

2017

Leading Initiative for Excellent Young
Researchers

Application Guidelines etc.

Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT

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Leading Initiative for Excellent Young
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Application Guidelines

Description of terms

Definitions of terms related to this project are as follows.

[Tenure Track System]

Personnel system that employs researchers and teachers in a form which fulfills the following requirements in order to clarify the career paths of young researchers and teachers.

- 1) To hire through a fair and highly transparent selection method such as international public invitation
- 2) To hire for a certain period of time (approximately 5 years)
- 3) To set highly transparent tenure review procedures before the expiration of term

[Principal researchers]

Researchers or teachers who are in a stage to become active as leaders of young researchers and teachers while taking responsibility as their chief in the independent research organizations.

[Young principal researchers]

Researchers or teachers who are at the early stage of independent researchers or teachers who conduct research in an independent research environment while receiving appropriate advice from the experienced researchers.

[Mentors]

Researchers or teachers who have experience and knowledge to give extensive advice to young principal researchers so they can learn how to manage laboratories and to become the head researcher in order to acquire external funds in pursuit of undertaking the research independently.

[Cross appointment system]

A system in which researchers or teachers can engage in work under the research institutions by signing employment contracts with universities and other institutions.

1. Project Objectives

In recent years, short-term employment and job insecurity for young researchers have meant that the environment for them is conducive to neither challenging new areas of research nor to creative achievement. This has raised concern that the advance of Japan's scientific, technological and academic research cannot be sustained. In addition, low researcher mobility across industrial, academic and governmental sectors means knowledge is not transferred among researchers, making it difficult to deal with the global and rapid structural transformation of industry.

It is important, meanwhile, that universities, public research institutions, corporations and similar organizations take full responsibility to tackle career formation and development of young researchers in order to secure diversity, development and the success of human capital. The young researchers themselves must become aware of the need to carve out their own careers, enhance their own abilities, and take advantage of those abilities in a wide range of societal situations.

Against this backdrop, we conduct the *Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers (LEADER)* in order to show new career paths to young researchers who can succeed in the national-wide research institutions run by industry, academia and government, while creating a stable and independent position for young researchers that is conducive to tackling new areas of research.

2. Project outline

In this project, we will provide support to the research institutions of the industry-academia-government where the young researchers with motivation and flexibility who can develop new research areas obtain stable and independent research environments in the research institutions.

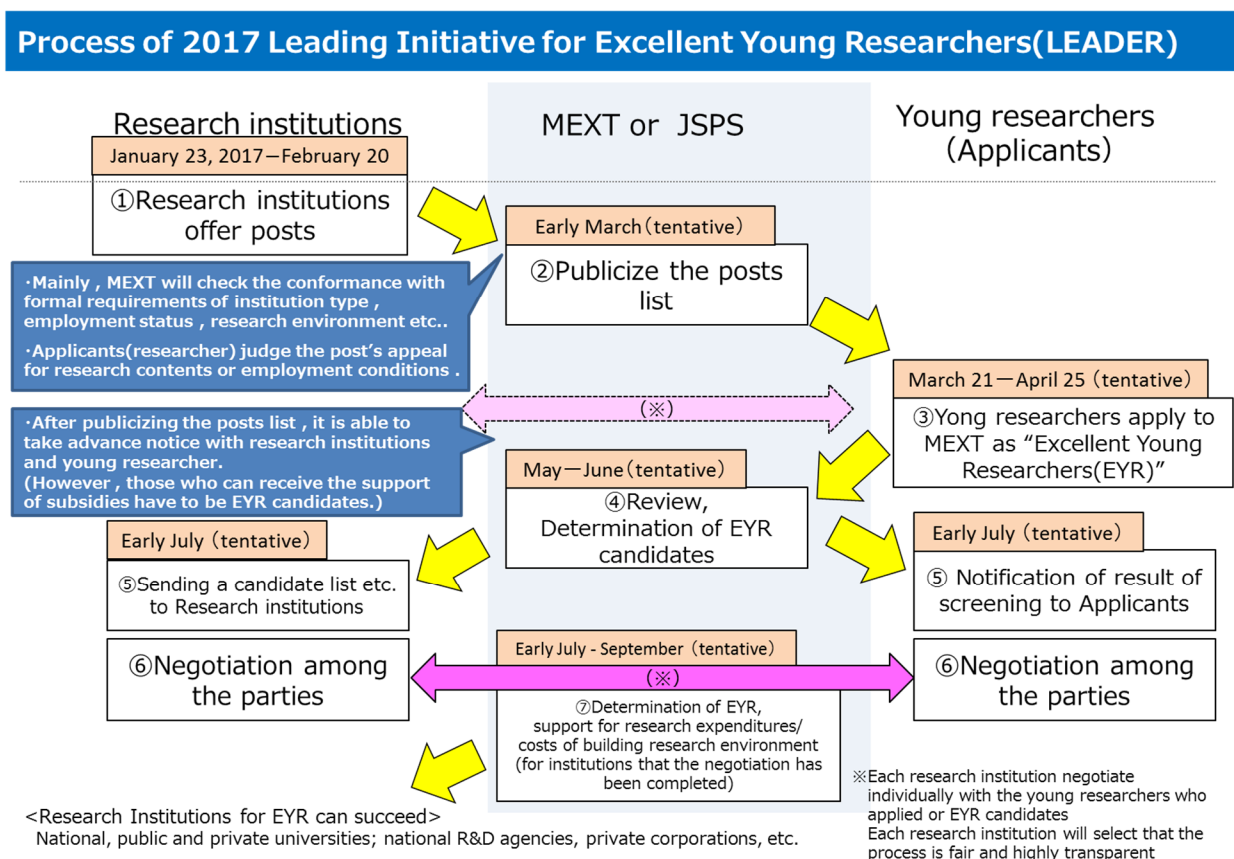
First, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) invites posts from the research institutions that wish to participate in this project, and then publicizes those posts after satisfying the requirements through the website of MEXT or a neutral public institution. At the same time, MEXT publicizes invitation for the EYR. Next, a neutral public institution conducts a review of the young research applicants based on the purpose of this project, and MEXT selects the EYR candidates. On the other hand, each research institution, presenting the published posts, negotiates individually with the EYR candidates (hereinafter referred to as “negotiation among the parties”), and as a result, when the EYR candidate obtains a stable and independent research environment in a research institution, MEXT decides the candidates as excellent young researchers. Therefore, we will provide expenses for a certain period of time as may be needed.

In the FY2017 public offering, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (hereinafter referred to as "JSPS") supports MEXT as a neutral public institution on the review of this project.

Furthermore, the establishment of a FY2017 budget allocation is a prior condition for this project. Please be aware in advance that the contents may change depending on the budget situation.

*Those who were selected as EYR candidates in the FY2016 public offering, but, employment coordination remains incomplete with the research institution that offered the posts, and the candidates for whom the research institution offered posts in FY2017 and still have an intention to negotiate with the institute, can take part in the negotiation among the parties in FY2017. MEXT will confirm the intention of the relevant persons to participate in the negotiation in FY2017 and will contact them at a later date.

Entire schedule regarding public offering in FY2017



(1) Posts requirement to be publicized

Only posts that meet the following requirements are to be publicized:

a. Requirements for research institutions

The institutions must fall under any of the following:

- Universities (prescribed in Article 1 of the School Education Act (Act No. 26 of 1947).)
However, this does not include universities determined to be incompatible as a result of the most recent evaluation by an institution authorized by the Minister of MEXT according to the provision in Article 109 of the School Education Act.
- Colleges of technology (colleges of technology prescribed in Article 1 of the School Education Act)
- Inter-University Research Institute Corporations, which are prescribed in paragraph 4, Article 2, National University Corporation Act (Act No. 112 of 2008).
- National Research and Development Agencies, which are prescribed in paragraph 3, Article 2 of the Act on General Rules for Independent Administrative Agencies (Act No. 103 of 1999).
- Public Research and Development Institutes
- Companies incorporated in Japan etc. (engaged in research and development activities)

b. Areas of research of posts to be publicized

Areas of research are all areas of humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

So, the posts to be publicized shall be based on the future plans of the institution under the leadership of the institute director (e.g.: a president of university) and satisfy any form of employment shown below. In principle, an annual salary system is applied to the pay structure.

