

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

FAQ

Regarding the “Call for Researcher Applicants”

[Objectives]

1. I understand that the *Hakubi* Project was initiated during AY 2009. How long will the Project continue?
- This is the fourth call for researchers for the *Hakubi* project. 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 last year, 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 this project intends researchers of this project to dedicate themselves to research activities, the only difference, in effect, is the salary you would receive. Please choose the post that you think would be most appropriate for your current level of experience.

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

→ Applicants should apply for the post of their choice (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 candidate applying for the post of associate professor, as an assistant professor, even if he or she fulfills the requirements for assistant professor. Applicants cannot change their chosen post after application.

Please note that the period of service is not five years, but five academic years. If your term begins on April 1, 2013, it will terminate on March 31, 2018. If your term begins on October 1, 2013, it will also terminate on March 31, 2018. 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 experience and future career path as a researcher. If neither of these posts are selected, you will not be evaluated.

[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 skills and experience (careers, research achievements, etc.). For details, please see the following example.

(Note that the salary shown in the example is by no means a guaranteed amount, and the actual offer may be lower.

[Example]

1. Salary

(1) Basic salary

The monthly salary will be 400,000 or higher

Typical monthly salary ranges are

Associate professors: 550,000 to 700,000 yen

Assistant professors: 400,000 to 600,000 yen

If the monthly salary is 500,000 yen, for example,

the annual salary will be 6,000,000 yen (500,000 yen x 12 months).

(2) Allowances

There will not be any of the special allowances for commuter, housing, dependents, term end, extraordinary service, etc..

2. Retirement benefits

There will not be any retirement benefits.

3. Health insurance, pension

You are to become a member of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Mutual Society of Health Insurance.

10. Please explain more specifically about the explanation, "Although the period of service is five years in principle, it will not straddle over five academic years."

→ The academic year is from April 1 to March 31 of the following year, and selected applicants will serve five academic years. For example, the term of those who start their service on a date between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013 will end on March 31, 2017; and the term for those who start on a date between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014 will end on March 31, 2018.

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

→ No, there will be no allowances.

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

→ No, the university will not pay such expenses.

13. 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.

14. 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 available at that time.

15. 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 period of the leave will not be added to the original duration of your service.

16. 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, individuals engaged in a project like this are exempted from repayment, as they will be working as full-time researchers, even if for a limited five years.

17. 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 follow requisite procedures and obtain permission from the JST.

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

→ If you feel that it is necessary to engage in these activities for your career, it is possible to do so upon consultation with your hosting research facility.

[Affiliation]

19. 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, there is a Steering Committee, which makes decisions concerning the center's management and planning; and a *Hakuraku* Council, which screens applicants for the *Hakubi* Project. The Program Manager of the center will offer guidance and advice to researchers who are affiliated with the center (*Hakubi* researchers).

[Research Funds and Facilities]

20. What is the host research facility?

→ For the *Hakubi* Project, selected applicants will be affiliated with the Kyoto University Young Researcher Development Center. However, their actual research activities shall in principle be conducted at the respective departments of Kyoto University. These departments are referred to as the host research facility. For the judgment process, whether or not the host research facility has been secured or not does not affect the outcome. However, applicants are recommended to receive permission from host research facilities in advance, for smooth research implementation after appointment.

21. 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' name(s) at the host facility, wherever possible.

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

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

23. In screening, will it be a disadvantage that I have not obtained permission from host facilities?

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

24. Can I specify more than one host facility?

→ Yes, you can. However, you are required to specify a main host facility when you are employed.

25. Can I change host facilities after being appointed?

→ Yes, you can.

26. Can I specify as host facility, one that I can only use only for a limited period (such as research bases or departments established by competitive research funds)?

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

27. 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.

28. 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]

29. 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]

30. 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.

31. 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.

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

→ No, we do not hold interviews via telephone.

33. What language will be used in the interview conducted by the Hakuraku Council, and by the President of Kyoto University or other individuals of similar standing?

→ Applicant can choose either English or Japanese based on his/her preference (convenience) in the Hakuraku Council interview. However, as the Hakubi Project is an international program, interviewing in English might be partially applied in case applicant chooses Japanese. In the interview by the President or other individuals, only English will be used.

[Results of Screening]

34. Could you tell me how you will notify applicants of the results?

→ All applicants will be notified of their results by e-mail. Although the notification date is scheduled for from the middle to the last of July, we ask for your understanding that the date can be changed depending on the schedule of screening.

[Application Method]

35. I forgot to register myself. Will I be evaluated?

→ Only after the applicant information is registered using the registration form, and the proposal is sent by e-mail, will the applicant be evaluated. The registration form is available here:

http://www.hakubi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/form/form_en.php

36. 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.

37. If I find an error in an application form that I have already submitted, can I submit another form?

→ No, as a rule, you cannot.

38. If I find an error in the information in the registration form, can I correct it?

→ No, as a rule, you cannot.

39. I have trouble in selecting items for the Research Field in the Registration Form due to the operating environment of my PC.

→ When there is something that goes wrong with application procedure, contact us via the e-mail address given as the Contact Information in the Call for Researcher Application.

[Application Deadline]

40. Is the deadline set according to Japan time?

→ Yes, it is.

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

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

[Submission of Proposals]

42. I understand that proposals should be sent by e-mail. Can't I send documents by postal mail?

→ We will only accept proposals by e-mail. If you send them by postal mail, your proposals will not be accepted.

43. 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.

[Explanation Meeting for Open Application]

44. Do I have to attend an explanation meeting?

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

45. Prior registration is required in principle to attend the explanation meeting. Can I attend the meeting without prior registration?

→ If all seats of the hall are filled by those who have registered in advance, we cannot prepare a seat for you.

[Contact Information]

46. 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 the application deadline, 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.

Regarding the Documents to Submit

[Documents in General]

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

→ No, you are not required to.

48. Do I have to use the specified format?

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

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

→ We will print them in color.

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

→ You can use either.

51. 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”]

52. I am likely to receive a doctorate in March next year. Can I provide this information in the box next to “Academic degree”?

→ Yes, please do so.

53. 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).”

54. 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.

55. On the list of research fields, there are three or more research fields that are close to mine. How should I write my research fields?

→ Even if there are three or more research fields that are close to yours, you can write only two research fields that are the most and the next most appropriate.

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

→ This is used to divide the application forms into similar groupings for the primary screening. The screening committee at the Kyoto University Young Researcher Development Center examines the documents within these groupings.

57. For the “Research Plan” in the “Proposal,” the directions say to “write freely about the purpose of your research, research plan & method, research facilities, research results, previous achievements, etc.” Should I describe my “previous achievements” in the “Research Plan” differently from the information I provide in the “Research Achievements” in the “Proposal”?

→ In the “Research Achievements,” simply list the papers you have written. In the “Research Plan,” on the other hand, please describe in detail your academic accomplishments.