

RWTH Aachen University Research Fellowship Japan Program 2026-2027
Outbound Tohoku University Cooperative Laboratory Study Program
(COLABS)

RWTH Aachen University Research Fellowship Japan Program
Student Application Guide for 2026 Academic Year

I. Application Details

The Aachen University Research Fellowship Japan Program (hereafter, "the program") will recruit outbound study abroad students for the 2026 academic year as described below. Outbound students may be selected to receive an Aachen University Research Fellowship (hereafter "Aachen scholarship"). Please note that this program is for the research scholarship at the Technical University of Aachen. If you wish to apply for the JASSO Overseas Study Support Program at COLABS instead of a research scholarship at TU Aachen, please apply for the Short-term Cooperative Research Student Exchange Program in Natural Sciences (COLABS) at Tohoku University. Students in fields related to the humanities are eligible to apply too.

1. Program Outline

(1) Activities at RWTH Aachen University

Participants will belong to laboratories at RWTH Aachen University and conduct research on themes of their choosing under the supervision of researchers there. This is an opportunity to not only accumulate academic experiences abroad, but also to build personal networks with overseas researchers.

Students who are considering applying should communicate closely with their advisors at Tohoku University and RWTH Aachen University regarding research plans (detailed research theme, methodology, schedule, etc.) in advance.

HP URL : <https://www.rwth-aachen.de/cms/root/Studium/Im-Studium/Stipendien-Foerderung/~cbwm/RWTH-Aachen-University-Research-Fellowsh/?lidx=1>

(2) Study abroad period

Minimum 85 days, maximum 1 year, beginning in October/November 2025 or January 2026, and lasting for more than 3 months up to 1 year.

(3) Completion Requirements

Completion requirements vary depending on the length of the study abroad (see chart below). Those who do not fulfill the completion requirements may be asked to return the JASSO scholarship.

Length of study abroad		4 months to 1 year	3 months
Completion Requirements	Credit	30 ECTS equivalent ※1	12 ECTS equivalent ※1
	Research Report	30 to 40 A4-size pages (English)	5 A4-size pages (English)
	Presentation at Conference ※2	Oral Presentation	Poster Presentation
	Credit Approval	Credits received for academic work performed during the program must be approved by the student's department ※3	
JASSO Scholarship	Availability	Approx. 30 total ※4	
	Max. Period of Award	12 months	3 months

※ 1 ECTS = European Credit Transfer System 1 ECTS = 25 hours of study/training

※ 2 Upon returning to Japan, participants will give presentations at the Tohoku University Cooperative Laboratory Study Program Presentations.

※ 3 The program has no rules regarding how many credits can be approved (credits will be deemed valid as long as they have been approved, regardless of quantity; credits may also be handled as part of the student's "master's degree coursework"). However, students should confirm with their Office of Educational Affairs regarding their department's rules for approving credits.

※ 4 The scholarship framework is shared with COLABS, so once the total number of recipients, including those in this program, reaches the number of available scholarships, JASSO scholarship recruiting will end.

2. Schedule from Application to Departure

Example (study abroad beginning in January 2027)

By late April, 2025	Coordinate with advisors at Tohoku University and RWTH Aachen University
Early June, 2025	Inform department of application
Mid June, 2025	Submit application to department→ application forwarded to Student Exchange Division→ application screening
Early July, 2025	Interview
Late July, 2025	Candidates selected→ apply to RWTH Aachen University→ obtain written permission to enroll (study abroad approved)
December, 2025	Predeparture Orientation
January, 2026	Departure

※Aachen scholarship screenings will be performed on a first-come basis. Consequently, those who wish to apply should submit the application as early as possible, regardless of when their overseas study will begin.

II. Application Requirements

1. Qualifications

Applicants must fulfill all the following conditions to be eligible.

- (1) They must be Tohoku University students in master's or doctoral curricula, or Tohoku University undergraduate students who, as of the time of their application, are expected to be enrolled in a Tohoku University graduate school when their study abroad begins.
※Those who belong/will belong to humanities-related graduate schools are also eligible to apply.
- (2) They must have sufficient English skills to pursue research and higher education at the host institution in their field of study, be in good health, and be deemed capable of earning credits while studying abroad.
- (3) In addition to fulfilling the aforementioned program Completion Requirements, they must, upon completion of their studies abroad, be able to return to Tohoku University, continue their studies, and complete their curriculum.

2. Pre-Application Confirmation

(1) Contact Academic Advisor at RWTH Aachen University

Applicants must find an instructor at RWTH Aachen University in a field related to the relevant research theme (hereafter, "advisor"), contact that instructor, and receive written permission to study in the instructor's department (use official form).

