



Writing Seminar for DC1/DC2 student fellowship Telling Your Research Story Effectively

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What is a DC1/DC2 Fellowship?

JSPS's **DC1/DC2 Fellowship** is one of the most popular funding source for both Japanese/Foreign PhD students in Japan.



Research Fellowship for Young Scientists

However, some information is only provided in Japanese...



Today's Aim: Filling the info gap between Japanese & English

"Huge gap" in the quantity of information available





Today's Agenda

Practical Guide of DC1/DC2 Fellowships

1. Basic info and application process

2. Evaluation System of DC1/DC2

3. Preparing an Effective Proposal



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[Basics] Available funding for Japanese/Foreign PhD students

-ellowships

Students in ALL Universities DC1 (JSPS)

for prospective PhD students

DC2 (JSPS)

for enrolled PhD students

Students in Certain universities **SPRING** (59 universities)

for **prospective and enrolled** PhD students

Contact univ. admin

MEXT Fellowship (47 universities) for **prospective and enrolled** PhD students

Contact univ. admin

Scholarships

Students in ALL

Universities

Governmental (MEXT, JASSO)

Regional/Foundational

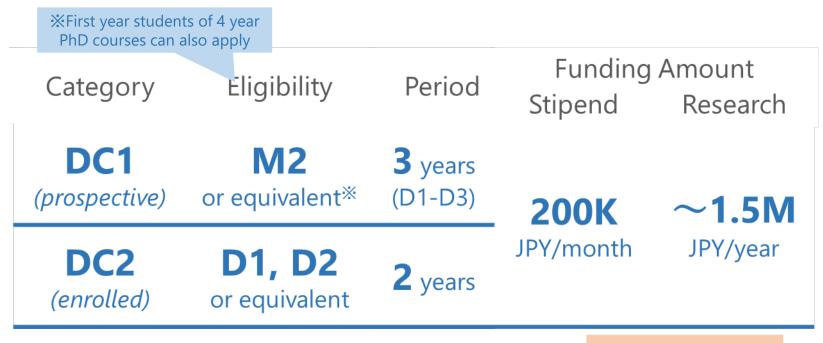
check "Study in Japan"



https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/



DC1/DC2 provide funding for most/part of your doctoral course



Start Preparing!

JSPS Deadline: Jun 2* 2022 for fellowship from Apr 2023

*Contact univ. admin for the "Internal Deadline" at your university!

[NOTE] Government scholarship recipients (MEXT etc.) must forfeit their scholarship when selected.

Some universities provide tuition exemptions for DC1/DC2 fellowship recipients upon request.



Success rates are approx. 20% for both DC1 & DC2

Category	Applicants	FY2021 Adoption	Number of Foreigners
DC1 (prospective)	<i>≒3,500</i>	731 20.4%	59
DC2 (enrolled)	<i>≒5,500</i>	1,132 19.8%	122

Substantial number of foreign students have been adopted



Application needs to be made via the E-registration system

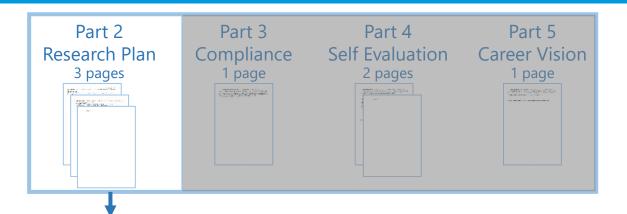
To start, contact univ. admin for

ID/password

 internal deadline Seek **ONLY** in OK in OK in Contact your assistance boss ASAP! **English English Japanese** Part 3 Supervisor's Part 2 Part 4 Part 5 Part 1 **Evaluation** Research Plan Self Evaluation **Career Vision** Compliance **Applicant Info Form** NAME OF STREET 3 pages 1 page 2 pages 1 page Web form Web form $Word \rightarrow PDF$ Admin check **E-Registration** (電子申請) system https://www-shinsei.jsps.go.jp/index2.html (in Japanese)



What you need to write for each part (see appendix for instruction details)



2. Research Plan

1. Positioning of Research (1 page)

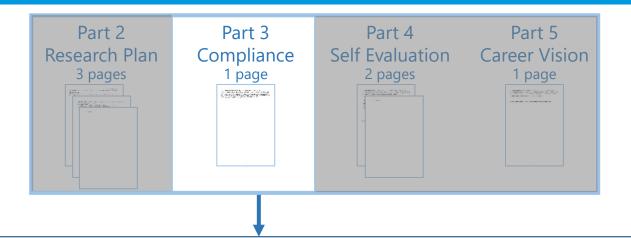
- ✓ Background of research
- ✓ Problem/Circumstance in your research field

2. Research purpose and content (2 pages)

- ✓ Research Plan (objective, methods, contents)
- ✓ What will be elucidated
- ✓ Characteristics and originality of the project
- ✓ Other notes (part of lab's research, other place of research)



What you need to write for each part (see appendix for instruction details)

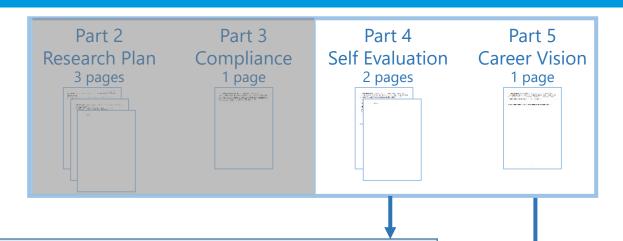


3. Protection of human rights, compliance w/ laws & regulations

- ✓ Guidelines etc. which you need to incorporate
- ✓ Measures and actions to be taken



What you need to write for each part (see appendix for instruction details)



4. Self Evaluation of Research Conductivity

- ✓ Your research strength
- ✓ Factors necessary for further development

5. Image of the researcher you aim to be

- ✓ Future Image (and abilities you need to acquire)
- ✓ Positioning/direction of research during fellowship



Summary of the DC1/DC2 fellowships

Fellowship Overview	 Eligible to both Japanese & Foreigners Support starts from Apr 2023 Success rate is approx. 20% JSPS Deadline is Jun 2 (check internal deadline) 	
Application Process	 Submit via E-Application (電子申請) system Seek support from univ. admin & boss Univ. admin finalizes your application 	
Application Format	 Basic Info (in Japanese) Your proposal Supervisor's Evaluation Form 	[Part 1] [Part 2-5]



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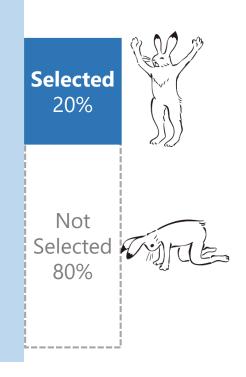
3. Preparing an Effective Proposal



What is the evaluation process for DC1/DC2?

