

2017 JAXA International Top Young Fellowship(ITYF) FAQ

■Eligibility

Q: I won't be able to get a Ph.D. degree in hand by the time of the application deadline.

Would I be allowed to apply or not?

A: All applicants for the program must have a Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral level degree when they apply. Regarding "equivalent doctoral level degree", please consider by yourself whether your education, skills, qualifications and experience would meet the requirements.

Q: I have worked at JAXA as a fixed-term employee for two years. Does this affect the contract period as ITYF?

A: Yes. The employment period of JAXA fixed-term employees including ITYF cannot exceed a total of 5 years. Therefore, if you have been employed by JAXA for two years, your employment period as ITYF will be maximum of 3 years.

■Application

Q: Can I apply for several research departments at the same time?

A: Yes, you can.

Q: Regarding the web application form, is it possible that I temporarily save it before submitting?

A: You cannot temporarily save the form on the website before you apply. However, once you have submitted the application form, you can revise the contents anytime before the deadline.

■Application Documents

Q: Can I still apply if I don't have all the application documents?

A: It is necessary for the JAXA ITYF Steering Committee to review each applicant's required documents. Please prepare all the required documents in order to apply for the fellowship position. If you cannot prepare them, unfortunately, your application will be incomplete.

Q: Do you have the preferred writing style for the documents to be submitted?

A: We have no preferences in regards to the writing style for the documents. Please deliver the contents with your own choice of writing style.

Q: Regarding application documents, is there a limit to the number of pages?

A: No, there is no limit to the number of pages.

Q: May I submit my application documents written in Japanese?

A: All the documents related to this application are requested to be written only in English.

Q: Do research papers need to be “published”? Or are “submitted”, “in press” or “accepted” statuses acceptable?

A: Both “in press” and “accepted” statuses are acceptable. However “in preparation” and “submitted” statuses are not acceptable.

Q: How should letter of reference be submitted?

A: Reference letter must be uploaded personally by referees (not by applicants) via the web application form. Referees will receive an email with instructions for uploading their letters after the online application by applicants.

Please note that any letter which is submitted via any means (Ex. mail, e-mail etc) other than the application form cannot be accepted.

Q: Is it possible for my referees to submit their letters of reference prior to my own online application?

A: Referees cannot submit the letters before the online application by applicants.

Referees will receive an email with instructions for uploading their letters after the online application by applicants.

Q: Regarding Reference Letter, what does “(E-)Signature indicate?”

A We suppose that the reference letter is to be with hand-written signature, scanned, and submitted in PDF format.

■ Research Topics

Q: What are the possible areas of research that are considered relevant to this research program?

We are looking for fellows who have the potential of contributing to various researches at ISAS/JAXA and of bringing a positive effect on ISAS’s activities. Therefore, to expand the possibility of our research in the future, we do not limit the area of research. Please refer to our website for our main activities.

ISAS <http://www.isas.jaxa.jp/e/index.shtml>

<http://www.isas.jaxa.jp/en/researchers/laboratories/>

The ITYF Steering Committee will professionally and objectively review all the applications

with focus on the applicant's qualifications.

Q: May I contact researchers in ISAS to consider the best synergy between my research proposal and ISAS's research?

A: Please send your inquiries to the email address listed in the application guideline.

Q: May I get in touch with current ITYF researchers to share their experience directly ?

A: Yes, you can contact them.

■ Duties as an ITYF

Q: What is the evaluation of performance like?

A: The ITYF Steering Committee will professionally and objectively review the research achievements, such as the number of publication and awards. Also the contribution to ISAS will be also adequately evaluated.

■ Others

Q: To what extent is proficiency in the Japanese language required?

A: To live in Japan, it is better to have some Japanese language ability. If you do not speak or write the language, staff at ISAS will support you as much as possible. Researchers at ISAS are fluent in English and there are some foreign researchers who do not speak or write Japanese.

Q: May I apply for this again, although I didn't pass last time?

A: Yes, you can apply for this again if you meet the application qualifications.