

## **Follow-up Research Fellowship Application Guidelines for Fiscal 2026**

\*The passage of the fiscal 2026 budget bill is prerequisite for this recruitment.

### **1. Purpose**

The Japan Student Services Organization (“JASSO”) provides the Follow-up Research Fellowship for Former International Students in Japan to researchers who have previously come to study in Japan from a developing country, region, etc., and are currently active in education, research, or government in their home country, region, etc. (“former international students”). The fellowship extends to those researchers an opportunity to conduct short-term research with academic advisors at universities (except junior colleges) in Japan, and is intended to assist the development of education, research, and public administration in developing countries, regions, etc., and to advance the academic/scientific research and international exchange for Japanese universities.

### **2. Qualifications**

Former international students who wish short-term research in this fellowship program must satisfy all the following conditions (1)-(10).

- (1) To have nationality of a country/region listed in the attachment.
- (2) To belong to a university or other educational or governmental institute in the relevant country or region, and be currently working in education, research, or government in their home country/region. (Employees of private businesses are not eligible.)
- (3) Previous resident status in Japan was a “College Student” or “Student”.
- (4) To have completed master/doctoral course in a Japanese university or obtained all the necessary credits before graduation (coursework doctor).
- (5) The applicant must be 45 years old or under as of April 1, 2026 (i.e. born on April 2, 1980 or later).
- (6) As of April 1, 2026, at least one year has passed since returning home country/region after studying in Japan. (That is, the applicant returned home country/region on or before March 31, 2025).

**Note:** If the candidate has stayed for more than 90 consecutive days in other countries/regions after returning to his/her home country/region, the length of that stay must be excluded from the total length of period after returning home

country/region.

(7) There is a research advisor for the follow-up research fellowship program at the host Japanese university. Such a research advisor conducted research activity of a former international student during his/her study in Japan and also is currently a full-time worker in a Japanese university (except Japanese junior college).

1) If the teacher has transferred or resigned, the former international student can be accepted by a teacher that was involved in instruction at the time or a teacher who has taken over supervision of that laboratory.

2) If the teacher has transferred, the former international student can be accepted at the new location.

3) If the teacher has moved to a higher educational institution other than universities and the former international student wants to conduct research activities at the teacher's new institution, he or she can be accepted at the new location only if the educational environment provided by the new institution for short-term research activities is recognized by the president of JASSO as being comparable to the educational environment offered by universities.

\* In the case of 3), after notifying JASSO in advance the staff in charge of this fellowship application at higher educational institution must submit a written document that certifies the institution where the teacher is transferred is suitable for this program activities.

(8) To have been accepted by the president of the host university as foreign researcher in accordance with the aims of this fellowship program.

(9) To be certainly able to obtain a visa to enter Japan if it is required.

Note: If the acquisition of the visa is not certain as of November 1, the acceptance of the application may be voided.

(10) The former international student has never been a recipient of this fellowship program in the past.

### **3. Period of Fellowship**

The length of stay for former international students selected for this program ("recipients") is 60-90 consecutive days between July 1st, 2026 and March 20, 2027.

1) The period of stay is from the date of entry to Japan until the date of departure from Japan.

2) The period must be at least 60 days, excluding any days during which the recipient must unavoidably return home country/region.

3) The number of days may not be increased from the period of stay indicated on the application.

#### **4. Number of Fellowships**

Fellowships will be awarded to approximately 45 recipients (number of recipients in fiscal year 2025: 47)

(The number of fellowships to be awarded will be determined in accordance with the budget for Fiscal 2026.)

#### **5. Fellowship Benefits**

JASSO will bear the following expenses: (1) Round-trip airfare and (2) Daily allowance for the recipient and (3) Remuneration for cooperation for the research advisor.

##### **(1) Round-trip Airfare**

JASSO provides an economy-class round-trip air ticket to the recipient for the most economical route between the airport nearest to the recipient's university in his/her home country/region and the airport nearest to the Japanese host university.

Note: The airline company and travel route shall be selected from among those specified by a travel agency contracted by JASSO.

##### **(2) Daily allowance**

JASSO provides living allowance of ¥11,000 to the recipient for each day of the recipient's stay.

##### **(3) Remuneration for cooperation**

JASSO will provide the fixed ¥50,000 to research advisor as remuneration for cooperation in receiving the recipient.

#### **[Notes regarding financial support]**

##### **1) When travel expenses are not provided.**

Travel expenses will be withheld if any of the following conditions apply to the recipient.

