

Grant Information & Employment Opportunities in Japan

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST)

Japan was isolated for nearly 300 years before the so-called 'black ships' carrying Captain Perry arrived in Shimoda Bay in 1853. Prior to this event the only recorded contact between Japan and other countries was trade with Holland and China, where business transactions were carried out on an artificial island called Dejima, near Nagasaki. The Meiji Restoration in 1867 returned power from the Shogun Yoshinobu to central government and so began the era of regular interaction between young Japanese scientists and scholars and their counterparts overseas.

Modern Japan is a technological powerhouse, mainly as a result of the tremendous time and effort expended by industry to produce the best and nothing but the best. However, in spite of the success of Japanese industry there are critics who argue that Japan has not invested enough in encouraging international collaboration in basic research.

From my personal experience of working and living in Japan, I think that there are tremendous opportunities for non-Japanese to study, work and in some cases to live, in Japan. In my case I was awarded a Monbusho Scholarship (Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture) to study at Tokyo Institute of Technology and the Institute of Industrial Science, of the University of Tokyo. After this,

I applied for a position at Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd. and was given a permanent research post at Atsugi Laboratories. Recently, in 1995, I decided that I wanted to move into the academic arena and was able to find a tenure position at Tokai University.

After nearly 15 years in Japan I feel relatively comfortable using the Japanese language but the inability to understand a language can be a huge barrier when looking for useful career information. One of the aims of the JSAPI is to assist in lowering such barriers by providing relevant information in English. Thus in this section we include information about career opportunities in Japan from two governmental organizations whose main missions are to encourage long term and in-depth international collaboration in fundamental research.

We hope that this section will lead to the beginning of many new and successful scientific careers in Japan.

Good Luck!

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JSAPI Editorial Committee



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JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers 2000-2001

The JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers was established in 1988 to assist promising and highly-qualified young foreign researchers wishing to conduct research in Japan. This program is now available to researchers of all countries that have diplomatic relations with Japan. The program is aimed at providing opportunities for such researchers to conduct cooperative research with leading research groups in universities and other Japanese institutions, thereby permitting them to advance their own research, while stimulating Japanese academic circles, particularly young Japanese researchers through close collaboration in scientific activities. Such collaboration will also serve to advance scientific research in the counterpart countries.

1. FIELDS OF RESEARCH

- 1) Applications from Japanese Host Researchers: All fields within the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering and medicine are included.
- 2) Applications through a Foreign Nominating Authority: Fields of research acceptable are specified or limited by each nominating authority.

2. NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

The number of awards has not been set for FY2000 (approximately 280 Fellowships will be granted for FY1999).

3. ELIGIBILITY

Each candidate for the Fellowship must:

- 1) Be a citizen of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan
- 2) Hold a doctorate degree when the Fellowship goes into effect, which must have been received within six years prior to April 1, 2000.
- 3) Have arranged in advance his/her research plans with his/her Japanese host researcher employed at Japanese universities/ research institutions.

4. DURATION AND COMMENCEMENT OF FELLOWSHIP

- 1) Fellowships are awarded for a period of 24 months. (If you should not require a full 24 months for your research in Japan, you may propose a shorter fellowship tenure of at least 12 months).
- 2) Each Fellowship must begin within the 2000 Japanese fiscal year (between April 1, 2000 and March 31, 2000)

5. TERMS OF AWARDS

JSPS provides each Fellow with the following support:

- 1) A round-trip air ticket for the Fellow only
- 2) A monthly maintenance stipend of 270,000 YEN
- 3) A settling-in allowance of 200,000 YEN
- 4) Domestic research travel allowance of 58,500 YEN per year
- 5) A monthly housing subsidy
- 6) A monthly family allowance, if accompanied by dependents and
- 7) Accident and sickness insurance coverage for the Fellow only.

JSPS Web-site is available for more information about this postdoctoral fellowship program:

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/>



Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST)

The Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST) was founded on October 1, 1966 through the integration of two organizations, the Japan Information Center of Science and Technology (JICST) and the Research Development Corporation of Japan (JRDC).

Along with succeeding and further developing the activities of these two organizations, JST has new objectives to provide adequate foundation for enhancing Japan's science and technology and to promote the development of high-edged and innovative research in line with the Basic Law of Science and Technology enacted and promulgated on November 15, 1995.

JST is engaged in fundamental activities conducive to the promotion of science and technology in Japan and our activities include;



Dissemination of scientific and technological information as Japan's central information center.



Promotion of technology development and transfer that contributes to general progress of science and society of Japan.



Promotion of basic research considered instrumental in creation of innovative technology.



Deepening public understanding of science and technology.



Research exchange and support for improvement of infrastructure for promoting science and technology.

STA Fellowship Program

This program provides foreign researchers with opportunities to conduct research at national research institutes and other public corporations in Japan as STA fellows and aims to activate international exchange of researchers in the fields of science and technology. STA fellows are nominated through recommendation of both foreign responsible organizations and national research institutes and other public corporations.

• Fellowship qualifications

Applicants for fellowship should;

- 1) possess Ph.D. in scientific, technological, engineering or medical fields or equivalent qualifications.
- 2) be not older than 35 years of age or have acquired Ph.D. within the last 6 years as a general rule.

• Tenure

For long-term fellowship: from 6 months to 2 years

For short-term fellowship: from 1 month to 3 months

• Fellowship awards

Round-trip airline ticket between Japan and the fellow's home country.

Monthly living allowance, Family allowance, Housing fees, etc.

• Host research institutes and laboratories

National laboratories, Public corporations, Nonprofit organizations. Prefectural research institutes

• Research Theme

Research theme will be discussed between host researchers and prospective fellows



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* JST Web page is also available for the details of recruit information about JST basic research programs.

<http://www.jst.go.jp/EN>