- Employment is to be carried out under the tenure-tracking system or another similar fair, transparent, and stable personnel system. Furthermore, a research institution that applies a certain fixed-term employment system setting a limitation on the number of reappointment to all higher ranking positions (equivalent to professors) can employ a person in the post according to regulations, etc. formulated/published by research institutions.
- Indefinite-term employment.

c. Research environment

- 1) Build an independent research environment so that EYRs can set their own research themes by themselves and carry out the research. (e.g. placement of mentors, provide assistance for raising research funds, improve the research support system, ensure the research space, placement of shared equipment, assignment of graduate students to laboratories as chief advisors, etc.)

However, based on consultation with the research institution to which they belong, it is possible for the EYRs to change a part of their research subject.

2) Assuming total office hours per year of 100%, in principle, EYRs should spend 50% or more on making efforts to conduct research activities for 5 years after employment (within the range of 50 % or more, it is acceptable to set this to 70% or 80% depending on features of a research institution).

* EYRs are expected to proactively work with research institutions of industry-academia-government all over Japan in their respective fields. Furthermore, it is also desirable for the EYRs to actively utilize the cross appointment system in research institutions (especially, assuming different kinds of institutions such as university or company).

<Reference>

- Basic framework and notes on the cross appointment systems (December 26, 2014, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Higher Education Bureau) (particularly, “Section 2-3, Recommended examples of cross appointment system based on temporary transfer”)
(URL <http://www.meti.go.jp/press/2014/12/20141226004/20141226004.html>)
- Guideline to strengthen joint research through industrial-academic-government cooperation (November 30, 2016, Secretariat of the Council for industry-academia-government cooperation to promote innovation) (specifically, “2. (4) (4-1) Promotion of the cross appointment system”)
(URL: http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/28/12/1380114.htm)

d. Negotiation among the parties

In this project, when each research institution, presenting the published posts, negotiates individually with the young researchers or EYR candidates and they can obtain a stable and independent research environment in each research institution, we will provide expenses described in 2. (5) below, as necessary.

After publicizing the post list (scheduled for early March, 2017), each research institution can contact from the researchers who plan to apply, and can contact with them (hereinafter referred to as “advance notice”) even before the selection of EYR candidates. Each research institution should be careful not to decide employment informally before the end of the application deadline as specified in 4. (2) (ii) below.

Each research institution shall fill in the necessary information including the necessity of advance notice and the outline of selection process and schedule in the application form (Research Institution Form 2). On this occasion, each research institution should take steps to make sure that the negotiation of the selection process among the parties is fair and highly transparent. After publishing the list of posts, it is also possible to update information on the selection process schedule, etc. at each research institution. It is also possible to change from a post requiring advance notice to a post not requiring advance notice before the EYR candidates are selected. (However, it is not possible to change a post from that of

optional to apost requiring advance notice, because a disadvantage might accrue to the applicant.)

Regardless of the time when each research institution can start for advance notice, the funds delivery destination described in 2. (5) below will be decided after the decision of EYR.

e. Start time of research

In principle, the start time of research in research institutions for EYR is in 2017. However, those who can receive the support of subsidies shown in 2. (5) below in 2017 have to complete the negotiation among the parties by the end of September 2017 as shown in 3. (2) below.

f. Points to be considered

- A company can set tenures, job titles/duties, etc. based on characteristics of the business for requirements in b. and c. above.
- Each research institution can make a public offering independently in parallel with presenting a post to this project, however as stated above in d, it should be careful not to decide employment informally before the end of application deadline as specified in 4. (2) (ii) below.
- Please note that as shown in “6. Points to be considered” below, having registered in the Cross-ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad), an institution seeking support such as subsidies shown in 2. (5) below must develop a system based on the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds In Research Institutions (practice standards),” (decided by the Minister of MEXT on February 15, 2007 and revised on February 18, 2014), submit "*Taisei Seibi nado Jiko Hyoka Checklist* (Self-Evaluation Checklist on System Development, etc.)", develop a system based on the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research," (decided by the Minister of MEXT on August 26, 2014) and ensure that EYRs learn research ethics.

(2) Publicize the post list

Research institutions offer post(s) based on an application form to MEXT. MEXT checks the post(s), from the viewpoint of conformance with requirements shown in 2.(1) above, lists posts that meet requirements and publicize the list through MEXT's web site or JSPS's web site. On this occasion, as for detailed information on the post(s), as a matter of principle both in Japanese and English, register the post(s) in JREC-IN Portal (<https://jrecin.jst.go.jp/seek/SeekTop>) operated by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) or disclose them on web sites of research institutions.

(3) Applicants (Researchers)

Applicants (researchers) among EYRs, who are going to be active in various research institutions of industry-academia-government, shall satisfy the following requirements.

They must meet all these requirements at the time of application.

a. Attained academic degree, etc.

Those who satisfied all requirements in 1) through 3) below:

- 1) Those who have received a doctor's degree, or those who have acquired all the predetermined credit in graduate school doctoral programs for the standard term of study or more and completed the doctoral program without having a doctoral degree (referred to as “those who completed the doctoral program without receiving a doctoral degree”)
- 2) As of April 1, 2018, those who are below 40 years (those below 43 years are accepted in the medical field, which requires clinical training)
For those who have stopped research for a total of 3 months or more due to childbirth or childcare (regardless of sex), we will consider the age requirement by about 1 to 2 years according to individual circumstances.
* In this case, enter the reason why research was suspended, due to childbirth or child-care, in the application form and submit it with an additional document certifying that reason. For details of the application procedure, please check “(vi) If you interrupt research activities for more than 3 months for childbirth or childcare” in “4. Application method (2)”.
- 3) Those who have research achievements (a doctoral dissertation can be added for a person who received a Ph. D.) in the past five years (since 2012).

b. Nationality

Those who fall under any of the following:

- 1) Those who have Japanese nationality or foreigners who have obtained permission for permanent residence
- 2) Those who have nationality of countries which have diplomatic relations with Japan (Taiwanese or Palestinian researchers are treated in accordance with this.)

c. Points to be considered

Unless due to the following unavoidable grounds, it is desirable that EYRs carry out research in a research institution other than the laboratory to which an EYR belongs to at the time of being a doctoral course student (hereinafter referred to as “Alma Mater's Laboratory”) and the laboratory to which an EYR belongs at the time of application (hereinafter referred to as “Current Laboratory”), because they are required to set a research theme independently, carry out research as a laboratory director or a quasi director and challenge a new research task, using industry-academia-government research institutes all over Japan as their field.

(Unavoidable grounds)

- It is difficult for the EYR to be engaged in researches in a laboratory other than the Alma Mater's Laboratory and the Current Laboratory due to a physical challenge, childbirth/childcare, etc.
- Purposes/contents and plans of researches make it extremely difficult to change a research laboratory to the one other than the Alma Mater's Laboratory and the Current Laboratory in the current status of researches of research institutions in Japan.

In addition, as described in 3. (2) below, those who became EYR candidates should negotiate with the parties among research institutions, which offered publicizing the post list. In addition, MEXT or JSPS send the list of the candidates, "Researcher Form 1" and "Researcher Form 1 Attached Document" to the all research institutions which presented the offered publicizing the post list after the EYR candidates are decided, applicants are required to approve that effect on the application system at the time of application.

(4) The scheduled number of excellent young researchers (EYRs)

MEXT plans to newly determine around 100 EYRs (of these, 80 will be supported through subsidies shown in 2. (5) below) in FY2017

In addition, among those who were decided as EYR candidates in FY2016 public offering and whose employment arrangement has not completed coordination with the research institution that offered listed and publicized posts in FY 2016, and the candidates who desire to negotiate with the research institution which offered listed and publicized posts in FY2017, can take part in negotiation among the parties in FY2017. However, in this case, the candidates whose employment arrangement are completed are also included in the planned number (approximately 100).

(5) Expenses eligible for the subsidy (research expenditures and costs of building research environment)

In this project, MEXT will grant the following 1) and 2) as Funds for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology (hereinafter "Funds") through JSPS to the research institutions that seek support for expenses for young researchers decided as EYRs to carry out research in a stable and independent way. Furthermore, the establishment of a budget each year is a prior condition for this project.

