

India Young Researchers Invitation Program

Application Guidelines for FY2024 (Overview)

Application should be made by the Japanese host organization.

1. Basic framework of the program

1.1 Purpose

India has rapidly growing research capabilities, many good quality scientific papers, and a lot of excellent young human resources in science and engineering fields including IT fields in recent years. The need to strengthen cooperation in such fields with India is rapidly increasing. Although the competition for Indian human resource in science and engineering field is intense around the world, the exchange and cooperation of human resources between Japan and India is far from sufficient, and in addition, there is a need to ensure diversity in research fields of Japan.

Considering this situation, to strengthen exchanges with India, it is necessary to comprehensively strengthen multilayered efforts such as fostering pro-Japanese as the foundation for exchanges, exchanges at the university student level, inviting top talent to doctoral programs in graduate schools, and so on.

In “India Young Researchers Invitation Program” (hereinafter referred to as “the program”), we will invite top Indian graduate students and researchers to Japan in the leading-edge fields of science and technology. Specifically, this program supports graduate students and postdoctoral researchers of Indian universities for a research stay in Japan to provide joint instruction by both countries based on the past exchanges between Japan and India.

The program aims to promote the exchange of global “knowledge” through the promotion of research and other activities for getting a degree or writing a joint paper in Japanese or Indian university in the future and so on, and to develop human resources with international brain cycle who will strengthen research and innovation capabilities, as well as to develop their careers and activities in Japan.

We will ask Japanese universities and other institutions to support the career paths of invitees for their future activities in Japanese society after they grow into highly skilled human resources (ex. getting doctoral degrees). We will also place particular emphasis on efforts to invite female students and researchers to Japan by taking advantage of a safe and secure Japanese society.

1.2 Country for invitation

India. Invitations can come from more than one institution in India. Institutions from outside India cannot be included.

1.3 Eligible Fields

In this program, our goal is to promote international brain cycle to contribute to "building a foundation for sustainable participation and collaboration in the international research community" in the leading-edge fields of science and technology. From that point of view, the following seven fields (1) to (7) are the main areas.

Field (1) AI and Information

Example: AI and information research based on the principles of "human understanding and respect," "diversity" and "sustainability"

Field (2) Biotechnology

Example: Biotechnology research relating to the promotion of a bioeconomy and sustainable agriculture, reduced environmental impact, and the like

Field (3) Energy

Example: Research into energy to attain carbon neutrality

Field (4) Materials

Example: Materials research that contributes to carbon neutrality, and a circular economy, and the like

Field (5) Quantum

Example: Research into quantum computers and quantum technologies and research into quantum materials with innovative functions that contribute to implementing a productivity revolution and ensuring the safety and security of the country and its citizens

Field (6) Semiconductors

Example: Research into strengthening the foundation of the semiconductor industry

Field (7) Telecommunications

Example: Research into information and communication technologies that contribute to the development of a next-generation infrastructure that supports a digital society

Field (8) Others

In addition to the research that contributes to the promotion of the above-mentioned fields (1) to (7), fields that are recognized as important foundations for international cooperation between Japan and India, and fields that will be key to the maintenance and development of scientific and technological capabilities by promoting research through future collaboration between Japan and India.

1.4 Requirements for Invitees

Invitees must meet the following requirements of affiliation / age at the time of exchange participation.

Persons who are enrolled as a graduate student (master's degree, doctoral degree) or postdoctoral fellow at an Indian university, 40 years old and under.

- * The same exchange organization may not invite a person who has been invited to Japan for the Sakura Science Program (Courses A/B/C/D) in the same Japanese academic year again for this program.
- * The exchange organization may apply for consecutive exchange plan after second year. In such cases, it will be possible to invite the previous year's participant again in the next and subsequent years' applications.
- * Persons in active-duty military or military service status at the time of travel and the period of invitation are not eligible.
- * To enable invitees to continue their careers during life events (childbirth, childcare, and nursing care), invitees' age must be within the above age criteria excluding periods of maternity leave, childcare leave, and nursing care leave (ex. for a person taking one year of childcare leave, the age criteria will be 41 years old).

