



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Fellowships for Advanced
Social Science Research on Japan
Program Announcement
Deadline: April 22, 2026

The Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan (Japan Fellowships) program aims to promote Japan studies in the United States, encourage U.S.- Japanese scholarly exchange, and foster the next generation of Japan scholars in the U.S. Awards support research and writing on modern Japanese society and political economy, Japan's international relations, and U.S.-Japan relations.

To apply, follow the instructions in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity for Awards to Individuals](#) (Individual Programs NOFO). This announcement includes additional guidance and requirements specific to the Japan Fellowships program. **You are responsible for reviewing and following all requirements in the NOFO and in these guidelines.** You must apply via Grants.gov.

Funding Opportunity Title	Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan
Funding Opportunity Number	20260422-FO
Federal Assistance Listing Number	45.160
Application Deadline	April 22, 2026, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time
Anticipated Award Announcement	January 2027
Anticipated FY 2027 Funding	Approximately \$180,000
Estimated Number and Type of Awards	Approximately 3 grants
Award Amounts	\$30,000 to \$60,000 (\$5,000 per month)
Cost Sharing/Match Required	No
Period of Performance	The period of performance is 6-12 months. Projects must start between April 1, 2027, and September 1, 2028.
Eligible Applicants	Individuals: U.S. citizens residing domestically or abroad and foreign nationals who have lived in the United States or its jurisdictions for at least the three years prior to the application deadline See eligibility information below and in the

	Notice of Funding Opportunity.
Program Resource Page	https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowships-advanced-social-science-research-japan
Webinar	Pre-recorded webinar posted to resource page
Published	March 2, 2026
Updated (amended reference letter deadline)	April 1, 2026

Purpose

Japan Fellowships are intended for individual researchers with advanced Japanese language skills whose research will require using data, sources, documents, onsite interviews, or other direct contact in Japanese. Fellows may undertake their projects in Japan, the United States, or both, and may include work in other countries for comparative purposes. NEH encourages submissions from independent scholars and junior scholars. Projects are eligible at any stage in their development.

The program is a joint activity of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) and NEH. NEH will provide funding in the form of grants made on behalf of JUSFC, which is the primary funder. Awards are governed by NEH grant policies and conditions. Awards are contingent on the availability of funds from JUSFC.

Review Criteria

Peer reviewers will use the following criteria to review applications for this program:

1. The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to social science scholars, general audiences, or both.
2. The degree to which the proposed project furthers scholarly knowledge or public understanding of contemporary Japanese society or political economy, Japan's contemporary international relations, and/or U.S.-Japan relations.
3. The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
4. The quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the social sciences.
5. The feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed work plan, including, when relevant, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
6. The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project (not necessarily during the period of performance).

Funding Restrictions Specific to This Program

See section A.2 in the [Individual Programs NOFO](#) for the full list of funding restrictions for awards to individuals

You may not use awards made in this program for

- projects that fall outside the social sciences
- projects focused primarily on pre-modern Japan (i.e., pre-1868)
- projects focused primarily on the interpretation of artistic or literary works

- development of curricula, or teaching methods and theories

Period of Performance

Japan Fellowships awards can be from 6 to 12 months. You must work full-time on your project and forego teaching, administrative assignments, and other major activities during your fellowship period. You may request a start date between April 1, 2027, and September 1, 2028.

Eligibility

See sections C.1 and C.2 in the [Individual Programs NOFO](#) for full eligibility information, including resubmission, collaborative projects, and projects supported by previous NEH grants.

You do not need to have an affiliation with a scholarly institution to apply to the Japan Study program. Currently enrolled students are not eligible.

You may not accept or hold any other NEH individual award, including a Chairman's Award to Individuals, in the same federal fiscal year. Because Japan Fellowships are full time, you may not hold any other NEH award at the same time.

Application deadline

Applications must be submitted by April 22, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

Applications must be complete, follow length and formatting requirements, and be validated by Grants.gov under the correct funding opportunity prior to the deadline to be considered under this notice.

Application components

See the Application Component Table below to learn what a complete application entails, and the sections following it for information about the content of those components.

See the [Individual Programs NOFO](#) for instructions for the Grants.gov forms in your application package (SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance-Individual, NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals Form, Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form, Attachments form).

Your attachments must be PDFs and conform to the following formatting requirements:

- pages no larger than standard letter size (8 ½" x 11")
- margins of at least one inch on all sides
- single-spacing
- a readable font such as Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, or Times New Roman, no smaller than 11 points
- any standard citation style is acceptable; citations are included in page counts

Attachments in non-PDF format (Word, etc.) will result in an application being automatically rejected.