If the number of EYRs, who completed negotiation among parties with research institutions, greatly exceed the scheduled number of EYRs described in (4) above, we may not pay the amount of funds each research institutions has applied for (including the amount after 2018). Please be aware of this.

Furthermore, as a matter of principle, the types of available expenses are shown in Appended Tables 1 and 2.

In addition, to eliminate the excessive concentration of support in any particular research institution, the upper limit of the total funds concerning EYR to a research institution, which starts the support in 2017, is set at 100 million yen.

1) Research expenditures for EYRs

For the first 1-2 fiscal years after determination of EYRs, 6 million yen per year, as the upper limit, is provided per EYR to support research expenditures required to start up the research activity. For humanities and social sciences, however, the upper limit is 4 million yen per year.

2) Costs of building research environment

To build a system to enable EYRs and other young researchers to carry out research in a stable and independent way, the amount calculated by multiplying 3 million yen - in the first 1-2 fiscal years after determination of EYRs (in case of humanities and social sciences, 2 million yen a fiscal year) or 2 million yen in the following 3-5 fiscal years - by the number of EYRs belonging to a research institute, is provided as an upper limit to support costs related to the building research environment (for example, salaries for research assistants, gratuities for mentors and expenses required to purchase/repair shared research equipment, etc., and to hold a conference to evaluate EYRs).

Furthermore, when an EYR is transferred from the initial research institution, the support as described above is not provided from the following fiscal year to neither the original research institution nor the transfer destination. However, when an EYR is transferred to a post in a new list released in and after 2018, the above-mentioned support will be able to continue to be provided to the transfer destination research institute in and after the following fiscal year.

(6) Exclusion of redundant support

Please note that this project cannot offer redundant support for the same researcher if a research institute gets a support from other Funds for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology projects (“Building a Consortia for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology” project, etc.)

3. Selection of excellent young researcher (EYR) candidates and determination of EYR
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(1) Selection of EYR candidates

A review is carried out to select EYR candidates (hereinafter, the “Candidates”) by the EYR Selection Committee (hereinafter, the “Selection Committee”) established within the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. A review is conducted by the Selection Committee members through screening of the application documents (especially, Researcher Form 1 (including the Attached Document) and 2), submitted by the applicants. (Please see “2017 Review Guidelines for Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers (LEADER)” for detailed review method.)

Based on review results by the Selection Committee, MEXT determines candidates and notifies them.

(2) Determination of EYR

If the negotiation among the parties is complete by the end of September 2017 between a research institution, which offered the listed and publicized posts, and a candidate, and the employment starts in 2017, MEXT will determine the candidates for EYR for 2017.

In addition, we assume that the listed and publicized posts are filled by candidates whose negotiation will be complete from October 2017 through the end of March 2018 and that the candidates whose hiring starts in 2018 as a result of the negotiation are to be determined as EYRs. The support prescribed in 2. (5) above may be eligible for subsidies in 2018 and beyond. If candidates who did not complete the negotiations during FY2017 wish to become EYR at posts listed and publicized after FY2018, they are required to apply again to this project for the relevant fiscal year for reviewing and to be determined as EYR candidates.

4. Application method

(1) Research institution

Follow the electronic application method installed and managed by JSPS to apply for this project. Please refer to “The public information (for institutes)” in “Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers (LEADER)” on website of JSPS for any details.

Information on public offering (for institutes)

URL: http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-le/koubo_kenkyu_kikan.html

(i) Application documents

Follow the electronic application method to fill in the attached application forms (Research Institution Form 1 and 2) and submit them.

"Research Institution Form 1" is the form to enter the basic information of the research institution. Please create once as institution as a whole. "Research institution Form 2" is a form to enter detailed information on posts which should be created for each post to be presented.

* A research institution wishing to receive funds described in 2. (5) above needs to submit a “*Taisei Seibi nado Jiko Hyoka Checklist* (Self-Evaluation Checklist on System

Development, etc.)” based on “Guidelines for Managing and Auditing Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standard)” as well as this application document to: Office of Research Funding Administration, Promotion Policy Division, Research Promotion Bureau, MEXT. (See “6. Points to be considered (3)” below for details.

(ii) Application period

From 2:00 p.m., Monday, Jan. 23, 2017 to 5:00 p.m., Monday, Feb.20, 2017 (strict observance of time limits)

(iii) Submission method/submit to

To use the electronic application system, log in to the system after applying "ID / password issuance application" from the website of JSPS, prepare the application form and submit it. Details of obtaining ID /password and preparing an application form will be posted on the JSPS website, so please refer to it.

(iv) Others

- Among the posts offered by research institutions, the posts that satisfy requirements in 2. (1) above will be listed up and publicized through the websites of MEXT or JSPS.
- As for the items described in the “Research Institution Form 2,” publicize them through the JST’s JREC-IN Portal (<https://jrecin.jst.go.jp/seek/SeekTop>) or the research institution's web site, immediately after publicizing the post list as shown above. For registering in JREC-IN Portal, input items according to Reference 2.

(2) Applicants (Researchers)

Follow the electronic application method installed and managed by JSPS to apply for this project. Please refer to “The public information (for researchers) in “Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers (LEADER)” on the JSPS website for any details.

Information on public offering (for researchers)

URL: http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-le/koubo_kenkyu.html

(i) Application documents

Follow the electronic application method to fill in the attached application forms (Researcher Form 1 (including the Attached Document), 2 and 3) or to download the prescribed forms and submit them.

a. Researcher Form 1 (including attached document)

Please input necessary information using the electronic application system and submit it. For attached Form 1 (research outline), please download the prescribed form, fill in the form and register it in the electronic application system.

b. Researcher Form 2

Please download the prescribed form, prepare and register it by the electronic system.

c. Researcher Form 3 (from two evaluators)

Please request a researcher familiar with the applicant's research work (a researcher belonging to an Alma Mater's Laboratory or Current Laboratory, or other laboratory) to prepare an evaluation sheet through the electronic application system. Evaluators should prepare and submit each evaluation sheet through the ID/ password issued from the electronic application system.

(ii) Application period

From 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 21, 2017 to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2017 (strict observance of time limits)

Start date of application (March 21) may be changed.

(iii) Submission method/submit to

To use the electronic application system, log in to the system installed and managed by ISPS using the acquired ID / password after applying "ID / password issuance application," and prepare application forms and submit it. Details on obtaining ID / password and preparing an application form will be posted on the JSPS website, so please refer to it.

(iv) Notes for application documents and selection

If any content misstatement is found in an application document, the determination of an EYR may be canceled and support discontinued.

(v) Others

The load on the application system is large just before the due date. A problem may occur: for example, it takes time to send an application, or the application cannot be completed. So, please complete the application well in advance to avoid any problems.

Whole or part of information stated in application documents are disclosed to all the research institutions which offered listed and publicized posts.

We may request a person determined as a EYR candidate to submit an identity paper (a copy of a driver's license etc.) and other documents that can confirm the receiving of an academic degree such as a copy of diploma etc. at a later date. We will contact you about any details at a later date.

(vi) An interruption of research activities for more than 3 months for childbirth or childcare

Based on the application requirement a. 2) described in 2. (3) above, if you apply as a person who took time out your research activities for the reason of childbirth or childcare, write the reason of interruption in the "Researcher Form 1" when applying through an electronic

method and send the documents below certifying the grounds for childbirth / childcare by mail. (As of April 1, 2018, those who are under 40 years old (under the age of 43 for medical field, which requires clinical training) are not required to submit this documentation.)

<Documents to be submitted>

Please submit the original certificate of resident card (without the “My Number”) or a family register (or extract of family register), (the certificate documents stating names and birth dates of the applicant and his/her child). In addition, if you cannot confirm the reasons for childbirth / childcare by the resident card or family register (or extract), you may additionally be asked to submit documents such as medical certificate.

<Addressee>

5-3-1, Koji-machi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102-0083

Research Fellowship Division, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

*Sending by mail, write “LEADER application documents enclosed” on the envelope in red.

* In principle, we will not consider delivery delays or loss, therefore, send the documents by a confirmed method, such as registered mail. Please note that we cannot respond to inquiries about the arrival of documents.

