

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

BRIDGE Fellowship Program

FY2025 Application Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) provides opportunities for overseas researchers who have conducted research activities under JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan or other JSPS programs to re-visit Japan to create, sustain and/or strengthen research collaborations with Japanese colleagues. The objective is to build strong networks among researchers in Japan and other countries through a variety of activities. These include former JSPS fellows visiting their past host institutions in Japan, or coming to Japan to plan or implement joint research projects and seminars, to offer training or lectures for young researchers, or to prepare or attend scientific conferences and research meetings.

Researchers invited to Japan under this fellowship program are called “BRIDGE Fellows.” Based on applications by individual researchers, candidates are recommended to JSPS Head Office by JSPS alumni associations and JSPS overseas offices or the JSPS-designated official in the Japanese Embassy for countries without a JSPS overseas office. Hereinafter a JSPS overseas office or a JSPS-designated official in a Japanese Embassy will be commonly referred to as a “JSPS office,” and the alumni association and JSPS office as “alumni association/JSPS office.”

2. Applicable Fields

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

3. BRIDGE Fellow Eligibility

To be eligible, a researcher must meet the following requirements.

- (1) Be a researcher who has experienced research in Japan under a JSPS program and who is currently a regular member of one of the officially recognized 20 JSPS alumni associations.
- (2) Be a researcher who is employed as an active researcher working at a university or a research institute.
- (3) Agreement by host researcher to all seven items of support stipulated in Form B (Agreement by Host Researcher).

* Upon receiving a recommendation from an alumni association/JSPS office, JSPS contacts the proposed host researcher in Japan. If a proposed host says that he/she cannot provide the support stipulated in Form B or cannot host the fellow, JSPS will not be able to accept the recommendation. Therefore, candidates should communicate fully with their proposed hosts before applying.

- * Researchers who have already been supported under the BRIDGE Fellowship Program within the last 5 years (FY2020-FY2024) are ineligible for this award.
- * Each alumni association/JSPS office has its own screening criteria as provided in “PROVISION b), Screening Criteria.” Applicants should check it before applying.

4. Host Researcher Eligibility

In principle, researchers who are employed full time or classified as such at one of the Japanese research institutions listed below are eligible to host a BRIDGE Fellow.

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

* Eligible institutions under (1)-(4) are listed at:

<https://www-kokusai.jps.go.jp/jps1/kikanList.do> (Posted only in Japanese)

* Definition of “full-time employment” is according to the regulations of the host institution.

* There are cases when researchers not employed in a full-time position may be eligible. Such persons must be eligible to apply for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) and their affiliated institution must judge them able to implement the project and must provide an appropriate research environment (e.g., laboratory, equipment, personnel) for it.

5. Number of Fellowships Awarded

JSPS Alumni Club in Sweden (SAC): 2

JSPS Alumni Club in Finland (ACF): 1

JSPS Alumni Club in Denmark (ACD): 1

JSPS Norway-Japan Academic Network (NJAN): 1

6. Visit Period and Dates

- (1) A period from 14 to 30 consecutive days
- (2) Under this recruitment, revisits are to start during the following period:
July 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026

Please note the following points.

*All offices in Japan are officially closed during the period between December 27, 2025 and January 4, 2026 (9 days). As researchers may not be able to carry out their activities at Japanese universities/research institutions during this period, it should not be included in your BRIDGE tenure.

7. Terms of Award

- (1) A round-trip air ticket (based on JSPS regulations)

*JSPS cannot reimburse BRIDGE Fellows for a ticket that they have purchased by themselves.

- (2) Daily maintenance allowance of JPY 13,000
- (3) Research support allowance of up to JPY 100,000
- (4) Overseas travel insurance coverage

*When the applicant would like to use the research support allowance, the host researcher will need to apply for it through his/her host institution. Please see the rules for the research support allowance

in the Program Guidelines issued upon your selection and in additional notices to be issued.

