

Tips to **Considerably** Boost Your Chances of Becoming a fellow within the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists

1. If you are enrolled in, or are planning to enroll in, a doctoral program at a graduate school, **make sure to consider applying for a fellowship**

From among students who are either enrolled in, or have completed, doctoral programs at graduate schools, the program "Research Fellowship for Young Scientists" selects "**JSPS Fellows**" who possess excellent research capabilities and who **wish to dedicate themselves to conducting research** at universities or other **research institutes**, and **provides them with supplies research-encouragement funding**.

When adopted as a JSPS Fellow, you can also receive **research grants** in addition to payments from research scholarship grants. **Therefore, you can conduct stable research activities.**

This program aims to contribute to the fostering and maintaining of creative researchers to forge the future of academic research in Japan by providing them with opportunities to independently select their research projects, etc. on the basis of their own unrestricted ideas and to dedicate themselves to engaging in research.

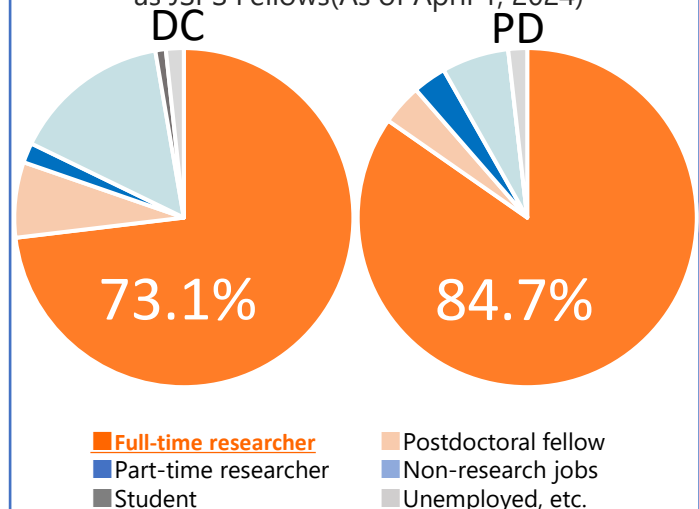
Therefore, it is **a national investment in distinguished individuals for the future, rather than just a means of providing grants for research.**

Therefore, adoption as JSPS Fellows indicates that they were recognized as being worthy of a national investment. In addition, they can state their statuses as such on their curriculum vitae in the search for employment, **which gives them an extremely high status as researchers.**

In fact, as shown in the charts on the right, for DC after fellowship tenure, the percentage of researchers who have gained employment as "full-time researchers" is 70% of the total; for PD the percentage is about 90%. It is not an exaggeration to say that they are a **select group of young researchers.**

Results of an Investigation into the Employment Situation of JSPS Fellows

Employment Situation 5 Years after Selection as JSPS Fellows (As of April 1, 2024)



Tenure, Research Scholarship, and Research Grant

Category	Tenure	Stipend (Monthly Amount) (Planned for 2025 fiscal year)	Research Grant (Annually)
DC1	3 Yrs.	200,000 yen*	Up to 4.5 million yen
DC2	2 Yrs.		Up to 3.0 million yen
PD	3 Yrs.	362,000 yen **	Up to 4.5 million yen ***
RPD	3 Yrs.	362,000 yen **	Up to 4.5 million yen ***

* For recipients selected from FY2026 onward, the monthly fellowship stipend for DC1 and DC2 is scheduled to be increased from 200,000 yen to 227,000 yen.

** Tohoku University(TU) is registered as an "institution introducing employment system" under the "Support Program for Employment of Young Researchers to Improve the Research Environment" implemented by JSPS. PD and RPD adopted by TU as a host institution are employed as Specially Appointed Research Fellow (full-time, Discretionary labor system) at TU, and are paid a salary of 82,000 yen per month in addition to an amount equivalent to the stipend.

