

## Application Guidelines for the 4th Marie Skłodowska Curie Award

JST recognizes the importance of initiatives to promote the activities of female researchers in science, technology, and innovation. In 2021, we established the “Marie Skłodowska Curie Award”, together with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, for awarding young female researchers who are expected to flourish across the world. The award’s namesake, Dr. Marie Skłodowska Curie\*, was recognized for her achievements in her early thirties and won two Nobel Prizes. The award honors her great contribution and achievements to the development of science and technology, and we hope her example will inspire the ambitions of Japanese female researchers.

While the latter half of the doctoral program and the first few years after obtaining doctoral degrees are the most promising period for female researchers to make great strides as independent researchers, it is also true that they often face various life events during this period. By honoring the achievements of the winners and making them widely recognized, we hope that this award will support them to take a leap forward with their passion and flexibility as well as to foster the next generation of female researchers.

The Grand Prize winner will be offered an opportunity to visit research institutions in Poland, where Maria was born and raised, by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Japan and the Polish Academy of Sciences. In addition, JEOL Ltd. will present a cash prize of 1M Japanese Yen for the Grand Prize winner and 500K Japanese Yen for each Inspiration Prize winner.

For the 4th Marie Skłodowska Curie Award, we will accept applications on behalf of researchers or by the researchers themselves from October 1 –December 10, 2024. The awardees will be selected through a document screening and interview process carried out by the Selection Committee, and the results are scheduled to be announced in June 2025 along with the award ceremony. We welcome applicants from a wide range of backgrounds: not just researchers doing basic research projects in universities and research institutes, but also researchers active in engineering, industry, product development, and R&D involving large numbers of people.

\*Marie Skłodowska Curie: A world-renowned researcher from Poland who discovered two novel elements, "polonium" (at age 31) and "radium" (at age 32). She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and remains the only person to have won a Nobel Prize in two different scientific fields, Chemistry and Physics.

### 1. Co-organizers and Supporters

- Co-organizers: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Japan
- Supporters: JEOL Ltd., Polish Academy of Sciences
- Cooperators: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Japan), Ministry of Education and Science (the Republic of Poland)

## 2. Schedule

- Applications: October 1–December 10, 2024 (online)
- Selection: End of December 2024 to end of March 2025 (conducted by external experts)
- Award Ceremony: June 2025 (scheduled)

## 3. Applications

### (1) Submission of proposals

Please fill in and submit the application form available on the Marie Skłodowska Curie Award website.

Website URL: <https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/researcher/mscaward/>

### (2) Requirements

- The researcher may apply themselves or an application may be made on their behalf. If the application is made on their behalf, the female researcher must agree to this.
- Female researchers (including post-docs) who have obtained a PhD within the last five\* years as of April 1, 2025, graduate students (PhD students), and researchers in equivalent positions are eligible.

\*We will take into account periods in which researchers have halted their research activities due to life events.

- Any research discipline related to science and technology
- Nationality: Japanese (regardless of current place of residence)

### (3) Application period

Tuesday, October 1 to 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 11, 2024 (Japan Time)

## 4. Awards

- Grand Prize (for one person)
  - Main Prize: Statue of Marie Skłodowska Curie from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and Award certificate from JST
  - Prize pot: 1M Japanese Yen
  - Sub Prize: Travel expenses (transportation and accommodation) to visit research institutes in Poland (Autumn of 2025)
- Inspiration Prize (for two people)
  - Main Prize: Award certificate from JST
  - Prize pot: 500K Japanese Yen (each)

## 5. Selection

### (1) Selection process

Selection will be carried out by the Selection Committee made up of external experts.

#### 1. Document screening

\*In addition to the application form, two recommendation letters are required.

\*Recommendation letters from overseas are welcome, too.

## 2. Interviews in English

\*Only those who have passed the document screening will be notified of the interview schedule.

\*Interviews will be held online.

\*Interviews will be held in English.

