



Special Postdoctoral Researcher

Sofia Lavrenteva

RIKEN Center for Brain Science
Laboratory for Human Cognition and Learning

One of the main merits of the SPDR Program is the warm support provided. I was able to arrange my research environment without a hitch, which made it easy to try advanced research projects. Having necessary funds for experiments, I was also able to steadily advance with neurological experiments on human subjects and was able to have a fulfilling time doing research. It was easy to have exchanges with other young researchers through the SPDR Program and I gladly applied the knowledge acquired from other fields into my own research projects. We had ample opportunities for valuable exchanges with others on our future careers through our experiences. Moreover, RIKEN hosted seminars for brushing up one's communication skills necessary for leading research teams in the future along with seminars for Special Postdoctoral Researchers. I felt this system would help me in my future career.



Junior Research Associate

Yuzu Kobayashi

RIKEN Cluster for Pioneering Research
Surface and Interface Science Laboratory

Thanks to the JRA Program, I was able to achieve my hopes of both pursuing my doctoral studies and conducting research at RIKEN. Being a JRA allowed me to clear the financial problems that was a barrier to entering a doctoral program, and to concentrate on my research with the administrative support. RIKEN conducts a variety of cutting-edge and unique research. Therefore, by participating in RIKEN as a student, I am able to discuss and advance my research with outstanding researchers on a daily basis. The facilities at RIKEN are well-equipped, so I am also able to broaden the scope of my research. Moreover, by studying hard in an international environment at RIKEN, now, I am more confident in giving presentations at international conferences. I believe that the experience of my doctoral program at RIKEN will be a valuable one for my future. If you are considering going on to a doctoral program, why not consider the JRA Program to conduct research at RIKEN.

About RIKEN

RIKEN, initially established as a private research foundation in Tokyo in 1917, is Japan's flagship research organization where basic and applied research is being conducted in a wide range of science and technology fields including mathematical sciences, physics, chemistry, biology, medical science and engineering.

Message from the president

Makoto Gonokami

President, RIKEN

RIKEN aims to become an internationally appealing institution with the ability to recruit excellent young researchers from both Japan and overseas, and to provide them with the support necessary to become people who will take charge of the science of the future. In order to ensure continuous advancement in basic sciences research, the most fundamental consideration is to train young researchers to take on this task. RIKEN has consistently fostered researchers' careers at all levels, whether they be undergraduate students, graduate students, post-docs, or young principal investigators. The aim is to enable the best research minds - from Japan of course, together with the best investigative minds everywhere - to gather and work together and train the next generation of eminent researchers and engineers, instilling in them the aptitude and skills necessary to meet tomorrow's challenges, making RIKEN an ever better setting for sharing exciting new ideas.

International Programs

RIKEN strives to provide the best and most exciting opportunities for young scientists, both Japanese and international, in the crucially important early stages of their careers. One manifestation of this support comes in the form of RIKEN-funded short and long-term programs for those wishing to join RIKEN in the fields of mathematical sciences, physics, chemistry, biology, medical science or engineering.

Human Resources Division, RIKEN

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<https://www.riken.jp/careers/programs/>



RIKEN's programs for Junior Scientists



Voices of experience RIKEN's Programs for Junior Scientists

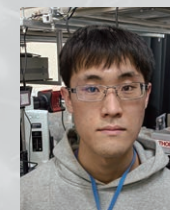


International Program Associate

Kabir Salihu Suraj

RIKEN Cluster for Pioneering Research
Condensed Matter Physics Laboratory

Science is all about collaboration, and RIKEN provides an avenue for that through seminars, workshops, and different exchange programs such as the International Program Associate (IPA). Being an IPA (PhD Student) has allowed me to look through my research from different angles. It has also allowed me to stand on the shoulder of giants. RIKEN has a peaceful environment, sophisticated with cutting-edge facilities that are necessary for research. In addition, RIKEN has more than 40 research teams just under the umbrella of emergent matter science. With the cutting-edge facilities and a large gathering of many talented researchers, RIKEN is arguably the best place to study Emergent Matter Science.



