

# Frequently Asked Questions: Japanese Studies Fellowship Programs

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## COVID-19

- Is the Fellowship program cancelled due to COVID-19?
  - No, it is not cancelled. JF is still operating the Fellowship program.
- Can I travel to Japan?
  - JF operates the Fellowship program in accordance with Japanese and the U.S. governments' regulations. You can monitor the [COVID-19 Information](#) from the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Japan.
  - If travel restrictions are reinstated to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we will ask awardees to postpone their research plans accordingly. Please monitor the [Embassy of Japan's webpage](#) for updates.
  - Awardees must abide by any and all safety and quarantine procedures mandated by the central and municipal government of Japan, the JF, and all other relevant bodies.

## Eligibility

- What kinds of research does JF support? Has JF supported research similar to mine in the past?
  - The Japanese Studies Fellowship programs only support research projects in fields of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Projects in other areas, such as Natural Sciences and Medicine are ineligible.

- For examples of eligible research topics, please see our [Past Awardees](#).
- My research compares Japan to other region(s). Am I eligible?
  - Yes, JF welcomes comparative research. As long as a significant portion of your project deals with Japan, then you are eligible to apply.
  - JF can only support research in Japan and will only award benefits in Japanese Yen, while the Fellow is in Japan. Fellows are individually responsible for expenses related to travel and research in other countries.
- I am a citizen of another country studying in the U.S. Am I eligible?
  - The JF New York application is only open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.
  - Citizens with dual U.S. citizenship are welcome to apply via JF New York. If you are not sure which country's branch office you should apply through, please get in touch with us at [ny\\_jf\\_fellowship@jpf.go.jp](mailto:ny_jf_fellowship@jpf.go.jp).
  - If you are a citizen or permanent resident of another country studying in the U.S., please apply via our [JF's Tokyo Headquarters](#) using a different form. Note that the deadline and submission requirements may be different, so please read the instructions carefully.
- I am a U.S. citizen studying/working at a foreign university. Am I eligible?
  - Yes, U.S. citizens and permanent residents may apply via JF New York. Please review the [Guidelines](#) and submit your materials online.
  - If you have citizenship or permanent residency in the country where you are currently residing, please apply via JF's Tokyo Headquarters. Note, the Tokyo program uses different application forms and has a separate deadline from the New York program.
- We are working on a joint research project. Can we apply as a group?
  - No, JF only supports individuals and cannot support group research projects.
  - Participants may apply separately, and each participant's application will be screened independent of other group member(s).
- I plan to travel frequently between Japan, the U.S. and/or other countries. Can JF divide my Fellowship into multiple terms?
  - In principle, the Fellowship only supports continuous research in Japan. The Fellowship cannot be divided into terms.
  - If awarded, permission to travel outside of Japan must be requested in advance. Permission is only granted in certain cases (e.g. academic conference), and stipend benefits may be suspended while the Fellow is outside of Japan.

- JF will only cover initial arrival and final departure airfare. The Fellow is responsible for any other travel expenses during the Fellowship period.
- [Doctoral Fellowship] I am a student in Japan. Can JF support my tuition?
  - JF Fellowships only support visiting researchers in Japan. Students enrolled in a degree-granting program at a Japanese university are ineligible.

## Application Materials

- How do I apply?
  - First, read the [Guidelines](#).
  - Then, apply online via [SurveyMonkey Apply](#).
  - Please be sure that you are following the guidelines and application procedures from our New York office's [website](#), which are different from those on our Tokyo Headquarters' website.
- When is the deadline?
  - The deadline for 2024-25 Fellowship is **11:59 PM EST on Friday, December 1, 2023**.
  - **All application *and* recommender materials must be received by the deadline.**
- I would like to submit extra materials: my JLPT score, a fourth letter of recommendation, a second letter of affiliation, etc.
  - In the interest of fairness to all candidates, JF cannot accept supplementary application materials. Any additional materials that are submitted will not be screened by our committee.
- My travel plans might change in the next several months. Can I change my arrival date after submitting the application?
  - Yes, if awarded you may request to change the start date of your Fellowship period.
  - Your Fellowship period must begin between June 15, 2024 - March 15, 2025, as stated in the [Guidelines](#).
  - Depending on the request, the Fellowship period may be shortened. Under no circumstances will the duration of the Fellowship period be extended.
- [Doctoral Fellowship] Does JF accept e-transcripts?
  - Yes, we accept either hard-copy, sealed transcripts or official e-transcripts issued directly by the institution.