- A) The recipient receives the travel expenses from other institutes other than JASSO (applicable to round-trip airfare).
- B) When the recipient goes home to his/her country/region during the follow-up research fellowship program (applicable to round-trip airfare).
- C) If the recipient does not go home to his/her country/region immediately after the completion of the follow-up research fellowship program (applicable to airfare for returning home country/region).

D) Acceptance to this program has been revoked (applicable to round-trip airfare).

2) When daily allowance is not provided.

All or part of the daily allowance will be withheld if any one of the following conditions apply to the recipient.

A) The recipient receives the daily allowance from other institutes other than JASSO.

B) The duration of the follow-up research fellowship program is changed due to illness or other personal reasons.

C) Acceptance to this program has been revoked.

3) When the above conditions apply, the president of JASSO is to demand the return of the daily allowance for the duration of the applicable period if it has already been paid to the recipient.

4) Other

A) Please apply with the understanding that an airline cancellation fee and so on may be charged if the recipient declines the adoption or the flight plan is changed after airline tickets are issued.

B) Please apply with the understanding that the amount paid for the round-trip airfare may need to be returned if the airline ticket is changed without JASSO's consent in advance regarding such a change.

C) Please apply with the understanding that an acceptance period of under 60 days disqualifies the recipient and the amount paid for the recipient's daily allowance and the round-trip airfare may need to be returned.

## **6. Method for Application**

The president of the Japanese university who wishes to accept a recipient in Japan through this fellowship program recommends him/her to the president of JASSO with the following documents (1)–(3).

(1) Answer Sheet for Follow-up Research Fellowship for Fiscal 2026 (Form 1)

(2) Application Form for Follow-up Research Fellowship for Former International Students for Fiscal 2026 (Form 2-1/2-2)

(3) Recommendation Form for Follow-up Research Fellowship for Former International Students for Fiscal 2026 (Form 3)

**Note:** Submit Form1 (1 copy of original) and 4 printed copies of form2-1/2-2/3 listed above in addition to submitting the digital data.

[Notes regarding application]

1) The same former international student cannot file two or more applications at

a different host university.

- 2) Applications shall not be accepted from individuals who do not meet the requirements stipulated in Section 2. "Qualifications."
- 3) Be aware that the airport listed on the application form cannot be changed at a later date.
- 4) Be advised that a research plan and planned exchange activities in Japan being specified in the application form and recommendation letter prepared by the former international student be accurate. If what has been written in the application form or recommendation letter is found to be significantly different from the content of a research report being submitted after the fellowship program is over, he or she may be asked to explain the difference in writing.
- 5) With a full understanding of issues of The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology(MEXT) "Export Control at Universities and Public Research Institutions (Request)" (Document No.29 文科高第 645 号 dated November 6, 2017) and "Regarding Thorough of Security Export Control at Universities and Research Institutions, etc. (Request)" (Document No.3 文科高第 1374 号, dated March 8, 2022), in the case of research field, which applicants wish to conduct, may be diverted to the manufacture and development of weapons of mass destruction, host universities should not recommend applicants after fully confirming applicants' research plans and learning their background through interviews, etc. And host universities pay attention to issues of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry "End users list" and "Guidance for the Control of Sensitive Technologies for Security Export for Academic and Research Institutions" during this confirmation.

## **7. Deadline for Application**

Applications must be received by Friday, November 28th, 2025.

## **8. Selection and Notification**

### **(1) Selection**

The selection is made by JASSO's international student selection committee under the following examination policy after a review of individual written documents.

### **[Examination policy]**

- 1) For considering the purpose of International Student Exchange Program, the recipient is to visit not only the host university, but others as well to widely engage in discussion with local researchers, exchange opinions, and attend lectures. The application must be designed to address educational matters such as the promotion of exchange with young researchers. When documents submitted by each applicant for the fellowship program are screened, he or she who is found to be little interested in the activities mentioned above will be excluded from the screening. (Form2-2/Form3 No.30 to 34)

- 2) The application is to contribute to progresses of education, academic research, and administration of developing nations, regions, etc., and academic research and international exchange at universities in Japan.

(Form2-2/Form3 No.38-1)

- 3) The invitation extended to the recipient can be expected to further advance research activities. Ideally, it should contribute to international joint research such as the creation of co-authored papers.

(Form2-2/Form3 No.38-2)

- 4) Conditions of advance negotiation and so on between the recipient and the research advisor are clear and activity plans are detailed.

(Form2-2/Form3 No.39 to 41)

- 5) In concerning privately financed international students, priority shall be given to prior recipients of Monbukagakusho(MEXT) Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students.