*** 30% of indirect expenses are also separately provided.

2. See how the selection of JSPS Fellows is carried out

First, check the [screening policies](#).^{*1}

<For DC1 and DC2>

- **The background to the research project should be presented, and the idea should be excellent. In addition, the research method has originality, and the future prospects of research project are presented.**
- **The applicant is thoroughly expected to become an outstanding researcher who leads the future of academia.**

*1 https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-pd/pd_houhou.html

Next, it is necessary to see who selects JSPS Fellows.

In the Fellowship Program, a documentary review is conducted for each group consisting of several Basic Sections (sections of a 5-digit code) called the Documentary Screening Set^{*2}, so that appropriate relative evaluations can be made. The documentary review is conducted in two stage^{*3} by five expert members of the Review Panel for Fellowships for Distinguished Researchers, which consists of Japan's leading researchers per application.

Therefore, **you should first check which Basic Section your application is in and also check which other Basic Sections it will be reviewed together with.**

Also, please note that a Basic Section may be divided into multiple Screening Section, and when selecting a Basic Section, read the Review Section Table^{*4} carefully and select the section that is most appropriate for your research project.

*2 https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-pd/pd_sinsa-set.html

*3 The two-stage documentary review is a method in which all applications are evaluated from the perspective of the applicant's research ability and potential in the first stage of documentary review, and the second stage of documentary review is conducted with the top 80 to 120% of the applicants in the "border zone".

*4 https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/j-pd_2022/examination/2_kubun.pdf

Lastly, you have to consider [past reviewers](#).^{*5} By doing so, you can see how your application will be reviewed together with other applications in wide-ranging fields by experts with diverse specializations. **You should try to prepare an easy-to-understand application that clearly conveys the background, idea, research methods, and prospects of your research to non-specialists as well as to researchers in your field.** Also, you should be conscious of the fact that the fundamental aim of the fellowship program is to contribute to the fostering and maintaining of creative researchers for future academic research in Japan, and on that basis, **you should try to prepare a statement that persuades reviewers in a wide range of fields that you can be a good academic researcher in the future.**

*5 http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-pd/pd_houhou.html

DC1 Documentary Screening Sets for FY 2027 (Partially Extracted)

	Screening Section	Documentary Screening Sets
chemistry	41 Physical chemistry, functional solid state chemistry, inorganic/coordination chemistry, analytical chemistry, inorganic materials chemistry, energy-related chemistry, and related fields	chemistry 1
	Physical chemistry, functional solid state chemistry, and related fields	
	32010 Fundamental physical chemistry-related	
	32020 Functional solid state chemistry-related	chemistry 2
	42 Inorganic/coordination chemistry, analytical chemistry, and related fields	
	34010 Inorganic/coordination chemistry-related	
	34020 Analytical chemistry-related	
	34030 Green sustainable chemistry and environmental chemistry-related	chemistry 4
	∴ ∴	
	42 Organic chemistry, polymers, organic materials, biomolecular chemistry, and related fields	chemistry 4
Organic chemistry and related fields		
33010 Structural organic chemistry and physical organic chemistry-related		
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[Supplementary Note]

The screening set varies according to each category. Make sure to check the screening set for the category to which you intend to apply.