8. Application Procedure for the Program

Applications are recruited and screened by alumni associations in coordination with their affiliated JSPS offices, which recommend candidates to JSPS Head Office.

(1) Documents to be submitted to JSPS Stockholm Office

Please submit the following documents to sto-info@overseas.jps.go.jp

- (a) Application for JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship (Form A)
- (b) Agreement by Host Researcher (Form B)

Please use the subject line “Application for BRIDGE Fellowship Program 2025” when sending the email.

(2) Application deadline

The applicant should send the required documents no later than 10 January 2025.

9. Selection Process and Notification

(1) Screening is carried out using criteria devised by the alumni association in coordination with JSPS office and approved by JSPS Head Office.

The screening criteria of each alumni association can be found here:
<https://www.jps.go.jp/english/e-alumni/bridge/selection.html>

(2) Notification of Selection Results by JSPS Head Office

- 1) An award letter from JSPS president and accompanying documents will be sent to the successful candidates. Notification date: Mid-April
- 2) Unsuccessful candidates are not notified of their selection results.
- 3) JSPS cannot respond to individual requests regarding selection results.

10. Others

- (1) A researcher may not be awarded a fellowship under both this program and another JSPS program at the same time.
- (2) A researcher may not be awarded a BRIDGE Fellowship and a fellowship from another funding organization for a purpose of visiting Japan at the same time.
- (3) Applicants are to describe the results they obtained in other JSPS program(s) and their relevance to this BRIDGE fellowship program.
- (4) There is a limit of one application per person under each recruitment. This should be confirmed by the alumni association/JSPS office when an applicant belongs to two or more alumni associations.

NOTICE

1. False information etc., in the application form

Should JSPS determine any information in an application to be falsified, plagiarized or otherwise flawed, including the forged signature, the application will be rejected or, if already awarded, the fellowship withdrawn.

2. Response to acts of research misconduct and funding misuse

Measures such as the termination of application screening, cancellation of selection decisions, requirement to refund part or all of already allocated funding may be taken when researchers or others are determined to have done the following: misused research funds or committed specific research misconduct (forgery, falsification, plagiarism) when conducting research activities; committed any form of human rights violation (e.g. racial discrimination, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, academic harassment, power harassment, abuse of authority, neglect); violated laws; made false statements in an application (including an unauthorized diversion of signature).

Please refer to the following for JSPS's "Rules for Responding to Misconduct and Misuse of Funds in Research Activities" (Enacted on December 6, 2006 (Rule No. 19 of 2006)).

https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/guideline/data/regulation_e.pdf

3. System for implementing the "Guidelines for Responding to Research Misconduct"

When making proposals to JSPS and conducting research activities, research institutions are to follow the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" (adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), on 26 August 2014)."If MEXT judges via the results of an inspection that a research institution's system is inadequate or defective, it or an independent administrative institution under MEXT's jurisdiction may cut or reduce the indirect budget allocation of the institution's competitive funding.

Please refer to the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" in the following website:

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1359618.htm

4. Research ethics education coursework

To promote the proper conduct of research activities and prevent misconduct in advance, it is first necessary to raise the level of researcher ethics within research institutions. Host institutions (host researcher's institutions) are therefore to establish educational courses for candidates (BRIDGE Fellows) to take in research ethics.

(References) Learning materials on avoiding misconduct in research activities

- *For the Sound Development of Science - The Attitude of a Conscientious Scientist* by Editing Committee of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-kousei/ethics.html>
- e-Learning Course on Research Ethics [eL CoRE]
https://elcore.jsps.go.jp/top.aspx_
- APRIN e-learning program (eAPRIN)
- Research ethics courses conducted by institutions based on the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" (Adopted by MEXT, August 26, 2014)

5. Handling of personal information

Personal information contained in application materials will be strictly controlled in accordance with the “Act on the Protection of Personal Information” and JSPS’s own regulations for protecting personal information. JSPS uses such information exclusively for the purpose of implementing its programs. (JSPS may use personal data when disseminating information about its operations and programs, and it may entrust personal data to external companies for the purpose of conducting electronic processing and management of the data.) If selected for a fellowship, candidates (BRIDGE Fellows) should note that their name, nationality, title and affiliated organization, research theme, fellowship tenure, host institution, host researcher’s name and title, and research reports may be given public access. Reports submitted by alumni associations may also be given public access on the Internet.