- **All transcripts must be received by the application deadline.** We recommend ordering your transcript in advance to avoid costly rush fees.
- [Doctoral Fellowship] I earned a degree in a foreign country. Can I email a copy of my transcript directly to JF?
  - No, JF only accepts transcripts from international institutions that are submitted according to the issuing institution's release policies. This may be a registrar-sealed envelope, or e-transcript sent to us at [ny\\_jf\\_fellowship@jpf.go.jp](mailto:ny_jf_fellowship@jpf.go.jp)

### Letters of Recommendation, Letters of Affiliation, and Language Evaluations

- What information should my recommender/affiliate in Japan include in their letters?
  - Recommenders will see full instructions upon making an account and logging in to our application website.
  - If they have specific questions, please ask them to get in touch with JF directly at [ny\\_jf\\_fellowship@jpf.go.jp](mailto:ny_jf_fellowship@jpf.go.jp)
- Can my recommender submit a letter via Interfolio?
  - No, recommender materials must be submitted directly via our application website.
  - Letters of Recommendation should include specific comments on the proposed research project. We suggest that recommenders avoid generalized letters.
- [Doctoral Fellowship] I have not taken a formal Japanese class in years. Who should I ask to complete the language evaluation form?
  - Please ask someone who can attest to the language skills needed to successfully conduct your project, e.g. reading skills for analyzing documents, speaking skills for conducting interviews.
  - The language evaluator may be the same individual as one of your recommenders.

### Technical Difficulties

- I forgot my password. Can you reset it for me?
  - No, please follow the instructions beneath the sign-in form to reset your password.
- My recommender or affiliate never received an email prompting them to make an account. Can you resend it?
  - Please ask your recommender to whitelist jfny.org and to check their spam folder.

- If a letter-writer has difficulty with our website, JF will upload the letter on their behalf. Please ask your letter-writers to get in touch with us directly at [ny\\_jf\\_fellowship@jpf.go.jp](mailto:ny_jf_fellowship@jpf.go.jp)
- I made a typo in my recommender or affiliate's name or email address. Can you fix it?
  - We can remove the recommender and allow you to re-enter their information. We do not recommend this if the recommender already submitted their materials on your behalf.
- [Doctoral Fellowship] Can the enrollment fees be used to cover tuition expenses at my home university?
  - JF provide enrollment fee up to JPY25,000/month.

### Award Notifications

- When will the results be announced?
  - Results are announced within April each year. All applicants will be contacted by email.
- I was offered another award, but need to accept or decline it soon. Can JF notify me of the results earlier?
  - No, JF will make all award announcements at the same time and cannot announce the results earlier.
  - The JF Fellowship cannot be held concurrently with other awards. If you are offered a JF award in April but have already accepted another to cover the same time period, then you must decline the JF award.
- Why was my proposal not selected for award? Can I get feedback about my proposal?
  - Due to our limited resources, JF is forced to decline many deserving proposals each year.
  - Proposals are screened by our [American Advisory Committee](#) and The Japan Foundation. These discussions are strictly confidential, so JF does not provide feedback about applications.

If your question is not addressed here or in the [Guidelines](#), please reach us at [ny\\_jf\\_fellowship@jpf.go.jp](mailto:ny_jf_fellowship@jpf.go.jp)