

## JSPS “Research Fellowship for Young Scientists” (*Gakushin*)

### English Info-Session: KURA **FAQ** (work-in-progress)

Q: Where can I find the application forms etc. online?

A: Application forms are usually posted on the JSPS website around Mid-February. Note that the English translations of the forms available from OIST, while useful for reference, are unofficial and cannot be submitted. You must submit the Japanese forms downloaded from the JSPS website.

Q: I am currently receiving a MEXT scholarship. Can I still apply?

A: Yes, but in case your application is successful you will need to choose one, since they are not cumulative.

Q: Is there an age restriction?

A: No. Despite the name, your eligibility depends not on your age but the number of months you are into your PhD course at the time your proposal is selected for funding (i.e. as of April the following year after submission).

Q: I am applying for the “JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan” (外国人特別研究員) but I have two/multiple PhD advisors. Which one should write the letter of recommendation?

A: That is up to you and them. However, it is advisable that you include both in the decision-making process, to avoid communication issues. Also, keep in mind that the recommendation of a full Professor may carry greater weight than that of an Assistant Professor.

Q: Let’s say I get a DC fellowship, but graduate with a PhD before the funding period ends. Do I still receive the funding for the remaining time?

A: Yes. If a PhD student graduates after having been accepted into the DC program, his or her status will be changed to PD, but funding will continue as normal for the remaining time as specified by the DC fellowship regulations.

*Example: Let's say you are in a 3-year PhD course and apply successfully for the DC2 fellowship in your second year. Funding starts in your third year. You then graduate with a PhD, but have "one year of funding left", so to speak.*

*In this case, your status will formally be changed to PD and funding continues for another year (The amount you receive is still the one specified by the DC fellowship, not the PD one).*

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Q: Does the above regulation also apply to international fellowship recipients?

A: Yes. This applies to international students and Japanese students alike. I.e., even though international students without permanent resident status are not eligible to APPLY for the PD fellowship, their status can be changed in this way.

Q: Oh great, so I can't apply for the PD category without permanent resident status. Now what?

A: You might want to consider applying for one of the "Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan" instead (likely the "standard program"):

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/index.html>

However, be aware that the application procedures differ from the "Young Researchers Fellowship". If you have any questions, please contact the Research Administration Office (KURA).

Q: I have worked in the industry for XY years before returning to get/finish my PhD. As a result, I don't have much of an academic track record (journal papers, talks etc.). Is this a disadvantage?

A: Not necessarily. Practitioners tend to have a different perspective in virtue of having actually applied academic content "in the real world". It depends on whether you can use this to your advantage when writing your application.

Q: After the program I plan to leave for country XYZ and might never return to Japan. How should I communicate this?

A: If you don't absolutely *have to* communicate this, some things might better be left unsaid. If you do, consider emphasizing that you will not be "lost" to Japanese academia but continue to be an asset as part of an international research network.

Q: Can I sent you guys my application to get some feedback?

A: Sorry, we are currently unable to offer any feedback or brush-up services for YRF. However, we will gladly assist you with pretty much anything else concerning the application.

Q: To apply, I need a login-ID and password. Where do I get those?

A: The ID and password are issued by your department. Please consult the chart and contact the person responsible for your division when the JSPS announces the call for applications.

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(Email addresses are on the right side of the document. Try an “F+command” search, copyasting the Japanese name of your department into the search field. Failing that, contact KURA)

**Any open questions?**

Let us know, and we'll get back to you and add them to the FAQ:

wittfeld[at]kura.kyoto-u.ac.jp (replace [at] with @)