

Application Guidelines for The First Marie Skłodowska Curie Award

Together with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has established the “Marie Skłodowska Curie Award”* commending young female researchers who aspire to be active on the global stage, in order to contribute to the further advancement of female Japanese researchers.

JST recognizes the importance of initiatives designed to promote the activities of female researchers in science, technology, and innovation fields. In particular, it is necessary to support female researchers in their late twenties and early thirties, when they are most expected to be active as a researcher and at the same time deal with many life events. Therefore, we established the “Marie Skłodowska Curie Award,” named after the great female researcher who was recognized for her achievements in her early thirties and later won the Nobel Prize. The award honors her achievements and great contributions to the development of science and technology across the world, and will inspire more active participation by female Japanese researchers.

For the first Marie Skłodowska Curie Award, we will accept applications on behalf of researchers or by the researchers themselves from October 1—December 13, 2021. 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 May 2022 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. Organizers and Supporters

- Organizers: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Japan
- Supporters: JEOL Ltd., Polish Academy of Sciences

2. Schedule

- Applications: October 1–December 13, 2021 (online)
- Selection: End of December 2021 to beginning of March 2022 (conducted by external experts)
- Award Ceremony: May 2022 (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, 2022, 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

Friday, October 1 to 12:00 noon on Monday, December 13, 2021 (Japan Time)

4. Awards

- Grand Prize (for one person)
 - Certificate and medal from JST; prize pot of 500k yen from JEOL as an additional prize
 - Transportation and accommodation expenses to visit research institutes in Poland will be paid for by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Academy of Sciences (for approx. two weeks. Travel is expected to be in autumn 2022).
- Inspiration Prize (for two people)
 - Certificate and medal from JST; prize pot of 250k yen each from JEOL as an additional prize

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.

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)

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|------------------------------------|---|
| IWASAKI Akiko (Committee Chair) | Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology, Yale University Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute |
| IWAO Emma Haruka | Developer Advocate, Google Cloud |
| OOGURI Hiroshi | Director, The Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, The University of Tokyo Fred Kavli Professor and Director of the Walter Burke Institute for Theoretical Physics, California Institute of Technology |
| KOTANI Motoko | Executive Vice President for Research, Tohoku University/Professor, Mathematical Institute, Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University |
| SOMEYA Takao Tokyo | Dean/Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo Chief Scientist/Team Leader, RIKEN |
| NUMATA Keiji | Professor, Department of Material Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University Team Leader, RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science |
| HARADA Naomi | Director-General, Research Institute for Global Change, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology |
| HIBIYA Junko | Managing Director, Board of Trustees, Sacred Heart School Corporation/Professor Emerita, International Christian University |
| Tomasz M. RUTKOWSKI (AIP) | Research Scientist, RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project 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 May 2022. 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 the Secretariat or JST.
- 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.
- Personal information will be used to contact applicants with information about any seminars, symposiums, or other events JST is organizing.

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 .

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