

German-Japanese Junior Experts Exchange Program 2026

On the topic of “Quantum Technology”

1. Purpose of the Program

The Junior Experts Exchange Program (“JEX”) is a specialized program lasting approximately one week. Its goal is to introduce young Japanese and German scientists and engineers to research facilities in Germany and Japan, to spark interest in the research landscape of the other country, and to build a sustainable international network. Each year, the sponsoring institutions—the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MoFA) and the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology, and Space (BMFTR)—select a new focus topic. This year’s topic is “Quantum Technology”.

2. Program in Japan

a) Eligibility and Selection Process

For participation in the program part which takes place in Japan, we are seeking “Junior Experts” from Germany, i.e., scientists or (future) leaders from public and private research institutions or universities, as well as research departments of private companies, who work in the field of quantum technology research and development.

Applicants must be employed by a company or research institution based in Germany or are enrolled at a German university or college. In the case of non-German applicants, the application should clearly indicate that they intend to pursue a longer-term career in the German research community.

Applicants should have completed their studies (Master’s degree or higher) and be no older than 40 years of age. Fluency in English is a prerequisite for participation in the program. The selection process will also take into account experience, professional interests, and motivation.

b) Dates and Duration

The program will take place in Japan from November 1 to 7, 2026 (departure from Germany is on October 31; return to Germany is on November 8).

c) Program

As part of the program, research institutions and companies in various Japanese cities will be visited. The site visits focus on exchanging ideas and knowledge with researchers

and experts (in English). In addition, a joint workshop for the 2026 German and Japanese delegations – as well as other German alumni from previous JEX cohorts – will take place on November 21, 2026, at the Japanese-German Center Berlin. There will also be a reception on the evening of November 20, 2026. Participation in the workshop is a mandatory part of the JEX Program for both the German and the Japanese delegations, and attendance at the reception is strongly encouraged.

d) Expenses

The basic expenses of the program in Japan (airfare, hotel accommodation, domestic transportation, meals, admission fees) will be funded by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Participation in the reception and workshop in Berlin in November 2026 will be subsidized by the BMFTR, subject to the grant approval.

e) Number of Participants

Up to six candidates may be selected for participation in the program.

f) Application

The application deadline is **August 1, 2026**.

Required documents:

- application form,
- curriculum vitae,
- brief statement of purpose,
- if available (not mandatory): Proof of standardized English language test (TOEIC, TOEFL, or similar).

Please send all application documents in digital form in English to: Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB), JEX@jdzb.de. The application documents will be forwarded to the Embassy of Japan in Germany and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (see h). The final selection of candidates is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan in Germany.

Applicants are expected to be notified about the selection results in early September.

g) Organizing Institutions

The call for applications and the general application process is being organized by

Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB), Saargemünder Str. 2, 14195 Berlin

Email: JEX@jdzb.de

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan is responsible for preparing and implementing the program in Japan.

h) Data Protection

Application documents will be stored by the JDZB in accordance with the Federal Data Protection Act and the EU General Data Protection Regulation, to the extent necessary for processing the application. The application documents will be forwarded to the Embassy of Japan in Germany and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The JDZB's privacy policy can be found on our website at <https://jdzb.de/en/datenschutzerklaerung>.