

UK & Ireland JSPS Alumni Association



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- Who are we?
- What do we do?
- Why should you join?

UK & Ireland JSPS Alumni Association

Who are we?

Currently 950+ registered members in our Alumni Association



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Members

There are 2 categories of membership.....

- All persons who have been supported by a JSPS International Programme are eligible for *regular membership*
- Persons who have a distinguished record of promoting scientific exchange between the UK and Japan are eligible for *honorary membership*
- Only regular members can apply to the Alumni Association funding schemes

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What do we do?

- Promote JSPS funding programmes
- Maintain & create collaborative links all over the UK and Ireland with Japan
- Provide guidance to new fellows, support their career path & assist Japanese researchers working in the UK
- Conduct joint activities with academic institutions & counterpart agencies

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What else do we do?

- Exchange information among Alumni members
- Collect & disseminate information regarding science, technology, society & culture
- Strengthen regional groups & their connections with Japan

UK & Ireland JSPS Alumni Association

Alumni Committee and Regional Managers

- 6 Committee Members
- 3 Regional Managers covering Scotland, Ireland and Wales
- Committee & Regional Managers will change on a rotational basis
- If you'd like to get involved, contact Polly Watson
- Current Committee and Regional Managers are...

UK-JSPS Alumni Association



The Alumni Committee



Prof. Andrew Quantock
Chair
(Cardiff University)



Prof. Alessandra Devoto
Co-Chair
(Royal Holloway,
University of London)



Dr John Brazier
Associate
(University of Reading)

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The Alumni Committee



Prof. Erica Baffelli
Associate

(University of Manchester)



Dr Chris Pearson
Associate

(Rutherford Appleton
Laboratory)



Prof. Ekaterina Hertog
Associate

(University of Oxford)

Alumni Regional Managers

Wales



Emeritus Prof. Alan Shore
(Bangor University)

Scotland



Dr Miranda Anderson
(University of Edinburgh)

Ireland



Prof. Emma Sokell
(University College Dublin)

Funding Opportunities: **BRIDGE Fellowship**

- Only regular members of the UK and RoI- JSPS Alumni Association are eligible
- Grant for research trip to Japan for between 14 to 30 days to strengthen collaborative links
- For visits in 2026 we made 6 awards representing a wide range of research fields from sociology and psychology to biophysics, genomics, geography and AI
- **2027 Call: TBA**
- Visits can start between July to the end of March the following year
- Registered Alumni members will automatically receive application information once the call opens

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Funding Opportunities: JSPS London Symposium & Seminar Scheme

- A grant to support international symposia or seminars with UK and Japan at the centre, both online and in-person events are supported
- JSPS Alumni and Japanese researchers based in the UK and Ireland are eligible
- Travel & subsistence costs for up to 3 speakers from Japan and up to £2k towards organizational costs are covered- support expected from host institution in the UK
- **Next call: TBA**
- Short listed Proposals are announced in April for selected events to take place between June the same year to the end of February the following year
- Registered Alumni members will automatically receive application information once the call opens

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Upcoming Events:

2 Event Proposals Selected from the FY2026 JSPS London Symposium and Seminar Scheme Call:

- University of Sheffield: Seminar on Smart Robots in the AI Era, 18th September 2026
- Imperial College London: AI for Collaborative and Inclusive Design: UK-Japan Perspectives, end of October 2026
- Other events we are planning to involve Alumni:
- Embassy of Japan in Ireland: Japan-Ireland 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations
- Royal Society (networking event for Alumni selected under our joint programmes)
- Royal Society of Chemistry (theme to be decided)
- Networking event for N8 Universities

*JSPS London would like to hold Funding Programme Information Sessions for universities and research institutes all over the UK and Ireland.

If your institution is interested in this, please let us know.

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Details on the website: keep track of funding and alumni info



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The JSPS Alumni Association of the UK and the Republic of Ireland

The JSPS Alumni Association of the UK and Republic of Ireland was first established in 2003 by researchers who returned to the UK having been funded by a JSPS Fellowship Programme while in Japan (former Fellows). In 2014 inclusion of former JSPS fellows based in the Republic of Ireland was ratified by JSPS Tokyo head office and subsequently the name of the association changed to The JSPS Alumni Association of the UK and the Republic of Ireland. This Alumni Association is continuously increasing in size to currently over 600 active members. With the help of the Executive Committee and Regional Managers, the Alumni Association carries out a number of activities throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland with numerous benefits for members. The Pre Departure Seminars prepare new fellows for their research experience in Japan. The Alumni Evenings are for members to network in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. There are presentations days for members to speak about their experiences as a fellow and encourage others to apply for JSPS funding programmes.

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Why should you join?

- We provide a forum for those interested in Japan and research to interact & provide mutual support and encouragement.
- We run what we hope are interesting scientific and social events.
- We have the BRIDGE and Symposium Scheme Awards for members to further encourage beneficial exchange
- Link to register: <https://ssl.jsps.org/alumni/?page=regist>