

Short Term Pre/postdoctoral Fellowship Applications- FAQs

- 1) **On the Subject Area Form in the “other” box, should I fill this in and is this part of the limit of three subjects?**

Yes, in the “other” box you can put a research field most closely related to your current research, if not already listed, and this should count as part of the three subject limit. It is not compulsory to fill in this “other” box.

- 2) **Can I lengthen any section of the application form?**

No. The space provided should be an indication of the depth of answer required.

- 3) **For section 18 of the application form, the research plan, can I add one A4 page to the two A4 pages already provided in the application form and which section should I include referenced work?**

Yes, you can add one A4 page to the two A4 pages already provided in the application form, making a maximum of three A4 pages. Any referenced work should be listed within this total space limit.

- 4) **Can I stay in Japan for 6.5 months?**

No. Your stay must be for a whole number of months and between 1 to 12 months.

- 5) **I am a Greek national, residing in Greece, doing a distance learning PhD course. The accrediting university is University College London, am I eligible?**

No. To be eligible applicants must be a national (passport holder) of either the UK, EU, Norway, Switzerland, USA or Canada and be ordinarily based in the UK or Ireland for research purposes. PhD students undertaking a formal distance learning PhD degree and are based outside of the UK or Ireland are not eligible.

- 6) **I have dual nationality, Irish and Japanese, am I eligible?**

No. Nationals of Japan are not eligible. Candidates of dual nationality including Japanese are not eligible to apply.

- 7) **I am currently doing my PhD studies at Ochanomizu University and would like to apply for a JSPS Short Term Fellowship to continue these studies from November 2025, am I eligible?**

No. Candidates who already have a residency card with a mailing address in Japan for the duration of the fiscal year this fellowship call covers (i.e. FY2025) are not eligible to apply. Overseas researchers doing research at a Japanese research institute at the time of application are not eligible.

8) I have a certificate of education dated March 2019 and a certificate of doctoral thesis dated May 2019. Am I eligible?

For the current call the applicant must have obtained their PhD on or after 2nd April 2019 or be within 2 years of finishing their PhD at the time they want to start their JSPS Fellowship. In this case, the certificate of education means the time the candidate finished all taught courses and the certificate of doctoral thesis is the time they were awarded their PhD. The certificate of doctoral thesis is counted and is dated after April 2019, making this researcher eligible.

9) Are PhD finish time and conferral time the same thing?

No. PhD finish time is when the candidate finishes their PhD thesis. Conferral time is when the candidate has finished their PhD thesis, had their oral examination, completed any corrections and they have a date decided to receive their PhD certificate at an award ceremony or in absentia.

10) My host in Japan is a visiting researcher at a Japanese University, are they eligible?

A host should be an academic researcher who is employed full-time at a Japanese University or Institution acknowledged by JSPS. However, a researcher not employed full time may be eligible to be a host researcher if they are able to apply for KAKENHI (Grants-in-aid) funding and their institution judges them able to implement the project and provide an appropriate research environment.

11) My PhD certificate is written in Italian, is this ok?

Please provide a translation in English. The applicant can do this themselves, it does not have to be a professional translation.

12) I am currently finishing my PhD studies at CERN, I would prefer to ask three of the team leaders based here to be my referees and one of them will be my host in Japan, because they can best comment on my current work. Is this acceptable?

No. If the applicant is a PhD student, one of these references must come from their supervisor based at a UK or Ireland university or research institute. The host in Japan can not be a referee. If three references are submitted, only the two referees detailed on the application form can be accepted.