Application Component	File Name	Designation	Page limits
Attachments			
1: Narrative	narrative.pdf	Required	3 (mandatory)
2: Work plan	workplan.pdf	Required	1 (mandatory)
3: Bibliography	bibliography.pdf	Required	1 (mandatory)
4: Résumé	resume.pdf	Required	2 (mandatory)
5: Visual materials	visual.pdf	Conditionally required	1 (mandatory)
6: Data sample	datasample.pdf	Conditionally required	1 (mandatory)
7. Data management plan	datamanagement.pdf	Conditionally required	
8: Degree conferral	degreeconferral.pdf	Conditionally required	
9: Explanation of delinquent federal debt	delinquentdebt.pdf	Conditionally required	
Grants.gov forms			
SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance - Individual		Required	
NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals Form		Required	
Project/Performance Site(s) Location Form		Required	
Attachments Form		Required	

Attachment 1: Narrative (required)

Organize your narrative using the following headings. Each section aligns with one or more of the [review criteria](#) NEH will use to evaluate your proposal. Your narrative should be succinct, well organized, and free of technical terms and jargon so that peer reviewers can understand the proposed project. Per the [Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence for NEH Grant Proposals](#), you must acknowledge (by use of footnotes or other marginal notations) when you have inserted AI-generated text into your proposal.

a. Significance and contribution (aligns primarily with [review criteria 1 and 2](#))

Describe the intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to social science scholars, general audiences, or both. Provide an overview of the project, explaining the basic ideas, problems, or questions examined by the study. Describe your research and state the project’s thesis or claim(s). Explain how the project will complement, challenge, or expand relevant studies in the field. Discuss how the project furthers scholarly knowledge or public understanding of contemporary Japanese society or political economy, Japan’s contemporary international relations, and/or U.S.-Japan relations.

b. Organization, concepts, and methods (aligns primarily with [review criterion 4](#))

Explain how your proposed research will help you resolve the problems or questions you are examining. Describe the theoretical framework of your argument and explain how your proposed research will advance it. As necessary, explain unfamiliar concepts or terminology for the non-specialist reader.

Outputs of a fellowship typically include books, articles, digital materials, or translations. For book proposals, explain how you will organize the final product. If possible, provide a chapter outline. Explanations of each chapter's contents are particularly important when a chapter title does not clearly indicate its contents.

If your project is an expansion or revision of a completed dissertation, state this. Explain the expansion or revision you are proposing, and how the resulting product will be strengthened by the work for which you seek support.

For digital projects, describe the technologies you will use or develop, and explain how you will present the scholarship to benefit audiences in the social sciences.

c. Competencies, skills, and access (aligns primarily with [review criterion 3](#))

Explain your competence or background in the area of your project. If the area of inquiry is new to you, explain your reasons for working in it and your qualifications to do so. Specify the level of competence in any languages, technologies, or methods needed for the study. Describe where you will conduct the study and what research materials you will use. If relevant, specify the arrangements for access to archives, collections, or institutions that contain the necessary resources, and name any Japanese sponsors or collaborators. Indicate your plans for securing any necessary permission to publish materials under copyright.

d. Final product and dissemination (aligns primarily with [review criteria 5 and 6](#))

Describe the intended results of the project. Identify your intended audience. Explain how you will disseminate the results and why these means are appropriate to the subject matter and audience. For book projects, indicate possible publishers. For article projects, indicate potential journals for publication. If the project has a website, provide the URL. If the final product will appear in a language other than English, explain how access and dissemination will be affected. If the project involves materials under copyright, indicate your plans for securing the necessary permission to publish.

NEH and JUSFC expect that any materials produced in digital form as a result of its awards will be maintained so as to ensure their long-term availability. To that end, describe how the project's digital results, if any, will be sustained and supported beyond the period of performance.

Your narrative must not exceed **three pages**. Name the file narrative.pdf.

Attachment 2: Work plan (required)

Present a schedule for the period of performance (in increments of three months or fewer). This schedule can be in narrative form or by using a table. Indicate the current state of the project and identify what, if any, parts of the project you have already completed. Explain the tasks you expect to accomplish during the period of performance. If you will not complete the project during the period of performance, state when you expect to complete it. You should not include

a chapter outline. Chapter outlines and descriptions, if applicable, should be part of your narrative.