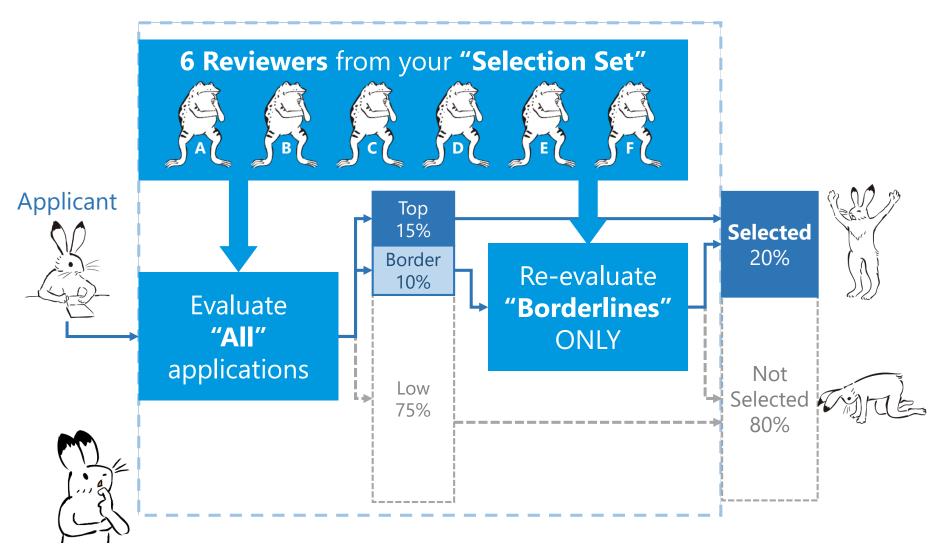


Evaluation Process



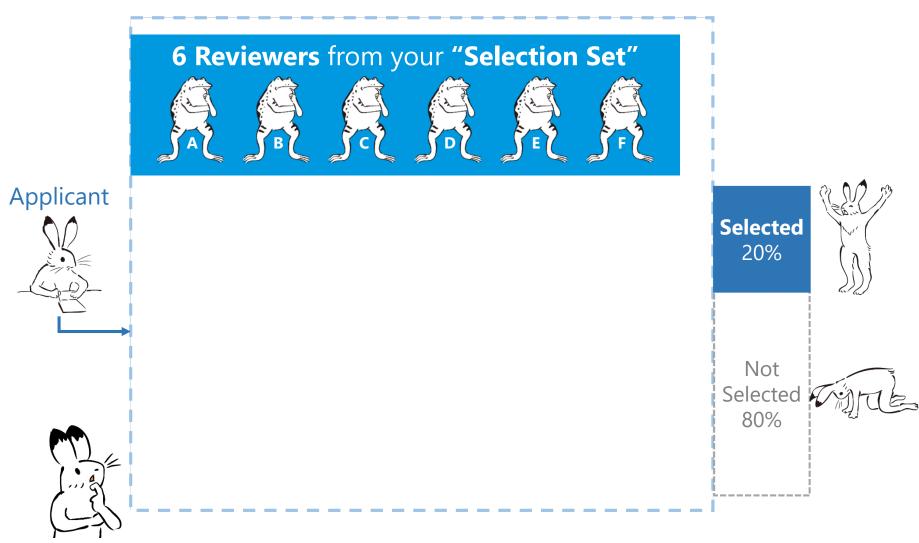


DC1/DC2 applicants are evaluated by 6 reviewers in 2 stages





Reviewers: Researchers selected from the "Selection Set"

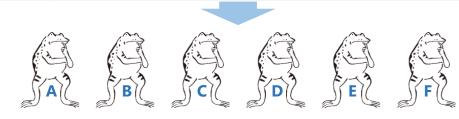


"Selection Set" consists of 56 sets (each covering broad research field)

Selection Set is in Japanese, ask your colleague for help Reviewers are experts who may not be of "your" field



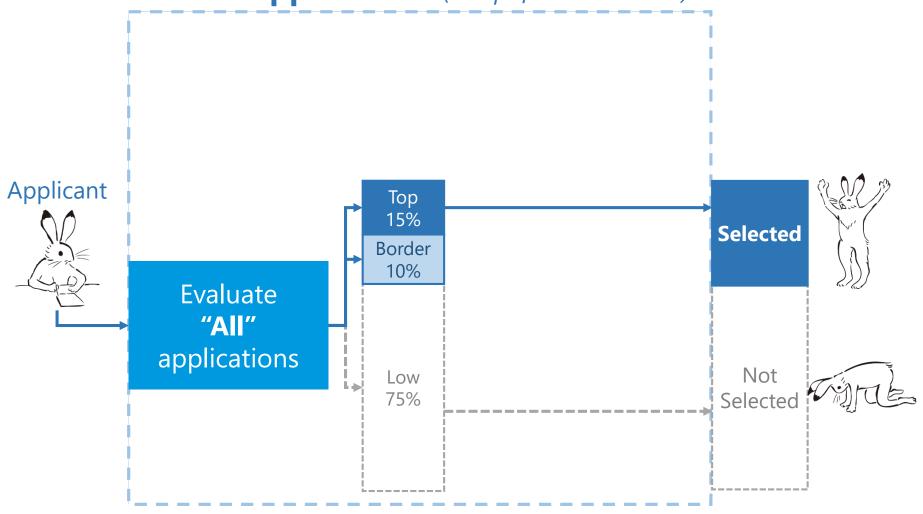
	Set 9: Materials engineering and related fields		
	26010	Metallic material properties-related	
	26020	Inorganic materials and properties-related	
	26030	Composite materials and interfaces-related	
26040 Structura		Structural materials and functional materials-related	
	26050	0 Material processing and microstructure control-related	
	26060	Metals production and resources production-related	





