

Junior Research Associate program: Frequently Asked Questions

Application qualifications

Q1: I am a graduate student, and would like to apply for this program. Which should I do first: contact a RIKEN researcher or submit my application for the JRA program?

A1: The JRA application must be made by the principal investigator (PI) of the RIKEN host laboratory. You should start by consulting a RIKEN researcher and your supervising university instructor.

Q2: I am a graduate student, and my graduate school has a joint graduate school program agreement with RIKEN. Am I eligible to apply in the joint graduate school category?

A2: To apply in the joint graduate school category, one of your university instructors must also be a RIKEN researcher appointed to the position of instructor under the terms of the joint graduate school agreement. If your supervising instructor is not a fulltime RIKEN researcher, you may apply for the JRA program in the joint research category. (See Q3.) We suggest you first consult your supervising instructor and the PI of the RIKEN laboratory that you would like to host you as a JRA.

Q3: To apply in the joint research category or the research collaboration category, must the graduate student's laboratory at the university have a joint research agreement or a research collaboration agreement with the RIKEN host laboratory?

A3: You may apply before the agreement is actually signed, but a joint research contract or research collaboration agreement must be in effect by your date of hire as a JRA.

Q4: My university plans to enter into a joint research contract or collaborative research agreement with RIKEN, but there is no contract or agreement yet. Can I apply for the JRA program?

A4: Yes, so long as there is a contract or agreement with RIKEN by the date of hire. (See Q3.)

Q5: The JRA candidate is enrolled in a collaborating university and the candidate's supervising instructor is a RIKEN researcher. However, the candidate would like to apply to carry out research in a laboratory other than that of his/her RIKEN supervising instructor. Is it still possible to apply?

A5: Yes. In this case, the head of the RIKEN laboratory where the candidate wishes to work must apply to host the candidate. It should also be noted that this provision only applies for the joint research and research collaboration categories.

Q6 : The JRA candidate is enrolled in a collaborating university but the candidate's supervising instructor is not a RIKEN researcher. Can I apply for the JRA program?

A6: Please apply for the joint research and research collaboration categories.

Regarding application forms

Q7: For the list of research publications to be entered under item 1, Academic journals, on Form 3, can I put down a paper that has been submitted for publication but has not yet been published? Is it also OK to list my poster presentations in this category?

A7: You may list papers that have been submitted but not yet published, which should be marked "In printing."
Please remember that once we have received your application documents for the JRA program, they cannot be revised or replaced, even if your paper is later accepted for publication. Poster presentations should be listed under item 2, Oral presentations, on Form 3.