<Deadline>

5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2017

As for the details on preparing the “Researcher Form1” when applying through the electronic application system, they will be posted on the JSPS website, so please refer to it.

If an error is found in the application contents and the age requirement stated in 2. (3) a. 2) above is not satisfied, the determination may be canceled, even after the determination as an EYR.

(3) If the negotiation among the parties has been completed between the research institution and the candidate:

If the negotiation among the parties has been completed between the research institution and the candidate, the institution should submit the required documents as follows:

(i) Documents to be submitted (completion report of negotiation among the parties)

Please fill in the necessary information in the attached document (Research Institution Form 3) and submit it.

(ii) Submission period

From Monday, July 24, 2017 to 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 29, 2017 (strict observance of time limits)

* Start date of the submission period is subject to be changed depending on the date when the EYR candidate is determined. Depending on the number of submission of “Research Institution Form 3,” EYRs may be determined prior to September 29, Friday 2017, based on the “Research Institution Form 3” submitted by that day. We will contact you about any other details at a later date.

In addition, when the negotiation is completed between the research institution and the candidates in the period from October 2017 to the end of March 2018, please fill out the necessary information in the document (Research Institution Form 3) and submit it. In this case, subsidy assistance may be implemented after FY2018 due to budget adjustments.

(c) Submission method

Submit documents by e-mail after converting into PDF file as per “Research Institution Form 3”. Furthermore, the submission of application documents by post, bringing in person, or FAX is not acceptable. If the submission by e-mail is difficult, please consult us.

- The subject of sent e-mail should be “[EYR determination] Institution Name.”
- Add an “institution name” to an attached file name and send the file.
- After receiving an e-mail, make a receipt notification by e-mail to a sender within the next day (excluding Saturday, Sunday, and holidays). Immediately let us know if no receipt notification reaches in one or two days after sending an e-mail.

(d) Submit to

Office of Human Resources Development for Science and Technology

E-Mail: takuetsu@mext.go.jp

5. Implementing of initiatives

(1) The research institution that has determined to accept a candidate after the selection and the negotiation among the parties shown in 3. (1) above, and wishes to receive funding support for research expenditures, etc., shown in 2. (5) above (hereinafter, the “Support Institution”), should prepare an annual plan based on application documents (for both a researcher / the research institution) and the completion report of negotiation among the parties as well as the integration of expenses responding to the plan (hereinafter, the “Plans, etc.”) and submit them to JSPS.

After JSPS checks the contents of a submitted plan, etc., JSPS may ask for amendments. We will contact you about any details at a later date.

(2) Funds are granted based on Funds payment guidelines specified separately.

(3) Support Institutions should start the calculation from the first year when an EYR is hired (the year the EYR is determined shall be the first year for starting employment), promptly prepare a result report on research activities of EYRs, etc. in each support institution in the third and fifth year (after that, every three year as far as any EYR who has belonged to the

institution within 5 years after the adoption), and submit the report to MEXT through an institution specified by MEXT.

- (4) The project will be evaluated based on the result report. The evaluation will be conducted in the following year after the submission of the report. A document screening will be conducted for review and a hearing review may be as required. A document screening and an interview will be conducted as required for review.
- (5) To promote the science and technology innovative human resources development in Japan and improve the Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers (LEADER), research activity status of the EYRs will be surveyed at the year when EYR is determined and for the subsequent 10 years. Your cooperation is appreciated. We also plan to conduct a survey for research institutions and researchers applying for this project, so we ask for your continued cooperation.

6. Points to be considered

An institution (Support Institution) seeking funding support (hereinafter referred to as “this fund”) described in 2. (5) above and the EYR hired by the institution should pay attention to the following matters (1) through (16). In addition, the other research institutions and other applicants should pay attention to the following matters (15) through (16).

(1) Execution and management of the project

Proper accounting management should be conducted for these Funds according to the “Act on Regulation of Execution of Budget Pertaining to Subsidies, etc.,” the “Order of the Act on Regulation of Execution of Budget Pertaining to Subsidies, etc.,” “Guidelines on Grant for Funds for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology,” and “Guidelines on Funds for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology.”

Clearly classify the accountings of the Funds from the others, prepare reports showing details of the income and expenditure, organize documentary evidence on income and expenditure, and save these reports and documents for five years from the year following the granting.

Furthermore, any purchase of equipment and fixtures, etc., shall be managed under due care of a prudent manager within the support period and subsequently. Funds shall be managed efficiently according to the purpose of Funds.

(2) Improvement of the system according to “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds In Research Institutions (practice standards)”

In applying for this project and carrying out research, etc., research institutions need to comply with details of “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds In Research Institutions (practice standards)” (revised in Feb. 18, 2014) (*).

Research institutions shall strive to develop a management/auditing system for research expenditures under their responsibilities and execute proper research expenditures in accordance with the marking guideline.

If results of investigation into the system development status based on the marking guideline lead MEXT to find deficiency of the system development, etc. of a research institution, we may take measures for the institution to reduce indirect expenses of all competitive funds.

* Please refer to the following web site for “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds In Research Institutions (practice standards),”

URL: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1343904.htm

(3) Submission of a “*Taisei Seibi nado Jiko Hyoka Checklist* (Self-Evaluation Checklist on System Development, etc.)” based on “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds In Research Institutions (practice standards)”

To apply for this project, research institutions need to submit “*Taisei Seibi nado Jiko Hyoka Checklist* (Self-Evaluation Checklist on System Development, etc.)” (hereinafter, the “Checklist”), which is a report stating developments of management/audit of research funds and the corresponding status based on the guideline. (An application without submitting the checklist is not accepted.)

Therefore, research institutions need to submit the Checklist to Office of Research Funding Administration, Promotion Policy Division, Research Promotion Bureau, MEXT by Monday, March 6, 2017 based on the form in the following web site by using the Cross-ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad). However, if it has already submitted the checklist on a separate occasion since September 2016, the institution does not have to submit a new one this time. Please check the following MEXT web site for details of the submission method for the Checklist.

URL: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1301688.htm

*An environment where e-Rad is available is essential for submission. A research institution that has not applied for registration in e-Rad should promptly go through the procedure. (Please exercise great caution because it usually takes about two weeks for registration. As for the detailed procedure concerning e-Rad use, check the following web site along with the detailed submission method shown in the web site above.

URL: <http://www.e-rad.go.jp/shozoku/system/index.html>

Furthermore, as the marking guideline includes the viewpoints of the “promotion of information transmission/sharing,” please show this checklist on the research institution's web site, etc., and actively transmit information.

(4) Responses to the illegal use and receipt

The following strict measures are taken against the illegal use and receipt of research funds on this project (hereinafter, the “Illegal Use, etc.”).

○Measures for the cases where the Illegal Use, etc. is detected

(i) Measures to cancel agreements, etc.

Cancel/change the decision to grant Funds to a task where the Illegal Use, etc. is detected, and ask for the return of all or part of Funds. In addition, the grant of Funds in and after the next year may not be determined.

(ii) Measures to restrict applications and participation*¹, etc.

Take measures to restrict the application to or participation in this project or give a serious warning if a researcher has made the Illegal Use of research funds on this project (including the case where a researcher conspired the Illegal Use, etc.; hereinafter the “Researcher who Has Made the Illegal Use, etc.”) and if the Illegal Use, etc. of a researcher is not recognized but the researcher failed his/her duty to be a good administrator*².

In addition, the outline of the Illegal Use, etc. of a staff responsible for other competitive funds including other ministers and incorporated administrative agencies of other ministers (a name of a researcher who made the Illegal Use, etc., project name, institution that he/she belongs to, research tasks, budget, research year, details of illegal action, etc., and details of implemented measures) may be provided.

*1 “Applications and participation” means a suggestion of and an application for a new task, and new participation in research as a joint researcher, a research task in process (ongoing task) as a principal investigator or a joint researcher.

*2 The “researcher who failed his/her duty to be a good administrator” is a researcher whose Illegal Use, etc. is not recognized but who failed his/her duty to be a good administrator.