III. Application Instructions

1. Submitting Application Documents

(1) Application Documents

Required Documents	Form	Language	Notes
① RWTH Aachen University Fellowship Program Outbound Candidate Record	Official Form	Japanese/ English	Please see the sample form before completing it.
② Application Form	Official Form	English	Must be signed by applicant's advisor.
③ Recommendation Letter from advisor at	Free Format	English	Must be signed by applicant's advisor.

	home university for the intended research project at RWTH			
④	Academic Record (Transcripts of Grades)	-	English	Graduate students must submit their undergraduate transcript too.
⑤	Grade Point Average	Official Form	-	
⑥	Copy of proof of English proficiency	-	-	
⑦	Certificate of Enrollment as a Master or PhD-student at the Japanese home university	-	English	
⑧	Confirmation of Supervision at RWTH Aachen University	Official Form	English	The following information must be entered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name, position, and affiliation (institution/department) of advisor at host institution Applicant's name Period of study abroad (dates)
⑨	RWTH Aachen University Fellowship Program Pledge	Official Form	Japanese/English	Keep the original. The cosigner should be one of the following: Japanese applicants: an adult immediate family member or relative International applicants: an adult immediate family member or relative, or academic advisor

[Downloading Forms etc.]

The forms shown above can be downloaded from the following URL.

<https://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/japanese/studyabroad/graduate/colabs/application/>

[Notes on Submission]

Submit ① as an Excel file and ② to ⑨ as PDF files by email to the relevant office in your department (undergraduate/graduate school Educational Affairs Section or department/major office).

※Please keep the original copy of "⑨ RWTH Aachen University Fellowship Program Pledge."

※The forms ① and ⑨ are prescribed by the Student Exchange Division. All documents other than ① and ⑨ are to be submitted on RWTH Aachen University's official forms. After passing the internal screening, documents other than ① and ⑨ must be submitted to RWTH Aachen University.

(2) Deadline for Submitting Documents

Please ask your department about the deadline.

IV. Selection/Notification of Result

(1) 1st Stage Screening: document-based

You will be evaluated based on your study abroad/research plan, university transcript, and language ability.

(2) 2nd Stage Screening: interview (conducted online)

You will be evaluated based on your understanding of the research theme (research outline) and language ability.

The time/date and format for the 2nd Stage Screening will be sent by the Student Exchange Division to those who pass the 1st Stage Screening.

(3) Notification of Screening Result

You will be notified about your result by your department sometime after the 2nd Stage Screening. If you pass the 2nd Stage Screening you will receive a Predeparture Orientation schedule from the Student Exchange Division.

V. Study Abroad Expenses

(1) Payment of Expenses

You must bear expenses related to studying abroad yourself.

(2) Tuition Fee

RWTH Aachen University will not collect tuition fees.

(3) Scholarship

[JASSO Study Abroad Support System (Partner/Outbound) Scholarships]

(1) If you are selected for the program, meet JASSO's criteria, and will NOT receive

a scholarship from RWTH Aachen University, you will be eligible for a JASSO study abroad scholarship.

※Please note that only the following graduate schools are eligible for the JASSO Scholarship for Overseas Study at COLABS. Students who plan to enter or belong to graduate schools other than those listed below and are not selected for the Aachen Scholarship will not be eligible for the JASSO Scholarship.

[Graduate schools eligible for JASSO Scholarship support]

Arts and Letters, Economics and Management, Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Engineering, Agricultural Science, Information Sciences, Life Sciences, Environmental Studies, Biomedical Engineering

Scholarship	JPY 90,000/month
Travel Stipend	JPY 10,000 or 160,000 ※This is available only to those who meet certain criteria. Inquire with your department for details.
Eligibility (Must fulfill all conditions ①-④)	<p>① You must be a citizen or permanent resident of Japan, and of excellent academic ability and character.</p> <p>② You must have achieved a GPA of 2.30/3.00 or higher, as calculated with JASSO's formula, in the previous academic year of the graduate/undergraduate program you are currently enrolled in. ※If the cumulative GPA from the time of enrollment in your current graduate/undergraduate program, including the previous year's grades, is 2.30 or higher, it meets the GPA requirement. ※If grades from the previous year of your current program are not available at the time of selection, in principle, GPA should be calculated from the grades from the previous semester at the time of selection. If grades for the previous semester are not available or in cases other than those listed here, please contact your department.</p> <p>③ If you are receiving scholarships from other organizations (including Tohoku University or the host institution), the total monthly amount of the scholarships (not including travel expenses, scholarship loans, or student loans) must not exceed the monthly amount of the JASSO scholarship.</p> <p>④ The destination region (city) must not be designated as "Level 2: Avoid non-essential travel" or above on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. ※In addition to ① through ④ above, there are additional requirements for the scholarship. Applicants should inquire with their department for details.</p>

- (2) The number of scholarship payments will depend on the length of the study abroad. It will be calculated by dividing the study abroad into 31-day periods (months). However, the number of monthly payments cannot exceed the maximum number of payments for the study abroad period, as shown in the table on page 2.

