

Open Application Program in SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN Application Guidelines for FY2020 (Overview)

Application should be made by the Japanese host organization.

1. Basic framework of the program

1.1 Purpose

SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN is a short-term invitation program to give the aspiring youth opportunities to experience cutting-edge science and technology.

SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN's objectives include;

- To promote exchanges with talented young human resources from overseas who could contribute to the future of science and technology
- To globalize Japan's education and research organizations
- To strengthen friendly relations between Japan and other countries and regions
- To develop science and technology both in Japan and in the world

1.2 Countries or regions for invitation

The following countries and regions are the eligible for invitation in FY 2019.

<East Asia>	People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan.
<Southeast Asia>	Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Democratic Republic of East Timor, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Singapore, Thailand, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
<Southwest Asia>	People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kingdom of Bhutan, India, Republic of Maldives, the Democratic Republic of Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
<Central Asia>	Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan.
<Islands of Republic>	Fiji Republic, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga.
<Other regions>	Republic of Argentina, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Chile, Republic of Colombia, Mexico, Republic of Peru.

* The process of agreement with some countries has not been completed (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru), and please be aware that there may be changes such as the invitation period even if selected.

1.3 Requirements for main invitees

The main invitees must meet the following requirements.

(1) Nationality

The person must have the Nationality of "1.2 Countries or regions for invitation" or should have the passport issued by these countries or regions".

(2) Affiliation / Age

- i. High school students, Technical college students
- ii. University students, Graduate students, Postdoctoral fellows, Faculty members, and persons who are engaged in work related to science and technology at public institutions and are below 40 years old.

* The members, who were enrolled in the sending organization at the time of application and have graduated or leaving work when coming to Japan, will not be approved as the invitees, unless the continuing of enrollment has been decided by the advancement to the graduate school of the sending organization.

* In principle, those who are working in private companies are not eligible for invitation for this program. However, those who are deemed essential for public business promotion can be approved as invitees.

(3) Experience of staying Japan

Among those who were mentioned in the above "(2) Affiliation / Age"

- As for High school and Technical college students, invitation by SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN must be the first stay Japan for the invitee. However, those who have visited in Japan only for sightseeing for a very short time (about 10 days) or stayed only in their childhood (12 years old and below) are eligible as invitees.
- As for University students or others, invitation by SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN must be the first stay Japan after entering a university for the invitee. However, those who have visited Japan only for sightseeing for a very short time (about 10 days) are eligible as the invitees.

1.4 Requirements for Supervisor

The supervisor shall be a person who can lead the main invitees and play the role of promoting the entire exchange plan safely and smoothly. It is preferable that the supervisor shall be also under 40 years old and visit Japan for the first time, but if such a qualified person was not available, those who do not satisfy these conditions can also become the supervisor. (Regarding the Nationality, persons with nationality other than "1.2 Countries or regions for invitation" cannot become a supervisor).

1.5 Requirements for Japanese host organization

Universities, Technical colleges, High schools, National research and development corporations, Independent administrative agencies, Private enterprises, Local public entities, Organizations having corporate status such as Public corporation or General corporation in Japan

*In the case of Private enterprises, the only airfare can be covered by JST.

1.6 Requirements for Invitation period

The start date of the exchange program (entry date) should be two and a half months after the deadline

of each application. Please ensure that the latest end date (departure date) is March 15, 2021.

1.7 Exchange plan not covered

- ① In the case that subjects are related only to humanities and social sciences are not covered. The field of humanities and social sciences (Scientific philosophy, Scientific education, Technology management, Policy science related to science and technology innovation, etc.) that covers the interdisciplinary fields of natural science, humanities and social science, and science and technology are covered by SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN.
- ② In the case the main purpose of visiting Japan is participation in events sponsored by other organizations.
- ③ In the case of the exchange plan with the purpose of profit.
- ④ In the case the exchange plan is for the training of employees of the host organization itself or its subsidiaries.

1.8 Other important requirements (Advance notification)

In case of inviting from China, it is necessary for the Chinese sending organization to file a notification in China Science and Technology Center, China-Japan Technical Cooperation Center, before applying for JST.

- Information on notification will be announced on the website below as soon as the procedure and deadlines are fixed.