Those for whom application is restricted due to the illegal use and receipt	Extent of illegal use	Application restriction period* ³ (from the year following the return of Funds, etc.* ⁴)
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1. Researchers who have made the Illegal Use, etc., and those who have conspired the Illegal Use, etc.;	(1) Spend Funds for private purposes for their own benefit		10 years
	(2) Other than (1)	1) It is judged that the influence on the society is large and that the maliciousness of conduct is high.	5 years
		2) Other than 1) and 3)	2-4 years
		3) It is judged that the influence on the society is small and that the maliciousness of conduct is low.	1 year
2. A researcher who acquires competitive funds through deception or other improper means, and a conspiratorial researcher			5 years
3. A researcher who was not directly involved in the Illegal Use but failed his/her duty to be a good administrator and spend Funds			Half of the application restriction period for researchers who made the Illegal Use (the upper limit is 2 years, the lower 1, and fractions omitted)

*3 In the following cases, applications and participation are not restricted and a serious warning is issued.

- In the case of 1, it is judged that the influence on the society is small and that the maliciousness of conduct is low, and the illegally used amount is small.
- In the case of 3, a researcher whose influence on the society is small and whose maliciousness of conduct is judged to be low has failed his/her duty to be a good administrator

*4 The participation is restricted in the year when Funds are returned.

(iii) Release of false cases

As a rule, MEXT publicizes illegal cases (project name, overview of the illegal case (project name, institution that a researcher belongs to, research year, details of illegal

actions, and details of implemented measures) of researchers whose application and participation are restricted due to the Illegal Use, etc. and who failed their duty to be a good administrator.

Furthermore, in “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds In Research Institutions (practice standards),” as it stipulates that a research institution should promptly publicize investigation results if the investigation finds any illegal action, thus, research institutions shall need to cope with it in accordance with the guidelines.

URL: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1364929.htm

(5) Measures against researchers whose application and participation are restricted in the competitive fund system and other support projects for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology

Suppose due to irregular use of research funds, researchers are restricted in competitive fund systems or other support projects for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology* provided by the government or incorporated agencies. Their applications and participation are also restricted in this project during the period when their applicant eligibility in such system and projects is restricted.

The competitive fund system and other Funds for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology projects include the system which starts new public offering in and after 2017. Furthermore, systems completed in or before 2016 are also included.

* Please see the following web site for the systems to be currently targeted.

URL: http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/kyoukin28_seido_ichiran.pdf

(6) Development of the system based on “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”

Research institutions are required to comply with the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (Adapted on August 26, 2014 by the Minister of MEXT; hereinafter, the “Guideline”) (*1) in applying for this project and implementing research activities.

If MEXT finds deficiencies such as underdevelopment of the system and regulations, and non-execution of research ethics education in the guided investigation of the system development status, MEXT may take measures against the relevant institutions to reduce indirect expenses of all competitive funds.

*1 Please refer to the following web site for “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research.”

URL: http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/26/08/1351568.htm

(7) Measures against misconducts in research activities

To apply for this project, each research institution is required to submit a checklist about efforts based on “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (hereinafter, the “Checklist of misconduct in research activities”). (An application without submitting this checklist of misconduct is not accepted.)

Therefore, research institutions need to submit the Checklist to the Research Funding Administration, Promotion Policy Division, Research Promotion Bureau, MEXT by Monday, March 6, 2017 based on the form in the following web site by using the Cross-ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad). However, if an institution has already submitted the checklist of misconduct in research activities on a separate occasion since July 2016, it does not have to submit a new one this time.

Please check the following MEXT web site for details of the submission method for the checklist of misconduct in research activities.

URL: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1374508.htm

*Note: Please note that the submission can be only implemented through the e-Rad. As for the detailed procedures concerning e-Red use, check the following web site.

URL: <http://www.e-rad.go.jp/shozoku/system/index.html>

(8) Measures against misconducts in research activities

If misconducts (forgery, interpolation, and theft) in research activities are found in this project, the following measures based on the guideline will be implemented:

○Measures against misconducts found in research activities

(i) Measures to cancel agreements, etc.

If any misconduct is found in activities related to research tasks of this project, it will be possible to cancel/change the decision to grant Funds, and ask for the return of all or part of Funds. In addition, some agreements may not be concluded in and after the next year.

(ii) Measures to restrict applications and participation, etc.

As shown in the following table, we will take measures to restrict application to and participation in this project against a researcher whose misconduct is found in research papers and reports, etc. and a researcher whose involvement in misconducts is not recognized but who fails to fulfill his/her duty as a good researcher responsible for the theses and report, etc. and fails to take full responsibility according to maliciousness of illegal actions and the extent of responsibilities.

In addition, when such restriction measures are taken, the information on misconducts may be provided to persons in charge of the competitive fund systems implemented by MEXT or the incorporated administrative agencies of MEXT (hereinafter “MEXT-related Competitive Fund System, etc.”) and those in charge of in charge of the competitive fund system implemented by other Ministers and their incorporated administrative agencies

(hereinafter, “Other Ministry-related Competitive Fund System, etc.”) Then, applications and participation in MEXT-related Competitive Fund System, etc. and Other Ministry-related Competitive Fund System, etc.” may also be restricted.

Those whose application is restricted due to the illegal use		Extent of misconducts	Application restriction period (from the year following the recognition of illegal actions*2)
Those involved in misconducts	1. Especially malevolent person, who intends to commit misconduct from the very beginning of a research		Those involved in misconducts
	2. An author of thesis, etc., related to a research where misconduct is found	An author who is responsible for the thesis, etc., (supervisor, representative author, or a person certified as the one who bear responsibility equally with these persons)	2. An author of thesis, etc., related to a research where misconduct is found
			It is judged that the influence on the research progress in the field and the society is large and that the maliciousness of conduct is high
			It is judged that the influence on the research progress in the field and the society is small and that the maliciousness of conduct is low
		Authors other than the above	2-3 years
3. Those involved in misconducts excluding 1. and 2.		2-3 years	
An author who is not involved in misconducts but is responsible for a thesis, etc., on researches involved in misconducts (supervisor, representative author, or a person certified as the one who bear responsibility equally with these persons)		It is judged that the influence on the research progress in the field and the society is large and	2-3 years

	that the maliciousness of conduct is high	
	It is judged that the influence on the research progress in the field and the society is small and that the maliciousness of conduct is low	1-2 years

*2 The participation is restricted in the year when misconducts and etc. are found.

(iii) Measures against researchers whose application and participation are restricted in the other competitive fund systems and basic expenses

Researchers whose application and participation are restricted due to misconducts in research activities utilizing MEXT-related competitive fund systems other than this project, operational grants for the national university corporation, Inter-University Research Institute Corporations, and incorporated administrative agencies within the jurisdiction of MEXT, basic expenses including funds to private schools, and competitive fund system related to other Ministries are restricted from applying to and participating in this project during the time.

(iv) Public announcement of false cases

If any misconduct in research activities are found in this project, as a rule, MEXT shall publicize details of the case (false case name, types of misconducts, types of research field of false case, a name of expenses where any misconduct is made, overview of the false case, measures taken by research institution and by a distributing agency).

In addition, the guidelines require research institutions to promptly publicize investigation results when any misconduct is found. Research institutions should properly satisfy this requirement.

URL: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1360839.htm

(9) Obligation to receive research ethics education

Researchers, etc. who participate in a research task in this project will take part in a program on research ethics education and attend a class provided by a research institution a researcher belongs to in order to prevent in advance any research misconduct.

After a proposed research task is adopted, a person responsible for its implementation shall set a program on research ethics education by himself/herself, and attend an education class provided by the research institution he/she belongs to. In addition, he/she shall promise not to commit any misconduct, and inform of the

obligation to educate to his/her joint researchers with an aim to understand its contents. He/she shall as well submit the documents to confirm these.

