

Bilateral Japanese-Swiss Science and Technology Programme

## Young Researchers' Exchange Programme between Japan and Switzerland 2023 FAQs

The present FAQs document serves the purpose to answer the questions you might have regarding the application process of the "Young Researchers' Exchange Programme" between Japan and Switzerland.

Please read the FAQs carefully and try to see whether your question has already been answered. Should you still have a question, or something might still be unclear, you can email Ms. Elise Nardin ([elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch](mailto:elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch)).

*For prospective outgoing fellows*

### **I am interested in applying. Do I need to have any Japanese language skills?**

Language skills are favorable but not a requirement.

### **I am interested in applying but I do not know how to locate a Japanese host supervisor. Does the Leading House Asia have a list of potential host supervisors I could consult?**

The applicant is responsible in locating and securing her/his own host supervisor, the Leading House Asia does not provide any contacts of potential host supervisors.

### **What does 'early career researcher' mean? Is there an age limit to apply?**

No, there is no age limit. The applicant has to be a doctoral student (and anticipate completion of his/her PhD within 2 years) currently working in research groups at Swiss federal universities, cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences or public research institutes. In exceptional cases, earlycareer postdoctoral students are eligible as well.

### **I am a doctoral student at a university of teachers' education, am I eligible to apply?**

The call with Japan is not open to applicants of university of teachers' education.

### **I have already applied to the last call, but I was not awarded a grant. Am I eligible to apply again?**

As long as you meet the eligibility requirements of the new call, you are allowed to apply.

### **In the application form, I have to suggest three possible reviewers that have not worked with me directly nor with my research group/supervisor. What does that mean?**

The reviewers are experts in your research field and will review your application based on the review criteria. In order to prevent any conflict of interest on their end, they have to be independent from your research group. Ideally, they are located in Switzerland. In exceptional cases, they can be located abroad.

**I have been awarded a fellowship to do a research stay in Japan, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, I have to postpone or cancel my stay. Who should I contact?**

Please contact Ms. Elise Nardin ([elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch](mailto:elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch)).

**I have been awarded a fellowship to do a research stay in Japan, how do I receive my grant?**

The fellow receives their grant directly from their host institution. For detailed information, please refer to the specific call guidelines.

**I have been awarded a fellowship to do a research stay in Japan, is my professor required to keep paying me my salary while I am away?**

The fellowship is not a salary, it is a stipend. It is up to your supervisor to decide whether she/he would like to keep paying you your salary while you are away during your research stay.

**I have been preparing my upcoming research stay in Japan, could you please put me in contact with any returning fellows?**

The LH Asia is not allowed to send lists of returning fellows but if you would like to be put in contact, the LH Asia will try to find a returning fellow who would accept to be put in contact with you.

**Do you have any testimonials of fellows who went on a research stay in Japan?**

Yes, please find all stories of grantees [here](#) on our website.

**Do I have to write a report after my research stay?**

Yes, you will need to write a report for the JSPS. Please also send this report to the Leading House Asia. In addition, you are required to fill out the personal feedback form for the Leading House Asia (provided on our website) and submit it within one month after return from Japan.

*For Swiss supervising hosts*

**I am hosting a fellow from Japan: what are the immigration requirements? Does the Leading House Asia support me in applying for a working visa?**

The Swiss host and her/his fellow are responsible for taking care of all immigration matters. Please directly contact your cantonal immigration office to apply for a working visa for your visiting fellow.

**I am hosting a Japanese fellow, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, he/she has to postpone or cancel his/her stay. Who should I contact?**

Please contact Ms. Elise Nardin ([elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch](mailto:elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch)).

**I am hosting a fellow from Japan, how high is the grant?**

Please refer to the specific call guidelines. Please note that the full stipend paid by the Leading House Asia must be transferred to the Japanese fellow, e.g. no overhead costs allowed.

**Does my Japanese fellow have to write a report after her/his research stay under my supervision?**

Yes, all fellows have to write a research report after their stay. Please refer to the call guidelines.

*For Japanese fellows*

**I was awarded a fellowship and will soon start my research stay in Switzerland. When and how will I receive my monthly grant?**

The fellow receives their grant directly from their host institution. Please note that in general that monthly grants are paid at the end of each month. For detailed information, please refer to the specific call guidelines.

*Miscellaneous*

**I have just missed an application deadline. When will you launch another call?**

An overview of all the instruments offered by the Leading House Asia as well as the regularly updated schedule of all planned calls are available on the Leading House Asia website [www.leadinghouseasia.ethz.ch](http://www.leadinghouseasia.ethz.ch). Please note that the call for the Young Researchers' Exchange Programme is usually launched once a year.

**Do you have a newsletter for upcoming calls I can subscribe to?**

If you are interested in receiving future calls, directly subscribe on our website under [Call Distribution List](#). The registration is automated.

**Is there a Leading House for another continent?**

You will find an overview of all Leading Houses on the State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (SERI) [website](#).