
The Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship Program
Application Guidelines & Instructions

1. Purpose

In order to promote Japanese Studies overseas, this program provides support to outstanding scholars in the field by providing the opportunity to conduct research in Japan.

2. Categories and Duration of Fellowship

The minimum and maximum durations for the Fellowship are indicated in parentheses.*

- **Scholars and Researchers (Long-Term)** (2-12 months): Scholars and researchers in the humanities or social sciences. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience at the time of application.
- **Scholars and Researchers (Short-Term)** (21-59 days): Scholars and researchers in the humanities or social sciences who need to conduct intensive research in Japan. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience at the time of application.
- **Doctoral Candidates** (4-12 months): Doctoral candidates in the humanities or social sciences. Applicants must have achieved ABD status by the time the Fellowship begins.

* Please note that for awardees in the Research (Long-Term) and Doctoral Fellowship categories, there is a possibility that the duration of the Fellowship may be adjusted to a whole-month unit or reduced by the Foundation. In such, the approved duration of the Fellowship will be as stated in the grant letter.

3. Eligibility

Basic Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be American citizens, American citizens temporarily residing abroad, or permanent residents of the United States.
- Americans who hold U.S. citizenship and permanent resident status in another country in which they are residing (except for Japan) should submit their applications to the Japan Foundation's office in the country where they reside or to the Japanese diplomatic mission of their resident country using a different form by December 1, 2021.
- Applicants residing in the United States who are neither U.S. citizens nor permanent residents should submit their applications to the Foundation's Tokyo Headquarters using a different form. The application must be submitted by mail and will be accepted no later than December 1, 2021. Please visit: <https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/program/intel.html>
- Doctoral Candidates must have achieved ABD status by the time the Fellowship begins.

- Applicants for Scholars and Researchers program (both Long-Term and Short-Term) must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience in research, teaching and writing in the fields of the humanities or social sciences at the time of application.
- Previous recipients of Japan Foundation Fellowships, such as the Japanese Studies Fellowship, Abe Fellowship, etc., are eligible to reapply only if, on April 1, 2022, a full three years have elapsed since the termination of their most recent Fellowship. Previous Short-Term Research Fellows may reapply after one full year from the termination of their most recent Fellowship.
- Applicants may only apply to one category of the Fellowship Program. Multiple applications from the same applicant will make all applications invalid.
- Applicants may receive funding through only one Fellowship sponsored by the Japan Foundation, including the Abe Fellowship, during any one Japanese fiscal year, which runs from April 1 through March 31.
- Applicants must have the capacity to conduct research activities required for the Fellowship program.
- Applicants must be proficient in either Japanese or English.
- Applicants must secure all affiliation arrangements by the application deadline.
- In principle, applicants must be able to stay continuously in Japan for the term of Fellowship.

Ineligibility

Individuals meeting any of the following conditions are not eligible to apply:

- Scholars or researchers in the natural sciences, medicine or engineering;
- Undergraduates; Master's degree candidates; those intending to enroll in Undergraduate or Master's courses at universities in Japan; or graduates intending to enroll in Ph.D. courses in Japan;
- Those who intend to use the Fellowship for political or religious purposes;
- Those who primarily intend to enhance their Japanese language ability or technical skills;
- Those who intend to develop and/or produce Japanese language teaching materials;
- Those who intend to acquire artistic training in the area of Japanese traditional culture (tea ceremony, flower arrangement, etc.);*
- Those who plan to receive other grants covering expenses for travel to and accommodation in Japan concurrently with the Fellowship;
- Those who will have been in Japan continuously between April 1, 2021 and April 1, 2022.

*Specialists and/or professional practitioners of Japanese visual arts who wish to conduct short-term (21 to 59 days) research in Japan should apply to the [Ishibashi Foundation/The Japan Foundation Fellowship for Research on Japanese Art](#) program.

