

Quarterly  
Newsletter  
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# EURAXESS Japan Quarterly Newsletter

## Contents

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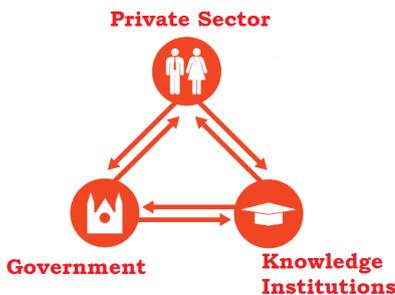
Editor: *Matthieu Py, EURAXESS Japan, Country Representative*

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# EURAXESS Members in Focus: The Netherlands

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by over 40 countries, of which we will profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS Japan e-newsletters. In this edition, we will zoom in on the Netherlands.



The Dutch government follows a top sector approach where nine sectors have been identified as priority areas including Agri-Food, Horticulture, High-Tech, Energy, Logistics, Creative industries, Life Sciences & Health, Chemicals, and Water. The Government, private sector and academia together form a 'Golden Triangle' also known as 'Triple Helix' model, in which interactions among each other are highly encouraged. In the Netherlands, the private sector is a major contributor to overall R&D expenditure and there exist strong linkages between academia and industry.

The Netherlands, often referred to as Holland, was created by the Dutch in the delta where three large rivers flow into the North Sea. Due to its strategic location, the country is known already for centuries for its international traders and the world's first multinational corporation, which originates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Presently ranked 5th on both Global Innovation Index and Global Competitiveness Report 2015-2016, the Netherlands offers a truly innovative and creative environment.

The Dutch research environment stands amongst the best in the world. All 14 Dutch universities are ranked in the top 200 of Times Higher Education Rankings. A [study commissioned by the European Commission](#), in relation to the Europe 2020 strategy, places the Dutch research system among the very best in terms of openness, excellence and attractiveness.

The Netherlands is maintaining a strong position in the European Research Programme Horizon2020, with 7,6% of the budget flowing to Dutch participants. The private sector is taking its proper share with 28% of all funds flowing to The Netherlands. In [EUREKA cluster projects](#) and Eurostars SME innovation projects, The Netherlands is not only a strong contributor in budget, but also in private sector participation.

## 1.1 Netherlands' Research, Development & Innovation System

Public Sector research institutions in the Netherlands consist of 14 universities, 18 KNAW Institutes<sup>1</sup>, 6 Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research (NWO) Institutes, 5 Large Technological Institutes (GTIs)<sup>2</sup>, 14 TNO<sup>3</sup> Institutes, and a number of other state owned research and advisory centres. All Dutch universities are ranked in the top 200 of Times Higher Education Rankings. Together, these universities and institutes form the backbone of the research and innovation landscape in the country. In line with the 'Topsector policy', which strives for closer collaboration in R&D between Academia and Business, the Netherlands has emphasized the importance of Applied Sciences and practical research. In the newly released REUTERS ranking for Europe's Most innovative Universities, The Netherlands holds 6 places inside the Top 50. (<http://mobile.reuters.com/article/idUSKCN0Z00CT>)

In 2014, Dutch institutions published 72,000 publications, ranking 5th in the world. In terms of excellence (share of highly cited publications, top 10%),

<sup>1</sup> So called because KNAW acts as the umbrella organization for these institutes

<sup>2</sup> Conducting applied research in aerospace, water management, hydraulic engineering, maritime research and energy research

<sup>3</sup> TNO stands for Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research which is an independent organization focusing on applied science



Clinical Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Basic Life Sciences and Physics & Material Science were top research areas. The total number of European patents with Dutch origin in 2015 stood at a total of 1998.

## 1.2 Research Excellence in The Netherlands

The Netherlands is very successful in securing European research funding both from the [Marie Skłodowska Marie Funding program \(video\)](#) and [ERC funding \(video\)](#). In order to promote research excellence, NWO offers two types of funding – ‘Innovation Research Incentive Scheme’ for talented, creative researchers who engage in innovative research, which provides three types of grant ([Veni, Vidi, Vici](#)) geared to different stages in a researcher’s career and ‘[Spinoza prize](#)’ which is offered yearly to 3 or 4 excellent researchers, who stand out with groundbreaking research conducted in the Netherlands.

