

## **FY2026 Nichibunken Academic Encouragement Award: Recommendation Guidelines**

### **1. Aim**

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) established the Nichibunken Academic Encouragement Award in 2023 with the aim of nurturing junior researchers who are based outside Japan and who are likely to lead internationalization of Japanese Studies through comprehensive research in the field. The Award is designed to honor outstanding researches in Japanese Studies conducted from an international perspective, as well as to subsidize the future development of such researches and foster the next generation of researchers.

### **2. Eligibility**

Eligible candidates are limited to doctoral students recommended by overseas institutions holding academic exchange agreements with Nichibunken or International member institutions (Full member) of the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies.

- (1) Applicants must aspire to lead in the internationalization of Japanese Studies through comprehensive research on Japan in the humanities and social sciences, and aims to produce doctoral dissertations that explore the diversity and multifaceted nature of Japanese history, society, or culture.
- (2) Applicants can be of any nationality.
- (3) Applicants already enrolled in or affiliated with another institution within Japan at the time of application are ineligible.
- (4) Applicants who will have already finished their doctoral program at the time of arrival are ineligible.
- (5) Applicants must be able to arrive in Japan on or after April 1, 2022 and depart on or before March 31, 2027. The length of the stay shall be up to 90 days including the dates of arrival and departure. Please note that arrival and departure during the year-end and New Year period (December 29-January 3) are not permitted.

\*Candidates may request their desired research period from among the designated below.

However, Nichibunken shall have final say over period granted.

- (A) 90 days within the period from April 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026

(B) 90 days within the period from August 1, 2026, and December 28, 2026

(C) 90 days within the period from December 1, 2026, and March 31, 2027

### 3. Recommendation of Candidates

Only one candidate may be recommended by the President or Faculty/Graduate School Dean of any eligible institution. Recommendations by other parties, or self-recommendations, are not accepted.

### 4. Overview of Support for Awardees

The following support will be provided:

- (1) Up to 90 days pursuing research at Nichibunken, to include airfare (economy class), accommodation and per diem allowances in accordance with the regulations of the National Institutes for the Humanities. No salary will be paid.
- (2) Free use of the Visiting Research Fellows' Room, Library, computers, and other facilities at Nichibunken.
- (3) Accommodation at Nichibunken House (fees apply).
- (4) A faculty member to mentor and assist research (please inform Nichibunken if you have a preferred faculty member).
- (5) Assistance to any awardee whose nationality requires them to apply for a visa.

### 5. Application Procedure (documents may be written in English or Japanese; however, the research proposal must be in Japanese)

Send the following documents by e-mail to the address in article 9 below.

Documents to be submitted by recommender:

- Recommendation Form

Documents to be submitted by candidate:

- Application Form
- Outline of research activities to date
- Research proposal (write about the research you plan to undertake at Nichibunken in about 2,000 Japanese characters (kana and kanji))
- One of the following: Master's thesis, published academic research paper, a paper presented at an international academic conference, or some equivalent written work
- Proof of current enrollment in a doctoral program

#### 6. Number of Awardees

Up to three awardees will be selected each year, in principle. If fewer, or no candidates are considered suitable, fewer or no awards shall be made.

#### 7. Determination of Awardees

Selection is made by the Nichibunken Academic Encouragement Awards Selection Committee.

#### 8. Selection and Notification of Outcomes

Around February 2026, the Nichibunken Academic Encouragement Awards Selection Committee shall select the successful candidates and issue notification to their home institution.

#### 9. Applications and Recommendations to be sent to

International Research Promotion Unit, Research Cooperation Section, International Research Center for Japanese Studies

3-2 Goryo Oeyama-cho, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto 610-1192 Japan

Telephone: +81(0)75-335-2041      Fax: +81(0)75-335-2092

E-mail: nichibunaward\*nichibun.ac.jp (replace the character \* with @)

URL: <https://www.nichibun.ac.jp/en/research/award/academic-encouragement/>

#### 10. Recommendation Deadline

Before the midnight (Japan time) on Tuesday, September 30, 2025

#### 11. Other

- 1) No changes or additions to application documents are accepted after submission.
- 2) Submitted documents are not returned.
- 3) Nichibunken does not respond to inquiries regarding selection outcomes.
- 4) Awardees may be requested to cooperate in future activities of the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies promoted by Nichibunken.
- 5) All personal information contained in application documents is managed in accordance with the National Institutes for the Humanities Personal Information Protection Regulations and related

laws and regulations, and used solely for the purpose of selecting awardees. Nichibunken shall dispose of such information responsibly when the selection process is complete.

- 6) Nichibunken does not have Overseas Travel and Disaster Compensation Insurances. Awardees will be requested to enroll in these insurances at their own expense before arrival in Japan.