4. Selection Criteria

Project quality is evaluated on the basis of the following:

- a. The project's significance to the field and to the applicant's professional development

- b. The project's feasibility in terms of time and resources
- c. The securing of appropriate affiliation
- d. Evidence that residence in Japan is necessary for completion of the project
- e. Plans to disseminate research findings, etc., in Japan and abroad

Training, academic history, academic rank or position, professional reputation, and accomplishments are evaluated.

The project's contributions to diversity in the field will also be considered.

Former Japan Foundation Fellows who have been awarded two or more Foundation Fellowships will be put under particularly rigorous examination.

To the extent permitted by program requirements and selection criteria, efforts are made to maintain disciplinary, geographic, and institutional diversity. (Applications from Social Science fields are highly welcomed.)

Incumbent politicians will not be selected.

5. Priorities

- Doctoral Fellowship: higher priority will be given to those who are expected to submit their dissertation shortly after the completion of the Fellowship, and to those who show promise of future achievement as Scholars of Japanese Studies.
- Research Fellowship (Long-Term): higher priority will be given to relatively junior scholars and researchers, and to those with less research experience in Japan.
- Research Fellowship (Short-Term): higher priority will be given to relatively experienced scholars and researchers who are expected to publish their research results shortly after the completion of their Fellowship.

6. Benefits

Research and Doctoral Fellowships

	Research Fellows (Long-Term)	Doctoral Fellows
Airfare (see Note (1))	Discount economy class airfare to and from Japan (most direct and economical route)	
Insurance	Traveler's insurance policy	
Settling-in allowance (see Note (2))	JPY250,000	
Departure allowance	JPY50,000	
Monthly stipend (covering living and research expenses)	JPY400,000	JPY310,000
Dependent allowance (see Note (3))	JPY50,000/month	
Enrollment fees	Actual amount, up to JPY50,000/month	

Notes

- (1) Grantees already in Japan before the commencement of the Fellowship will receive only a one-way airfare to their home countries.
- (2) Grantees already in Japan before the commencement of the Fellowship are not eligible for this allowance.
- (3) This allowance will be provided to Fellows whose dependents (spouse and children 18 years old or under only) reside in Japan with the Fellow continuously for more than six months.

Research Fellowship (Short-Term)

Airfare (see Note)	Discount economy class airfare to and from Japan (most direct and economical route)
Insurance	Traveler’s insurance policy
Stipend	JPY17,000/day

Note

Grantees already in Japan before the commencement of the Fellowship will receive only a one-way airfare to their home countries.

7. Basic Terms and Conditions

The Japan Foundation Fellowships are tenable only in Japan.

Fellows are expected to devote their full time to the research project described in their applications.

The proposed commencement date for a 2022-2023 Fellowship must fall between August 1, 2022 and March 15, 2023. However, the commencement date might change depending on the availability of the institutional affiliate.

In principle, no change in the month of the commencement of the Fellowship will be allowed. If a grantee must change their commencement date due to unavoidable circumstances, he/she must obtain the Foundation’s approval beforehand, in writing. Under no circumstances is it possible to change the commencement month from a later date to May or June, due to the timing of visa application procedures between the Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In principle, arrival in Japan prior to the “beginning date” indicated on the application is not permitted. The date of arrival in Japan is considered the beginning date of the Fellowship.

If a grantee is offered any other grant whose duration overlaps with that of the Foundation’s Fellowship, he/she must decline either the Foundation’s Fellowship or the other grant for the overlapping period.

No extension of the duration of the Fellowship can be allowed for any reason whatsoever.

Applicants are responsible for making the necessary arrangements for institutional affiliation. Fellows are also responsible for securing their own long-term accommodations.

8. Selection and Notification of Results

1. Applications will be reviewed with the confidential assistance of the American Advisory Committee, which is comprised of distinguished scholars from various cultural and educational institutions across the United States.
2. During the screening process, the Japan Foundation, New York staff may ask the applicant questions as the need arises.
3. Principal awardees will be notified of the results in April, 2022 through the Japan Foundation, New York. Alternate awardees will be notified as Fellowships become available. The Foundation will send notification results to the advisors/affiliates of successful applicants, but will not inform their recommenders/language evaluators, nor advisors/affiliates of unsuccessful applicants.
4. The Foundation cannot discuss the status of any application during the screening process, or provide feedback about the results.

