

Bilateral Japanese-Swiss Science and Technology Programme
**Young Researchers' Exchange Programme
between Japan and Switzerland 2023
Guidelines for Swiss Fellows**

I. General Description

I-1. Young Researchers' Exchange Program between Japan and Switzerland

Japan is a priority country for bilateral cooperation in science and technology of the Swiss Confederation. Mandated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) as Leading House for bilateral cooperation with East and Southeast Asia (LH Asia), ETH Zurich manages the Bilateral Science and Technology Program with Japan 2021–2024. The LH Asia, collaborates with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) to offer the current exchange program for young researchers.

I-2. Program Aims and Research Field

The main purpose of the exchange program is to foster and facilitate the direct exchange between Japanese and Swiss research groups and to enable the mobility of early-career researchers such as doctoral students. With stays in a partner research group in Japan or Switzerland, respectively, the researchers will be motivated to spend part of their later scientific career abroad while they are at the same time given the chance to learn a new technique or use some infrastructure directly relevant to their current research project.

The program will fund research stays for a duration of 3 months and is open to all scientific fields including social sciences and humanities.

I-3. Who can apply

The Leading House Asia invites doctoral students (2 years until end of PhD) currently working in a research group at a Swiss University, University of Applied Sciences or Research Institute to apply for a stay in a research group in Japan.

In parallel, early-career researchers from Japan can apply to JSPS for a stay in Switzerland.

Please note:

- Applicants with Japanese nationality and / or permanent residency and applicants who have already been selected under JSPS's Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers (Standard, Pathway to University Position in Japan, Short-term) are not eligible for a fellowship for a research stay in Japan under this call.
- Applicants must be a citizen (nationality) or permanent resident in at least one of the following countries: US, Canada, European Union countries (as of 1 April 2022), the UK, Switzerland, Norway and Russia.

Host researchers in Japan must be employed full-time or classified as employed full-time at one of the following institutions:

- Universities and inter-university research institutes
- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)-affiliated institutions that conduct scientific research
- Colleges of Technology
- Other institutions designated by the Minister of MEXT

The host cannot be changed during the fellowship.

I-4. Export control

Project activities conducted under an exchange grant may be subject to export control rules and regulations (see [State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO](#)) regarding export, re-export of goods, technology and/or information procured/obtained and that these rules and regulations may affect the research exchange. The home and/or host institution are responsible for compliance with possible export control restrictions.

II. Financial Support by JSPS

JSPS will cover fellowships for researchers from Switzerland, while the LH Asia will cover fellowships for researchers from Japan. We expect to fund 7–10 fellowships within the present call from each side. The exact number will depend on the duration of the individual research stays.

Funding for Researchers from Switzerland going to Japan (JSPS)

JSPS will provide the following support to Swiss fellows:

- Maintenance allowance: 220,000 JPY a month
- International air ticket
- Overseas travel insurance

The duration of the stay in Japan can be between 3 and 6 months. The **exact** starting date and the duration must be indicated in the application form.

III. Application

Switzerland-based applicants submit their application to the Leading House Asia. The application must be written in English.

The application must be [submitted online](#) with the following attachments in one single pdf document (English).

The application shall include:

- Research plan
- CV of the applicant (Switzerland-based scholar)
- Supporting letter from the Switzerland-based supervisor
 - o Include: Stating that the applicant is scheduled to be awarded a PhD degree within **two years** from the fellowship starting date.
- Acceptance from the Japanese host
- Any other supporting document(s)

For **applicants from Japan** the regulations of JSPS apply.

Application deadline: **Sunday, 30 April 2023**

Applications that do not follow the instructions above will be **dismissed**.

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

IV-1. Evaluation Procedure and time schedule

Experts in Switzerland will evaluate the Swiss applications. Based on the experts' grading, the Leading House Asia will make a nomination of candidates to JSPS by mid-July 2023. JSPS will make a final selection, and decisions will be communicated to the candidates by the Leading House Asia in mid-September 2023. **Candidates can start their stay in Japan from 1 October 2023 at the earliest and by 31 March 2024 at the latest.**

Candidates must note that the tenure on a monthly basis is counted by JSPS as follows: If a candidate starts the fellowship on 1 October 2023 for a 3-month tenure, it will end on 31 December 2023.

IV-2. Evaluation Criteria

- Conformity with the Program Aims
- Suitability of candidate and Japanese host researcher for the proposed project
- Benefit of proposed exchange for cooperation between Japan and Switzerland, synergies between the two involved research groups (previous contacts between the groups are considered an advantage)
- Scientific excellence of the proposed project

IV-3. Reviewers

In order to prevent any conflict of interest, the suggested reviewers should not have contributed with the applicant nor with her/his supervisor in the past, nor be affiliated at the same research institution. The reviewers are preferably located in Switzerland, in exceptional cases they can be located abroad.

V. Final Report

After completion of the research exchange, the fellows will submit a report to the JSPS which needs to be forwarded 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 more information on the Swiss side, please visit the specific [Swiss-Japanese Young Researchers' Exchange Programme page](#) of the Leading House Asia.

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