For researchers located within the European Economic Area including the EU and in the UK, their agreement is to be obtained to follow the above-stated “handling of personal information” in line with the “General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).”

6. Ensuring Research Integrity Against New Risks as a Consequence of the Globalization and Openness of Research Activities

In order to promote the augment of science, technology, and innovation in Japan, we must continue to enhance overseas joint research with various partners based on the principle of open science.

Concurrently, the new risks as a consequence of the globalization and openness of research activities have been possible to impair the basis of research environment such as openness and transparency, and to unknowingly involve researchers to take risk of a conflict of interest or a conflict of responsibilities. In such climate, it is vital for our country to build a globally reliable research environment to protect the values that constitute the basis of research environment while encouraging necessary global collaboration and international exchanges.

Therefore, universities and institutions are required to establish regulations/rules and control management related to the conflict of interest and the conflict of responsibility based on “Policy on Measures to Ensure Research Integrity Against New Risks as a Consequence of the Globalization and Openness of Research Activities (April 27, 2021, Decision of Council for Science, Technology and Innovation).” It is significantly essential for researchers and universities/institutions to proactively ensure the research integrity in each research activity.

7. Security Trade Control (Preventing technology leakage outside Japan)

Much research on cutting-edge technology is being conducted in Japan’s research institutions. Along with Japan’s advancing internationalization, there has been an increase in the number of foreign students and overseas researchers residing in Japan. This has increased the risk of advanced technologies and research materials and equipment leaking out and for them to be used in the development and production of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Therefore, when research institutions conduct research activities of any kind, including the contracted program, they should take systematic measure to keep research results and products that can be diverted to military use out of the hands of WMD developers, terrorist groups, and other persons whose activities are suspect.

In Japan, export controls (*1) are carried out under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949) (hereinafter referred to as “FEFTA”). Therefore, in principle, in order to export (provide) goods and technologies regulated by the FEFTA, it is necessary to obtain permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Starting with the FEFTA, Fellows must follow all of Japan’s pertinent laws and ordinances, guidelines, and directives. If research is conducted in violation of these laws and ordinances, measures and

penalties prescribed in them may be enforced along with the termination of the Fellow's research funding or their scheduled allocation of research funding.

(*) Export controls

Japan's Security Export Control System established on the basis of international agreements mainly consists of (1) "List Control" which requires permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry in principle when exporting goods or providing technologies that carry specifications and/or functions higher than certain levels, such as carbon fiber and numerically controlled machine tools etc., and (2) "Catch-all regulation" which requires permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry when exporting goods or providing technologies that are not subject to regulation under the List control but do fall under certain regulatory requirements (application requirements, consumer requirements and/or informed requirements).

Not only export of goods but also provision of technology can be subject to regulation under the FEFTA. When providing a "List Control" technology to nonresidents (including residents in Specific Categories (*2)) or providing it in a foreign country, prior permission for the provision is required. "Provision of technology" includes not only providing technical information such as design drawings, specifications, manuals, samples, and prototypes via storage media such as paper, mail, CD, USB memory, but also providing work knowledge and technical assistance at seminars through technical instruction, skill training etc. Researchers should be aware that there may be cases in which technologies subject to regulation by the FEFTA are involved when mentoring foreign students and/or doing joint research activities with overseas groups. Please also bear in mind that the provision of technologies acquired in the contracted program or the provision of technologies already in possession with the use of the contracted program may also be subject to restrictions.