## (2) Selection criteria

- The Committee will evaluate the applicant's achievements to date, their potential (room for growth) as a researcher, and future expectations
- The Committee will evaluate the applicant's desire to engage in joint research with foreign researchers (European, etc.) and international cooperation
- In light of the great accomplishments of Marie Skłodowska Curie, the applicant's will to contribute to humanity will also be considered.

## (3) List of Selection Committee members (ordered according to the Japanese syllabic alphabet)

HIBIYA Junko (Committee Chair)	Professor Emerita, International Christian University
IWAO Emma Haruka	Software Engineer, Google
EBISUYA Miki	Professor/Co-chair, Physics of Life, TU Dresden Alexander von Humboldt Professor
OOGURI Hiroshi	University Professor, The University of Tokyo Fred Kavli Professor and Director of the Walter Burke Institute for Theoretical Physics, California Institute of Technology
GODA Yukiko	Professor, Synapse Biology Unit, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology
KOTANI Motoko	Executive Vice President for Research, Tohoku University Professor, Mathematical Institute, Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University
SAITOH Eiji	Professor, Department of Applied Physics, The University of Tokyo
NUMATA Keiji	Professor, Department of Material Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University Team Leader, RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science
Tomasz M. RUTKOWSKI	Research Scientist, RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project (AIP) Research Fellow, The University of Tokyo

## (4) Conflicts of interest

Conflicts of interest will be handled according to JST guidelines:

- Managing any conflicts of interest of people involved in selection

To ensuring a fair and transparent evaluation, the following interested parties will not be involved in the

selection of applicants.

- a. Anyone with a familial relationship with an applicant
- b. Anyone who is affiliated with the same department, specialty, or research laboratory at a university, a national institute, or a national experiment institution, or the same company as an applicant
- c. Anyone who is conducting close collaboration in research with an applicant. (Anyone considered to be affiliated with the applicant and/or substantively affiliated with the same research group as an applicant, such as conducting a joint project, co-authoring a research paper, a research team member with the same goal, or a co-researcher in an applicant's research project.)
- d. Anyone with a close teacher-student relationship with an applicant, or a direct employment relationship
- e. Anyone else JST judges to be an interested party

## 6. Announcement of Awardees, Award Ceremony and PR

- The award ceremony is scheduled to take place in June 2025. In principle, we ask that awardees attend the award ceremony. We will contact awardees separately regarding the details of travel expenses, etc., to attend the award ceremony.
- Information about the awardees, the awards, and the award ceremony will be announced on the Marie Skłodowska Curie Award website.
- In addition to the session(s) at the award ceremony, we may ask the awardees to cooperate with PR activities and events for this award. We will consult with relevant parties in advance, including the awardees, regarding the publication of PR activity details, etc.

## 7. Handling of Personal Information

We will strictly comply with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information and all relevant laws and regulations, and use any personal information provided to us in connection with applications only for the following purposes. (However, this excludes any situation in which we are required to provide information by law.)

- Personal information will be used for selection and any administrative communications and notifications regarding selection. Applicants may receive communications from outsourcers who have signed a nondisclosure agreement with JST. Personal information may also be used for making announcement of the upcoming call for proposals and other related events in JST.
- With the aim of further promoting the activities of female researchers, some personal information may be utilized within JST's activities, such as adding information to the candidate lists of the selection committee members and external experts and speakers for JST's workshops, symposiums, etc.
- We will publicize awardees' basic information (name, affiliation, brief history, main research, etc.), taken from the content of their applications. This will also be used for necessary communications, such as information concerning the award ceremony.

A nondisclosure agreement with JST will be signed for any outsourcing related to this award. No information

will be provided to any third parties other than those involved in outsourcing, nor will it be disclosed without permission. Personal information provided in connection with applications will be managed by the following contact (Secretariat).

#### 8. Other

- Please be aware that we will not return any applications or attached documents that are sent to us.
- We will not respond to any queries regarding the selection process or any details.
- When the award is accepted, we will ask for a pledge that the applicant is not affiliated with anti-social forces.

[Contact information]

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Office for Diversity and Inclusiveness

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