

REISCHAUER INSTITUTE SUPPLEMENTARY DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT (SDRG)

The Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies (RIJS) offers limited funding to Harvard doctoral students in any area of Japanese studies within the humanities or social sciences for dissertation field research. Priority is given to GSAS students in Japanese studies and to those doing their first year of field research in Japan. Applicants must be at the dissertation research phase of their degree and plan to use the funds for long-term research in Japan (either 6 months or one year), or to extend research for up to 6 months after a previous 1-year outside grant, although SDRG funding for such extended research is not guaranteed. SDRG funding is competitive, and the maximum grant amount is **\$30,000**.

The SDRG is supplemental to other funding and does not replace it. Students must also apply for funding from other sources and are expected to prioritize outside funding offers. The SDRG can only be received once. In preparing an application, please note that research *must be conducted in Japanese*. Applicants should clearly describe their language skills in their application. For students who seek to extend their field research, please carefully follow the instructions detailed in Part 5 of the Application Instruction section.

Please Note: If awarded full year SDRG funding, the award will be disbursed in two installments, with the second installment upon receipt of a brief report on research progress.

Applying for SDRG funding *and* RIJS summer funding is strongly discouraged, and funding is not guaranteed. Students who receive a Supplementary Research Grant are not eligible to receive summer research support. Students cannot front-end a full year of research in Japan with a Summer Research Grant unless there is a considerable time gap (5-6 months) between the end date of the summer grant and start of the full-year grant. Applicants should consult with their advisors and select the most appropriate funding opportunity. Recommendation letters must align closely with student plans.

All support related to travel must comply with Harvard University guidelines and safety protocols. Please see the [Harvard Global Support Services website](#) for travel support.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Apply using [CARAT](#), Harvard's web-based application tool, at: <https://carat.fas.harvard.edu/>. After logging in with your Harvard credentials, select “**Reischauer Institute Supplementary Dissertation Research Grant**” to start your application. Please follow the instructions on CARAT, as well as the specific RIJS instructions stated below. This application requires:

- CARAT application form
- Itemized budget sheet (1 page)
- Current résumé/CV (please do **not** exceed 2 pages)
- Current unofficial transcript from <https://my.harvard.edu/> (official transcript also fine)

- Statement of purpose (2-4 pages)
- Two letters of recommendation (one letter should be from a current faculty/thesis advisor in the Japan field)

2. Submit your completed application on [CARAT](#) by **Friday, February 13, 2026, 5pm ET**.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. When filling out the online CARAT application, it is essential that you enter your **G Year, Degree, Department, and Nationality**. In addition, please make sure you fill out the **Title and Synopsis of Your Proposal** (even if it says optional). List the title of your research (even if tentative). Do not leave these fields blank.

2. Create and upload a separate, one-page itemized budget sheet detailing your expenses for the period/project, for which support is requested, and the specific amount requested from the RIJS. For example, enter: *\$15,000 for 6 months (Sept 2026 through February 2027) in Kyoto, Japan (include the city/state/country)*. If doing research in more than one country, your RIJS budget should include costs only for the JAPAN portion of your trip. Please also include what other funding you have or will be applying for. Failure to fully disclose all other funding resources will disqualify you for consideration.

Note: You must inform the Institute if you receive any other award for this proposal *after* you submit this application.

3. Upload your **current résumé/CV**. Please do **not** exceed 2 pages.

4. Upload your **current transcript** (either unofficial or official is fine). For an unofficial version, please go to <https://my.harvard.edu/> to print a copy of your transcript, scan it as a PDF, and then upload.

5. Upload your **statement of purpose**. You should not only outline your research, schedule, and research sites, but also **address the project's rationale and intellectual merit** (i.e. why your research matters) in **2-4 pages**. Please also clearly describe your Japanese language skills in your statement. *Include your expected date (month and year) of Ph.D. degree completion.*

If you are applying to extend your current research abroad, please include your current primary research location and institutional affiliation and address the following in your application:

- Initial research proposal and progress to date. Please be specific – indicate length of stay in Japan, institutional affiliation, etc.
- Rationale for the need to extend research and support.
- Current and anticipated sources of funding.

Note: Research projects involving living human subjects must be approved by the University's Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research (CUHS). Grant applicants are responsible for adhering to university guidelines. Projects requiring CUHS must submit such documentation to the Reischauer Institute before a grant can be awarded. Please see <https://cuhs.harvard.edu>.

6. Application must be supported by **two letters of recommendation**. **Letter from advisor must indicate the current stage of your dissertation.** Letters be uploaded and submitted directly into CARAT by faculty or via a proxy or may be emailed directly to the RIJS Program Coordinator: Catherine Glover (cglover@fas.harvard.edu) by the deadline. Recommenders should clearly note which specific fellowship you are applying for in their letters.

7. If you have received previous funding from the Reischauer Institute, state grant name, year, and dollar amount. **Be sure to fill out this field on the budget page on CARAT.**

8. You may also find the [Harvard GSAS Fellowships](#) webpage helpful for other grant resources.

UPLOAD and SUBMIT COMPLETED CARAT APPLICATION ONLINE BY THE DEADLINE.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Must be uploaded by 5:00 pm ET on Friday, February 13, 2026

Announcement of the awards: Late April 2026

For further information, please contact:

Catherine Glover, RIJS Graduate Program Coordinator
cglover@fas.harvard.edu; <https://rijs.fas.harvard.edu/>