## 1.3 Recruitment Opportunities

### 1.3.1 Public Sector Recruitment Opportunities:

The Netherlands offers various recruitment opportunities for international candidates. All university research positions that are open to international researchers, are listed on the job portal [www.euraxess.eu](http://www.euraxess.eu) and [www.academictransfer.org](http://www.academictransfer.org). One can also visit [FOM Research vacancy](#) page, which lists vacancies available at FOM research institutes. Individual institutes also list such opportunities on their websites, further details can be found [here](#).

### 1.3.2 PhD positions:

The Netherlands is a very attractive destination to pursue PhD degree where it is not regarded as study but as serious research and PhD candidates are often paid. A PhD from Dutch university is highly regarded because of high academic standards. The Netherlands has an excellent international ranking for number of publications per researcher (2nd) and for the impact of research publication (4th). Almost all PhD positions are linked to a university, but PhD-candidates may find place at other institutes or even in industry. More information can be found here: <https://www.studyinholland.nl/education-system/degrees/phd>.

### 1.3.3 Private Sector Recruitment Opportunities: (see Note 1)

Many Dutch companies, both large MNCs as well as SMEs, such as Philips, ASML, Xelvin, Cosine and OctoPlus among others are continuously looking for Bachelors, Masters and PhDs with specialist knowledge. To give an example, Cosine, which is high-energy optics specialist, recruits PhDs in physics from time to time. To apply, candidates should hold a PhD degree in physics related to high-energy optics with 3 years of experience in development and testing of high-energy optics during or after his/her PhD. For more information regarding this position, please contact [Dipl.-Ing. Max Collon](#).

## 1.4 Funding Opportunities

NWO provides [71 grants](#) for researchers, from PhD candidate level onward. [Veni](#) is a very attractive grant for international researchers, which allows those who have recently obtained their PhD to conduct independent research and develop their ideas for a period of three years. KNAW has 15 funding

A large part of R&D in the Netherlands is carried out by **private companies** and they often recruit researchers at varied levels. Many of these companies are located in organised hubs such as ‘Brainport’ in Eindhoven is well known as Europe’s leading High-tech region, and ‘Health Valley’ which is a network of 700 health related organisations working on innovation in healthcare space. (Note1)

There are various **funding agencies** in the Netherlands – The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), Dutch Technology Foundation (STW), The Netherlands Organization for Health Research & Development (ZonMW) and The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), which offer various grants and fellowships for individual researchers. (Note 2)



[instruments](#) amongst which are the NIAS Individual Fellowships. These fellowships are provided to senior scholars with at least three years of post-PhD degree academic experience, who have already made a considerable contribution to their field. The aim is to carry out advanced research in humanities and social sciences through individual projects, lasting one or two semesters at the institute. (see Note 2)

### FactCards

Academic Transfer has set up a great tool to accommodate international researchers coming to the Netherlands. Visit: [Fact Cards](#)



### Easy residence permit procedures

The Netherlands has a very flexible immigration procedures system for researchers and highly educated persons. Your host institution will take care of your residence permit application; it will be dealt with swiftly and includes a free work permit for your research activities. Your possible spouse will also be taken on in this procedure and will receive a residence permit which allows him/her free access to the labour market (no work permit required).

If you want to come to the Netherlands but have not found a job yet, you may be able to use an [orientation year](#). This allows access to the Netherlands and the Dutch labour market for a year to people who received a Master or PhD at a university in the top 200 of either of the THE, QS or Shanghai universities rankings.

## 1.5 Important information for incoming researchers

The Netherlands belongs to the EURAXESS initiative that provides support to researchers and their families when coming to the Netherlands (in key areas such as visas, housing, schooling, etc.). EP-Nuffic is the national coordinator of the Dutch network. Additional information can be found at [www.euraxess.nl](http://www.euraxess.nl). The Netherlands has easy residence permit procedures.

## 1.6 Research Cooperation with Japan

Japan and The Netherlands have a history of knowledge-based exchanges and trade that goes back over 400 years. These ties are alive and kicking today. The 6<sup>th</sup> Japan-Netherlands Joint Committee on Science and Technology was held in Tokyo on 11 november 2015 on the occasion of Prime Minister Rutte's visit to Japan. Research themes that were covered included cybersecurity, agriculture, quantum computing and renewable energy.

Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Rutte agreed on a strategic partnership between Japan and the Netherlands, which includes the ambition to strengthen collaborations in STI generally, as well as important STI topics including cybersecurity and agriculture.

The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) collaborates with JSPS in the JPS Fellowships for Research in Japan programme. This programme supports Postdoctoral Fellowship and short-term Invitation Fellowship (Further information: [NWO](#)).

In practice, many if not most of the research and academic exchange links between Japan and the Netherlands are based on faculty to faculty agreements. These include topics and universities across the wide spectrum of academic learning and research.

For example, in June 2016 a MOU on Turbomachinery between the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) and the Osaka Institute of Technology (OIT) was signed. Both universities will collaborate in the field of Turbomachinery for aerospace and industrial applications, an area of vital importance to solve the future challenges in this field. As first activity under the MOU, both universities will exchange students and researchers from coming August.



MOU signing ceremony, June 23, the Netherlands Embassy in Tokyo

## Conclusion

If you are interested to learn about research opportunities or would like to have more information about the R&D landscape in the Netherlands, please contact the Dutch Embassy in Japan ([mail@nost.jp](mailto:mail@nost.jp)).



## 2 Hot topic: Opportunities for graduate studies in Europe through Erasmus +

### 2.1 The European Higher Education Fair in Japan

Following on from a streak of successes, the European Higher Education Fair (EHEF) in Japan ran for the fifth time in 2016, in Kyoto and Tokyo on 11 and 12 June. The event showcased to Japanese students, researchers, as well as to those already in employment looking to bolster their career through the acquisition of additional qualifications, some of the most interesting higher education programmes that Europe has to offer.

Over 1200 students visited the fair, featuring over 60 booths from 15 European countries and Japan; and attended the conferences over the two days of the fair.

Presentation of Erasmus + opportunities during EHEF 2016, Tokyo, 12 June 2016



Among the important programmes presented at the fair, Erasmus plus (Erasmus +) raised great interest among the participants for its amazing opportunities at pursuing graduate studies in Europe. In this edition's hot topic, we will therefore cover the opportunities provided by Erasmus + to Japanese students, individuals, and institutions.

### 2.2 About Erasmus + (2014-2020)



## Erasmus+

For more information about Erasmus+:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

Please note the following definitions:

**Programme Countries:** all 28 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

**Partner Countries:** Countries in the rest of the world, including Japan.

Erasmus+ is the European Union's programme for education, training, youth and sport from 2014 to 2020. It aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernizing education, training, and youth work.

With a budget of 14.7 billion euros for the period 2014-2020, Erasmus+ gives opportunities to students, trainees, staff and volunteers to spend a period abroad to increase their skills and employability. It supports also organisations to work in transnational partnership, to modernise and improve their education systems.

Erasmus+ includes a strong international dimension (i.e. cooperation with non-EU countries) notably in the field of higher education and youth, which opens



the programme to institutional cooperation and mobility of higher education students, doctoral candidates, staff and institutions from around the world, including Japan.

The Sport action supports grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.

### To sum up for students and researchers

Individuals cannot apply to the Erasmus+ Call for Proposals. They can find out more about scholarship opportunities from their International Relations Office in their own university (credit mobility) or can apply direct to the consortium offering the Joint Master Degree of their choice (Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees).

\*From 2014 onwards, new Doctoral Programmes and additional doctoral fellowships will be available under the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#), which form part of the [EU's Horizon 2020](#) programme for research and innovation.

Note that additional funds were released to increase the participation of Japanese Higher Education Institutions in Jean Monnet Activities.

## 2.3 What's in it for Japanese students, researchers and higher education institutions?

### ***Erasmus+ credit mobility grants: Study part of your degree in Europe***

**Japanese students/researchers:** If your university has inter-institutional agreements with European Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), you will be able to apply to spend part of your degree period (3 to 12 months) at the European university. Your academic activities abroad will be fully recognised and will count towards your degree once you come back to Japan. This mobility is possible at bachelor, master or doctorate level.

**Japanese higher education institutions (HEIs):** to set up agreements with HEIs in the European Union, Japanese HEIs must contact their European partners who will apply to the annual call with a deadline usually in February.

