

JF-Nichibunken Fellowship Program

Contributions Expected of JF Fellows at Nichibunken:

■ Cooperation with the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies beyond Japan

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) established the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies in 2017 in order to understand the research and educational needs of global Japanese studies programs at universities and other academic institutions in Japan and to strengthen mutual collaboration and cooperation between them, and is now working to advance global Japanese studies as the Consortium's chair institution. In its fourth mid-term objectives period (FY2022-2027), Nichibunken will develop the Consortium into a global collaborative organization with participation from universities, research institutes and other member institutions not only within Japan but also internationally. Nichibunken is aiming to further invigorate the activities of the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies by building on its extensive record of excellence in activities such as hosting international joint workshops and nurturing early-career researchers.

JF Fellows will raise awareness of the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies through networks in their home countries and universities, thereby contributing to the promotion of the Consortium's activities beyond Japan. JF Fellows should also make use of the Consortium for their own networking activities and career development.

■ Support for Organizing and Implementing Symposiums and Workshops

As the core institution for the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies, Nichibunken has established an International Research Promotion Division. Three departments have been established under the auspices of this Division: 1) the International Exchange Department; 2) the Research Promotion Department; 3) the Integration of Humanities and Informatics Department – with the aim of developing and growing the Consortium beyond Japan. Throughout the year, these three departments organize numerous symposiums, workshops, and other activities designed to develop and grow the Consortium.

JF Fellows will apply their specialist knowledge and language abilities in support of the planning and implementation of these symposiums and workshops, and gain valuable experience for their own future career development.

■ Participation and Support for Team Research

One of Nichibunken's principal activities is Team Research. Team Research projects bring together researchers with different specializations and national/regional backgrounds to participate in comprehensive interdisciplinary and international research on Japanese society and culture. Unshackling Japanese studies from the national frame, this research advances a more global approach to Japanese studies that mobilizes multicultural and pluralist perspectives to re-engage with Japan's history, society, and culture.

To realize its new “Exploring Crossovers and Multidimensionality” project, set at the start of the fourth mid-term objectives period, Nichibunken has divided its approximately 15 Team Research groups into three research units – Perspectives on Nature/Perspectives on Humanity, Power and Culture, and Developing Research into Popular Culture – and is promoting cross-unit collaboration.

JF Fellows will participate in and support the operation of these Team Research groups, including those for which their counterparts serve as leader. As early-career researchers, JF Fellows are also requested to disseminate information, acquire knowledge beyond their own fields of specialization, and utilize it in their own future research activities.