

Bilateral Japanese-Swiss Science and Technology Program

YOUNG RESEARCHERS' EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN JAPAN AND SWITZERLAND 2020

I. General Description

I-1. Scheme for the Exchange of Young Researchers between Japan and Switzerland

Japan has been listed as a priority country for bilateral relations in science and technology in the Swiss confederation's dispatch on education, research and innovation in 2008. In the same year, the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) commissioned ETH Zurich as the Leading House (LH) for its bilateral collaboration with Japan on recommendation by the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities.

After a first successful phase from 2008-2012 with a program for joint research projects between Switzerland and Japan, the Swiss bilateral programs with partner countries entered a new funding phase from 2013-2016. The Leading Houses were charged with a strategizing function as well as with a budget for smaller funding and exchange instruments. ETH Zurich has been using these funds to set up a joint exchange program for young researchers with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The function of ETH Zurich as a Leading House and the program with Japan continue also for the third funding phase 2017-2020.

I-2. Aim of the Program and Research Field

The main purpose of the exchange program is to foster and facilitate the direct exchange between Japanese and Swiss research groups and to enable the mobility of young researchers such as PhD students. With stays in a partner research group in Japan or Switzerland, respectively, the researchers will be motivated to spend part of their later scientific career abroad while they are at the same time given the chance to learn a new technique or use some infrastructure directly relevant to their current research project.

The program will fund research stays for a duration of 3 to 6 months and is open to all scientific fields including social sciences and humanities.

I-3. Prospective Applicants

ETH Zurich as the Leading House of the program invites PhD students (with justification also Master students and postdocs are accepted) currently working in research groups at Swiss Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences or Research Institutes to submit their application for a research stay in a Japanese group. At the same time, Japanese young researchers can apply to JSPS for a stay in Switzerland.

Please observe:

Applicants with Japanese nationality cannot be considered for stays in Japan.

In addition, students/researchers who have already been selected under JSPS's Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers (i.e., Standard, Short-term for North American and European Researchers) are not eligible for this program.

Host researchers in Japan must be employed full-time or classified as employed full-time at one of the following institutions:

- 1) Universities and inter-University research institutes
- 2) Organizations under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Education and Science (MEXT) that carry out scientific research
- 3) Other organizations designated by the Minister of Education and Science

For a list of eligible institutions see:

https://www.jps.go.jp/j-summer/data/list_of_host_institutes_2020.pdf

II. Financial Support by JSPS/ETH Zurich

Likely, 7-10 fellowships can be financed within this Call from each side, depending on the duration of the individual research stays. JSPS will cover fellowships to Swiss researchers; the Swiss side will cover fellowships to Japanese researchers through ETH Zurich.

Budget for Swiss Researchers going to Japan (JSPS)

JSPS will provide the following support to Swiss fellows:

- Maintenance allowance: 220,000 JPY a month to both PhD holders and non-holders
- International air ticket
- Overseas travel insurance

The duration of the stay in Japan (3 to max. 6 months) has to be indicated in the application form.

The exact starting date needs to be indicated in the application form.

Budget for Japanese Researchers in Switzerland

The Swiss side of the program through ETH Zurich will support the Japanese fellows with a monthly allowance of CHF 2500 and an international air ticket.

III. Application

The Swiss applicants will have to submit their application to ETH Zurich. The application must be written in English.

The application shall include the following parts in one single pdf document:

- a) Completed application form including a project description and details about the host institution and the length of the planned stay in Japan.
- b) Supporting letter from the Swiss supervisor.
- c) Acceptance letter from the Japanese host researcher.

For Japanese applicants the regulations of JSPS apply.

Submission of Application

Deadline for proposals: **30 June 2020**

Swiss applicants should send applications as **one single pdf document** to Elise Nardin by email: elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch with Lucia Arpagaus in copy lucia.arpagaus@sl.ethz.ch

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

IV-1. Evaluation Procedure and time schedule

Experts in Switzerland will evaluate the Swiss applications. Based on the experts' grading ETH Zurich in its Leading House function will make a nomination of candidates to JSPS by early September 2020. JSPS will make a final selection, and decisions will be communicated to the candidates by ETH Zurich in October. Candidates can start their stay in Japan from mid-December 2020 onwards and they must start before 31 March 2021 at the latest.

Candidates must note that the tenure on monthly basis is counted by JSPS as follows: If a candidate starts the fellowship on 15 December 2020 for a 3-month tenure, it will end on 14 March 2021. If they start a fellowship on 1 January 2021 for a 3-month tenure, it will end on 31 March 2021.

IV-2. Evaluation Criteria

- Conformity with Program Aims
- Suitability of candidate and Japanese host researcher for the proposed project
- Benefit of proposed exchange for cooperation between Japan and Switzerland, synergies between the two involved research groups (previous contacts between the groups are considered an advantage)
- Scientific excellence of the proposed project

V. Responsibilities of Research Leaders of Approved Proposals

Final Report:

After completion of the period of international research exchange, the fellows shall promptly submit a final scientific report to JSPS and ETH Zurich in accordance with the forms provided.

More information:

<https://www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/global/funding-opportunities/swiss-bilateral-programmes/Mobility.html>

<https://www.jps.go.jp/english/e-fellow-sp/index.html>

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