### ***Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees & Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates: Follow an entire degree in Europe***

**Japanese students/researchers:** [Erasmus Mundus Joint Master degrees \(EMJMD\)](#) and [Joint Doctorates \(JD\)](#)\* are offered by international consortia of higher education institutions from the EU and elsewhere in the world. They provide high quality integrated courses and joint or multiple diplomas following study or research at two or more HEIs.

They award full degree scholarships to:

- Masters students to study in an EM Joint Master Degree
- Scholars and guest academics to teach or carry out research as part of an EMJMD
- Doctoral candidates to take part in an EM Joint Doctorate

Students and doctoral candidates from all over the world are eligible to apply, including Japanese. They apply directly to the selected joint programmes. They can also be enrolled as self-funded students.

**Japanese HEIs:** Japanese public and private HEIs can partner with their European counterparts and enter a consortium to provide offer a EMJMD. The call is launched annually in Autumn.

### ***Jean Monnet Activities***

These are designed to promote excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies in various disciplines. Jean Monnet Activities take place worldwide, including in Japan.

**Japanese students/researchers:** Individuals can not apply for a grant.

**Japanese HEIs :** Jean Monnet Activities calls are issued annually, in October. Japanese HEIs submit their proposal directly to [EACEA](#).

**Statistics:**

During the 2014-2015 period, as much as 48 bilateral agreements under the Erasmus + credit mobility instrument were signed between European and Japanese institutions.

These should lead to more than 350 student and staff exchanges (both ways) for the period 2014-2016.

**Consortium of Universities responsible for the SpaceMaster Course:**

Luleå University of Technology ([LTU](#)), Kiruna, Sweden (Coordinating University)  
 Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg ([JMUW](#)), Germany  
 Cranfield University ([CU](#)), United Kingdom  
 Czech Technical University ([CTU](#)), Prague, Czech Republic  
 Aalto University, School of Electrical Engineering ([Aalto](#)), Helsinki, Finland  
 Université Toulouse 3 ([UT3](#)), France  
 University of Tokyo ([Todai](#)), Japan

**More information about SpaceMaster:**

<http://spacemaster.eu>

Under the Teaching and Research activity, 3 different modalities can be supported :

- Jean Monnet Module: short teaching programme (or course of minimum 40 teaching hours per academic year) with duration of three years.
- Jean Monnet Chair, that is a teaching post with a specialization in European Union studies for university professors or senior lecturers.
- Centres of Excellence, that is a focal point of competence and knowledge on European Union subjects. Centres of Excellence have project duration of three years.

**Example of Joint Master Degree with participation of a Japanese institution: EMJMD SpaceMaster**

The main objective of the SpaceMaster Joint Master Degree course is to combine the diversity of space expertise at six European universities and two third country universities. Another objective is to give the students cross-disciplinary extension from laboratory and computer simulation environments to hands-on work with stratospheric balloons, rockets, satellite and radar control, robotics, sensor data fusion, automatic control and multi-body dynamics.

The course brings together students from around the world to share their existing competence in space science and technology and to develop it with Europe's space industry and research community.

The University of Tokyo joined this previously existing consortium in 2010. The institution provides opportunity for the students enrolled in SpaceMaster to perform their Master Thesis work (fourth semester of the course) in the Graduate School of Science at the University of Tokyo, potentially in collaboration with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. Thesis subjects include developmental/experimental work in terms of instrumental/observational methods and ground calibration facilities for Japanese or international space exploration missions, and development of data analysis/display systems based on image processing techniques using actual spacecraft data.

Application is open to students with a Bachelor degree of any nationality, and affiliated to any institution in the world (English proficiency required). Application deadline is usually in January for courses starting in September the same year.

Sources: [Erasmus+](#), EU-funded scholarships for Japanese nationals, by the European Commission, 2014

Erasmus+ [website](#) and [programme guide for 2016](#); EACEA presentations; [Come to Europe brochure](#)





### 3 Meet Marian MATEJDES, Postdoctoral researcher at Yamaguchi University

- *Marian, can you introduce yourself to our readers?*

I finished my specialisation in physical chemistry in Slovakia and at the moment I am conducting my research in the field of material science. In our group we are working with hybrid materials based on layered silicates and organic dyes. In our research, we are focusing on the development of hybrid materials which optical properties can be changed by some external stimulus. In a wider context a possible application of these materials can be found in light-harvesting or in semiconductor systems.