3. Build as many achievements that are **your strengths** as possible prior to the filing of your application

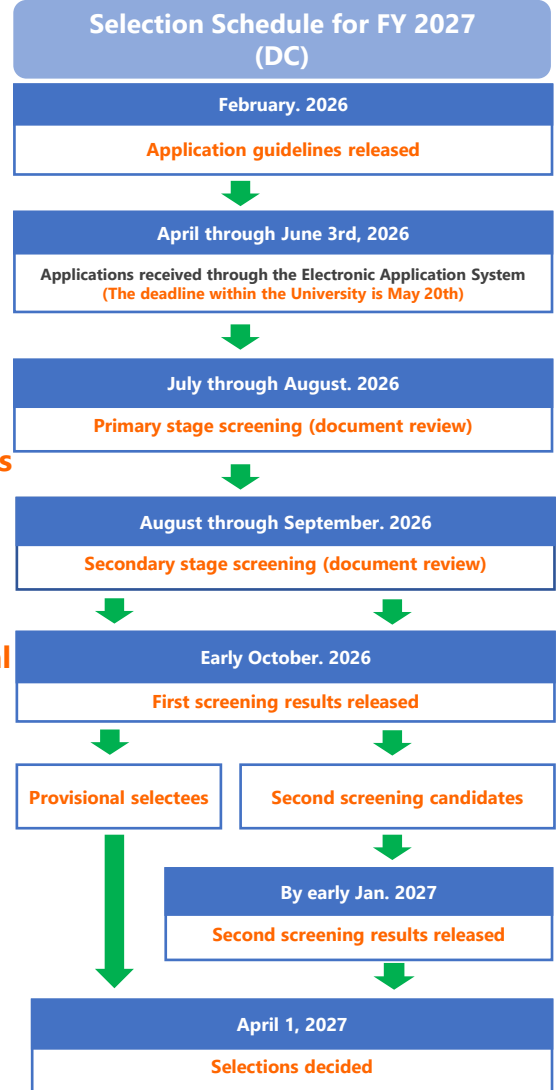
Based on the purpose of Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, which is to contribute to the fostering and maintaining of creative researchers to forge the future of academic research in Japan, the application form includes a **"Self-analysis of research execution" section**, which will be used to judge whether or not you are qualified as a researcher to carry out the research plan.

What is required here is not simply to list "research achievements (papers and other products)," but **to convincingly present your strengths as a researcher (e.g., initiative, ability to think and solve problems)**. Your "research achievements" are one of the most important elements to give you that convincing power.

Therefore, **you should consult with your academic advisor as early as possible** to create research achievements. Rather than simply increasing the number of research achievements, it is important to create highly regarded achievements such as **writing papers as the first author, writing refereed papers rather than non-refereed papers, and making presentations at international conferences (speaking as the first author)**. Then, you should develop a sentence structure so that you can write in your application while relating your own strengths as a researcher to your research achievements.

Examples of research achievements

- Papers published in academic journals, etc.
- Presentations at international conferences
- Presentations at domestic conferences, symposia, etc.
- A notable history of receiving awards



4. Obtain information for completing an application form

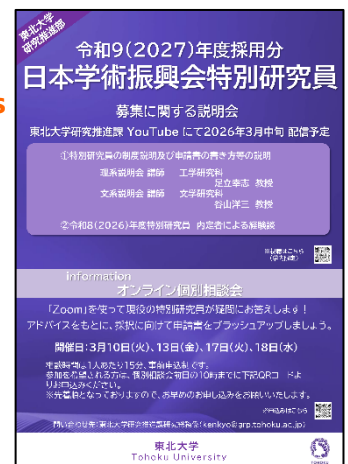
After having informed your academic advisor of your intention to apply for the JSPS Research Fellowship Program and having made efforts to produce some achievements, you should obtain information on how to prepare a "good application form". TU provides **information sessions on JSPS Research Fellowship applications, etc.** on the YouTube^{*6} of the Research Promotion Division at TU, and also **individual consultations** via Zoom, giving you the opportunity to consult with current JSPS Fellows, and offers a service to view the application forms of past successful applicants upon request.

In addition, each department provides its own information sessions and maintains a support structure (for details, please check with the administrative staff member in charge in your department). **You should actively utilize such support to obtain useful information for preparing your application.**

Furthermore, you should consult actively with people you can rely on, such as your academic advisor and seniors in your laboratory and ask them for past application forms. You can refer to [the list of successful applicants](#)^{*7} to check selected past research projects. You should revise the title of your research project with reference to projects in similar fields.

