

Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship Program

Section in Charge: Japanese Studies Department

◆ Outline

This program provides scholars and researchers in the field of Japanese studies with opportunities to conduct research in Japan, with the aim of promoting Japanese studies overseas.

- * For those who are affiliated with institutions in Southeast Asia, please apply for "JF-JSA-ASEAN Fellowship Program" instead.

◆ Eligible Applicants and Duration

1 Doctoral Candidates

Applicants must be Ph.D. candidates at graduate schools conducting research related to Japan (comparative research included) in the humanities or social sciences, who have completed (or will have completed by the beginning of the Fellowship) the necessary course work and find it necessary to visit Japan for a period of 4 to 12 months to complete their dissertations.

2 Researchers

Applicants must be researchers who have a Ph.D. degree or equivalent professional experience at the time of application, and are conducting research related to Japan (comparative research included) in the humanities or social sciences, whose projects require them to travel to Japan for a short period of 21 to 89 days, or a long period of 4 to 12 months, to carry out doing research, gathering materials, participating in exchange activities, etc.

◆ Eligibility

1 All of the following criteria must be met.

- (1) Applicants must hold citizenship or lawful permanent resident status in any country that have diplomatic relations with Japan, and reside in such a country.

- * Taiwanese applicants are eligible to apply only for "Doctoral Candidates" or "Researchers (Long-Term)."



- (2) Applicants must secure all affiliation arrangements by the application deadline.
 - (3) Applicants must be in good health and proficient in either Japanese or English.
 - (4) In principle, applicants must be able to stay continuously in Japan for the term of Fellowship from the beginning date of the Fellowship, which is the arrival date in Japan, which must fall between June 20, 2027 and March 20, 2028.
 - (5) Previous recipients of Japan Foundation Fellowships (not only the Japanese Studies Fellowship but also all the other Fellowships of the Japan Foundation) are eligible to reapply only if, on April 1, 2027, a period of full three years has elapsed since the termination of their most recent Fellowship. Previous "short-term (89 days or less)" Fellows are eligible to reapply only if, on April 1, 2027, one full year has elapsed since the termination of their most recent Fellowship.
- 2 Individuals meeting any of the following conditions are not eligible to apply:
- (1) Scholars or researchers in the natural sciences, medicine or engineering;
 - (2) Undergraduates; Master's degree candidates; those intending to enroll in Undergraduate or Master's courses at universities in Japan; or graduates intending to enroll in Ph.D. courses in Japan;
 - (3) Those who primarily intend to enhance their Japanese-language ability or industry-related technical skills, to develop and/or produce Japanese-language teaching materials, or to acquire artistic training in the area of Japanese traditional culture (tea ceremony, flower arrangement, etc.);
 - (4) Those who plan to receive other grants/scholarships/fellowships covering expenses for travel to and accommodation in Japan concurrently with the Fellowship;
 - (5) Those who are registered residents in Japan as of April 1, 2027 and fail to deregister their residency for overseas relocation by the Fellowship start date;
 - (6) Those who apply for any other grant program of the Japan Foundation, except for the "JF-GJS Fellowship," the "JF-Nichibunken Fellowship," or the "JF-CIJS-EAJS Fellowship" programs.
- * The JF-GJS Fellowship program is for post-doctoral researchers and is co-organized with the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia of the University of Tokyo. The JF-Nichibunken Fellowship program is also for post-doctoral researchers and is co-organized with the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. The JF-CIJS-EAJS Fellowship program is for doctoral candidate in Europe and is co-organized with the Center for Integrated Japanese Studies of Tohoku University with the support of European Association for Japanese Studies. For further information on these three programs, please inquire at r_info@jpf.go.jp by email.



◆ Benefits

- 1 Round-trip international airline ticket (discount economy class)
- 2 Stipend and other allowances

◆ Number of Fellowships (Reference)

96 out of 286 applications for FY2026

◆ Selection Policy

- 1 Project quality is evaluated on the basis of its significance to the field and to the applicant's professional development, necessity of residing in Japan for completion of the project, and feasibility in terms of time and resources. Applicants' educational background, employment history, position in their affiliated institution, and research achievements will also be considered.
- 2 Applicants who have received Japan Foundation Fellowships twice or more in the past will be given much lower priority.

◆ Application Deadline

Apply through Online Application Portal by 1 p.m., December 1, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

* For U.S. applicants, application procedures are different. Please be sure to visit the Japan Foundation, New York's website (<https://ny.jpf.go.jp/grants/grants-for-japanese-studies/fellowship-program/>). The application deadline is 11: 59 p.m., December 1, 2026 (Eastern Standard Time).

◆ Notification of Results

April 2027

◆ Notes for all Applicants

Please refer to the Japan Foundation website for information on application procedures and important notes common to all programs.

JF website: [The Japan Foundation - General Instructions](#)