Your work plan should not depend heavily on factors beyond your control, such as the receipt of outside reviewers' reports from a publisher. If you plan to submit a manuscript for publication before the end of the period of performance, explain what additional work will be required and why it merits support.

Your timeline should include where you will work and, if you will be in more than one location, how long you will spend in each.

If you received NEH support for an earlier stage of the same project, indicate the program, what was accomplished during that award period and how the proposed work plan builds on your previous support.

If you and another researcher are seeking funds for the same project, identify them and state if they have received or submitted a proposal for NEH support. Clearly explain how the work will be divided and the extent to which each collaborator's contribution depends on that of the other.

Your work plan must not exceed **one page**. Name the file workplan.pdf.

Attachment 3: Bibliography (required)

Your bibliography should consist of primary and secondary sources that relate directly to the project. Include works that pertain to both the project's substance and its theoretical or methodological approaches to give a well-rounded representation of your project. Peer reviewers will use the bibliography to assess your knowledge of the subject area.

Your bibliography must not exceed **one page**. Any standard bibliographic format is acceptable. Items referenced in the narrative need not appear in the bibliography if the citation in the narrative enables readers to identify the work.

Name the file bibliography.pdf.

Attachment 4: Résumé (required)

Include a résumé with the following information:

- current and past positions
- education: list degrees, dates awarded, and titles of theses or dissertations
- awards and honors: include dates. If you have received prior support from NEH, indicate the dates of these awards and the products that resulted from them.
- publications: include full citations for publications and presentations
- other relevant professional activities and accomplishments
- level of competence in digital tools or methodologies, and if applicable, in any relevant foreign languages

Your résumé must not exceed **two pages**. Name the file resume.pdf.

Attachment 5: Visual materials (conditionally required)

If your project involves visual materials, NEH recommends that you provide a sample. Your sample must be saved as a PDF (do not use .jpg or other common graphic formats).

Do not exceed **one page** of visual materials.

Name the attachment visual.pdf.

Attachment 6: Data sample (conditionally required)

If you are developing a dataset, NEH recommends that you provide a representative sample of your data.

Do not exceed **one page**. Name the attachment datasample.pdf.

Attachment 7: Data management plan (conditionally required)

NEH expects that any materials produced in digital form as a result of its awards (applied or scientific research datasets, born-digital scholarship, or integral digital components of hybrid projects) will be maintained and preserved to ensure their long-term availability. To that end:

- Describe your plan for hosting, maintaining, and preserving your digital products. While you do not need to have a publication contract or formal hosting plan in place at the time of application, mention if you plan to seek institutional hosting (including with a press).
- Explain who will be responsible for maintaining the project during the period of active maintenance.

Include any standards for data and metadata format and content your project will use. Name the attachment datamanagement.pdf.

Attachment 8: Degree conferral (conditionally required)

If you have satisfied all the requirements for a degree and are awaiting its conferral, you must include a letter from the dean of the conferring school or the department chair attesting that you have satisfied all the requirements for the degree by the application deadline.

Name the file degreeconferral.pdf.

Attachment 9: Explanation of delinquent federal debt (conditionally required)

If you receive an offer of an award and are **delinquent** in the repayment of any federal debt, you will be asked to provide explanatory information including evidence that you have entered into a repayment agreement with the Internal Revenue Service, and that you are current on all payments due. Examples of relevant debt include **delinquent** student loans, taxes, child support payments, and payroll taxes for household or other employees. See [OMB Circular A-129](#). NEH encourages you to submit this information with your application, but you will be required to submit it if you receive an award.

Name the file delinquentdebt.pdf.

Letters of reference

To ensure full consideration, letters of reference must be submitted online **no later than June 4, 2026**. For additional information on letters of reference, see Section 4: Letters of Reference in the [Individual Programs NOFO](#).

Award announcements

NEH will notify you of funding decisions by email in January 2027.

Federal Award Documents

If NEH selects your application for an award, the NEH Office of Grant Management will send your award documents through eGMS Reach starting in March 2027.

Materials publicizing or products resulting from NEH- and JUSFC-funded activities must contain an acknowledgment of NEH and JUSFC support. Consult [Acknowledgment and Publicity Requirements for NEH Awards](#) and [Publicizing Your Project](#) for guidance.

Agency Contacts

If you have questions about the program, contact:

Division of Research
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506
202-606-8200
fellowships@neh.gov

If you have questions about administrative requirements or allowable costs, contact:

Office of Grant Management
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506
202-606-8494
grantmanagement@neh.gov

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can contact NEH using telecommunications relay at 7-1-1.