1st Stage: All Applications are evaluated







Evaluation policy: Idea/originality of the plan & your potential

[審查方針]

特別研究員-DC1、特別研究員-DC2

- ① 自身の研究課題設定に至る背景が示されており、かつその着想が優れていること。また、研究の方法にオリジナリティがあり、自身の研究課題の今後の展望が示されていること。
- ② 学術の将来を担う優れた研究者となることが十分期待できること。



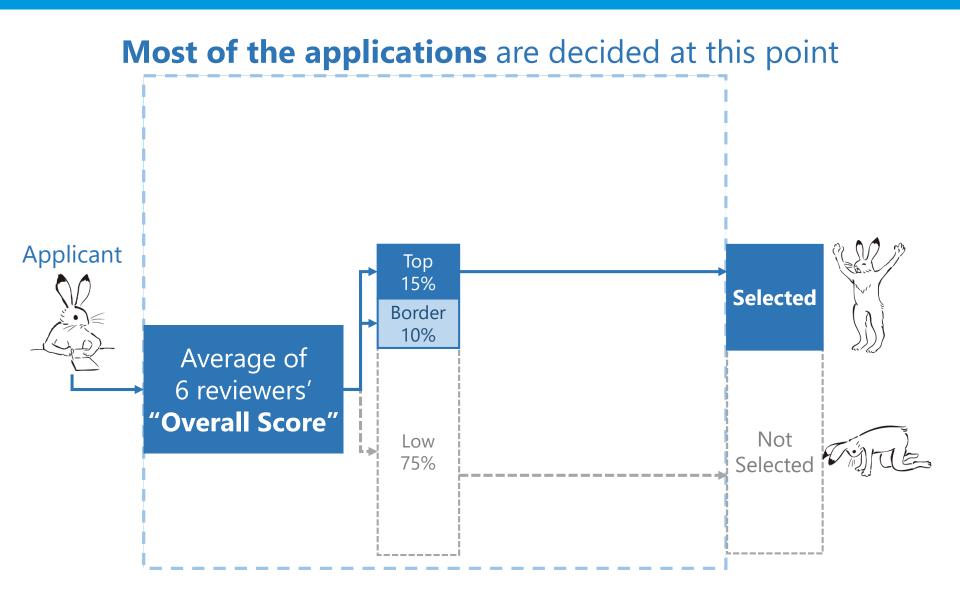
Rough translation

Evaluation Policy

- (1) The applicant's research proposal should show the **background** that led to the formulation of the research topic, and the **excellence of the idea** behind it. In addition, the **originality** of the research method, and the **future prospects** of the research topic should be indicated.
- (2) The applicant should show the **potential** of becoming an outstanding researcher who will play a **leading role** in the future of academia.



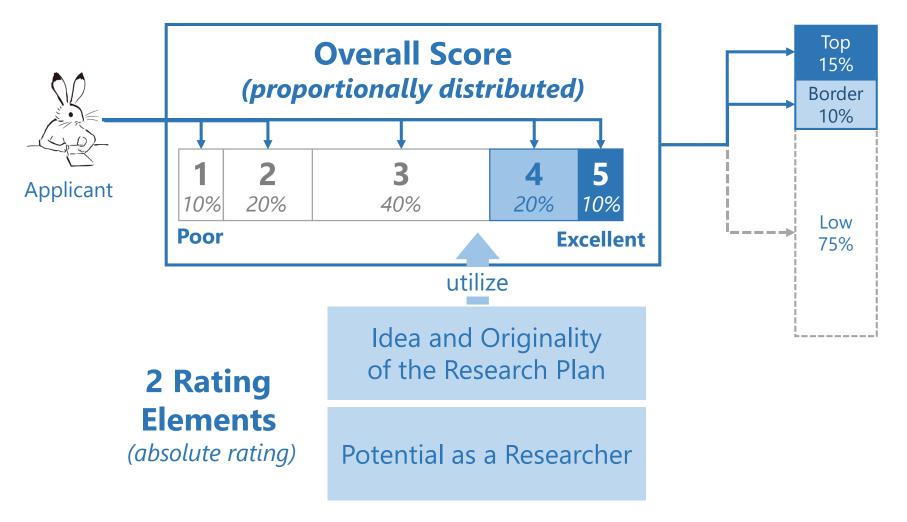
1st Stage: Applications are sorted by "Overall Score"





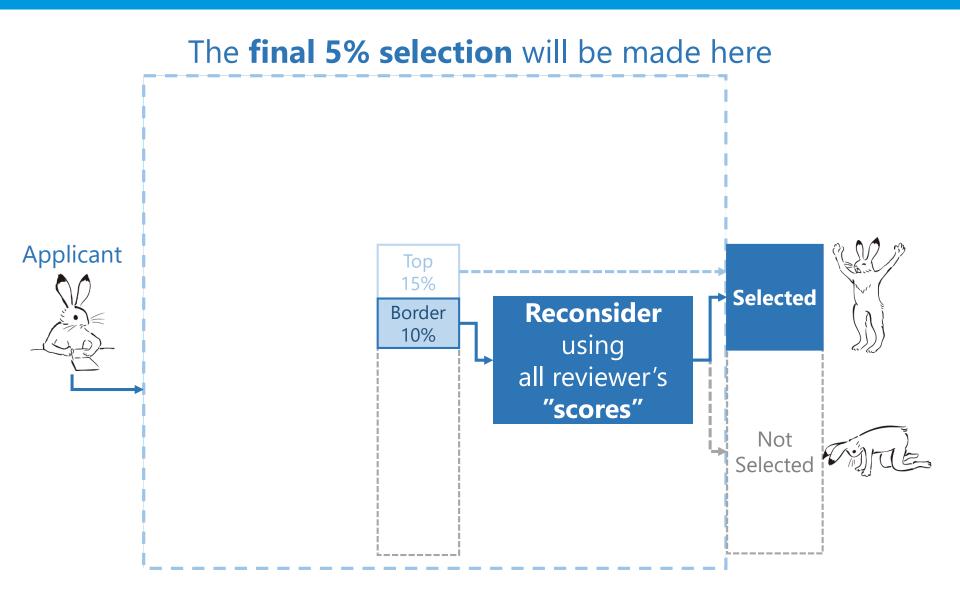
Each reviewer provides Overall Score & 2 Rating Elements

