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The National Science Foundation's Tokyo Regional Office periodically reports on developments in Japan that are related to the Foundation's mission. It also provides occasional reports on developments in other East Asian countries.

Tokyo Office Report Memoranda are intended to provide information for the use of NSF program officers and policy makers; they are not statements of NSF policy.

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New Japanese Research Abroad Program for Young Researchers

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Japan has established a ¥30 billion (~\$300 million) 5-year competitive fund (JFY 2009-2013) at JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) to send young Japanese researchers abroad. This is a part of the Japanese Economic Stimulus Package of JFY2009. The goal is to send 15,000 to 30,000 young academic researchers overseas during the 5-year period in order to provide them with research experience in foreign countries. (See NSF Tokyo Report Memorandum #09-03 at <http://www.nsftokyo.org/rm09-03.pdf>.) The program would also provide an excellent opportunity for U.S. researchers wishing to initiate research collaborations with Japanese researchers.

The JSPS program consists of two sub-programs:

1. **Individual Awards:** Eligible applicants must be full-time researchers of age 42 and

below, holding the rank of associate professor, assistant professor or research assistant, or their equivalents in any academic field, at Japanese research institutions that are eligible to apply for the JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research program. JSPS Doctoral/Postdoctoral Fellows are eligible to apply as well. Applications are submitted to JSPS through the administrative offices of the eligible institutions. Foreign researchers with permanent resident status in Japan are also eligible, if the aforementioned conditions are met.

The program is not intended for researchers planning to earn degrees from foreign institutions. Eligible costs include round-trip airfares and living expenses of ¥ 310,000-430,000 (~\$3,100-4,300) per month (depending on the country) for young researchers and ¥ 160,000 (~\$1,600) per month for JSPS Doctoral/Postdoctoral Fellows. The support period would be between 90 days and 12 months. This year's solicitation will provide support to 100-200 young researchers and 300-550 JSPS Doctoral/Postdoctoral Fellows.

Applications for young researchers are to be submitted through their institutions and must reach JSPS between September 14 and 16, 2009. JSPS Doctoral/Postdoctoral Fellows submit their proposals directly to JSPS with the application deadlines between August 24-28, 2009 and October 13-16, 2009. Decisions will be made in mid-October and end-November 2009, and the awardees will begin their travel to their chosen institutions overseas between January 1 and March 31, 2010. JSPS will repeat the solicitation for the same program again in JFY 2009 and eight more times between JFY2010-2012.

2. Institutional Awards: Research groups at Japanese research institutions and universities eligible to apply for the JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research program are eligible to apply for this program. A research group must have one research leader responsible for project planning, financial accounting, and project reporting to JSPS, and one administrative leader responsible for overall project administration of the award. JSPS plans to make 50-100 awards under this solicitation.

Each ¥30-100 million (~\$0.3-1 million) award will cover the entire award period (two or three years). Undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, assistants, assistant professors of age 42 and below, or their equivalents are eligible to undertake research at foreign institutions for a period of no more than one year; associate professors are not eligible to participate. Applications must be submitted by the presidents of the eligible organizations and reach JSPS between August 25 and September 25, 2009. Decisions will be announced at the end of December 2009 and successful awardees must send at least one member of the group

abroad between January 1 and March 31, 2010. JSPS intends to have two more solicitations in the period from JFY 2010 to 2013.

Details of the sub-programs are available in Japanese at

<http://www.isps.go.jp/j-wakatekojin/index.html> and <http://www.isps.go.jp/j-daikokai/index.html>.