

Frequently Asked Questions - The Asia Center Fellowship Program

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●Regarding Safety

Q. How can I obtain security and safety information of the country/countries to which I will be traveling?

Your safety and health, as well as your project's participants, is your responsibility. Please be sure to prepare in advance regarding security and safety overseas by contacting embassies and/or consulates of the countries in question and through other information available online.

●Eligibility

Q. Can ASEAN nationals apply?

Yes, ASEAN nationals can apply on condition that they reside in Japan or one of the ten ASEAN countries.

Q. I am an ASEAN national living in Japan. Would my research in my home country be eligible?

No, activities and/or research in the country which you have nationality, citizenship, or permanent residency, or in the country you currently reside or are based in are not eligible.

Q. Can students apply?

Yes, students (university-level and above) are eligible. In the field of intellectual exchange, academic careers of master's degree and above or equivalent is one of the important criteria for screening. In the fields of arts and culture and sports, on the other hand, previous experience and achievements is the criteria for screening.

●Projects

Q. What kinds of fields are eligible?

Arts and culture, sports, and intellectual exchange are eligible. These include the visual arts, performing arts, arts management, cultural policy, film, architecture, conservation of cultural heritage, academia (humanities and social sciences), media/journalism, and civil society.

Q. What kinds of activities are eligible?

A wide range of activities are eligible such as research (writing of articles/essays, reportage etc.), collecting of interviews, data, archiving, attending conferences to form networks or to build platforms.

Q. Do I need to get (a) Host Institution(s)/Individual(s) in each of the destination(s) of my activity?

Yes, acceptance from Host Institution(s)/Individual(s) are mandatory to ensure the collaborative nature of the program.

- Attach the required documents below according to the status of acceptance.
- Lack of such documents will be reflected during screening.
- * Consent granted: Cooperation Agreement/ Letter of Consent (in any format; photocopy acceptable). These must include the full name of the individual and her/his affiliation, seal or handwritten signature, and the duration of the acceptance.
- * Under negotiations: Attach materials, such as e-mail exchange(s), that indicate the status of communication with the prospective Host Institution(s)/Individual(s).

Q. Can I include countries other than the ASEAN countries and Japan?

We do not accept applications that include research and/or activities in countries other than ASEAN and Japan.

Q. Can I apply for a project that involves more than one country?

Projects that involve Fellows traveling to more than one country is eligible. The travel, however, must be continuous.

i.e. The travel itinerary for carrying out your project in country A and B must be:

Country of residence→country A→country B→Country of residence

NOT: Country of residence→country A→Country of Residence→country B→Country of residence OR

Country of residence→country A→country B→country A→ Country of residence

Q. Is it possible to divide the Fellowship, such as once during summer break and the rest during winter break?

No, the Fellowship must be within one continuous period of time.

Q. Can I continue my full-time work and/or be enrolled in school while on the Fellowship?

Yes, as long as the Fellows are committed to their proposed activities/project during

the Fellowship Period. Earning income at activity site or location as a signed employee is prohibited. In principle, departure from the activity site or location for reasons other than the Fellowship is also not allowed.

●Application Documents

Q. Who should I ask to write the Reference Letter?

Please ask two persons who have a good understanding of your achievements and fellowship project to write the Reference Letters. In some cases, we may contact the referrers.

The referrers and the host individual(s) should be different persons.

Q. How should the Reference Letter be submitted?

Applicants must ask their referrers to send the Reference Letter directly to the same office (Japan Foundation or overseas diplomatic offices) to which the Application is/was sent.

Q. Can I confirm that the Reference Letters have successfully been submitted?

Applicants must confirm with her/his referrers her/himself. Make sure that the referrers send the Reference Letter to the same office as the Application no later than the deadline.



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