1.5 Requirements for Japanese organization

Public university or private university or the like, national and public research institutions, public experimental and research institutes, independent administrative agencies.

- * Japanese organization must be responsible for entire exchange plan and implement it.
- * Applications from individuals will not be accepted.

1.6 Invitation period

For FY2024 adoption, the invitation must begin by the end of March 2025 and end by the end of December 2025. The duration of the invitation must be more than 90 consecutive days and less than one year.

- * Invitees must stay in Japan continuously during the period of the invitation.

1.7 Invitation plans not covered

- i. Those not relevant to science and technology (language training, etc.).
- ii. Those with the purpose of profit.

1.8 Number of adoption

The total number of invitees will be 30. (maximum 30 plans)

2. Schedule

	Start of Acceptance	Deadline	Notification of Decision	Implementation period
FY2024	September 2(Mon)	October 15(Tue)	Early December	From the date of conclusion of the agreement after the beginning of January to the end of December 2025

3.Process up to implementation

Process to implement the program is below:

1. Planning: Plan preparation by Indian and Japanese organizations, utilizing past exchange experience.
2. Application: Japanese organization will apply to JST for an exchange plan.
3. Adopting: JST will adopt the exchange plan through a selection committee.
4. Agreement: JST and the Japanese organizations conclude an implementation agreement.
5. Implementation: Joint instruction by both countries and JST provides supports for research stays.
6. Follow-up Survey: A follow-up survey must be conducted on the effects after implementation of the exchange plan (5 years after the end).

* **Applications can only be made by a Japanese host organization. We cannot accept applications from Indian side, whether it is from an individual student, organization, or laboratory.**

* In the implement process, JST is not involved in which organizations apply to the program or in the selection of invitees at all. Therefore, JST cannot provide information about which organization plans to carry out invitation activity.

4. Selection criteria (Abstract)

(1) Purpose and outline

The invitation plan applied for must be consistent with the purpose of this program.

We appreciate invitation plans that involve excellent female students and researchers from India, which will contribute to the international brain cycle and the promotion of female researchers' activities in Japan.

(2) Organizations and participants

The Indian organization (institutions, faculties, laboratories, etc.) must have excellent human resources that are consistent with the purpose and implementation of the invitation plan.

We will evaluate that there is past experiences of international exchange or joint research between instructors both of Indian and Japanese side who are in charge of joint instruction by both countries. Also, if the implementation of the exchange plan is expected to further develop the international network, these will be evaluated.

(3) Content and its significance

The research theme or specific implementation of the joint instruction by both countries must be effective for the purpose of the invitation plan. Specific descriptions of the effects expected from the implementation of the plan and the continuity of those effects will be evaluated.

The following points of view on effectiveness are assumed.

- ✓ Promote the development of human resources for international brain cycle
- ✓ Continuation and development of joint research and other exchanges among invitees
- ✓ Continuation and development of joint research and other exchanges among instructors in charge of implementing the project

(4) Career path support by Japanese organization

Career path support (ex. Japanese language education, career education, internships through collaboration with companies, etc.) should be provided in the implementation of the program. Please describe in detail about the career path support planned during the invitation program.

We will also evaluate specific descriptions of the expected benefits of the implementation of career path support after the invitation plan and the sustainability of those benefits.

5. Related procedures

5.1 Safety Management Responsibilities

Japanese organizations must take thorough safety measures for invitees traveling abroad. Japanese organizations should take full responsibility (including the safety obligation) for confirming whether or not a visa is required for overseas travel and stay, the types of visas required, and the conditions of travel and stay for invitees, as well as the necessary arrangements and procedures for these.

5.2 Joining the alumni organization

Invitees in this program will be certified as members of the alumni organization at the end of this program (member ID will be issued).

6. Expenses covered by JST

JST Support is for expenses directly necessary for the execution of the program (accommodation, etc.) and general administrative expenses related to invitees' stay in Japan to participate in this program. Travel and research expenses are not included in JST support.

JST support expense will be up to 275,000 yen/month per invitee (up to 3,300,000 yen per invitee for one-year stay in Japan).