- *You're now a post-doctoral researcher at Yamaguchi University, could you tell us a little bit why you chose this specific institution and your current lab, and present your research project?*

The reason why I decided for this lab is especially because of the common overlap in material science with my previous research, and also because of the possibility to work with instruments that are necessary for the progress in this research field. Also I have been always fascinated by Eastern Asian culture, so I am glad that I could manage to combine my professional and personal interests. As I mentioned before, in our research we are focusing to develop hybrid materials which optical properties can be controlled to some extent by certain stimulation. Currently, we are trying to make these changes reversible with high repeatability.

- *You participated in the EURAXESS Survey of European Researchers in Japan. Could you tell us why you participated, and what do you expect from this survey?*

In a broad context, I think that looking at the answers to the questions in this survey will be meaningful not only purely for the survey's needs, but also for scientists like me. I hope there was, with all the other answers [*more than 225 forms were filled, ed.*], enough material to work with and that from there will emerge a comprehensive picture of the motivations and expectations of European researchers in Japan [*regarding both their careers and relation with Europe*].

- *What does this mobility experience to Japan bring to you, in terms of skill or career development?*

Marian is a Slovakian citizen who followed an undergraduate and graduate cursus in Physical Chemistry at the Comenius University in Bratislava, where he also obtained his PhD degree in 2011.

Until 2015, he was an associate researcher to the Slovak Academy of Sciences' Department of Hydrosilicates, before moving to his current position at Yamaguchi University.

Marian participated in the EURAXESS Survey of European Researchers in Japan, closed in April 2016, which aimed to obtain a comprehensive image of the motivations and expectations of the European researchers based in Japan with regards to their careers, and relation with Europe.



The advantages of such mobility are of course work experience, new contacts and personal visibility in Japanese and Asian scientific community. Personally, I am not fully aware how this will durably influence my career development, but I hope the effects will be mostly positive. In my opinion, Japan is perceived in the world as a country with very high scientific potential, and I believe that after this stay at least my scientific horizons will be more extended.

Note 1:

Such programmes exist! One of the solutions is to go through a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions ([MSCA](#)) programme *Research and Innovation Staff Exchange* ([RISE](#)) project for research cooperation. Another possibility is to browse for opportunities of national funding programmes at the EURAXESS Japan webpage or in our Funding Guide.

Among opportunities available for Slovakia is the *National Scholarship Programme for the Supports of Mobility of University Students, PhD Students, University Teachers, Researchers and Artists*, which may cover both incoming mobility (from Japan to Slovakia; although restricted to non-Slovakian nationals) and outgoing mobility (from Slovakia to Japan); for PhD candidates and researchers in any disciplines, and for stays of a duration of one month to twelve months. Both parts of the programme have two deadlines per year: 30 April and 31 October.

Source: [Slovak Academic Information Agency](#)

[Incoming mobility programme](#) | [Outgoing mobility programme](#)

- *While being based in Japan, are you keeping ties with your former workplaces/labs in Europe? If yes, how and to what end/objective?*

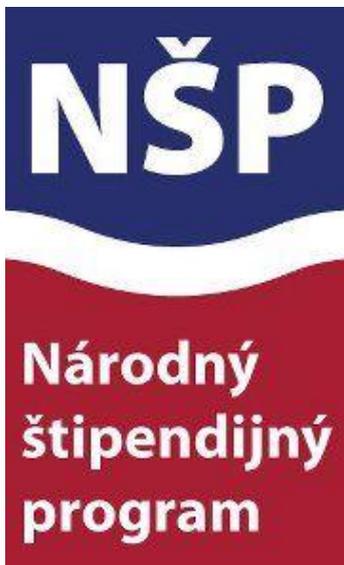
Yes, currently we are starting a project with my colleague from previous workplace, which should result in common scientific articles. The project started after enthusiastic discussion between two scientists about new possibilities and practical application of hybrid materials. To verify our assumptions some measurements needs to be done in Japan and some in Slovakia. Actually we have no funding for this project, but it would be very helpful if we could have one from which we could cover ordinary expenses and also short-term stays either in Japan or in Slovakia.<sup>\*see note 1</sup>

- *From your perspective, how can/should researchers mobility flows between Europe and Japan (both ways) be improved? Also, what would be the barriers for research cooperation?*

I think that in this field, EURAXESS is doing great work. I do not see how more could be achieved from my perspective. However, on a more global, policy level, I would be glad if there were more programmes [for young researchers] which would allow having projects for longer durations, such as 3 or 5 years for example.

