

Updated 10/9 (Th), 12:00pm

2026-27 REISCHAUER INSTITUTE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN JAPANESE STUDIES

ONLINE APPLICATION: <https://academicpositions.harvard.edu/postings/15340>

Applicant Deadline: December 19, 2025 (Friday), 5:00pm EST

Recommender Deadline: January 9, 2026 (Friday), 5:00pm EST

Please note: The applicant and recommender deadlines were separated due to the nature of the Harvard's online application system. Only after the application is submitted will the recommender be notified of the recommendation letter request.

Applicants, to ensure a smooth process, please communicate with your recommenders in advance of the first deadline on December 19.

The Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies (RIJS) at Harvard University will offer several Postdoctoral Fellowships in Japanese Studies to recent Ph.D. graduates of exceptional promise, to provide the opportunity for postdoctoral fellows to turn their dissertations into publishable manuscripts and to continue their research in Japanese studies.

APPOINTMENT TERM:

Year-long appointments, commencing August or September 2026.

FELLOWSHIP GRANT:

- Stipend of \$70,000 and research funds up to \$5,000. This appointment is eligible for subsidized medical, dental, vision, and other benefits through Harvard University.
- Postdoctoral fellows will be provided office space, as well as access to the libraries and resources of Harvard University.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Postdoctoral fellows are expected to reside in the general, greater Boston/Cambridge area in order to fully participate in RIJS activities and events during the appointment term. Postdoctoral fellows will also be expected to give a presentation at the RIJS Japan Forum lecture series.

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must have received their Ph.D. in 2021 or later, in Japanese studies, in any area of the humanities or social sciences. RIJS especially encourages applications from those who have not previously held postdoctoral appointments at Harvard. Those who are selected to receive fellowships must have a Registrar-certified Ph.D. degree by June 30, 2026. *Please note that the fellowship is contingent upon degree documentation and is subject to rescission if the deadline is not met.*

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

The postdoctoral fellowship application is available online:

<https://academicpositions.harvard.edu/postings/15340>

The application contains the following:

I. Personal Information (Required)

- Candidate Information
- Contact Information
- Sponsorship: Will you now or in the future require visa sponsorship?
- Educational Background

II. Reference Letters (Required)

Two reference letters are required. On your online application, two reference entries must be created. Once your application is submitted by the **applicant deadline December 19, 2025 (Friday)**, ARleS will automatically generate reference solicitation emails to your recommenders. Reference letters must be submitted by the **recommender deadline January 9, 2026 (Friday)**. Your application will not be considered complete until all materials are received.

III. Supplemental Questions (Required)

- Please state your thesis title.
- Please provide a short summary of your research plan at Harvard. (200 words)
- Have you previously applied for any postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard? If yes, which and when?
- Have you previously received any postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard or elsewhere? If yes, which and when?
- Are you currently applying for other postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard or elsewhere? If yes, which?
- Please indicate your current employment status and institution. (e.g. graduate student/Ph.D. candidate; postdoctoral fellow; non-tenure track position; tenure-track position; currently job searching)

IV. Supplemental Materials (Required)

Please upload each of the following required materials to your application.

1. **Statement of Research (2 pages):** What research do you plan to pursue during the fellowship term? What do you plan to do at each stage, and what particular resources do you intend to use? What are the advantages of spending a postdoctoral fellowship year at Harvard; are there specific individuals or resources you hope to seek out while in residence?
2. **Curriculum Vitae:** Please include current and permanent addresses, telephone number(s), email address; academic degrees with dates of conferral (including expected dates), discipline and institution; current employer; and *list of publications*.
3. **Transcript:** Please submit an official electronic transcript or OPEN your official paper transcript to scan as part of your complete application. ***If your Ph.D. comes from a non-US university that does not issue an official transcript of grades, please submit alternative documentation of your enrollment and progress in the degree program, as well as a written statement that you are unable to provide an official transcript of grades.*

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4. **Dissertation Abstract (1 page)**
5. **Dissertation Table of Contents**
6. **Dissertation Chapter:** We will also accept a published article submitted in lieu of the dissertation chapter as a writing sample.

V. University-wide Demographic Questions (Optional)

- Self-Identification of Protected Veteran Status
- Self-Identification of Disability
- Voluntary Demographics

You may opt out of any or all of these questions.

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Award Announcement: after March 15, 2026

Please direct inquiries to: rijspostdoc@fas.harvard.edu

EEO/Non-Discrimination Commitment Statement

Harvard University is committed to equal opportunity and non-discrimination. We seek talent from all parts of society and the world, and we strive to ensure everyone at Harvard thrives. Our differences help our community advance Harvard's academic purposes.

Harvard has an [equal employment opportunity](#) policy that outlines our commitment to prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, religion, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law or identified in the university's [non-discrimination policy](#). Harvard's equal employment opportunity policy and non-discrimination policy help all community members participate fully in work and campus life free from harassment and discrimination.