

NOTES FOR REFEREES

Applicants must ask an eligible referee to prepare a supporting letter of recommendation. The applicant should provide the referee with this outline, a copy of the completed JSPS application form and the [JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship program information](#). The referee must be someone other than the applicant's prospective host researcher in Japan.

The letter should provide an independent, evidence-based assessment of the applicant and proposed research. Referees should use specific examples where possible, explain the basis of their assessment and distinguish matters they can assess directly from those outside their knowledge. The letter should complement, rather than repeat, information in the application.

Please address the following areas where they are relevant to your knowledge of the applicant and proposal:

- Describe your professional relationship with the applicant, how long you have known their work and whether your field of research is the same as, or related to, the applicant's field.
- Review the scientific merit of the proposal, including the importance and originality of the research question, the suitability of the proposed approach, and the feasibility of completing the work within the proposed fellowship period. Identify any significant strengths, limitations or risks.
- Assess why the research is appropriately conducted in Japan and the value of the expected outcomes to Australian science. Where relevant, comment on access to expertise, facilities, equipment, data or research environments that are unavailable in Australia or more advanced in Japan and explain how these advantages are necessary for the proposed project.
- Review the applicant's research achievements and capabilities, relative to their career stage. Comment on their readiness to undertake the proposed research and explain how the fellowship would advance their academic goals and longer-term career prospects.
- Assess whether the fellowship is likely to initiate or strengthen sustained research collaboration between Australia and Japan. Identify the anticipated relationships, activities or outcomes that support your assessment.
- Declare any professional or personal relationship with the applicant that may be relevant to your assessment, including supervisory relationships, current or previous institutional connections, research collaborations, joint publications or other potential conflicts of interest.

The letter must be written in English, addressed to the applicant's prospective host researcher in Japan or the President of JSPS, and signed by the referee. An electronic signature or a PDF copy of the original signature is acceptable, but a name typed in a handwriting-style font is not accepted.

The signed letter of recommendation should preferably be prepared on institutional letterhead and sent electronically to the applicant for inclusion with the application materials.

The application deadline is 11:59 PM (AEDT), Wednesday, 21 October 2026.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposal