

Frequently asked questions for calling for JRA

<Regarding applications>

Q1: I am a Master's / Doctoral course student. Should I contact a RIKEN PI or apply for the JRA, which one should I prioritize?

A1: The laboratory head must submit Form 1 through the system. As a result, please consult with the preferred laboratory head at RIKEN, as well as your university research instructor prior to applying to the JRA.

Q2: I am a Master's / Doctoral course student. Which category should I choose to apply for the JRA?

A2: Please consult with your preferred host laboratory head at RIKEN, as well as your university research instructor about which category you should take.

Q3: I am a Master's / Doctoral course student. My university seems to have a joint graduate school agreement with the RIKEN center. Am I eligible to apply for the JRA with the joint graduate school category?

A3: To apply for the JRA joint graduate school category, your university research instructor needs be a researcher at RIKEN. In case your university research instructor is not a researcher at RIKEN, you could apply by the joint research category or research collaboration category. Thus, please consult with your university research instructor as well as your preferred laboratory head at RIKEN regarding which category you should take.

Q4: To apply for either the joint research category or the research collaboration category, does the candidate's university laboratory, the host laboratory, or the research center of RIKEN need to complete the joint research agreement or research collaboration agreement at the time they apply to the JRA?

A4: Candidates should apply for the JRA before the agreement has been completed. However, the joint research agreement or research collaboration agreement must be signed by the hiring date as a JRA.

Q5: My preferred host laboratory and the university will have a joint research agreement or a research collaboration agreement, they have not been completed yet. Can I apply for the JRA?

A5: Yes, you will be able to apply for the JRA, however, the agreement has to be signed by

the hiring date as a JRA.

Q6: The JRA candidate is enrolled in joint graduate school, and the research instructor of the university is a RIKEN researcher. However, the candidate wishes to belong to a different laboratory other than the joint graduate school laboratory, can I apply for the JRA?

A6: Yes, the candidate's preferred laboratory head is required to prepare Form 1. The application category must be in the joint research category or research collaboration category.

Q7: The JRA candidate is enrolled in a joint graduate school, but the candidate's research instructor at graduate school is not a RIKEN researcher. Can the candidate apply for the JRA program?

A7: Please choose to apply in the joint graduate school category or the research collaboration category.

Q8: My preferred laboratory will be closed in two years. Would it be possible to change to another laboratory?

A8: You are able to change the laboratory; however, you will need to consult with the laboratory head, as well as university research instructor, regarding where you belong in the third year of the JRA program. In addition, your preferred laboratory head must confirm with the following laboratory head, and mention the next laboratory head information on form 1.

Q9: The university has a comprehensive agreement (basic agreement) with RIKEN. Can I still apply for the JRA's research collaboration category?

A9: Yes. If there is a comprehensive agreement between your university and RIKEN, you will be able to apply through the research collaboration category.

However, the agreement does not cover matters related to nondisclosure or the handling of research results. Therefore, the JRA desk suggests that you create a joint research agreement to cover these points in the future.

Please consult with the host laboratory head, as well as your university research instructor to find out which category you should apply to.

Q10: Is the competition ratio challenging?

A10: The competition ratio of the JRA program is confidential. Regardless, we encourage you to apply to the JRA program.

Q11: Would it be possible to receive the JRA salary, as well as other funding sources at the same time?

A11: It will not prevent the candidates from receiving other funding sources. However, some scholarships or funding sources prohibit receiving a second scholarship or salary. Before you apply, please confirm it with the office handling your scholarships or salary, whether you will receive a salary as well as the working conditions of the JRA. Please inform the office handling your scholarship of the following details, such as the working hours of 5 hours per day, and 25 hours per week. The monthly salary is 250,000 yen. In addition, when applying, please apply under a research topic distinctly different from those submitted to other fellowship or scholarship programs.

Q12: The entrance exam of the Doctoral course is early October, and the result will be released in early November. Can I apply for the JRA program before I receive the result?

A12: You will be able to apply for the JRA program before you receive the result. Candidates must be enrolled in the Doctoral program at a Japanese graduate school as of April 1 /October 1 in the following fiscal year.

<Regarding Forms >

Q13: Would it be possible to fill in the journal under submission in the 1. Academic journals, Form 3? Also, would it be alright to fill in the information regarding poster presentations in Form 3?

A13: No, you cannot fill in the information regarding the unapproved journal. Regarding the poster presentations, please fill in section 3. Poster Presentations of Form 3.

*After submitting the journal and getting approved, you will be able to fill in the Form 3, in that case, please ensure that it indicates “printing”. During the screening process of the application documents, we will not accept any changes or make corrections on your form, even if your journal has already been approved.

Q14: If applicable, candidates are allowed to submit representative academic papers (no more than 3 papers, excluding the Master’s thesis). I realize that only papers in which the candidate has played a major role should be submitted. However, is it possible to submit my paper as a joint author?

A14: Although candidates are allowed to submit representative papers (no more than 3 papers, excluding the Master’s thesis,) it is optional. If the candidate has played in a major role, please submit it. Furthermore, in case the candidate has played a part in the joint authorship, it is better to mention what you did in your role on Form 3.

Q15: I am currently in the first year of the doctoral course. If I am accepted as a JRA, I would start

to work in the second year of the doctoral course. How can I fill out my research plan from Line first year through Line third year on Form 4?

A15: You can fill out in the “First year” that you are in the second year of your doctoral course and in the “Second year”, fill out that you are in the third year of your doctoral course, In the Line “Third year”, you can delete it. Or you can fill out your task regarding your research before starting the JRA.

Q16: I would like to start working from October 1st. Do I have to indicate that on the application form?

A16: There is a section “Preferred Date of Employment: April 1 / October 1” in Form 4. Please ensure that you select “October 1st”.

< Regarding Required Documents >

Q17: Regarding academic records, could the digital version of the academic records issued by my university be sent to the JRA desk and not to myself. How can I submit the academic records?

A17: In principle, we want the candidate to upload the academic records by him/herself. If necessary, you may send it to jra@ml.riken.jp. Please make sure to indicate your name and your application number in the email subject line which is generated by an application system.

Q18: I have a notice of my academic records printed by the academic affairs information system. Is this transcription insufficient to submit?

A18: Please only submit the official academic records issued by the university.

< Others >

Q19: Would I be able to get some supplementary aid for my apartment rent from the JRA program?

A19: No, you cannot.

Q20: I would like to reduce my salary so I would like to work 4 days per week, not 5 days per week. Would it be possible?

A20: The JRA position works 5 days per week: Monday to Friday, 5 hours per day (you can choose one of the following shifts: 9 am to 2:50 pm, 10 am to 3:50 pm, or 11 am to 4:50 pm; lunch break, 12:00 to 12:50.)

Please note that 3 or 4 days in a workweek may be permitted under special circumstances.

Candidates requesting a 3 or 4-day workweek must specify the desired number of working days, provide a clear rationale, and present a suitable research plan aligned with this schedule on Form 4.