Average of 6 Reviewers' "Overall Score" is used for selection





In 2nd Stage, only the "Border-lines" are re-evaluated





Summary of evaluation systems

Proposal	4 partsResearch PlanComplianceSelf EvaluationCareer Vision	Make sure to explain in easy-to-understand story & language!	
Reviewers	6 Reviewers from 56 Selection Sets Reviewers may not be experts of your field -		
Frankrich (2 stage evaluation Most are decided in 1 st stage (1 chance) -		
Evaluation	 Overall Score+2 Rating Elements Idea & Originality of Plan Potential as a researcher 		



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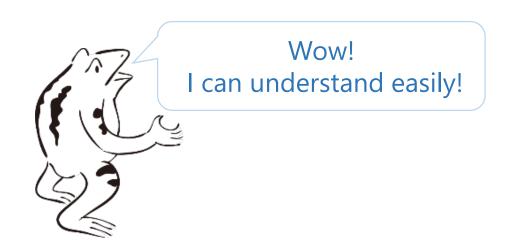
3. Preparing an Effective Proposal



Preparing an Effective Proposal: Effective storytelling

Effective Storytelling

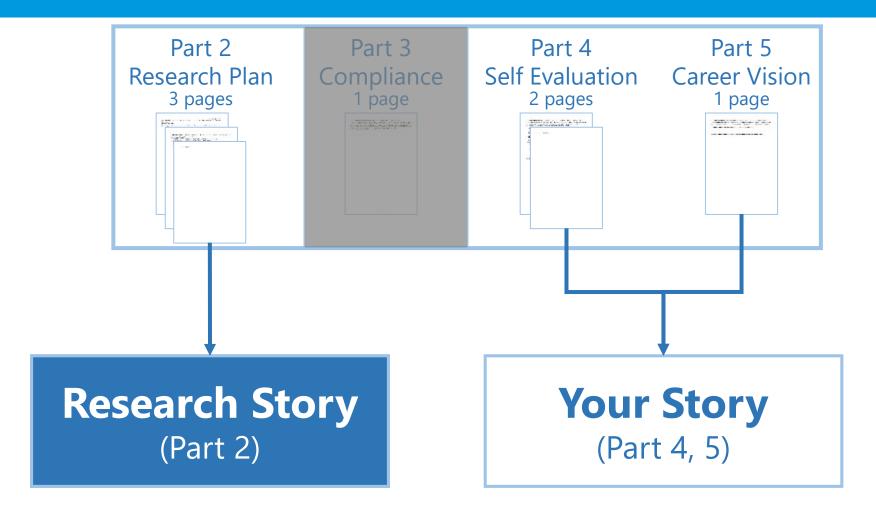
helps reviewer to resonate with your story



Develop your storyline before writing!



You need to explain 2 stories: Research Story & Your Story





Storytelling: What must be fulfilled in a research plan?



Your point of view



You need a reviewer's point of view!

Rabbit Icons: https://chojugiga.com/



Storytelling: You need to understand the reviewer's point of view





Reviewer

Your point of view

Specific Problem
that you want to tackle

Your Solution
(Unique & solid)

Reviewer's point of view

Idea and Originality of the Research Plan

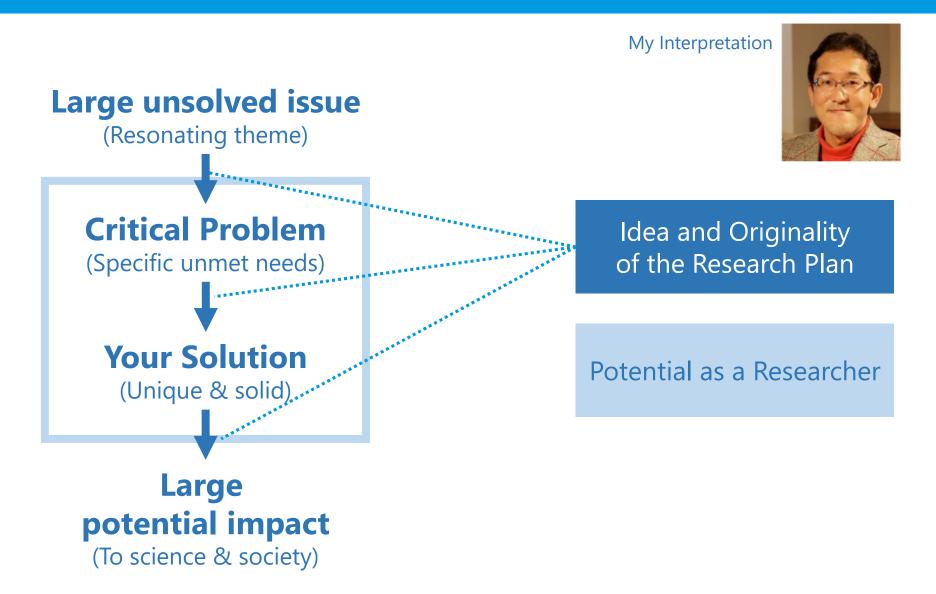
Potential as a Researcher

You need to satisfy both components!

