

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

BRIDGE Fellowship Program

FY2022 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 (FY2017-FY2020) 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.jsps.go.jp/jsps1/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 Alumni Club in Norway (ACN): 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:

1 July 2022 through 31 March 2023

Please note the following points.

*All offices in Japan are officially closed during the period between 29 December 2022 and 3 January 2023 (6 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) Around-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

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 jsps@overseas.jsps.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 2022” when sending the email.

- (2) Application deadline

The applicant should send the required documents to JSPS Stockholm Office no later than 26 January 2021.

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.jsps.go.jp/english/e-plaza/bridge/provisions.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

※As the situation of the novel coronavirus changes, we may consider applying flexibility in our handling of some of the entry items in the Application Guidelines.

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 will be cancelled.

2. Response to acts of research misconduct and funding misuse

JSPS will take appropriate measures (e.g. terminate project, require reimbursement of part or all of allocated funds) in cases of misuse of research funds, specific research misconduct (e.g. fabrication, falsification, plagiarism), unjustifiable acts (e.g. discrimination, harassment), or violation of laws.

Please refer to the following websites for “Rules for Responding to Misconduct and Misuse of Funds in Research Activities”, with regard to measures taken against misuse of research funds.

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

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 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.

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 on 26 August 2014)

5. Handling of personal information

Personal information contained in application materials is to be strictly controlled in accordance with the “Law to Protect Personal Information Held by Independent Administrative Institutions” and JSPS’s own regulations for protecting personal information. JSPS will use such information exclusively for the purpose of implementing its programs. (This may involve the provision of personal information to external companies commissioned to electronically process and/or manage program-related 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 which embodies the EU, their agreement is to be obtained to comply with the above-stated “handing of personal information” in line with the “General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).”

6. Research conducted for military purposes

JSPS does not support any research related to military affairs.

7. Security Trade Control

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). Research institutions are to 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 (*) are carried out under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949) (hereinafter referred to as “Foreign Exchange Law”). Therefore, in principle, in order to

export (provide) cargo and technology regulated by the Foreign Exchange Law, it is necessary to obtain permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Starting with the Foreign Exchange Law, candidates (BRIDGE 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 candidate's research funding or his/her 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 rules" which require permission of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry in principle when exporting cargo 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 cargo or providing technologies that are not subject to regulation under the List rules but do fall under certain regulatory requirements (application requirements, consumer requirements and/or informed requirements).

Not only export of cargo but also provision of technology is subject to regulation under the Foreign Exchange Law. When providing a "List rules" technology to nonresidents or providing it within 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 via technical instruction, skill training etc. Researchers should be aware that there may be case in which technologies subject to regulation by the Foreign Exchange Law are involved when mentoring foreign students and/or conducting joint research activities with oversea groups.

8. 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.

9. 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/j-plaza/bridge/tebiki.html>

10. FAQ

FAQ on this program are 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.

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-plaza/bridge/faq.html>

OBLIGATION OF THE CANDIDATE AND HOST RESEARCHER (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 shall fully inform the candidate of conditions at the host laboratory, including his/her status under the fellowship, and will ascertain the candidate's acknowledgement 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 his/her 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 his/her stay in Japan.
- (3) During fellowship tenures, the host researcher is advised not to commit such acts of discrimination or abuse with regard to his/her candidate, and should be particularly careful of what s/he says or does cannot 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, s/he 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, candidates 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, fellows shall stay in Japan continuously during the tenure of their fellowships and concentrate on their research at the host institution. Candidate may not engage in other work, neither paid nor unpaid, during their tenures.
- (6) The host researchers and candidates shall follow the rules established by the host institution and JSPS prohibiting acts of research misconduct, e.g., fabricating or falsifying research results.
- (7) The candidate and host researcher are required to submit a post-visit report, using the "Research Report" (Form 7), to JSPS Head Office and the alumni association/JSPS office within three months after the end of their visits.
- (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 the candidate of the rules that it and JSPS have established to prevent research misconduct and misuse of research funds and of the penalties for violations.
- (10) The host institution shall take first responsibility for the candidate's actions, so must be proactive in preventing any discrimination, misconduct or misuse on the part of the candidate during his/her tenure. If any such problems should occur, the host institution will endeavor to resolve them.

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 will be asked to fill out these questionnaires.

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

JSPS endorses general policy of promotion of open access of publications of research results funded by public grants including KAKENHI. 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 given on the following webpage:

URL: https://www.jsps.go.jp/data/Open_access.pdf

(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) to 3) below)

- 1) A way to make open the access to the article which is published in the conventional subscription fee type academic journal after a certain period (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) A way to make the article open access by posting the article on the Web established by the research community or public institution.
- 3) A way to make the article open access immediately by paying the publication fee (APC: Article Processing Charge) by the author of the article.

***1: "Embargo"**

The predetermined period from the time of publication of an article in an academic journal to the time of release 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 register their own articles, such as 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) 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. 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 has planned to utilize further the researchmap, please register researcher information in researchmap.

4) Registration on JSPS-Net

JSPS-Net is a social networking service that facilitates new collaborations within a worldwide researcher community. It is mainly aimed at Japanese and overseas researchers residing in Japan or abroad, overseas researchers scheduled to come to Japan, and the international programs staff of universities and other institutions.

As JSPS-Net makes extensive use of social networking service (SNS) functions in supporting the establishment of researcher communities, it’s hope that you will take good advantage of its support when expanding your own circle of colleagues.