:
 - (a) For Ph.D. holders by the time the fellowship starts in Japan: ¥362,000 per month
 - (b) For non-Ph.D. holders by the time the fellowship starts in Japan: ¥200,000 per month
- (3) Miscellaneous: A settling-in allowance of ¥200,000 (only applicable for Fellows with 3 or more months of tenure), overseas travel insurance

Note 1: The monthly allowance of ¥362,000 is paid to the fellows who have submitted their Ph.D. diploma or doctoral degree certificate before the starting date of their fellowship. If none of the aforementioned documents are submitted, the monthly allowance is ¥200,000.

In the event that a Ph.D. diploma or doctoral degree certificate is submitted after the starting date of the fellowship, the amount of the monthly allowance will be increased for the first payment from the following month after the date of submission of the documents to JSPS. However, the amount already paid will not be increased retroactively.

Note 2: For candidates who have been staying in Japan (and have a mailing address) before the fellowship starting date, the "airfare" for the flight to Japan and the "settling-in allowance" will not be paid. A "research support allowance" is available to cover cooperative research-related expenses (in an amount of up to ¥70,000 x number of months of tenure.) Application is made by the host researcher through their institution.

8. APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR PROGRAM

The application process is as follows:

- (1) Contact is made between the candidates who wish to conduct cooperative research in Japan and their prospective hosts.
- (2) Candidates submit an application to JSPS Stockholm Office.
- (3) The nominating authority conducts a scientific evaluation to select candidates and nominates them to JSPS.
- (4) JSPS decides the final candidates based on the proposals of the overseas nominating authorities.
- (5) Approximately three months after the nomination (around the middle of December), JSPS Head Office sends out a notice of selection decision to both the candidates and the nominating authorities.

Note 1: JSPS does not find or introduce host researchers or institutions.

Note 2: Selection procedures differ by each nominating authority.

Note 3: In addition to receiving applications through overseas nominating authorities, JSPS also accepts applications for candidates from their prospective host researchers in Japan (open recruitment).

Note 4: Parallel applications for the same program through multiple overseas nominating authorities and/or with different host researchers in the same fiscal year are not allowed.

9. MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED

- (1) FY2024 Application Form for JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan, Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Short-term), for Application through Overseas Nominating Authorities. The application form is to be completed by the candidate (both PDF and Word).
- (2) Letter of acceptance/invitation from the candidate's prospective host researcher in Japan, stating that he/she accepts the candidate at his/her institution during the period of the fellowship tenure. The letter should be signed by the host themselves. It is preferable that the letter be written on letterhead paper.
- (3) Letter of recommendation signed by the candidate's doctoral supervisor (etc.) (The writer of the letter must be a person other than the candidate's prospective host researcher in Japan). It is preferable that the letter be written on letterhead paper.
- (4) The candidate's Ph.D. degree diploma or Ph.D. degree certificate. If the degree has not yet been awarded, a letter is required from the candidate's institution stating the date* that they will officially be awarded the degree. In that case, the candidate should submit to JSPS the Ph.D. degree certificate or the Ph.D. diploma promptly before starting their fellowship. The diploma or the certificate should be signed or stamped with an official seal.

For candidates who are not scheduled to be awarded a doctoral degree by the time the fellowship starts, one of the following documents (copy) may be submitted in lieu of a document from the university stating **the date*** the Ph.D. will be awarded.

- 1) Certificate of doctoral course enrollment (showing that the candidate is scheduled to be awarded a Ph.D. degree within two years from the fellowship starting date.)
- 2) A document written and signed by the candidate's supervisor stating that they are scheduled to be awarded a Ph.D. degree within two years from the fellowship starting date. (If the candidate's supervisor writes a letter of recommendation for the candidate, this content may be included in it.)
- (5) A copy of the candidate's passport.
- (6) A copy of the candidate's Swedish permanent residence card if s/he is not an EU/ EEA citizen.

Note1: All documents must be in either English or Japanese. When the original document is in another language, please be sure to attach an English translation (which does not need to be an official translation, and may be done by the host or candidate).

Note2: * Under the JSPS program, the date of degree award is the date that the issuing university awarded the degree. It is not the date that Fellows orally defended their dissertation (viva voce) or completed a doctoral course.

10. ADDRESS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

(Address)

JSPS Stockholm Office: sto-info@overseas.jsps.go.jp

*Please write "Application for FY2024 (Short-term)" in the subject line of candidate's email.

(Deadline)

15 July 2024

11. SCREENING POLICY

- (1) Candidates should be outstanding researchers who are expected to contribute to the academic progress.
- (2) The research plan should be of high scientific quality, specific and realistic.
- (3) The proposed collaboration should clearly develop synergies and form strong linkages between Japan and Sweden.

12. NOTIFICATIONS OF SELECTION RESULTS BY JSPS HEAD OFFICE

JSPS will send by email a copy of award letter and accompanying documents to successful applicants first. A hard copy of award letter and related documents for successful applicants and host researchers will be sent to host institutions.

JSPS Stockholm Office cannot respond to individual request regarding selection results.

*Please read "NOTICE", "OBLIGATION OF CANDIDATES, HOST RESEARCHERS AND HOST INSTITUTIONS (INCLUDING MEASURES AGAINST MISCONDUCT AND MISUSE OF FUNDS)", and "OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES" of the latest application guideline uploaded by JSPS Head Office.

Application Guideline by JSPS Head Office: <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/application.html>