

Overview of Research Fellowship

Promoting International Collaboration

As a joint initiative of the Japan Association for Mathematical Sciences and the Mathematical Society of Japan (MSJ), the Research Fellowship for Promoting International Collaboration was launched in 2025. This program is designed to support young and active members of MSJ by enabling them to engage in collaborative projects with researchers abroad. Each year, four fellows are selected, and each receives a research grant for a period of two years. The list of selected fellows will be announced at the MSJ Spring Meeting. Please note that, starting in 2026, the application deadline has been moved earlier to allow for this announcement at the Spring Meeting. We welcome applications from young researchers, along with their research plans.

Historically, research in modern mathematics in Japan began with the importation of foreign mathematics, but it has since grown into a major force, producing top researchers who lead the field on the global stage. It is noteworthy that many leading Japanese mathematicians have spent time abroad, where they encountered the diversity of mathematics and developed their own unique theories. While Japanese mathematics has developed in this way, there are concerns that young mathematicians today may be somewhat passive in seeking out such encounters with mathematical diversity. At the same time, it is also true that the current research environment does not always provide young researchers with sufficient opportunities to engage directly with mathematics internationally.

In light of this situation, the MSJ, with the support of the Japan Association for Mathematical Sciences, has established this program to enable young members to go abroad and experience mathematics worldwide. Discussions between the two organizations confirmed the need for a system that encourages young researchers to study abroad, and this program was created in response. At its core lies the strong hope that the next generation of mathematicians will open up new horizons and discover new worlds.

Although spending time abroad is invaluable—especially for experiencing firsthand an atmosphere that cannot otherwise be felt—new communication technologies have also made remote collaboration increasingly effective. Since collaborative research now takes many forms, this program has been designed with flexibility regarding the style of collaboration.

The above is a message to young researchers, but we are also aware that many members of the Society play an important role in advising them. If you know someone who may be a suitable candidate for this fellowship, we would greatly appreciate it if you could keep the application period in mind, encourage them, and give them a supportive push.

(*Note) The research grant will be 600,000 yen per year in 2025, and 1,000,000 yen per year from 2026 onward.

Application Guidelines

Research Fellowship Promoting International Collaboration, The Mathematical Society of Japan for the 2026-2027 Academic Year

Purpose

This fellowship aims to provide financial support for aspirational young researchers of the Mathematical Society of Japan (MSJ) who continue research under difficult circumstances. Those who wish to conduct their own research at a research institution outside Japan or joint research with researchers affiliated with research institutions outside Japan are considered for the position.

Outlines

- A recipient will be awarded 1,000,000 JPY per year during the period for two years beginning on April 1, 2026.
- The number of fellowship awarded is up to four per year.
- Recipients are required to talk at either the MSJ Spring Meeting or the MSJ Autumn Meeting to present their research results during the period of their fellowships. MSJ will cover the expenses for domestic travel only once per year.
- Recipients are required to submit a research report at the end of each academic year during the period of their fellowships.

Eligibility

An applicant must satisfy the following requirements:

- An applicant must be a member of MSJ as of April 1, 2026
- An applicant must have a doctoral degree and shall have held the degree not more than seven years as of April 1, 2026 that is, received between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2026. An applicant who is considered to have been in hiatus in their research activities due to childbirth and childcare shall have held the degree not more than ten years as of April 1, 2026 that is, received between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2026.
- An applicant must have a solid plan to conduct their own research at a research institution outside Japan or joint research with researchers affiliated with research institutions outside Japan.

Number to be Appointed

Up to four per year

Duration

From April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028

Application Procedures and Period

Application Documents

Download the following three forms from MSJ's website.

- Form 1 : Application Form
- Form 2 : Letter of recommendation by a researcher affiliated with an institution **outside Japan**.
- Form 3: Letter of recommendation by a researcher affiliated with an institution **in Japan**. ***OPTIONAL**

*Form 2 and 3 must be signed by the recommender in their own handwriting.

Submission of Forms

All the application forms must be in PDF format and submitted as attachments to an email to the email address in “Contact” below.

Application period

From 10:00 a.m. on September 1, 2025 to 11:59 p.m. on December 15, 2025 (Japanese Standard Time)

Points of Attention

- Only one application per applicant will be accepted. No multiple application is allowed.
- Any applicant who is found to have made false statements in the application forms after being appointed will be deprived of the position and may be asked to return the grant.

Selection and Disclosure of Results

We will contact only selected candidates in late March after consultation within the fellowship committee. Please note that the names of the candidates will be announced on MSJ’s website and published in a volume of Sugaku Tsushin, bulletin of MSJ.

Procedures to be Followed by Appointed Candidates

- Candidates will be required to submit additional materials specified in the supporting document they will receive with a letter of appointment from MSJ.
- The fellowship will be paid annually by bank transfer to an account designated by each candidate.
- The fellowship will, in principle, be paid directly to the individual fellow. The fellowship is considered to be a miscellaneous income under the Income Tax Act of Japan and taxable. File a tax return at the tax office which governs the place of your residence if necessary. Inquiries regarding the tax return should be directed to the tax office, not to MSJ.
- If you wish the fellowship to be handled through the accounting department of your affiliated institution, please consult with the Secretariat of the Mathematical Society of Japan after the fellowship has been awarded. In principle, the grant will be transferred as a donation to the institution.

Obligations of Recipients

- During the fellowship period, recipients are, in principle, required to present their research results at least once a year at either the Annual Meeting or the Autumn Meeting of the Mathematical Society of Japan. MSJ will cover the expenses for domestic travel only once a year.
- Recipients are required to submit a research report at the end of each academic year during the period of their fellowships.
- Recipients must include an acknowledgement for the fellowship as “Research Fellowship Promoting International Collaboration, The Mathematical Society of Japan” in papers that will be published during or after the period of their fellowships.

Contact

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