Rabbit & Frog Icons: https://chojugiga.com/

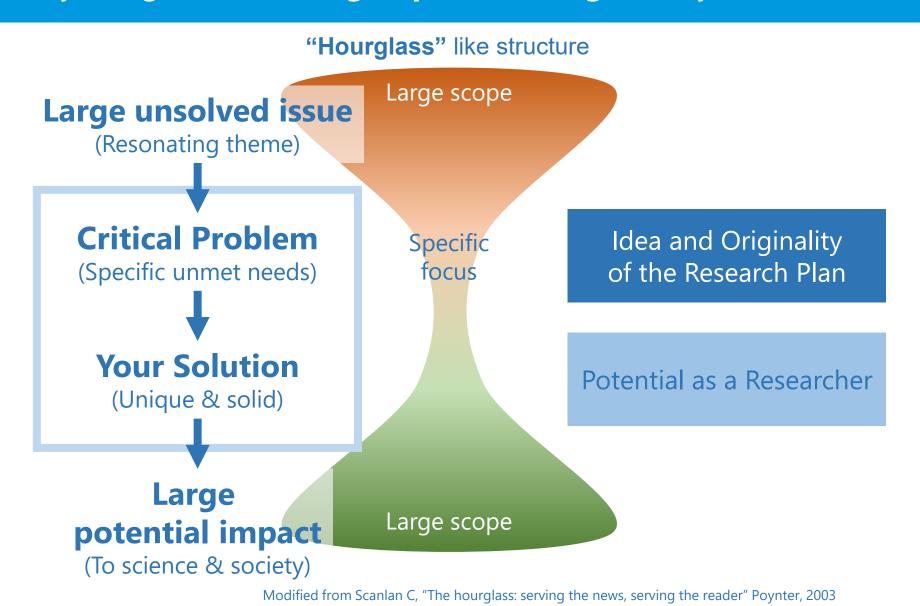


Idea and originality: Is your research story worth listening?





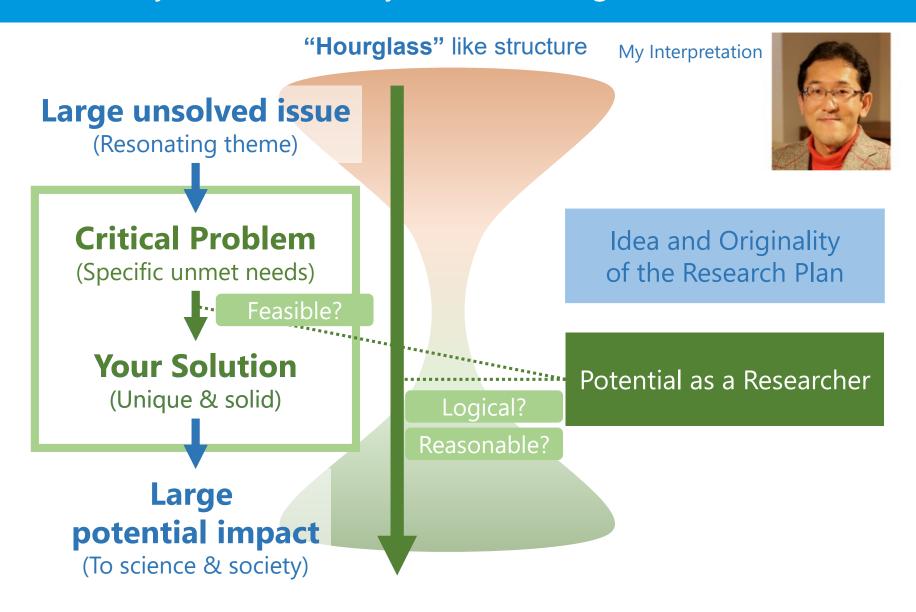
Storytelling: Use the "Large-Specified-Large" storyline structure





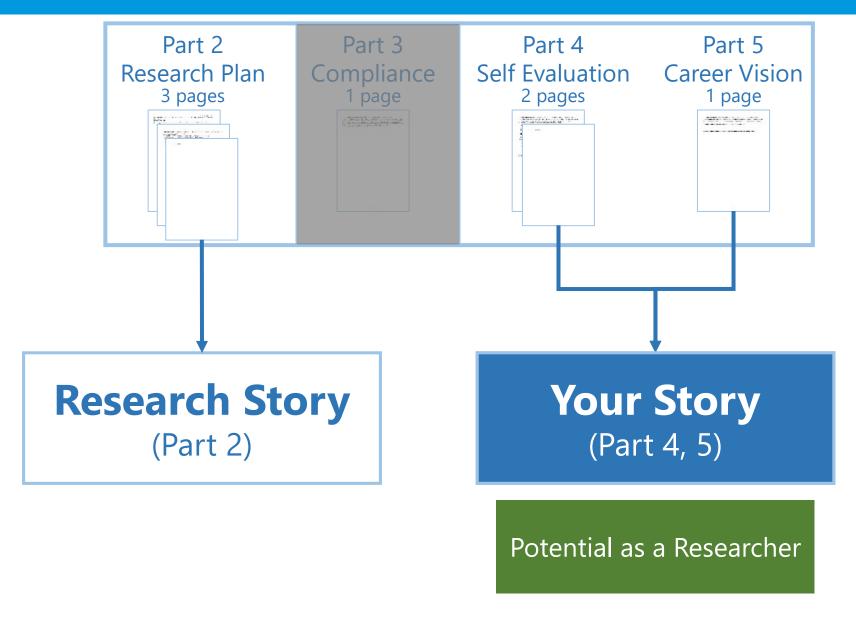
31

Potential: Is your research story feasible and logical?





You need to explain 2 stories: Research Story & Your Story





Your Researcher Potential: Example of a Reviewer's checkpoint

How will you develop your career as a independent researcher?

Comments from Dr. Satoshi Horike WPI-iCeMS Kyoto University



Are these 5 factors answered in the proposal?

- 1. Understanding your own & lacking abilities
- 2. Overcoming pathways to acquire the lacking abilities
- 3. Mindset of an independent researcher
- 4. Hypothesis building and feasible/logical process
- 5. Contribution to science and research from outcome



JSPS expects reviewers to focus on potential over achievements

You need not worry about publication records too much

審査委員に求められるもの(審査にあたって特に留意いただきたい点)

- 我が国の学術研究の将来を担う創造性に富んだ研究者の養成・確保という特別研究員制度の趣旨を踏まえ、申請者の研究者としての資質、将来性を重視した審査
- 申請者の業績(論文等)のみに偏った評価とならないよう留意
- ・ 研究者養成の視点からの公正な審査



Rough translation

Expectations to the reviewers (points to pay special attention to)

- Based on the purpose of the fellowship program to foster and secure innovative researchers who will lead the future of academic research in Japan, we request the reviewers to **focus on the quality and the potential as a researcher.**
- We request for a **evaluation that is not biased toward achievements.** (publications etc.)
- We request for a fair review from the perspective of fostering researchers.