Please note that the selection for fiscal year 2022 may be more competitive than past cycles due to a concurrent need to support Fellows from previous cycles whose visits to Japan have been postponed because of the pandemic.

9. Obligations

Grant programs of the Japan Foundation are operated in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of the Foundation.

If Fellows are mentioned in publicity or media during the Fellowship period, Fellows are, in principle, to specify that they are in Japan on a Japan Foundation Fellowship.

Fellows are to submit quarterly reports during the Fellowship period, a final project report, and an outcome of the project, i.e., a book or a report, etc., to the Japan Foundation.

10. Disclosure of Information

When a request for information based on the “Act on Access to Information Held by Independent Administrative Agencies” (Act No. 140 of 2001) is received, materials such as submitted application forms will be disclosed (unless stipulated by said law as not to be disclosed).

11. Use of Personal Information

The Japan Foundation handles personal information in concordance with the “Act on the Protection of Personal Information Held by Incorporated Administrative Agencies, etc.” (Act No. 59 of 2003) (the “Act”) and other applicable laws.

Before applying, please reference The Japan Foundation’s Privacy Policy at <https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/privacy/>

The Foundation uses personal information (including photographs and images) on the application documents, project reports and other deliverables for the purposes of screening, implementation, and evaluation procedures of the project.

Details of the Fellowship recipients, such as name, occupation, position, project title, advisor, affiliated institution, etc., are published in the Detailed Annual Report of the Japan Foundation Activities, the Annual Report, the Japan Foundation Newsletter, Fellows List, the Foundation's website, and in any other public-relations materials. They are also used to compile statistics in the Annual Report.

There may be cases in which details of the Fellowships described above are released to the press for publicity purposes.

Copies of applications are provided to outside consultants in the screening process and in the evaluation of the completed project. Consultants will handle information in concordance with the Foundation's personal information security policies.

There may be cases in which questionnaires are sent to Fellows and their advisors after the project has ended.

There may be cases in which the Japan Foundation uses the information written on the application form to contact the applicant to inform him/her of other Foundation activities or to send public-relations materials.

Personal information may be used or provided for purposes other than those listed above, in concordance with Article 9, Paragraph 2 of the Act. This includes cases where personal information is provided to a government agency, such as an independent administrative institution, a local government or a local independent administrative institution, to be used to the extent necessary for executing its duty or business stipulated by the laws and regulations; and where there are reasonable grounds for using the personal information.

Applicants are requested to inform all individuals whose personal information appears on the application materials that the above-mentioned policy will also apply to those individuals' personal information.

By applying to this program, applicants agree to the above-mentioned policy.

12. Response to the Spread of the COVID-19

If necessary, the Japan Foundation may request the Fellow to modify their original Fellowship start date if it is deemed unsafe to travel because of the impacts of widespread novel coronavirus and the travel restrictions and policies set by the Japanese government.

13. Ensuring the Necessary Safety and Security of Projects

Considering the recent instability in global security, with the increase of terrorist attacks in particular, the Japan Foundation highly recommends that you take the necessary security measures to ensure safety when you conduct your projects, such as the following:

- (1) Check if there are any security alerts issued in the countries or cities where your project is taking place;

(2) Provide information on security and safety issues for your international guests (if any).

14. Past Japanese Studies Fellows

You can refer to the past recipients of the Japanese Studies Fellowship at <https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/project/intel/study/fellowship/index.html>

15. Application Procedures

The application deadline is 11:59pm EST on **Wednesday, December 1, 2021**. Applications must be submitted online at <https://jfnfellowship.smapply.io/>. For further information or questions, please contact:

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The Japan Foundation, New York
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