- *A final, more personal question: how do you envisage your career: in academia, in industry, or something else? In Japan, in Europe, or somewhere else?*

This question is currently still open for me. Being a part of academia or industry has of course its pros and cons. For my work I need a really creative and motivated environment, so I would be more inclined for academia. The proximity and satisfaction of my family are very important to me, so due to these circumstances I would prefer coming back to Europe of course!







Grantee/Alumni	My background is:	My experience with ERC / MSCA is:
Dr. Shuhei NAKAMURA	Genetics, Molecular Biology and Developmental Biology	Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship in 2012 (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IIF) on Germline-mediated regulation of lifespan in worms and fish
Dr. Keisuke HONDA	Physicist, specialist in theory of core electron Spectroscopy	Individual fellowship running since 2014 at the Institut de Physique de Rennes (France), working on BEEM spectroscopy
Dr. Katsumasa TANAKA	Inter-disciplinary background in climate science and policy and applied mathematics.	I held positions at several European institutes before returning to Japan. An IF MSCA Fellowship supported my two-year residence at ETH Zurich, Switzerland.
Dr. Katsuo TOKUSHUKU	Experimental Particle Physics specialist for almost forty years!	Japanese contact point of the RISE research collaboration project Europe-Japan Accelerator Development Exchange Programme ( <a href="#">E-JADE</a> )
Prof. Hajime ISHIHARA	Specialist of Constructive Mathematics, Logic, and Foundations of Mathematics	Participated in numerous IRSES (RISE) collaborative projects: CONSTRUMATH (2009-2011: <a href="#">link</a> ), COMPUTAL (FP7-2001: <a href="#">link</a> ), CORCON (2013-2017: <a href="#">link</a> )
Prof. Dr. Hiroshi UJII	Interested in nanomaterials, specialised in investigation and manipulation of molecules	ERC Starting Grant project Plasmonics-based Energy Harvesting for Catalysis, (PLASMHCAT) since 2011, with cross affiliation to Hokkaido University
Dr. Fumiyo IKEDA	Graduate of Osaka University, postdoctoral research in Dikic Lab (Frankfurt University).	A very professional and transparent evaluation process; Successful funding of the ERC Consolidator grant after the second trial
Prof. Tomoyuki TANAKA	Group leader in a UK university since 2001., focusing on chromosomes studies.	Supported by an ERC Advanced grant since 2013. Looking at how chromosomes are condensed and how duplicated chromosomes separate during mitosis.
Prof. Dr. Dai AOKI	Nuclear physicist, specialist in heavy fermion physics	Worked on a project supported by an ERC Staring Grant from 2010 to 2015, at the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) in France.

# FALLING WALLS LAB TOKYO

## 4.2 <Call> Falling Walls Lab Tokyo: Science communication contest for all!

The **Falling Walls Lab Tokyo** event, co-organised by EURAXESS Japan and the German Research and Innovation Forum Tokyo ([DWIH](#)), will take place on **August 29 in Tokyo**.

Under the larger umbrella of the [Falling Walls initiative](#), this event will allow **students (Master level and above) and researchers of all ages and disciplines (humanities and social sciences included) to compete in a science communication contest** for a trip to the event finals in Berlin.

Each participant in the Tokyo event will have **3 minutes to present his or her own research project in English**. A Jury composed of renowned personalities will judge the competitors and select a winner.

**Deadline (call for abstracts): 15 July 2016**

**Event date and place: 29 August 2016, Tokyo**

Further information, participation details and abstract submission:

EURAXESS Japan → [English](#) | [Japanese](#)

All nationalities welcome (Japanese researchers: this is your chance too)!  
English literacy is not a criteria for excellence, as long as you make yourself understood correctly!