(*2) The term "Specific Categories" refers to the types of residents that are heavily influenced by nonresidents. It also indicates the specific types of residents who fall under the clauses in 1 (3)Sa ① thru ③ of the "Notification for Transactions or Acts of Transferring Technology Requiring Permission pursuant to Article 25 (1) of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA) and Article 17 (2) of the Foreign Exchange Order (FOE)."

In accordance with FEFTA, a security export control structure must be established when exporting List Control Goods or providing List Control Technologies to a foreign country. (*3) For this reason, prior to entering into a contract (when the grant decision is made), Fellows may be asked if they have any plans to export goods and/or technologies that are subject to export restrictions under the FEFTA as a result of this contracted program and, if there is an intent to export, they will be asked whether or not there is a management system in place to control such exports.

(*3) Exporters are mandated to comply with the "Compliance Requirements for Exporters" set forth in Article 55-10 (1) of the FEFTA. The security export control structure here refers to an organization's internal control system to prevent unauthorized exports and other acts by appropriately exporting List Control Goods or providing List Control Technologies to foreign countries, based on the control system in the "Compliance Requirements for Exporters".

For details on Security Export Control, please see the following websites.

- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: Security Export Control(General)
<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/englishpage.html>
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: “Security Export Control System in Japan”
<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/englishpage/securityexportcontrolinjapan5.pdf>
- Center for Information on Security Export Controls
<https://www.cistec.or.jp/english/index.html>
- “Guidance for the Control of Sensitive Technologies for Security Export for Academic and Research Institutions 3rd Edition” https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota_jishukanri03_eng.pdf
- Notification for Transactions or Acts of Transferring Technology Requiring Permission pursuant to Article 25 (1) of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and Article 17 (2) of the Foreign Exchange Order https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota_jishukanri03_eng.pdf

8. Strict enforcement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321

In response to North Korea’s conducting nuclear tests in September 2016 and its successive ballistic missile launches, the UN Security Council met on 30 November 2016 (New York local time) and adopted Resolution 2321, which added and significantly strengthened sanctions imposed on North Korea. Consequently, on 17 February 2017, MEXT issued a request to its cognizant organizations to strictly enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321.

Not limited to technologies restricted under Japan’s Foreign Exchange Law, Item 11 of this Resolution suspends all scientific and technical cooperation with North Korea with the exception of medical exchanges. Research organizations are required to bear the stipulations of this Resolution in mind when carrying out their various research activities.

To read United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321, please go the following website:

[https://www.undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=S%2FRES%2F2321\(2016\)&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False](https://www.undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=S%2FRES%2F2321(2016)&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)

9. Use of Generative AI

Using generative AI when preparing your application risks an unintentional infringement of copyrights and leakage of personal or confidential information. It is the applicant’s responsibility to consider this risk when deciding whether to use generative AI.

10. Approximate Number of Fellowship Awarded and Terms of Award

The approximate number of fellowship awarded and amounts of the awards are subject to change for budgetary reasons.

11. Obligations and procedures after being provisionally selected

Candidates (BRIDGE Fellows), host researchers and host institutions should read the “Program Guidelines” enclosed with the award letter for information on their obligations under the program, procedures to be carried out, and rules to be followed (e.g. conditions for taking temporary leaves of absence, for using the Research Support Allowance). You may refer to the past Program Guidelines posted below.

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-plaza/bridge/program.html>

12. FAQ

FAQ on this program is provided on the following websites. Please refer to them if there is something unclear to you with regard to making an application or procedures to follow after you are selected.