Useful tips in preparing an effective proposal

Tip #1: Grant Writing is different from Academic Writing

Tip #2: Use an Outline Framework

Tip #3: Use "Easy-to-understand Format & Language"

Tip #4: Use the header (& the first sentence) effectively

Tip #5: Prepare "diagrams" to visualize your plan

Tip #6: Obtain Third Person's View via Feedback



Tip #1: Grant Writing is different from Paper Writing

What you need to convey is different

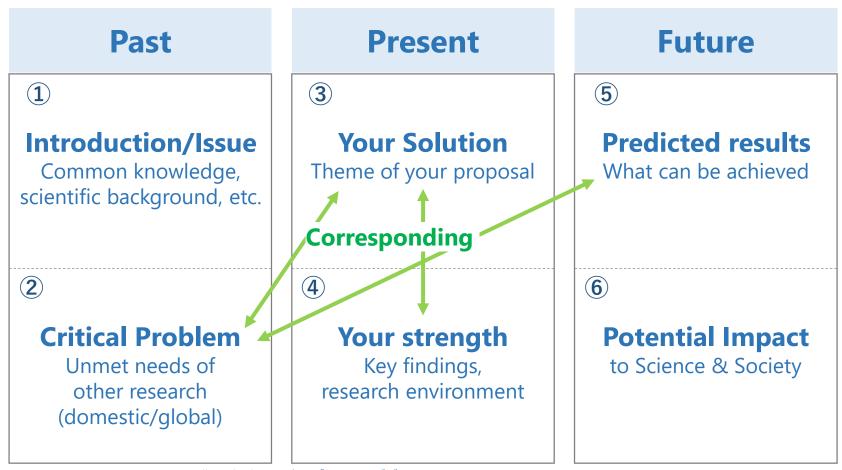
Paper Writing	VS	Grant Writing
Past oriented Work that has been done		Future oriented Work that should be done
Theme-centered Theory and thesis		Project-centered Objectives and activities
Few length constraints Verbosity rewarded		Strict length constraints Brevity rewarded
Specialized terminology "Insider jargon"		Accessible Language Easily understood

Modified from Porter R, "Why Academics Have a Hard Time Writing Good Grant Proposals" The Journal of Research Administration, vol 38, 2, 2007

In Grant Writing, you need to sell "your future plan"

Tip #2: Use an outline framework

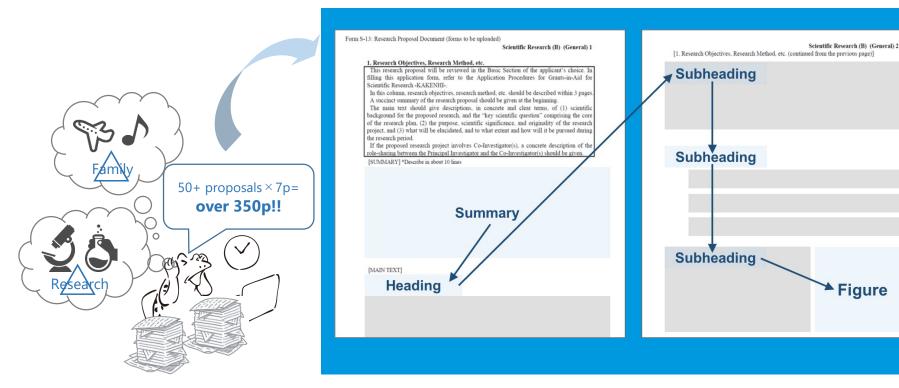
Sample of an Outline Framework



Modified from Ono E, "科研費研究計画調書のグラフィックデザイン" K-CONNEX Seminar, 2017

Check to see if you have "every component" in your story

Tip #3: Use "Easy-to-understand Format & Language"





Hey! It's easy to follow!

Modified from Ogawa T, "My experience as a reviewer" KAKENHI Preparation in Advance, 2018

Figure

Frog Icons: https://chojugiga.com/

Effective placement of summary, headers and figures will guide reviewers' eyes in capturing your story

Tip #4: Use the header (& the first sentence) effectively

Sample of an "Research Method" paragraph

So, What's the point here?



FEM Simulation of Mechanical Loads on the Lower Thighs

It is known that correct seating posture can be analyzed by measuring the stresses of the lower thighs on the seat surface. Finite element method (FEM) is known to be a powerful tool for the stress analysis of complex structure. We will analyze the tress distribution of the lower thighs for different seat height using the original simulation program based on FEM. The simulation result will be used to determine the optimal seat for correct seating posture.

I see what you want to find!



Optimization of seat height using FEM simulation

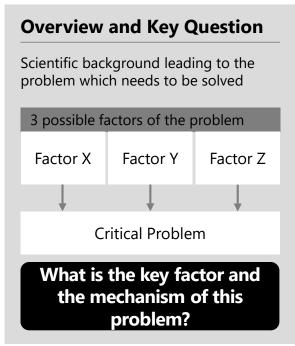
To determine the optimal seat height, we will simulate the stress distribution of the lower thighs at different seat heights using an originally developed simulation program using finite element analysis methods (FEM). First, we will...

Good header shows the "key message" which the reviewers can "easily envision"

Tip #5: Prepare "diagrams" to visualize your plan

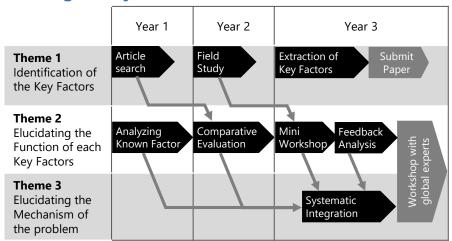
Let the visual image explain for you

e.g. Project overview



Make sure to prepare them in grayscale!

e.g. Project timeline



Modified from Ono E, "科研費研究計画調書のグラフィックデザイン", 2019 https://ashbi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/wp-

content/uploads/sites/4/2019/11/ASHBi KAKENHI2019 02-Ono.pdf



Wow! I can understand instantly!

Frog Icons: https://chojugiga.com/

Visualizing your storyline will enable reviewers to capture the story at a glance

Tip #6: Obtain Third Person's View via Feedback

Check to see how much of your proposal is understood by others



Having others check your document is important to avoid your story to become ego-centric

Acknowledgements

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Tadashi Ogawa

Spyros Goulas

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Hiromi Inoue

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Satoshi Horike

IIMC, Kyoto University

Eiri Ono





Research Promotion Division, Kyoto University







ASHBi Research Acceleration Unit



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Ex-Business Startup Specialist

DATA VISUALIZATION



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SCIENTIFIC PAPER WRITING



Spyros GoulasScientific Advisor/Lecturer *Ex-Researcher & Journal Editor*

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Tomoki ShimizuScientific Communicator/Lecturer *Ex-Public Information Officer*







Coming up **Events**

June 2022

First Seminar from a Series on 'Successfully Publishing Scientific Papers'



Spyros GoulasScience Advisor *Ex-Researcher & Journal Editor*

Summer-Autumn 2022

'Sharing your Research with the World'



Tomoki ShimizuScientific Communicator *Ex-Institutional Public Information Officer*



Hiromi Inoue
Research Coordinator
Ex-Researcher & Lab Manager



Appendix 1 DC1/DC2 Application Form



Instructions for [Part 2] Research Plan



(DC 申請内容ファイル)

- **2. 【研究計画】**※適宜概念図を用いるなどして、わかりやすく記入してください。なお、本項目は1頁に収めてください。様式の変更・ 追加は不可。
- (1) 研究の位置づけ

特別研究員として取り組む研究の位置づけについて、当該分野の状況や課題等の背景、並びに本研究計画の着想に至った経緯も含めて記入 してください。

2. **Research Plan page1**

Fill out the form in an **easy-to-understand manner**, using **conceptual diagrams** as appropriate. This section must be prepared **within one page** and **NO Format changes or additions** are permitted.

(1) Positioning of the research

Describe the **position of the research** to be conducted as a fellow, including the **background and problems** in the research field, and the circumstances that led to the idea of this research plan.



Instructions for [Part 2] Research Plan (contd.)



【研究計画】(続き)※適宜概念図を用いるなどして、わかりやすく記入してください。なお、各事項の字数制限はありませんが、全 体で2頁に収めてください。様式の変更・追加は不可。

(2) 研究目的・内容等

- ① 特別研究員として取り組む研究計画における研究目的、研究方法、研究内容について記入してください。
- ② どのような計画で、何を、どこまで明らかにしようとするのか、具体的に記入してください。
- ③ 研究の特色・独創的な点(先行研究等との比較、本研究の完成時に予想されるインパクト、将来の見通し等)にも触れて記入してください。
- ④ 研究計画が所属研究室としての研究活動の一部と位置づけられる場合は申請者が担当する部分を明らかにしてください。
- ⑤ 研究計画の期間中に受入研究機関と異なる研究機関(外国の研究機関等を含む。)において研究に従事することも計画している場合は、 具体的に記入してください。

2. **(Research Plan page 2&3)**

Fill out the form in an **easy-to-understand manner**, using **conceptual diagrams** as appropriate. This section must be prepared **within two pages** and **NO Format changes or additions** are permitted.

(2) Research purpose and content, etc.

- 1) Describe the **research objectives, research method, and research content** of the research plan to be conducted as a fellow.
- 2) Describe in detail about what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period.
- 3) Describe the **characteristics and originality** of the research project (in comparison with previous research, expected impact upon completion of this research, future prospects, etc.).
- 4) If the research plan is <u>positioned</u> as <u>part of the research activities of the applicant's laboratory</u>, clarify the **part** which the applicant is responsible for.
- 5) If the applicant is planning to <u>conduct research</u> at a <u>different research institution</u> from the host institution (including foreign institution, etc.) then provide **specific details**.



Instructions for [Part 3] Compliance



3. 人権の保護及び法令等の遵守への対応 ※本項目は1頁に収めてください。様式の変更・追加は不可。

本欄には、「2.研究計画」を遂行するにあたって、相手方の同意・協力を必要とする研究、個人情報の取り扱いの配慮を必要とする研究、 生命倫理・安全対策に対する取組を必要とする研究など指針・法令等(国際共同研究を行う国・地域の指針・法令等を含む)に基づく手続が 必要な研究が含まれている場合、講じる対策と措置を記入してください。

例えば、個人情報を伴うアンケート調査・インタビュー調査、行動調査(個人履歴・映像を含む)、国内外の文化遺産の調査等、提供を受けた試料の使用、侵襲性を伴う研究、ヒト遺伝子解析研究、遺伝子組換え実験、動物実験など、研究機関内外の情報委員会や倫理委員会等における承認手続が必要となる調査・研究・実験などが対象となりますので手続の状況も具体的に記入してください。

なお、該当しない場合には、その旨記入してください。

3. [Protection of human rights, compliance with laws and regulations]

This section must be prepared within one page and NO Format changes or additions are permitted.

This column should be filled in if the **research requires procedures based on guidelines**, **laws**, **etc**. (including the guidelines, laws, etc. of the country or region where the international joint research is to be conducted) in order to carry out the "2. Research Plan", describe the **measures and actions to be taken**. These include research that requires the consent and cooperation of the other party, research that requires consideration of the handling of personal information, or research that requires bioethics and safety measures (including those of countries and regions where international joint research is conducted),

For example, surveys/research/experiments will require approval procedures by information committees or ethics committees inside or outside the research institution needs to have the necessary procedures written. These research may include questionnaire surveys/interview surveys involving personal information, behavioral surveys (including personal histories and images), surveys of domestic and international cultural heritage, use of provided samples, research involving invasiveness, human genetic analysis research, genetic recombination experiments, and animal experiments.

If this part is not applicable in your research, indicate so.



Instructions for [Part 4] Self Evaluation



4. 【研究遂行力の自己分析】 ※各事項の字数制限はありませんが、全体で2頁に収めてください。様式の変更・追加は不可。 本申請書記載の研究計画を含め、当該分野における(1)「研究に関する自身の強み」及び(2)「今後研究者として更なる発展のため必要と考えている要素」のそれぞれについて、これまで携わった研究活動における経験などを踏まえ、具体的に記入してください。

4. [Self Evaluation of Research Conductivity]

This section must be prepared within two pages and NO Format changes or additions are permitted.

