

Kyoto University *Hakubi* Project to Foster and Support Young Researchers FAQ

● Regarding the “Call for Researcher Applicants” and “Supplementary Explanation”

[Objectives]

1. I understand that the *Hakubi* Project was initiated during AY 2009. How long will the Project continue?

→ Kyoto University hopes the project will continue indefinitely, in order to maximize on the benefits of providing such an initiative.

[Target Research Areas]

2. What academic fields are included in the target research areas?

→ All academic research fields, from the humanities to social and natural sciences.

[Eligibility]

3. I see no details concerning an age limit. Are there specific requirements regarding applicants' age?

→ No, there is no specific age limit. “young ” refers to those who are “young at heart ”. This is because the average age of researchers who assume the post of assistant professor or associate professor differs significantly, depending on academic fields.

4. I am in the third year of my doctoral program. I am expecting to receive a doctorate in March next year. Am I eligible for the project?

→ Yes. The university does not strictly define what the “researchers with a doctorate degree (or equivalent research abilities)” stipulated in the Call for Researcher Applicants entails, since that definition can vary depending on academic fields. Any individual, who believes he or she is qualified, may apply for the project.

5. I applied for the call in AY 2009, but was not selected. Can I apply again this year?

→ Yes, you can apply any number of times.

[Employment]

6. What's the difference between "associate professor" and "assistant professor" in this project?

→ Since researchers in this project are not obligated to teach any classes, the only difference, in effect, is the salary you would receive. For your reference, the following is the average age of those who were chosen for the posts in AY 2009. Please choose the post that you think would be most appropriate for your current level of experience.

Average age of Hakubi researchers in AY 2009

Associate Professor 36.9 years old

Assistant Professor 30.2 years old

7. Who determines the post of applicants: associate professor or assistant professor. How do you determine appointed researchers' period of service?

→ Applicants should determine their own posts (associate professor or assistant professor) and write down which post they desire in the application form (Proposal for Kyoto University *Hakubi* Project to Foster and Support Young Researchers, hereafter referred to as the "Proposal"). The screening committees will judge whether or not applicants are suitable for the post of their own selection. Accordingly, the university will not appoint an unsuccessful applicant for an associate professor as an assistant professor, even if he or she has sufficient ability as an assistant professor.

Please note that the period of service is not five years, but five academic years. If your term begins on April 1, 2011, it will terminate on March 31, 2016. If your term begins on October 1, 2011, it will also terminate on March 31, 2016. In the latter case, the period of your service will be four years and six months. Hence, the period of service would be determined by the date from which the successful applicant wishes to begin.

8. I don't have specific desire about my post. I can serve either as an associate professor or an assistant professor. Can I apply for both posts?

→ No, you cannot. You must select just one of these posts, considering your future career path as a researcher.

[Employment Conditions]

9. How much will the salary be?

→ The amount of your salary will be determined as stipulated in the Kyoto University Rules of Employment for Fixed-Term Program-Specific Faculty Members and in accordance with your abilities and experience (careers, research achievements, etc.). For details, please refer to the Supplementary Explanation about the Call for Researcher Applicants for Kyoto University *Hakubi* Project to Foster and Support Young Researchers.

10. Will the university provide allowances, such as term-end, commuter or extraordinary service allowances?

→ Since you will be appointed as a program-specific faculty member with a set annual salary, no separate allowances are included in the contract.

11. Will the university pay travel expenses (to Kyoto, Japan) incurred in assuming the post?

→ No, it will not.

12. I am working at another national university. If I am appointed, will my service at Kyoto University be counted in the calculation of my retirement allowance?

→ No, it will not.

13. Will it be possible for me to live in Kyoto University's apartment for faculty members?

→ It is possible, providing that there is a vacant apartment at that time.

14. Can I take childcare leave? If I do, what will be the duration of my service?

→ It is possible to take childcare leave, but the duration of your service will not be extended.

15. I took out a student loan from the Japan Student Service Organization. According to its rule, individuals who become schoolteachers or faculty members are exempted from repayment. If I am appointed as a *Hakubi* researcher, will I be exempted from repayment?

→ According to the rules of exemption up to AY 2003, individuals engaged in a project like this were exempted from repayment, since they would be working as full-time researchers, even if for a limited five years. However, as the rules were changed in AY 2004, you would be advised to confirm your situation by consulting with the Japan Student Service Organization.