**OBLIGATION OF CANDIDATES HOST RESEARCHERS AND INSTITUTIONS
(INCLUDING MEASURES AGAINST MISCONDUCT AND MISUSE OF FUNDS)**

The host researchers, candidates (BRIDGE Fellows) and host institutions should bear the following ten points in mind when applying for the program, and should observe them if selected for a fellowship. After selection, they will be expected to observe the regulations and procedures stipulated in the Program Guidelines for the JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship. If either the candidate (BRIDGE Fellows) or host researcher should fail to do so, the fellowship may be withdrawn, allowances (including airfares) stopped, and already-paid allowances (including research support allowance) reclaimed.

- (1) So as to allow the smooth progress of the candidate's research in Japan, before submitting an application, the host researcher is to fully inform the candidate of conditions at the host laboratory, including their status under the fellowship, and ascertain the candidate's agreement to accept those conditions.
- (2) The host researcher will, in cooperation with the administration office of the host institution, provide a suitable arrangement for the candidate to pursue their joint research and other research activities. The host researcher will also assist the candidate, when needed, with immigration processing (including applying for a "certificate of eligibility"), securing domicile and other matters related to their stay in Japan.
- (3) During the fellowship tenures, the host researcher is advised not to commit such acts equivalent to human rights violations (e.g. discrimination, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, academic harassment, power harassment, abuse of authority or neglect) and should be particularly careful not to say or do anything that could be interpreted as committing such acts. If a researcher should commit such an unethical act and be punished via measures imposed by the host institution, they will be restricted from applying for the JSPS International Fellowships Program for a period of five years starting from the day that the punishment is administered.
- (4) During fellowship tenures, fellows shall not, either in or outside the host institution, infringe in any way on the human rights of others, including racial or gender discrimination or other forms of abuse.
- (5) As a rule, candidates are to stay in Japan continuously during the tenure of their fellowships and concentrate on their research at the host institution. Candidates may not engage in other work, neither paid nor unpaid, during their tenures.
- (6) The host researchers and fellows shall follow the rules established by the host institution and JSPS prohibiting acts of research misconduct, (e.g., fabricating or falsifying research results) and the misuse of research funds.
- (7) The fellow and host researcher are required to submit the "Research Report" (Form7), to JSPS Head Office and the alumni association/JSPS office before the deadline set by JSPS.
- (8) When presenting or publishing the content or results of research conducted under the fellowship, the JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship should be acknowledged.
- (9) The host institution shall inform both the host researcher and fellow of the rules that it and JSPS have

established to prevent research misconduct (e.g., fabricating or falsifying research results) and misuse of research funds (e.g. personal use of funds, use of funds for other purposes) and of the penalties for violations. It shall take action to see that these rules are obeyed.

- (10) The host institution is to take first responsibility for the candidate's actions, so must be proactive in preventing any human rights violations, research misconduct or misuse of research funds on the part of the candidate during their tenure. If any such problems should occur, the host institution will endeavor to resolve them. If requested by JSPS, it is to report such problems.

OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES

1) Cooperation in carrying out site surveys and questionnaires

Site surveys are carried out on host institutions for the purpose of verifying the program's implementation system and the management, execution and auditing of program funding.

Host researchers and candidates are asked to cooperate in these surveys. Also, questionnaires are carried out for the purpose of improving JSPS programs. Host researchers, candidates and host institutions are asked to fill out these questionnaires.

2) Promotion of "Open Access" to the research papers supported by JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan

It is JSPS's policy to provide open access to research papers. Beginning with research supported by Grants-in-Aid (KAKENHI) and other JSPS funding, research papers should, as a rule, be given open access. Note that open access is not mandatory if there are justifiable reasons for deferral such as copyright-related issues or insufficient repository infrastructure at the research institution. The open access implementation policy of JSPS is described on the following webpage:

https://www.jps.go.jp/data/Open_access.pdf (Japanese only)

(1) Reference 1: What is "Open Access"

Open access refers to the basic idea that research papers published in peer-reviewed journals should be made freely accessible by anyone.