<p>(When a person responsible for implementation is not a researcher) Create an oath referring to the following. --- MM DD, YYYY To: the Minister of MEXT Dean of XYZ University Obligation to Obtain Research Ethics Education I promise I will make it known that researchers participating in this research task are obliged to take a program on research ethics education or attend a class of research ethics education provided by a research institution they belong to and make them understand the contents thereof..</p>	<p>(When a person responsible for implementation is a researcher) Create an oath referring to the following. --- MM DD, YYYY To: the Minister of MEXT XYZ Obligation to Obtain Research Ethics Education I promise I will take a program on research ethics education or attend a class of research ethics education provided by a research institution I belong to, will not commit any misconduct, will make it known to researchers participating in this research task that they are obliged to take a program on research ethics education or attend a class of research ethics education provided by a research institution they belong to, and make them understand the contents thereof</p>
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(10) Measures to be taken in case of violating related laws and regulations, etc.

If a researcher violates related laws and regulations/guidelines, etc., and implement his/her research activities, Funds may not be granted or canceled.

(11) Carrying-over

If it is difficult to conduct a preliminary survey or determine the research method in the test research along with the progress of project, and if it is difficult to expect the completion of payment within a year due to various conditions concerning plans or designs, climates, difficulty to obtain materials, and other unavoidable grounds, carrying-over may be accepted by the end of the next year at the longest after receiving approval from the Minister of Finance.

(12) Items related to the promotion of public utilization of research facility/equipment

“Competitive Research Fund Reform toward Sustainable Creation of Research Results (interim report)” (Investigative Commission on Competitive Research Expenditures Reform on June 24, 2015) stipulates relatively large-sized facility/equipment with high flexibility should be shared as a rule.

In addition, university and a National Research and Development Agency, etc. are required to operate “Research Facility/Equipment Sharing System in the Research Organization Unit” (hereinafter, “Equipment Sharing System”) in “Introduction of New Research Facility/Equipment Sharing Integrated with Research System Management” (November

2015 by Sub-committee, Council for Science and Technology of Advanced Research Infrastructure).

In light of these, it is desirable to actively work on sharing research facility/equipment to be purchased through this project, especially the large-sized facility/equipment with high flexibility as far as they are properly managed in accordance with the management conditions of other research funds and the research facility/equipment sharing system of his/her belonging institution or organization to the extent that does not interfere with the promotion of the research task for this project, utilizing those purchased by other research expenditures as well as purchasing/sharing those using with several research expenditures. In addition, it is also desirable to promote the sharing of research facility/equipment beyond frameworks of a research organization/institution by actively striving to collaborate with established sharing systems such as “University Collaboration Network for Efficient Utilization of Research Equipment” implemented by the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS) with the aim of interoperation with equipment all over Japan and “Equipment Support Center Development Project” provided by national universities.

○“Introduction of New Research Facility/Equipment Sharing Integrated with Research System Management”

(November 25, 2015 by Sub-committee, Council for Science and Technology of Advanced Research Infrastructure)

URL:

http://www.mext.go.jp/component/b_menu/shingi/toushin/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2016/01/21/1366216_01_1.pdf

○“Competitive Research Fund Reform toward Sustainable Creation of Research Results) (interim report)”

(Investigative Commission on Competitive Research Expenditures Reform on June 24, 2015)

URL: http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/shinkou/039/gaiyou/1359306.htm

○Unification of the use rule, etc. in the competitive fund

(The agreement at the liaison meeting of relevant Ministries on the competitive fund on March 31, 2015)

URL: <http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/siyouruuru.pdf>

○“University Collaboration Network for Efficient Utilization of Research Equipment”

URL: <https://chem-eqnet.ims.ac.jp/>

(13) Improvement of the treatment of students in doctor's course (Latter period)

In the Third, Fourth and Fifth Science and Technology Basic Plan, it sets forth a numeric target, “aiming at the status where 20 % of students in Doctor's Course (Latter period) can receive the amount equivalent to living expenses,” to improve the economic support towards graduate students, especially students in Doctor's Course (Latter period) and to attract good students and other working members of society both nationally and internationally.

In addition, “*Mirai wo Kenin suru Daigakuin Kyoiku Kaikaku (Shingi Matome)* (Graduate School Education Reform for the Future (Summary of Discussions))” (Working Group on Universities, Central Council for Education on September 15, 2015) requires to improve employment of RA (research assistant) for the doctoral students (Later period) by various financial resources, and to basically offer salaries in amounts equivalent to living expenses for RA and TA employments of doctoral students (Latter period).

Based on these, use this project to actively hire students in Doctor's Course (Latter period) as RA, aim at establishing a salary level equivalent to living expenses, and establish an appropriate level suitable for working hours.

(14) Support for various career paths for young postdoctoral researcher

In “Basic Policy on Support for Diverse Career Paths for Young Postdoctoral Fellows to Be Employed through the MEXT Public Research Funds” (December 20, 2011 by MEXT’s Science and Technology Academic Council’s Personnel Committee) (http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/gijyutu/gijyutu10/toushin/1317945.htm), it requires “public research institutes and represent researchers that hire young postdoctoral researchers by public research funds to actively work on supporting them to ensure various career paths in and out of Japan.” Based on the policy, when your research is adopted by this project and hire the young postdoctoral researchers using the Funds, please make proactive efforts to support the establishment of various career path for such researcher.

(15) Handling of personal information

The personal information included in application documents is strictly managed and used (including the provision of personal information to entrust the computer processing and management of data to an external private company, etc.) for MEXT and JSPS to carry out operations (including the provision of information to a research institution, which has submitted the post, when an applicant is considered for selection) Additionally, MEXT may provide various types of information to the Cabinet Office through e-RAD managed and operated by MEXT. (Please refer to e-RAD system user policy for handling of personal information in e-RAD.) Furthermore, an applicant may be asked for some cooperation for various tasks and the confirmation of information.

In addition, if an applicant is determined as EYR, his/her name, areas of research, and the employed research institution will be disclosed through MEXT web site and etc.

Furthermore, based on research results shown in 5. (5) above, EYRs' activities are released through MEXT web site and etc.

(16) The principle of self-responsibility

MEXT checks the post(s) offered by research institutions from the viewpoint of conformity with the requirements shown in 2. (1) above. However, MEXT is not responsible for employment conditions determined as a result of negotiation among the parties between the research institutions and EYRs, the subsequent research environment and the results of tenure reviews, etc.

7. Contact information

Project in general

Human Resources Policy Promotion Office, Human Resources Policy Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT
TEL: 03-5253-4111(Extension 4021,4051)
E-mail: takuetsu@mext.go.jp

<Preparation/submission of documents>

Research Fellowship Division,
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
Phone: 03-3263-3769
E-mail: takuken@jsps.go.jp

8. Schedule (tentative)

(1) Research institution

January 23, 2017: Start date for offering of posts

February 20: Deadline for offering of posts

Early March: Publicize the post list

Early July: Sending a candidate list

Early July: Negotiation among the parties starts

* As stated in 2. (1) d above, each research institution and researchers planning to apply can contact one another before the determination of EYR candidates.

Late August: Submission of completion report of the negotiation among the parties
(interim) (undecided)

*Depending on the number of candidates etc., any person who submitted the completion report may be determined as a EYR by around late August. We will contact you about details at a later date.

September 29: Submission deadline for completion report of the negotiation among the parties

Early October: Start of research activities as a EYR

*As stated in 4. (3) (ii) above, EYRs may be determined from early July to September 29, and may start research activities as an EYR at the time of determination.

(2) Applicants (Researchers)

January 23, 2017: Start date of public invitation

Early March: Publicize post list

March 21: Start application

April 25: Deadline for application

May - June: Reviewing

Early July: Notification of selection as a EYR candidates

Early July - September: Negotiation among the parties

*As stated in 2. (1) d above, each research institution and researchers planning to apply can contact one another before the determination of EYR candidates.

Early October: Start of research activities as a EYR

*As stated in 4. (3) (ii) above, EYRs may be determined from early July to September 29, and may start research activities as an EYR at the time of determination.

