

Program for Specialists in Cultural and Academic Fields

Section in Charge: Educational Training Section,
the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

◆ Outline

With the aim of supporting specialists who require Japanese-language proficiency in order to smoothly perform their specialized work and research activities (such as researchers, graduate students, librarians, museum and art museum curators), this program provides training to improve their Japanese- language ability by learning practical Japanese and actually using it in their research and specialized work-related activities, conducted at the Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai.

* In FY2027, only a six-month course will be offered.

◆ Description of the Course

During the training course, participants will independently conduct interviews with specialists in their field as well as plan their own trips to visit related facilities and, as they gather and understand research materials, they will be able to acquire the skills needed to exchange, collect, and report information in Japanese. The participants will need to independently plan their activities with an explicit theme. Participants are required to make a presentation about their research themes as their accomplishments of the course and specialized activities conducted during their stay in Japan at the end of the course.

* This training program is designed to develop the Japanese language proficiency required for research activities and specialist work, and does not provide education in specific fields of study. Participants must attend all classes as a general rule, and specialized activities such as research and fieldwork must be conducted outside of class hours or during designated intensive periods.

◆ Duration

From early-October 2027 to late-March 2028

◆ Eligibility

Individuals must fulfill the following to apply:

- 1 Individuals who fulfill (1) or (2) and need Japanese-language proficiency to carry out their specialized work and research activities.



(1) Individuals who fulfill at least one of the following requirements and have an employment relationship with the organization outside Japan with which they are affiliated both at the time of application and at the start of the program. It is expected that participants will continue working in the same organization after completing this program.

- a Individuals who carry out research activities as teachers (professors, instructors, teaching assistants, etc.), researchers, etc., at institutions of advanced education, such as universities, research centers, or other research organizations.
- b Individuals who are engaged in a job of specialized research work in public sector organizations, such as government agencies, think tanks, etc.
- c Individuals who are currently engaged in full-time librarian work at universities, colleges, other institutions of advanced education, academic research institutions, cultural exchange organizations, or public libraries.
- d Individuals who are currently engaged in full-time curatorial work at museums or regularly involved in organizing exhibitions, and who are working for international exchange programs that concern Japan.

(2) Individuals who are officially registered as full-time students in a Master's or Doctoral course at a graduate school outside Japan, both at the time of application and at the start of the program (excluding non-degree students) and who plan to write their Master's or Doctoral thesis/dissertation on a subject related to Japan.

Concerning undergraduate students of universities and colleges that issue a Master's degree upon graduation, applicants will be considered to fulfill this requirement, if they are in the final year and their age is 22 or older as of December 1, 2026.

- 2 Individuals applying for this program must obtain the permission of the representative of their affiliated organization mentioned above.
- 3 Individuals whose research area must be in the field of Japan-related social sciences or humanities. Includes interdisciplinary fields with natural and applied sciences.
- 4 Individuals who have a specific and detailed theme related to Japan in their study or work, and plan to make a presentation on the achievements.
- 5 Individuals who are nationals of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan.
 - * Taiwanese are eligible to apply for this program.
- 6 Individuals who have NOT received compulsory education in Japan for more than three years.
- 7 Individuals in good physical and mental health.
- 8 Individuals who have Japanese-language proficiency that is equivalent to or higher than Level N4 in the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), Level 3 of the old



JLPT, or A2 level in the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education at the time of application (please visit the official website of JLPT

[<https://www.jlpt.jp/e/about/levelsummary.html>], or the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education website [<https://www.jfstandard.jp/jpf.go.jp>] to find the summary of linguistic competence required for each level).

- 9 Individuals who are NOT scheduled to study abroad at a Japanese educational institution, participate in other training in Japan, work in Japan, or engage in other activities during the program.

◆ Venue

The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai (Tajiri-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka, Japan)

◆ Benefits

Provided to all participants:

- 1 Accommodation (single room at the Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai);
- 2 Activities for all participants (lectures, cultural experiences, visits to external organizations, etc.);
- 3 Weekday breakfast and lunch (by cafeteria points and cash);
- 4 National Health Insurance and Overseas Travel Insurance (with an upper limit on coverage); and
- 5 Subsidy for independent research activities (Part of domestic accommodation costs, transportation costs, etc.).

◆ Number of Participants (Reference)

10 out of 57 applications for FY 2026 (six-month course)

◆ Selection Policy

Selection will be made in line with the following criteria, which will be comprehensively judged: the applicants' current Japanese-language proficiency, their needs for Japanese-language training, their research/work achievements and content, the possibility of their success in their specialized areas, and the possibility of improvement in their language skills.

- * Lower priority will be given to those who have participated in Japanese language training for duties or research conducted by JF in the past (e.g., "Program for



Specialist in Cultural and Academic Fields”, “Training Program for Teachers of the Japanese Language”, etc.).

◆ Application Deadline

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

◆ Notification of Results

Late April 2027

◆ Remarks

By applying for this program, applicants are deemed to have agreed to the “8. Terms of Agreement” in the “Application Instructions”. Please be sure to check them carefully.

◆ 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](#)