(Form2-2)

- 6) There should be diversity in the nationality of the recipient, host universities, and areas of expertise.

**Note:** The Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students is a scholarship program implemented by JASSO for international students in Japan.

[**Note** regarding selection]

Application forms with errors will not be received by the selection committee.

## (2) Notification

The president of the host university will be notified of the result of selection in writing by JASSO.

Notification schedule: Early April, 2026(planned)

The recipient will be notified of the result by the host university. No individual inquiries about the selection result will be accepted.

## 9. Cancellation/Refusal of Acceptance

- (1) When falsehoods have been included in the application
- (2) When the period of stay is shortened to less than 60 days
- (3) When JASSO determine that the contents of the original application cannot be executed due to significant changes or reductions in the duration.

## 10. Obligation of recipient and research advisor

- (1) The research advisor, with help from the host university's administration director, makes necessary preparations for the recipient for the follow-up research fellowship activities. If necessary, the research advisor advises the recipient on his/her entry into Japan, finding lodgings, and other activities in Japan.

(2) After the completion of the follow-up research fellowship, the recipient and the research advisor each submit a research report and a project survey using the required form before leaving the country.

(3) When giving a lecture in this program, the recipient needs to mention that it is being given as part of the JASSO operations.

(4) During the follow-up research fellowship program, the recipient devotes himself/herself to the research work and not engage in other activities regardless of remuneration.

#### **11. Break of the supply and refund**

President of JASSO can break off the supply of expense or make the recipient refund all or a part of it as needed when an inappropriate situation is recognized from the recipient in carrying out the follow-up research fellowship program.

#### **12. Retention of original documents**

The host university shall retain original documents regarding application, provision, supply and report in this fellowship program. The retention period shall be five years from April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the provision and supply is received.

#### **13. Handling of individual information**

Individual information contained in the application form will be kept confidential in accordance with the law on the protection of individual information possessed by independent administrative corporations and others and JASSO's rules on the protection of individual information. It will be used for the execution of this work (including the supply of individual information so that an external private firm can electronically process and control data). When the application is selected, the names of the recipient, research topic, and the host university that engages in the follow-up research fellowship program shall be disclosed. The name, job, and report of the research advisor shall also be released.

#### **14. Language**

The English version of the application guidelines has been compiled for the sake of convenience of applicants. If expressions or wording are found to be different between the English translation and the original Japanese version, please stick to the Japanese original.

#### **15. Applications/Inquiries**

Follow-up Services and Career Support Unit

International Scholarship Division, Student Exchange Department  
Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)  
2-2-1 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-8630 JAPAN  
TEL +81-3-5520-6030  
E-mail: ef3@jasso.go.jp

\* See the following website for details and application forms.

[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/after\\_study\\_j/tanken/boshu.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/after_study_j/tanken/boshu.html)



## Follow-up Research Guidance for the Fiscal 2026

## Country / Region List

<ASIA>	<AFRICA>	<MIDDLE EAST>
Bangladesh Bhutan Cambodia China India Indonesia Republic of Korea Laos Malaysia Maldives Mongolia Myanmar Nepal Pakistan Philippines Sri Lanka Taiwan Thailand Timor-Leste Viet Nam	Algeria Angola Benin Botswana Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroon Cabo Verde Central African Rep. Chad Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep Congo, Rep. Cote d'Ivoire Djibouti Egypt Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Eswatini Ethiopia Gabon Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Kenya Lesotho Liberia Libya Madagascar Malawi Mali Mauritania Mauritius Morocco Mozambique Namibia Niger Nigeria Rwanda Saint Helena Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa South Sudan Sudan Tanzania Togo Tunisia Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Afghanistan Iran Iraq Jordan Lebanon Palestine Syria Turkey Yemen
<CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA>		<OCEANIA>
Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Belize Bolivia Brazil Colombia Costa Rica Cuba Dominica Dominican Republic Ecuador El Salvador Grenada Guatemala Guyana Haiti Honduras Jamaica Mexico Montserrat Nicaragua Panama Paraguay Peru Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname Venezuela		Fiji Kiribati Marshall Islands Micronesia Nauru Niue Palau Papua New Guinea Samoa Solomon Islands Tokelau Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu Wallis and Futuna Islands
		<EUROPE>
		Albania Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Bosnia and Herzegovina Georgia Kazakhstan Kyrgyz Kosovo North Macedonia Moldova Montenegro Serbia Tajikistan Turkmenistan Ukraine Uzbekistan