In addition to the research plan described in this application form, describe (1) "Your research strengths" and (2) "Factors you consider necessary for further development as a researcher" based on your experience in the research activities you have been involved.

Describe your research strengths, including the results of your past research activities (e.g., publications) that provide evidences to your description.



Instructions for [Part 5] Career Vision



5. 【目指す研究者像等】※各事項の字数制限はありませんが、全体で1頁に収めてください。様式の変更・追加は不可 日本学術振興会特別研究員制度は、我が国の学術研究の将来を担う創造性に富んだ研究者の養成・確保に資することを目的としています。 この目的に鑑み、(1)「目指す研究者像」、(2)「目指す研究者像に向けて特別研究員の採用期間中に行う研究活動の位置づけ」を記入してく ださい。

5. [Image of the researcher you aim to be]

This section must be prepared within one page and NO Format changes or additions are permitted.

The purpose of the JSPS Research Fellowship is to foster and secure the highly creative researchers who will lead the future academic research in Japan. In light of this purpose, provide (1) "the image of the researcher you are aiming to be" and (2) "the research positioning toward the researcher image you are aiming to be during the period of Research Fellow".

In your description, also describe the **qualities you need to acquire** in becoming the researcher you are aiming to be.



Appendix 2 Other useful information for DC1/DC2



Q&A page provides beneficial information for application

JSPS offers "Q&A page" to answer the FAQs of the fellowship applicants https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-pd/pd_ga.html

Q&A for Fellows under FY2022 Research Fellowships for Young Scientists 1. Eligibility Eligibility 2. Screening Prospects 3. Fellowship Tenure Q1-1 When applying for a JSPS PD fellowship, why will I only be eligible within a certain number of years after obtaining my PhD? 4. Stipends A1-1 The purpose of this fellowship program is to support young researches at the initial stage of their careers. 5. Application Forms Support is focused on young researchers just after they obtain their doctorates. Accordingly, an eligibility 6. Screening Process requirement is placed on the number of years after obtaining a PhD. Q1-2 I have ever adopted as a JSPS Research Fellow for Young Scientists. Can I make an application again? A1-2 A DC-Fellow alumni can apply for a PD fellowship, but is not able to apply for a DC fellowship again. In the same manner, A PD-Fellow alumni cannot apply for a PD fellowship again. Q1-3 I was adopted as a DC-Fellow at first, but during the fellowship tenure, my program categories of the Fellowship had to be changed to PD-Fellow by obtaining doctoral degree. May I apply for a Research Fellowship as a PD-Fellow? A1-3 It depends on your type of status of residence in Japan. If you were either a Japanese citizen or a foreigner with permanent residency in Japan, you would be eligible to apply for the Fellowship again. If not, you shouldn't. A person with a doctorate degree who have neither Japanese citizenship nor permanent residency might be able to apply for a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/efellow/index.html). Q1-4 I am currently not affiliated with any research institutions. Am I eligible to apply for a Research Fellowship? A1-4 Yes. As for both PD and DC fellowships, it is necessary to satisfy the eligibility requirements stipulated in the Application Guidelines, as of April 1 when the fellowship tenure starts. So that you can make an application without regard to any affiliations at the time of application. Regarding application procedure, PD and DC2 fellowship applicants are required to submit their application forms and files through their prospective host institutions (the institution at the same time to which the host researcher is affiliated), and as for DC1 applicants, they are required to submit them through the graduate school in Japan they are now attending or attended as master course students. However, as for DC1 applicants who are currently being enrolled or were enrolled in overseas graduate school, it is through the prospective host

institution in Japan that they should submit applications.



Before writing, know what is expected for each part

Following information were given as important notes from JSPS

【研究計画】欄

「研究の位置づけ」の記入にあたっては、自身の研究計画だけでなく、当該分 野の状況や課題等の背景、当該研究計画の着想に至った経緯も含めて記入

【研究遂行力の自己分析】欄

- 我が国の学術研究の将来を担う創造性に富んだ研究者の養成・確保という特別研究員制度の趣旨を踏まえ、自身を十分に分析して「研究に関する自身の強み」等を記入
- その際、「研究業績」を記入する場合は、単なる成果物(論文等)の列挙のみとするのではなく、それらも踏まえた自身の強み等を記入

「令和5年度採用分特別研究員募集・審査に係る主な変更点と留意点」, JSPS

https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-pd/data/pd_setsumeikai/henkoten.pdf

Part 2. Research Plan

Rough translation

Describe the **position of the research** to be conducted as a fellow, including the **background and problems in the research field**, and the **circumstances that led to the idea** of this research plan.

Part 4. Self Evaluation of Research Conductivity

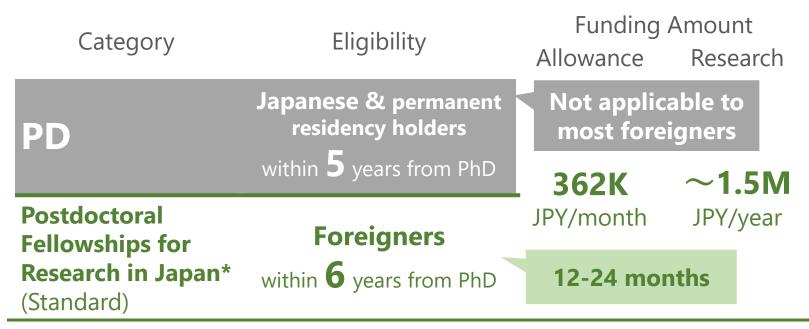
- Based on the purpose of the JSPS Research Fellowship to foster and secure the highly creative researchers who will lead the future academic research in Japan, analyze yourself thoroughly when writing "your research strengths".
- When writing your "research achievements", do not simply list your achievements (publications, etc.), but also write your strengths using these achievements as evidences.

Appendix 3 JSPS Fellowships for Postdocs



JSPS fellowships for Foreign Postdocs

For foreign postdocs, JSPS provides special fellowships



For more details, check https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-ippan/index.html

*Application must be made from host lab (boss) since this program is originally designed for Japanese labs to invite foreign postdocs from overseas

Application Deadline

May 6 (2 chances) early-Sep

