

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

STA Fellowship Programme

(Postdoctoral Fellowships in Japanese National Laboratories)

Department of Science and Technology (DST), a Responsible Organization (RO) of India for STA Fellowship Programme 1998 of Science & Technology Agency (STA) of Government of Japan, invites applications from promising and qualified researchers for Postdoctoral Fellowships to conduct research at Japan's national laboratories and public research corporations (excluding universities and university-affiliated institutes). There are 8 long-term fellowships (6 months to 2 years) and 8 short-term fellowships (1-3 months) to be nominated by DST.

1. Fields of research

All fields of Science & Technology, except social sciences and humanities.

2. Fellowship tenure, date of commencement, topic and other terms

- a. The duration of long-term fellowship is 6 months to 2 years and short-term fellowship is 1-3 months.
- b. The date of commencement of fellowship should be between 1 December 1998 and 31 March 1999.
- c. The exact duration, dates and topic/field of research should be decided upon through negotiation between the candidate and the host institute.
- d. The results of research activities produced during the tenure will be subject to the regulations of the host institute.

3. Eligibility requirements

The applicant should:

- a. be an Indian citizen holding a Ph.D. degree and be affiliated to any university of research organization or industry conducting research in India. Any science or engineering discipline can be considered except military R&D;
- b. be under 35 years of age for long-term fellowship (no age limit for short-term fellowship);
- c. have finalised the plan of research work to be conducted during the fellowship tenure, with the prospective host institute and should be able to attach their consent as per Form-2 of the application format which includes signatures of the host scientist as well of head of the host institution;
- d. be of sufficient good health to pursue research activities in Japan;

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- e. have sufficient language ability to pursue research activities in Japan, Japanese language ability is preferable, but English is sufficient in most cases. With the agreement of the host research institute, other languages may suffice.
- f. be able to forward the application through proper channel of the parent institution.

4. Host Institutes in Japan

Fellows can conduct their research in Japanese National Laboratories belonging to various Government Ministries and Agencies, Non-Profit Organizations and Prefectural Research Institutes. List of such host institutes along with full address and contact numbers is provided with the application materials.

5. Fellowship awards

Fellowships include round-trip air tickets (economy class; not available for dependents) and the following allowances:

- a. Living allowance: Yen 270,000 a month.
- b. Family allowance: Yen 50,000 a month if Fellows are accompanied by one or more of dependents during their tenure.
- c. Housing: Apartments will normally be provided to awardees. The apartment floor area is 40 sqm for awardees unaccompanied by their family and 60 sqm for awardees to stay with their family in other than metropolitan areas such as Tokyo. If an awardee prefers to use a larger apartment because of the family size or otherwise, Yen 106,000 maximum per month may be paid as housing allowance; any shortfall is to be borne by the awardee, short term fellows will necessarily be requested to stay in hotels.
- d. An initial international settling-in allowance Yen 200,000 (this amount is less in the case of short stays.)
- e. An annual allowance of up to Yen 115,000 for travel within Japan related to research activities.
- f. Medical insurance (N.B: not available for dependents).

6. Assistance for Fellows

If they wish, Fellows may take advantage of the following assistance:

- a. Free Japanese language courses for fellows whose host research institutes are in Tsukuba area. Fellows where institutes are located elsewhere are entitled to reimbursement of reasonable amounts for language tuition at a private school. (N.B: not available for dependents);
- b. Since most apartments in Japan are unfurnished, basic furniture and electric appliances will be provided free of charge to fellows;
- c. Counseling on problems relating to such aspects of daily life as children's schooling, medical care and shopping, is available for Fellows living in Tsukuba area.

7. Procedure for application

There are two ways of applying for STA Fellowship programme: (i) Application through Responsible Organization (RO) and (ii) Application through Host Institute, as explained below:

7.1 Application through RO (DST)

Interested researchers/scientists from India should send a request for the application materials to DST (address given at the end), consisting a format for application and list of host institutions. The applicant should communicate with host research institutes of interest to ascertain their suitability for the applicant's area of specialization. After agreeing with the prospective host institute on the subject of research, the length of tenure and starting date for the Fellowship, the applicant should obtain from the institute a formal letter of acceptance expressing its willingness to serve as a host, in Form-2 of the application with necessary signatures of the host scientist as well as the head of the institution. Submit the completed application form and the letter of acceptance to DST. DST will then screen the applications, and send its recommendations to Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST). JST will then conduct a further screening and notify successful applicants by sending Letter of Award through JISTEC.

7.2 Application through Host Research Institute

In this, applicants should send enquiries directly to host institutes of interest. This should be done using the Form-1 in the STA Fellowship Programme brochure. The institute will screen the applicant and, if willing to pursue the application, will request him/her to send pertinent documents and information. These will then be sent along with a letter for recommendation to JST through JISTEC twice a year, usually in January and in June. JST will then conduct further screening and notify successful applicants by sending a letter of Award through JISTEC. The host research institute concerned will also be informed in this respect. Fellowship brochure for applying through this procedure also can be obtained from DST.

8. Application materials can be obtained by sending a request to the following address along with a self-addressed unstamped envelope (slightly bigger than A4 size). It should be clearly indicated in the request if the application material is being requested for applying through DST or through the host institute as per para 7 above by inscribing on the envelope 'STA Fellowships 1998-DST' for applying through DST and 'STA Fellowships 1998-HOST'.

Deadline for request of applications: 15 June 1998

Deadline for submission of applications through DST: 31 July 1998

Contact address: G Padmanabham, Principal Scientific Officer, International Division, Department of Science & Technology, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi 110 016.