^{*6} <https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/kensui-top/3jsps/support/#f1> [On-campus only]

^{*7} https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-pd/pd_saiyoichiran.html



**令和9(2027)年度採用分
日本学術振興会特別研究員**

募集に関する説明会
東北大学研究推進課 YouTubeにて2026年3月中旬 配信予定

1.特別研究員の制度説明及び申請書の書き方の説明
 理系説明会 講師 工学研究科 足立幸志 教授
 文系説明会 講師 文学研究科 松山洋三 教授

2.令和8(2026)年度特別研究員 内定者による質疑応答

Information
オンライン個別相談会

「Zoom」を使って現役の特別研究員が疑問にお答えします！
 アドバイスをもとに、資料に向けて申請書をブラッシュアップしましょう。

開催日: 3月10日(火)、13日(金)、17日(火)、18日(水)

本説明会は1人あたり15分、事前申込が必要です。
 参加を希望される方は、個別相談公開日の10時までに下記QRコードより
 申し込みをお願いします。
 ※定員に達した場合は、希望の参加申し込みを強制的に中止します。

詳しい内容は東北大学研究推進課のWebページ(enkyo@prp.tohoku.ac.jp)

東北大学
Tohoku University

5. Let's start making your application form

In preparing an application, it is essential to **elaborate a research plan independently** and **seek advice from and discuss with your academic advisor and seniors in your laboratory**.

In the first column of the application form, "Position of the research," you need to describe the background of the research field and its issues, as well as the circumstances that led you to come up with this research plan, and then describe the importance of the research plan you are working on as JSPS Fellow. Therefore, you should organize your thoughts well before starting to prepare your application form. In addition, you must **compose your own text for the application**, have them reviewed by your academic adviser and seniors in your laboratory, and **improve them over and over again**.

In addition, starting with the FY2023 application, you will be required to apply for **Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows** at the same time as the application for JSPS research fellowship. It is important to be specific about your research plan, what you plan to do, and to what extent you plan to clarify it, while keeping research expenses in mind.

Although, the reviewers are among Japan's leading researchers themselves, and are required to read and study a great volume of application forms at the same time as they are busy engaged in other work. Considering that reviewers have only a limited amount of time to read application forms, it is essential that you consider **how you can make your application stand out so that reviewers take notice**.

First of all, carefully check all important points concerning the preparation of your application document files before actually starting to enter any details.

In particular, it is essential to **express your research contents clearly, create "research title" that is eye-catching**, to write letters in at least **font size 10** and to be able to withstand, your document **monochrome (gray scale) printing**.

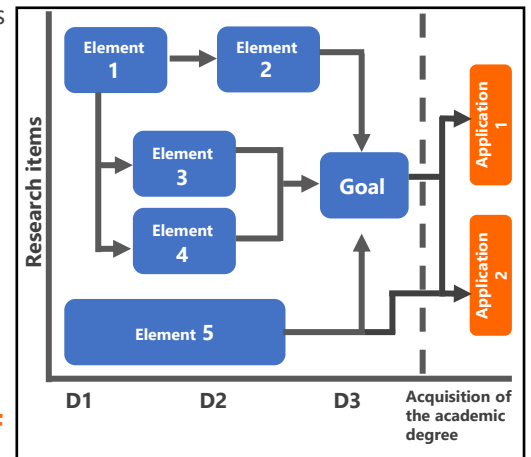
In addition, the **creative use of fonts and effective insertion of charts** are also important in order to make your application documents easy to read and understand. However, you should apply such techniques only to points that you would like to emphasize, since their overuse may rather cause an adverse effect.

Example of Creative Font Use

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Example of Effective Chart Use



6. When you do not know what to do when time is running out

You should utilize and refer to the **"Checklist for the Preparation of an Application Form"** published on **the website of the Research Promotion Division of the University**^{*8} while you are preparing your application. This checklist covers required matters, allowing you to complete your application documents in an efficient manner by following the points described in it when preparing the documents.

*8 <https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/kensui-top/3jsps/#f6>



【QR】

(The following is a reference website)

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science: <http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-pd/>