16. I have been appointed a researcher of PRESTO (Precursory Research for Embryonic Science and Technology) by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Can I serve concurrently as a *Hakubi* researcher?

→ Yes, you can if you take appropriate procedures and obtain permission from the JST.

17. Can I engage in educational activities? I hope so, since this may help my research activities.

→ If you wish to, you may engage in educational activities.

[Affiliation]

18. What kind of organization is the Kyoto University Young Researcher Development Center?

→ It is a campus-wide organization to support the development of visionary researchers who will play a leading role in the future global academic community. At the Kyoto University Young Researcher Development Center, the university has established the Steering Committee, which makes decisions concerning the center's management and planning; the *Hakuraku* Council, which screens applicants for the *Hakubi* Project; and the administrative section. The Program Manager of the center will offer guidance and advice to researchers who belong to the center (*Hakubi* researchers).

[Research Funds and Facilities]

19. To obtain permission from a host research facility, who should I contact? What details should I give in describing the host facility?

→ Although selected applicants will be affiliated with the Kyoto University Young Researcher Development Center, their actual research activities shall be conducted at respective host facilities in Kyoto University's campuses. You can contact individuals of any post (chair, professor, associate professor, etc.) at such facilities so long as they hold the authority to accept you at their facility. Regarding the description of the host facility, please specify the researchers' names of the host facility. If you will not need research equipment or facilities, write down "the Kyoto University Young Researcher Development Center" in the box next to "Research Facility" and mark a check (✓) in the parentheses before "seeking permission." In that case, you would not have to write names of researchers.

20. Can I select a host facility outside Kyoto University?

→ No, you cannot. The host facility should be within Kyoto University.

21. Can I specify more than one host facility?

→ Yes, you can.

22. Can I change host facilities after being appointed?

→ Yes, you can.

23. Can I specify a host facility that I can use only for a limited period (during the period of specific programs, such as those funded by Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology, and Global COE Program)?

→ Yes, you can. When that period terminates, however, you must find another host facility.

24. Can I conduct research activities at a host facility outside Japan?

→ To foster visionary researchers who will play an essential role in the future global academic community, this project provides selected researchers with an open research environment, where they can dedicate themselves to research activities. Accordingly, researchers of this project are allowed to conduct research activities at other institutions and facilities, including those outside Japan, if this is necessary for their research activities. The researchers, however, will be appointed as faculty members of Kyoto University and will receive salaries from Kyoto University. Therefore, Kyoto University should be the primary institution of their research activities, and other institutions/facilities shall be supplementary. We hope that all researchers will be fully aware that they are faculty members of Kyoto University. In addition, researchers are strongly encouraged to work in Japan for at least the first six months or so. Moreover, appointed researchers must participate in various regular events held by the Kyoto University Young Researcher Development Center. Even if they stay outside Japan, as a general rule, they will be required to attend such regular events.

25. In screening, will it be an advantage to obtain permission from host facilities?

→ No, whether or not you have obtained permission does not affect your evaluation.

26. If I am appointed, will I be restricted from seeking financial support from competitive research funds?

→ It depends solely on the conditions of the competitive research fund. In principle, however, we encourage you to obtain such grants if this helps you to dedicate yourself to your research activities.

[Research Reports and Presentations]

27. If I am appointed, will I be evaluated during my term, or at the end of the term?

→ Researchers will not be evaluated in any form either during their terms or at the end of their terms. Researchers are, however, required to provide annual reports on their research activities, and give presentations on their research results at the end of their fixed term.

[Screening Method]

28. Do applicants working at Kyoto University or who have graduated from the university have advantage?

→ As indicated in the “Data of applicants and successful applicants in AY 2009” table (attached to the Call for Researcher Applications), all applicants will be evaluated fairly, regardless of their relationship with Kyoto University.

29. The Call for Researcher Applicants stipulates, “Priority will be given to female researchers and non-Japanese researchers if more than one researcher is judged to have equivalent abilities.” Does this mean female researchers and non-Japanese researchers have advantage?

→ Only when multiple researchers are judged to have the same abilities will priority be given to female and/or non-Japanese researchers to tip the scale.

30. If I have another important appointment at the time and date specified for an interview, will you reschedule the interview?

→ No, we hold interviews only at the specified time and date.

31. Since I don't live in Japan, will you arrange an interview via telephone?

→ No, we do not hold interviews via telephone.