Example

Days abroad			Months (no. of payments)
10	-	31	1
32	-	62	2
63	-	93	3
94	-	124	4
125	-	155	5
156	-	186	6
187	-	217	7
218	-	248	8
249	-	279	9
280	-	310	10
311	-	341	11
342	-	365	12

- (3) As per JASSO's scholarship rules, the following people are ineligible for the scholarship.
 -TOBITATE! Study Abroad Initiative recipients

Also, **when applying to the program, applicants should carefully read the rules (restrictions on simultaneous applications/awards, duration for which payments can be received, application/award qualifications, etc.) for any scholarships they plan to apply for, or are already receiving.**

[Aachen Scholarship]

(1) Applicants will receive this scholarship if they are both selected for the program and selected by RWTH Aachen University as scholarship recipients.

※The number of scholarships is limited. Depending on the time of application, scholarships may no longer be available.

Scholarship	EUR 3,000 (total amount for 3 months)
Eligibility	Recipients are selected by RWTH Aachen University from international students from nine partner schools (including Tohoku University).

(2) Notes

It is not possible to receive the Aachen scholarship together with scholarships from JASSO or other organizations.

(4) Overseas Travel Insurance

Enrollment is mandatory for Supplemental Study Abroad Insurance (Futaikaigaku) offered through Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research to cover unexpected accidents, illnesses, and injuries. You must pay the insurance premium yourself.

Futaikaigaku: https://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/japanese/preparing/safety/futai_kaigaku/

※The host institution or the destination country/region may require participants to enroll in local insurance. In that case, it will be necessary to enroll in that insurance in addition to Futaikaigaku "Overseas Travel Insurance" above. However, if the amount of indemnification covered by Futaikaigaku satisfies the requirements of the host institution or destination country/region, participants may be exempt. (Those seeking exemption should contact the appropriate person at the host institution themselves.)

VI. Other

1. Revocation of Acceptance

Even after passing Tohoku University's screening, participants cannot study abroad in the following situations.

- 1 They do not receive permission to enroll from RWTH Aachen University.
- 2 They are unable to meet RWTH Aachen University's application requirements as of the time of application submission.
- 3 You are unable to pursue studies at the host institution due to health issues.
- 4 They are unable to enter the program due to a reduction in the enrollment limit.
- 5 They violate any of the terms mentioned in the "RWTH Aachen University Fellowship Program Pledge."
- 6 They are otherwise deemed unsuitable for studying abroad by Tohoku University.

2. Field and Department at RWTH Aachen University

In general, the field and department at RWTH Aachen University will be determined under the guidance of Tohoku University taking the participant's wishes into account, but this may be impossible due to circumstances at Aachen. When applying, it is necessary to discuss in advance the specific research theme and methodology with the prospective host department.

3. Enrollment and Travel Procedures

- (1) Those who pass the internal Tohoku University screening for this program must also prepare the following documents and submit them to RWTH Aachen University. Applicants should prepare these while making preparations for the internal screening (but it is NOT necessary to submit them at the time of the internal screening).

Curriculum Vitae

Statement of purpose (containing general information on the research project topic, RWTH advisor, purpose and motivation for choosing this topic and advisor)

- (2) Applicants are solely responsible for the necessary arrangements and related fees.
- (3) If obtaining a visa and applying for the program requires more time than expected, it may not be possible to begin studying abroad on the desired date.
- (4) After passing Tohoku University's internal screening, applicants must perform the appropriate registration online with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, depending on the length of the study abroad.

Residence Registration (if residing overseas for 3 months or longer)

Tabi Regi (if residing overseas for under 3 months)

4. Enrollment Status at Tohoku University while Studying Abroad

This depends on the department. Please ask your department.

5. Cancellation/Interruption due to Unforeseen Circumstances

If the applicant withdraws, their acceptance is revoked due to any of the reasons noted in "VI. Other, 1. Revocation of Acceptance," or the program is suspended/canceled due to unforeseen circumstances in the host country/region, such as terrorist attack, natural disaster, pandemic, etc., regardless of the reason, the applicant will be responsible for paying any and all fees accrued before, during, and after the study abroad (including cancellation fees, travel expenses for returning to Japan, etc.) and cannot bill the university for such fees. When applying, applicants should carefully research approximate living expenses at the destination, their airline's policy on ticket changes/refunds, etc. (If there is a terrorist attack, natural disaster, pandemic, etc. in the destination country/region the program may be canceled even if it is already in progress.)

6. Date of Departure from/Return to Japan

In principle, the date of departure from Japan must be 10 days prior to the day before the date of acceptance stated in the Letter of Acceptance. In addition, as a rule, the date of return to Japan must be within 10 days after the end of the program as indicated on the Letter of Acceptance.