(Appended Table-1)

• Research expenditures for EYRs

Expense items	Types	Remarks
Facility/equipment expenses		Expenses to obtain, produce, or increase the efficiency of facility/equipment (Asset). *The purchase process/definition of facility/equipment is based on regulations, etc. of the institution.
Salaries and other personal expenditures		Expenses to pay compensation for the labor to a person concluding an employment agreement etc. and engaged in a project. Legal welfare expenses borne by the employer. *Use the salary regulations of the institution to calculate salaries and other personal expenditures. *This cannot be appropriated for EYR's salaries and other personal expenditures.
Project implementation expenses	Expenses for consumable goods	Expenses to purchase products that do not fall under facility and equipment expenses. *The purchase process/definition of consumable goods is based on regulations, etc. of the institution.
	Domestic travel expenses	Expenses related to domestic business travels. The expenses include travel expenses related to invitation of domestic outside collaborators (excluding those who belong to an implementing institution). *Use the travel expense regulations of the institution to calculate travel expenses.
	Overseas travel expenses	Expenses related to overseas business travels (including domestic travels). *Use the travel expense regulations of the institution to calculate travel expenses.
	Travel expenses for foreign invitees	Expenses related to invite researchers, etc. from foreign countries. *Use the travel expense regulations of the institution to calculate travel expenses.
	Honoraria	Rewards for their attendance in a meeting and a lecture, etc. of outside collaborators (excluding those belonging to an implementing institution) *Use the reward regulations of the institution to calculate rewards.
	Meeting expenses	The minimum food expenses related to meetings including outsiders.

		*In providing food expenses, etc., the minimum is provided according to regulations of institutions. However, Funds cannot be expended for alcohol.
	Communication/ Transportation expenses	Expenses related to transportation of articles and data communication.
	Printing and binding expenses	Expenses related to printing and binding of documents, etc.
	Rental expenses	Expenses related to rental of conference sites, rental expenses of articles, etc., and rent.
	Miscellaneous service expenses	Expenses related to the services including data analysis, software development, etc.
	Utility costs	Utility costs required to perform researches related to this project. *The utility costs not related to this project cannot be paid with these subsidies. Please clarify calculation grounds for the costs.

Note: Research expenditures for Excellent Young Researchers (EYR) cannot be diverted to costs of building research environment.

(Appended Table-2)

▪ Costs of building research environment

Expenses items	Types	Remarks
Facility/ equipment expenses		Expenses to obtain, produce, or increase the efficiency of facility/equipment (Asset). *The purchase process/definition of facility/equipment is based on regulations, etc. of the institution.
Salaries and other personal expenditures		Expenses to pay compensation for the labor to a person concluding an employment agreement etc. and engaged in a project. legal welfare expenses borne by the employer. *Use the salary regulations of the institution to calculate salaries and other personal expenditures. *This cannot be appropriated for EYR's salaries and other personal expenditures.
Project implementation expenses	Expense for consumable goods	Expenses to purchase products that do not fall under facility and equipment expenses. The purchase process/definition of consumable goods is based on regulations, etc. of the institution.
	Domestic travel expenses	Expenses related to domestic business travels. The expenses include travel expenses related to invitation of domestic outside collaborators (excluding those who belong to an implementing institution) for EYRs. *Use the travel expense regulations of the institution to calculate travel expenses.
	Overseas travel expenses	Expenses related to overseas business travels (including domestic travels). *Use the travel expense regulations of the institution to calculate travel expenses.
	Travel expenses for foreign invitees	Expenses related to invite researchers, etc. from foreign countries. *Use the travel expense regulations of the institution to calculate travel expenses.
	Honoraria	Rewards for attendance in a meeting and mentoring, etc. of outside collaborators (excluding those belonging to an implementing institution) for EYRs. Rewards for lectures, etc. *Use the reward regulations of the institution to calculate rewards.

Meeting expenses	The minimum food expenses related to the opening (venue (equipment) rental, etc.) of committee to evaluate EYRs (including outsiders). *In providing food expenses, etc., the minimum is provided according to regulations of institutions. However, Funds cannot be expended for alcohol.
Communication/Transportation expenses	Expenses related to transportation of articles and data communication.
Printing and binding expenses	Expenses related to printing and binding of documents, etc.
Rental expenses	Expenses related to rental of conference sites, rental expenses of articles, etc., and rent.
Miscellaneous service expenses	Expenses related to the services such as dispatching of workers responsible for maintenance/management of computing machines and network, etc. and providing other supporting operations.
Utility costs	Utility costs required for the implementation of this project. *The utility costs not related to this project cannot be paid with these subsidies. Please clarify calculation grounds for the costs.

Note: Research expenditures for Excellent Young Researchers (EYR) cannot be diverted to costs of building research environment.

2017

Leading Initiative for Excellent Young
Researchers

Review Guidelines

1. Review system

The neutral official institution, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (hereinafter “JSPS”), supports the MEXT by establishing the Selection Committee for EYR candidates (hereinafter the “Selection Committee”) which consists of experts for reviewing the Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers FY2017, and is delegated to review for selecting the EYR candidates (hereinafter, the “Candidates”).

The review is conducted to select the Candidates through document screening by the Selection Committee members (hereinafter the “Committee Member(s)”).

MEXT will decide the candidates based on the results of document screening by the Committee Members.

2. Review method

The review is conducted in the following methods per field set in consideration of posts offered by research institutions, and the research area and discipline of an applicant researcher (hereinafter, the “Applicant”).

(1) Document screening

- Based on “3. Evaluation criteria” below, the Committee Members conduct screening of the application documents (especially, Researcher Form 1 (including the Attached Documents) and Researcher Form 2) submitted by applicants.

(2) Determination of the EYR Candidates

- Based on results of the screening by the Committee Members, MEXT determines the EYR candidates.
- The diversity (research area, gender, etc.) of EYR candidates, the number of listed posts for each research area and the number of applicants may be considered when the candidates are selected.

3. Evaluation criteria

Major evaluation criteria are as follows:

- 1) The person is expected to be a good research leader who will play important roles in Japanese science and technology, academic researches and science technology innovation in the future.
- 2) The person has world-class research abilities and can be expected to develop a new research or technology area, etc. (His/her overseas research experience will be taken into consideration.).
- 3) The purpose of research and research plan are good in a concrete and precise manner.
- 4) The person is highly motivated and flexible enough to succeed in an industry-academia-government research institution.

<Concrete example of activities related to 4)>

- Research experiences in research institutions (corporations, public research organizations, etc.) other than universities or the Inter-University Research Institute Corporations. For example, job experience or a long term internship (about 3 months or more) in a company (related to research activities).
- Long-term research experience (over 3 months), etc. at overseas research institutions (including universities)

4. Others

(1) Disclosure/nondisclosure of the review

- Documents required for reviewing by the Committee Members will not be disclosed.
- No inquiries about the contents and development of the review will be responded to.
- The names of Committee Members will be disclosed only after the expiry of their terms.

(2) Matters to be observed by the Committee Members

1) Excluding the interested parties

- The Committee Member who has vested interest with the applicant will report the fact to the JSPS, saying he/she cannot join the review of the applicant. The member shall not join the review.

<Scope of interest>

- An applicant having a family relationship with the Committee Member
- The Committee Member currently holds an office as a full-time or part-time officer, staff, or teacher in the research institution (the same department) the applicant belong to (including a scheduled one)
- The Committee Member determines for himself/herself that it is difficult to review in a neutral and fair manner

2) Confidentiality

- The Committee Member shall not leak any personal information acquired in the course of review and the information related to the details of reviewing the applicant. In addition, the information a Committee Member obtains, including various materials such as application documents, must be strictly managed.

Enter into the electronic application system to create this form.

(Researcher Form 1)

Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers FY2017 Application Form

Receipt Number		
Research area	Area	
	Discipline	
	Field	
	Field code	

Name (for display)	
Nationality	
Gender	
Date of birth	
Contact (E-mail)	

Current affiliation	Name of institution	
	Institution type	
	Location	〒
	Name of department/section	
	Position	
	Employment status	

Academic background for PhD	Academic status	
	Graduate school	
	Faculty	
	Major	
	Completed/ withdrawn YYYY/MM	
	Degree awarded date	
	Degree name	
Enrolled in the medical field, which requires clinical training		

Research/job history	
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Research interruption due to childbirth/child care	
Research interruption period due to childbirth/child care	

Research plan title	
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Other information to register

The following input items are used to confirm evaluator information and the following notes. It is not used for screening nor provided to the institutions when you are chosen as Excellent Young Researcher Candidates.

Name (official family register)		
Current address	〒	
	Tel:	Cell phone:

*It is possible to change the current address (preferred contact) after submitting the application form, however, it will not be reflected in the PDF file created at the time of submission of the application form.