32. The Call for Researcher Applicants stipulates, “The *Hakuraku* Council at the Kyoto University Young Researcher Development Center will conduct interviews (in either Japanese or English).” Can I select the language to be used?

→ No, the language to be used will be determined by judges, not applicants.

33. Will the university pay travel expenses incurred in attending interviews?

→ No, applicants must pay such expenses.

[Results of Screening]

34. I have read that results of the primary screening will be notified only to the selected applicants, who will be interviewed. In that case, it is difficult to know whether I failed in the screening, or I have passed but not yet been informed. Could you tell me when you will notify successful applicants of the results?

→ At this moment, it is difficult to tell you the exact date since we have not yet finalized our screening schedule. We will, however, release related information on our website. So if you check the site regularly, you will find relevant information.

[Documents to Submit]

35. Can I submit a book that I have written for your reference?

→ We do not accept any documents beside those specified in the Call for Researcher Applicants.

36. If I find an error in an application form that I have already submitted, can I submit another form if it is before the deadline?

→ No, as a rule, you cannot.

[Deadline]

37. Is the deadline set according to Japan time?

→ Yes, it is.

38. Will you kindly accept application forms after the deadline?

→ No, we will not accept any applications after the deadline.

39. If I find an error in an application form that I have already submitted, can I submit another form after the deadline?

→ No.

[Submission of Documents]

40. I understand that last year applicants were allowed to send documents by postal mail. This year, can't I send documents by postal mail?

→ This year, we will only accept documents by e-mail. If you send them by postal mail, your documents will not be accepted.

41. I am serving at Kyoto University. Should I send application forms through my faculty?

→ No, please send your forms to the e-mail address specified in the Call for Researcher Applicants.

[Contact Information]

42. Can I contact the university by phone?

→ No, you cannot. Please use the e-mail as stated. Do contact us well in advance of the deadline, as we are likely to receive many inquiries and may not be able to answer all the inquiries promptly.

After receiving your application forms, it will take about a week before we are able to inform you of the receipt by e-mail. So during that week, please refrain from making inquiries whether or not we have received your application. Please do inquire, however, if you do not receive an e-mail from us after one week.

[Other]

43. Do I have to attend an explanation meeting?

→ No, you are not required to. You can apply for the call without attending the meeting.

● **Regarding the Documents to Submit**

[Documents in General]

44. Do I have to sign or seal on the documents?

→ No, you are not required to.

45. Do I have to use the specified format?

→ Yes. If you don't use the specified format, your documents may not be evaluated.

46. When you evaluate my documents at the primary and secondly screenings, will you print my documents in monochrome or color?

→ If you submit data in color, we will print them in color.

47. Which language should I use, English or Japanese?

→ You can use either.

48. Can I fill in the application form using a language other than English or Japanese?

→ No, you cannot.

[Regarding the "Proposal for Kyoto University *Hakubi* Project" and "Guidelines for Preparing It"]

49. I am likely to receive a doctorate in March 2011. Can I provide this information in the box next to "Academic degree"?

→ Yes, please do so.

50. I am currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). How should I describe my present post and affiliation?

→ As for your affiliation, write the names of the section and institution/facility you are now working for. As for your post, write “a post-doctoral fellow at the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).”

51. I don't have specific desire about my post. Should I select either an associate professor or an assistant professor?

→ Yes, you should. Please consider your future career path as a researcher, and select just one of these posts. If you don't specify a desired post, your application will not be considered.

52. On the list of “branches” in research fields, there are multiple branches that are close to mine. Can I select more than one branch?

→ No. Please select one that you would consider to be the most relevant.

53. In what way will you use the information of the “Research field” filled in the Proposal?

→ When the screening committee at the Kyoto University Young Researcher Development Center examines the documents submitted by applicants, the committee members will group applicants according to their research fields. This information will be used to determine the members of the screening committee.

54. For the “Research Plan” in the “Proposal,” the directions say to “write freely about the purpose of your research, research plan & method, research site, method of publication, previous achievements, etc.” Should I describe my “previous achievements” differently from the information I provide in the “List of Academic Achievements (Papers, Books, etc.)”?

→ In the “List of Academic Achievements (Papers, Books, etc.),” simply list the papers you have written. In the “Proposal,” on the other hand, please describe in detail your academic accomplishments.