

Sakura Online Program (Open Application)

Application Guidelines for FY2024 (Overview)

Application should be made by the Japanese host organization.

1. Basic framework of the program

1.1 Purpose

Countries share the future challenge of promoting research and development and transforming results into innovations. In 2014, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) started the “Sakura Science Program.” Since then, the program has invited talented young human resources for short-term visits to Japan, giving them the opportunity to experience Japan’s cutting-edge science and technology as well as its culture. The Sakura Science Program’s objectives include:

- To support the development of talented human resources from overseas who have the potential to contribute to innovation in science and technology.
- To Accelerate the international brain cycle.
- To promote continuous collaboration, cooperation and interaction between Japanese educational and research institutes and overseas ones.
- To strengthen good relationship between Japan and other countries and regions that will help science and technology diplomacy.

1.2 Countries or regions for participation

Generally, all countries and regions are eligible for participation.

1.3 Fields of exchange

Science and technology (natural sciences, humanities and social sciences)

1.4 Requirements for main participants

The main participants must meet the following requirements:

(1) 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
- iii. Those who are 40 years old or under.

* Those who were enrolled in an eligible organization at the time of application but graduated or left their position by the time of the exchange program will no longer be accepted as participants. Exceptions include

the case that the candidate's enrollment to graduate school has been confirmed by 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.

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.

1.6 Requirements for exchange period

The start date of the exchange plan should be after the day in "3. recruitment period" shown below. The end date should be before March 14, 2025.

1.7 Exchange plans not covered

- ① Those not relevant to science and technology, e.g., exchange plans aiming merely at holding events.
- ② Those whose main purpose is participation in events sponsored by other organizations.
- ③ Those with the purpose of profit.
- ④ Those training employees of the host organization or its subsidiaries.
- ⑤ Those whose main purpose is gathering participants for an event such as university information session.
- ⑥ Those whose main purpose is explanation prior to an invitation program or follow-up activity.

2. Requirements for exchange plan

(1) The exchange plan should take advantage of the merits of being online while also having comparable effectiveness to a face-to-face exchange. We encourage the active participation of both Japan and counterpart country/region sides, and plans which can create infrastructure for future cooperation .

3. Recruitment period

	Acceptance start	Deadline	Result notification	Invitation period
1	January 25 (Thu)	February 22 (Thu)	Mid April	Late May ~ March 14, 2025
2	February 23 (Fri)	May 16 (Thu)	Mid July	Late August ~ March 14, 2025
3	May 17 (Fri)	September 9 (Mon)	Early November	Mid December ~ March 14, 2025

4. Selection criteria (Abstract)

(1) Purpose and outline

Exchange plans should align with the purpose of program shown in “1.1 Purpose”.

(2) Participants

The organization (institution, faculty, laboratory etc.) of the participants should have excellent young people matched with the objectives and content of the exchange plan.

(3) Content and significance

The contents of the exchange should match the purpose and outline of the exchange plan and take advantage of the merits of being online. We encourage initiatives that expand the scope of exchange using online tools, such as the participation of many people from various countries/regions, long term cooperation and the continuing of connections following face-to-face exchanges. Opportunities for active experiences and communication are preferred to passive ones.

5. Related procedures

5.1 Joining Sakura Science Club

JST is promoting friendship among participants and sponsoring the "Sakura Science Club" to generate interest in Japanese science and technology, and encourage exchanges that continue even after the program. In principle, the participants are registered as members of this club and can receive from JST information about the science and technology of Japan and related educational institutions. JST will occasionally send out questionnaires in order to improve the program, and appreciates the cooperation of participants.

6. Expenses covered by JST

- The necessary expenses of the Japanese host organization will be borne by JST in accordance with the program's rules.