Evaluator 1	Name	
	Affiliation	
	Name of department/section	
	Position	
	Contact (E-mail)	
Evaluator 2	Name	
	Affiliation	
	Name of department/section	
	Position	
	Contact (E-mail)	

Agreement upon application

In filing the application, check each of the following notices carefully, and tick the items you have confirmed and agreed to. The application cannot be completed without ticking all of the following items.

- 1) Please check if you agree to post your name etc. on the "Candidates list" and to provide your information to the institutions if you are chosen as Excellent Young Researcher Candidates. Applications will not be accepted unless you agree with the above. The provided information is form 1 and Research outline form.

If I am successfully chosen as Excellent Young Researcher Candidates, I agree to post my name etc. on the "Candidates list" and to provide my information to the institutions.

2) Before filing the application, please make sure you checked the "Application Guidelines for FY 2017 Leading Initiatives for Excellent Young Researchers." If major errors, omissions and the like are identified after the application is filed, the determination as Excellent Young Researcher Candidate or as Excellent Young Researcher may be revoked. Please confirm and agree to the condition before filing the application.

I checked the "Application Guidelines for FY 2017 Leading Initiatives for Excellent Young Researchers" and understand the contents.

I confirm that there are no errors in the application above or attached separately.

(Researcher Form 1 Attached Document)

Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers FY 2017 Research Outline

Please describe the outline of your research plan in the Researcher Form 2, "Research theme that you want to address as a EYR."

This page will be provided to the research institution as the candidate information after being selected as an Excellence Young Researcher (EYR) candidate. Therefore, please do not include confidential information that cannot be disclosed. In addition, you can describe your previous research works that are a background to your research plan to appeal to the research institutions, or you can use figures and tables in order to explain your plan clearly. However, changes to the form or page additions are not allowed.

Research outline

Research Plan for Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers FY 2017

1) Research theme you want to address as an EYR

<Research purpose/content (such as setting of research agenda and awareness of the issues)>

In this column, please describe the specific purpose and its contents of the overall concept of the research that you want to conduct in a concrete and precise manner, especially focusing on the following points while referring to the literature as appropriate. In addition, as a result of negotiation among parties within the institution which offered listed and publicized posts, it is not excluded to modify the contents of the research.

- Academic or social background of research (domestic and foreign trends and positions relating to this research, circumstances leading to the idea, reasons and evidences that can support setting of research agenda, awareness of the issues etc.)
- The core of the problem and how you will clarify it.
- Setting of research agenda and awareness of the issues as a background of this research. Expected research achievements. New research areas which can be developed based on these achievements. The contents when utilizing and developing the results of research so far in other fields and industries.

*Changes of the form and page additions are not allowed.

[Research purposes/contents]

[Research purposes/contents (continued)]

1) Research theme you want to address as a EYR

<Research plan/method>

In this column, please describe the concrete research plan and method to achieve your research goal while referring to the literature as appropriate. Describe them in a concrete and precise manner especially focusing on the following points.

- 1) Concrete ideas in carrying out this research (uniqueness, creativity, novelty, etc. of the idea in conducting research)
- 2) Concept of the research system assumed as the laboratory director (What kind of system do you assume to conduct research, such as the arrangement of postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, etc.? In case of a company, what kind of team and system do you assume as a project manager in order to conduct research?)
- 3) Plan and method of a research to be conducted in the first two years to implement a long-term research plan.
- 4) How you will answer the various requests from a research institution, when working in various research institutions of industry, academia and government (What kind of knowledge and skills do you think you can offer when implementing and developing the research in response to the various requests of research institution, and do you find new problems by doing so?)

*Changes of the form and page additions are not allowed.

[Research plan/method]

[Research plan/method (continued)]

1) Research theme you want to address as a EYR

<Outcome of research in contributing to society in the future?

In this column, describe specifically how significantly the research outcomes may affect human life, society, etc., when purpose of the research is achieved. In your description, present it in a way that even those who are not specialists of the field can understand it.

*Changes of the form and page additions are not allowed.

[Outcome of research in contributing to society in the future]

2) Research achievements

<Research achievements (3 significant achievements)>

In this column, describe three significant achievements since 2012 related to your research concept, among the research achievements such as research papers, books, industrial property rights such as patent rights, invited lectures, awards you have achieved to date, while referring to the reason for the award or reviews. Please describe briefly in accordance with the following points. If you describe papers that are contributing to an academic journal, please note that papers which have already been decided to be published can only be listed.

In addition, regarding any other important achievements related to the research concept, describe in the items of <<Other achievement list>> below, regarding the experience of industry-academia collaboration, describe in the item of “③Career and experience in various industry-academic-government research institutions.”

- 1) For example, in the case of papers published, describe the paper title, author name, name of the journal the paper was published in, presence or absence of peer review, volume, the first and last pages and the year of publication (AD).
- 2) If the above items are listed, the order of items can be changed. If there are many authors, entering several main authors and omitting others (if you omit them, enter the number of members omitted and the order listed) is allowed. In this case, underline the name of the applicant.

*Changes of the form and page additions are not allowed.

[3 significant achievements]

[3 significant achievements (continued)]

2) Research achievements

Other achievement list

Describe important achievements related to the research concept by numbering the year of publication serially from the present to the past focusing on the achievements since 2012, including significant achievements (three) mentioned in the previous page. For those three described as the significant achievements, circle the corresponding number.

*Changes of the form and page additions are not allowed.

[Other achievements]

(Example of description)

*The composition of the description item can be changed. Please delete here when describing.)

(1) Papers published in academic journals, etc. (including bulletins / collection of papers) and books

- ① Taro Gakushin, Hanako Hanzomon, '(Title),' "(Name of Journal which carries the article)," ○○ publishing company, No. , pp57–62, 2012
- 2) Jiro Kojimachi, Taro Gakushin '(Title),' "(Name of Journal which carries the article)," ○○ publishing company, No., pp33–39, 2013
- 3) Hanako Hanzomon, Jiro Kojimachi, Taro Gakushin (the sixth), ○○○○, ○○○○, ○○○○, ○○○○, Saburo Chiyoda (○omitted), '(Title),' "(Name of Journal which carries the article)," ○○ publishing company, No., pp10–25, 2013

(2) Commentary and review article in academic journals or commercial magazines

- 1) Taro Gakushin '(Title),' "(Name of Journal which carries the article)," ○○ publishing company, No. , pp57–62, 2012

(3) Presentation at an international conference

- ① ○Gakushin T, Hanzoumon H, ... '(Title)' , "(Name of meeting)," BB-11, Los Angeles, USA, (June 2013)
- Gakushin T, Hanzoumon H,

(4) Presentation at a domestic meeting/symposium

- Taro Gakushin, Hanako Hanzo... '(Title),' "(Name of meeting)," No.200, Sendai, September 2013

(5) Patents

- 1) (Patent Number), '(Name),' Jiro Kojimachi, Taro Gakushin, April 2013

(6) Others (Awards received etc.)

- ① Taro Gakushin ... '(Name of award),' April 2013

[Other achievements (Continued)]

3)Career and experience in various industry-academic-government research institutions

Career/experience

In this column, in order to demonstrate that you would be active in the industry-academic-government research institutes, describe date (such as year and date) and contents of career and experiences, such as work experience as a researcher at an organization (corporations, public research organizations, etc.) other than the university or Inter-University Research Institute Corporations, experiences of internship for 3 months or more, or research experience by belonging to an overseas research institution (including university) for 3 months or more.

*Changes of the form and page additions are not allowed.

[Date and contents]

(Example of description *The composition of the description item can be changed. Please delete here when describing.)

- April, 2012 - March, 2014
: Worked at XX research institution, conducted research about XX.
- September, 2014 - February, 2015
: Engaged in a long-term internship at XX research institution, and was in charge of XX of a research on XX.

(Researcher Form3)

Evaluation Form for Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers

1) Evaluator	Name	
	Affiliation	
	Department	
	Position	
2) Applicant	Name	
3) Relationship with the applicant		

<Applicant 's research attitude / perseverance / progress of research, expertise / skill, attraction / creativity, communication skill, leadership, future prospect etc.>