<https://ssp.jst.go.jp/form/index.html>

- Precaution statement

- Applications without having this notification will not be accepted.
- It is subject to notification even if the exchange plan includes the invitees of countries and regions other than China.
- Notifications are required for each deadline (A re-notification is required when an exchange plan that was not selected was reviewed and applied from the next time onwards).
- Notification is not necessary for the invitation from Hong Kong or Macao.

2. Requirements for exchange plan

SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN is a short-term invitation program to motivate continuous mutual exchanges in the future. JST offers three courses with different purposes. In any course, it is necessary to have the content that increases the interest towards advanced science and technology of Japan, and to have the content that enables young people to increase their interest towards research activities in Japan.

(1) Science and technology Experience Course (Course A)

This course promotes exchange activities to experience advanced science and technology and to interact with Japanese researchers and students, which lead continuous mutual collaborations in the field of science and technology. Exchange plans focusing mainly on experience and learning activities are recommended for this course even if they include minor research or training activities.

(2) Collaborative Research Activity Course (Course B)

This course promotes activities to start up international collaborative researches or to involve invitees in specific ongoing researches. Such exchange plans as merely visiting laboratories or mainly providing students with some experimental skills are not eligible.

(3) Science and Technology Training Course (Course C)

This course promotes intensive trainings to acquire specific skills or abilities to meet needs of sending countries/regions or to solve global issues.

Reference) Limit of numbers of invitees supported by JST

Course (Upper limit of numbers of days)	Course A (≤7 days in principal)			Course B (≤ 21 days)		Course C (≤ 10 days)		
	Single	Multiple		Single	Multiple	Single country		Multiple
						Single	Multiple	Multiple
Main invitees	~10	~10	11~15	~10	~10	~10	~15	~25
Supervisors	~1	~2	~3	~1	~2*	~1	~3	~3
Total	~11	~12	~18	~11	~12	~11	~18	~28

* The number of main invitees from one organization must be 10 or less.

* Multiple supervisors cannot participate from one organization.

3. Recruitment period

	Acceptance start	Deadline	Result notification	Invitation period
1	January 31 (Fri)	March 2 (Mon)	Middle of April	Since end of May ~ March 15, 2021
2	March 3 (Tue)	June 1 (Mon)	Middle of July	Since end of August ~ March 15, 2021
3	June 2 (Tue)	September 1 (Tue)	Middle of October	Since end of November ~ March 15, 2021
4	September 2 (Wed)	November 5 (Thu)	Middle of December	Since end of January, 2021 ~ March 15, 2021

4. Selection criteria (Abstract)

(1) Purpose and outline

Accordance with the purpose of each course (A, B or C) will be confirmed. Exchange plans which lead to continuous collaboration and globalization of the host organizations will be highly evaluated.

(2) Invitees

The organization (institution, faculty, laboratory etc.) of the invitees will be confirmed if it has excellent young people matched with the objectives and implementation content of the exchange plan.

(3) Implementation contents and its significance

The tangible implementation contents and main visits will be evaluated if it is appropriate and effective for the purpose and outline of the exchange plan. The experiences and communication that invitees can actively participate, not only limited to passive tour, will be evaluated.

5. Related procedures

5.1 Visa

The host organization should take responsibility for the visas of invitees, so that they can be obtained before the departure date.

The invitees of SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN can receive support such as visa fee exemption when coming to Japan through the cooperation of related Government ministries. It is necessary for the Japanese host organization to submit a "Visa applicant list" to JST 9 weeks before the date of entry in order to receive the visa application assistance.

URL: <https://ssp.jst.go.jp/shiryō/2020.html>

5.2 Joining Sakura Science Club

JST is aiming to promote friendship among invitees and sponsoring the "Sakura Science Club" so that the interests towards Japanese science and technology, coming back to Japan and exchanges could be continued even after returning to their home countries. In principle, the invitees are registered as members of this club and can receive information about the science and technology of Japan and related educational institutions from JST.

6. Expenses covered by JST

- Airfare
- Transportation, accommodation and meal fee in Japan
- Admission fee of science museums and cultural facilities
- Expenses to conduct essential events.

*In the case the host organization is a private enterprise, only airfare can be covered by JST.

*There is the upper limit for each fee.

*Transportation fee in the country/region of the invitees is not covered.

*In case invitees stay longer in Japan before/after SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN for their own reasons, the airfare for coming/returning cannot be covered by JST.

*JST supplies fund to the Japanese organization, not to invitees.