(2) Reference 2: Different Routes to Open Access

There are 3 main ways of open access implementation:

- 1) Opening access to articles published in conventional subscription fee type academic journals after a certain period of time (Embargo) (* 1) (for example 6 months later) by opening the final manuscript to an Institutional Repository (* 2) established by the research institution to which the author belongs, or by opening the final manuscript to the website etc. established by the researchers (self-archiving) (* 3).
- 2) Opening access by posting the article on the Web established by the research community or public institution.
- 3) Opening access to articles immediately by paying the publication fee (APC: Article Processing Charge) by the author of the article.

*1: "Embargo"

The predetermined period from the time an article is published in an academic journal to the time it is released so that it can be posted on an online open-access archiving system (repository).

*2: “Institutional Repository”

An online archiving system created by university or research institution for storage and dissemination of the intellectual products. Institutional repositories play important roles in the reform of academic information distribution by enabling the researchers to register their own articles. They also allow the transmission of research and education achievements of the research institution, PR for both the research institution and the researcher, guaranteeing the accountability of research and education activities towards society, and the long-term conservation of intellectual products.

*3: “Self-archiving”

“Self-archiving” refers to online posting of articles published in academic journals, dissertations, or data by those other than the publisher, (the researcher or research institution) generally on their institutional repositories.

(3) Management of Research Data

JSPS has established a policy that stipulates JSPS’s basic principles regarding the storage, management, and publication of research data generated during research activities funded by research grants provided by JSPS.

Researchers selected for JSPS projects are required to comply with the data policies and other regulations of the research institutions with which they are affiliated. They must also prepare a Data Management Plan (DMP) that describes the policies and plans for the storage, management, disclosure, and non-disclosure of research data generated as a result of their research activities. Researchers must conduct their research activities in accordance with their prepared DMP.

Please refer to the following website for JSPS's basic policy on the handling of research data.
https://www.jsp.go.jp/file/storage/open_science/basic_policy.pdf

(4) Acknowledging research results

When announcing research results obtained under this fellowship, please indicate the support you’ve received through the program.

Please provide an acknowledgment in research papers. Below is an example of how to write one.

This work was supported by BRIDGE Fellowship Program of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

(5) Registration of the Researcher Information in researchmap

“researchmap” (<http://researchmap.jp/>) is, as a general guide to Japanese researchers, Japan’s largest researcher information database. Registered information on research results can be openly disseminated over the Internet using researchmap. As research map is linked to e-Rad and many university faculty databases, it allows registered information to be accessed by other systems. Furthermore, the Japanese Government plans to further utilize researchmap, so please register your researcher information on the researchmap site.

<https://researchmap.jp/>

(6) Registration on JSPS-Net

JSPS Research Network (JSPS-Net) is a social networking service oriented to researchers who have experienced participating in JSPS programs. It supports the networking of researchers who carry out activities across national borders and the creation of researcher communities.

In addition to supporting researchers in the similar fields, JSPS-Net provides a platform for establishing communities and networks among researchers carrying out activities in different fields and among researchers conducting activities in the same region—communities and networks that can also include other researchers and research-support people who are interested in those activities. In such ways, JSPS-Net, works to promote future international collaborations and to advance international joint research while assisting each registered researcher in carrying out their activities on the world stage.

JSPS-Net also assists young and overseas researchers in finding host researchers and institutions in Japan. The service it provides matches young researchers with prospective hosts.

We look forward to the participants in this fellowship program registering on JSPS-Net. We're pretty sure you'll find it both interesting and useful.

<https://www-jsps-net.jsps.go.jp/>

(7) Registration of LinkedIn

LinkedIn is the world's largest professional networking platform with more than one billion registered users in over 200 countries and regions. It serves as a hub for professionals around the world to share and exchange job and career information and generate financial opportunities.

Information about JSPS is also available on LinkedIn. We hope you will follow “JSPS International Academic Collaborations” on the platform if you have experienced participating in any of JSPS programs.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/jsps-international-academic-collaborations>