

JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan
Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan (Standard)
Application through Overseas Nominating Authorities
FY2026 Nominating Guidelines

Nominating Authority's Role

JSPS asks its overseas counterpart organizations to act as nominating authorities for JSPS programs. The main objective of these partnerships is to further scientific relations between Japan and its counterpart countries, while securing and fostering highly-qualified researchers in these countries. To this end, the overseas nominating authorities are asked to cooperate with JSPS by nominating researchers from their respective countries to participate in JSPS Fellowship programs.

1. Steps to be carried out by Nominating Authorities

- 1) Announce JSPS Fellowship recruitments in your country.
- 2) Review and select candidates using a scientific screening process, the method of which is left up to the nominating authority.
- 3) Nominate the candidates to JSPS by the deadline, **July 31, 2026**.

Note: **Please be sure that your nominations are submitted at least four months prior to the nominee's desired fellowship starting date.** (JSPS issues a final notice of selection to both the nominee and nominating authority approximately three months after receiving the application form from the nominating authority.) As long as this submission timeline is observed, nominations may be submitted one by one.

2. Materials to be sent to JSPS by Nominating Authorities

- 1) A list of nominated candidates for the program (Format 1). If nominations are submitted separately, please attach a Format 1 to each of them.
- 2) Application form for FY2026 Standard written by each nominee
 - When setting the fellowship starting date, adequate time should be allowed for application processing (including screening by the nominating authority (may differ by each authority), selection decision-making by JSPS and pre-departure procedures, including visa application, by successful nominees (Fellows).
 - The proposed tenure of a JSPS fellowship (the starting day and the period (months) should be written.
- 3) A letter of acceptance/invitation from the nominee's prospective host researcher in Japan, stating that they accept the candidate at their institution. The letter should be signed by the host themselves and preferably on letterheaded paper.
- 4) A letter of reference/recommendation from the candidate's current or previous supervisor (not from their prospective host researcher in Japan).
- 5) The nominee's Ph.D. degree diploma or Ph.D. certificate. If the Ph.D. degree has not yet been awarded, a letter is required from the nominee's institution stating the date that they will officially receive the degree.
- 6) Supplementary documents attached to the application form (if any)

* All documents must be in either English or Japanese. When the original document is in another language, please be sure to attach an English translation (which does not need to be an official translation, but may be done by the host or nominee).

** The application form in PDF format is acceptable.

*** Image data of nominee's signature pasted on the form is acceptable.

3. Please note that we do not accept substitute applications when nominee declined the fellowship on or after the date the Award Letter is issued.

- 4. Please note that if JSPS Tokyo Headquarters does not judge a nominated candidate to satisfy the application eligibility requirements, their application may not be accepted. Nominating authorities are asked to double check whether candidates meet the program's eligibility requirements before submitting application documents to JSPS.**

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

- (1) Be a citizen of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. (JSPS treats Taiwanese and Palestinian researchers in this manner.)
- (2) Have obtained a doctoral degree within six years of the date the fellowship goes into effect (on or after 2 April 2020). Whether or not the candidate is employed in a full-time position is not considered.

Note 1: Those who have previously been awarded and started a fellowship under the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan ([Standard (P)] and [Pathway to University positions in Japan (PU)]) are not eligible.

Note 2: Foreigners who have received a doctoral degree from a Japanese university and/or who reside in Japan with a Residence Card are eligible.

Note 3: Japanese citizens are not eligible to apply nor are foreigners who have permanent residency in Japan.

Note 4: Researchers who obtained their Ph.D. within six years minus time taken for maternity and/or parental leave. (Every four weeks of leave is counted as one month, with any remaining weeks also counted as one month. These months are subtracted from the number of years elapsed since the researcher's Ph.D. was received.) In this case, separate submission of attestation is required. Please consult with JSPS in advance via the nominating authority.

Note 5: If the diploma or certificate certifying that the candidate has received a doctoral degree is not received by JSPS by the day before the fellowship starting date, the fellowship will be cancelled or withdrawn. Details are set out in the Program Guidelines.

Note 6: If it becomes known after being selected that a candidate does not possess application eligibility, their selection is to be cancelled or eligibility terminated during the fellowship period. In such cases, the candidate may be required to reimburse JSPS their already-paid allowances.

- 5. Nominating authorities are kindly asked to communicate with the nominees and act, when necessary, as a liaison between the nominees and JSPS Tokyo office until the nominees finally receive the Fellowship award notice.**