

NIH-Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Fellowship 2011-2012

JSPS Fellowship (Intramural)

The NIH-JSPS Fellowship was created in 1995 to promote bilateral cooperation between NIH and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) foundation. JSPS is the largest, government-supported foundation in Japan that provides fellowships to Japanese scientists. The NIH-JSPS Fellowship provides a two-year stipend to Japanese post-docs working within NIH intramural labs. Every year about 15 post-docs receive this award.

Eligibility (Must meet all requirements listed below)

- Have Japanese citizenship or permanent resident status in Japan
- Hold a doctoral degree, equivalent to a Ph.D., and under 34 years of age* on April 1, 2012.
- Applicants holding additional doctoral degrees in medicine, oral medicine or veterinary medicine must be under age 35* by April 1, 2012. Those with only a medical degree are not eligible to apply.
*http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-ab/data/boshu_besshi.pdf
- Must currently be or have commitment to be funded by NIH to conduct research at NIH within a year of application, authorized to work in the US, and cannot have other employment commitments including part-time work

Application

The Fogarty International Center (FIC) will distribute the application form to all eligible candidates at the NIH. Applicants then submit their application package containing (1) a 3-page research proposal, (2) a statement on previous research, and (3) a statement on the significance of working in the sponsoring NIH lab. These three items must be written in both English and Japanese. Applicants prepare their own applications, but sponsors must provide a letter of endorsement. Submit completed application form by email to ficjspsintramural@mail.nih.gov and original documents to Fogarty no later than **6:00 PM on June 10, 2011**.

Selection

The NIH-JSPS Fellowship review panel is formed every year, comprising 6 to 9 NIH intramural scientists and chaired by Dr. Keiko Ozato. The panel evaluates and ranks the applications on the basis of (1) the scientific quality of the proposal, (2) the applicant's record, and (3) the activity of and compatibility with the sponsoring lab. The recommendation is submitted to the JSPS office in Tokyo, which makes the final decision on selection. The NIH panel's recommendation always has been honored.

Award and Designation

Those who receive this fellowship must be designated as a Postdoctoral Fellow (Supplemental Visiting Fellow mechanism) and cannot be a Guest Researcher or Special Volunteer. Since the JSPS stipend for certain NIH-JSPS recipients may exceed the top of the NIH postdoctoral stipend range, based on years of experience, the NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Research (DDIR) has provided a blanket exception for all recipients of this competitive fellowship to "Section O. Supplemental Funding" in the NIH Intramural Visiting Fellow Program manual issuance (<http://oma.od.nih.gov/manualchapters/person/2300-320-3/>) so that they can all be funded as Supplemental Visiting Fellows. Given the competitive nature of the NIH-JSPS program, a special DDIR exception is made to allow NIH-JSPS fellows to receive stipends (the combined amount from JSPS and NIH supplemental funding) that may fall outside the range for postdoctoral fellows. Thus, all NIH-JSPS fellows must be Postdoctoral Fellows designated under the Supplemental Visiting Fellow (SF) mechanism, requiring the sponsoring NIH IC to provide health insurance benefits to the fellow and eligible family members. Note: If a fellow is retained at NIH after the JSPS fellowship has ended, the fellow's stipend cannot be reduced in the third year.

Funding

This partnership-based program receives input from both NIH and JSPS, but it is currently funded largely by the JSPS foundation. For its historic contribution to Japan's biomedical research, NIH was chosen by the foundation as a single, trial model case. Thus, the fellowship is granted to the NIH as an organization, rather than to individual scientists, as fellowships are normally given. Over the years, NIH has helped Japan to advance an excellent research enterprise by training high-caliber scientists. NIH has enjoyed receiving a good supply of hardworking Japanese post-docs. While many fellows return to Japan after training, some have remained at NIH assuming advanced positions, such as Staff Scientists, and making long-standing contributions. This program has been mutually beneficial in its success.

For more information: http://www.fic.nih.gov/programs/research_grants/jsps/intramural.htm or contact Tina Chung, Program Officer, FIC/NIH