RIKEN Student Researcher

Toshinari Odaka

RIKEN Cluster for Pioneering Research
Metamaterials Laboratory

The RSR Program allows those enrolled in master's or doctoral courses^{※1} to conduct their research under the guidance of RIKEN scientists. Selected students will be employed part-time. I am conducting research in this program. Not only can I do research in a fully equipped research environment but being able to see preeminent researchers' attitudes to research and learning how their minds work is also appealing. In addition to the lab meetings and discussions, one can get a wider view of one's own research through the many seminars and symposiums held at RIKEN. Master's students can also be employed as researchers, and I believe this is a wonderful program for graduate students who aim to be researchers.

※1 In the future, there are plans to accept students in their final year of undergraduate course.



Special Postdoctoral Researcher (SPDR)

The involvement of creative young scientists is critical in pioneering new frontiers of science and technology. RIKEN's Special Postdoctoral Researcher Program fosters the development of researchers who will become internationally active in the future, and provides creative young scientists with the opportunity to be involved in autonomous and independent research in line with RIKEN objectives and research fields. Research funds that can be used at one's discretion will be granted to SPDRs. It is expected that as a corresponding author, outcomes accomplished independently on one's own proposed research topic will be presented in academic journals and conferences.

Research fields

Mathematical sciences, physics, chemistry, biology, medical science and engineering areas that relate to research being conducted at RIKEN.

Features

1. SPDR program was instituted to provide young, creative scientists the opportunity to be involved in autonomous and independent research that is in line with RIKEN objectives and research fields.
2. Guidance is available from the supervisor of the hosting laboratory so that the Special Postdoctoral Researcher is able to carry out independent research.
3. To the extent possible, the Special Postdoctoral Researcher will have free access to various RIKEN facilities and equipment.
4. Fixed term employee (three years)

Salary and benefits

Annual salary will be paid in the monthly amount of 550,000 yen (includes social insurance premiums and taxes). Commuting allowance and housing allowance will be paid in accordance with RIKEN regulations. Research budget is 1,000,000 yen per year, and an additional budget can be available upon screening.

Application and screening

Applications are publicly solicited each year in early spring. A committee comprised of scientists working in the relevant fields both inside and outside RIKEN, carefully screens each applicant on the basis of submitted documents and an interview.

For more details, please refer to the URL below or send an Email message to: wakate@ml.riken.jp
<https://www.riken.jp/en/careers/programs/spdr/>



Junior Research Associate (JRA)

The Junior Research Associate (JRA) program provides part-time positions at RIKEN for energetic and open-minded young researchers enrolled in Japanese university PhD programs for the purpose of giving them the opportunity to carry out research alongside RIKEN scientists, enhancing RIKEN's creative and basic research capabilities, and strengthening ties between RIKEN and universities in Japan. To foster the development of basic research in medical fields, recent graduates of medical and dental universities who have acquired their medical or dental licenses are welcome to apply.

Qualifications

Applicants must be enrolled or scheduled to be enrolled in a doctorate course at a Japanese graduate school at the time of employment. The graduate school must have a joint graduate school program agreement, a collaborative agreement with RIKEN or be involved in joint research with RIKEN scientists, and must be willing to give permission for the JRA to undertake research instruction at RIKEN.

Research fields

Mathematical sciences, physics, chemistry, biology, medical science and engineering areas for which RIKEN is prepared to provide instruction and supervision.

Contract duration and working conditions

The JRA contract is for one year. When JRA student acquires a PhD or quits the university during the program, the contract will terminate at such time regardless of whether a full year has passed. The contract may be renewed up to a maximum of 2 times (for PhD programs requiring 4 years, up to a maximum of 3 times. In the case of a candidate who starts from October 1, the maximum limit is extended by 6 months). Employment is on a part-time basis for 5 hours per day.

Salary and benefits

JPY 200,000 per month (tax included)
Commuting allowance: Paid in accordance with RIKEN regulations

Application and screening

Applications are publicly solicited each year in autumn. A committee comprised of scientists working in the relevant fields in RIKEN carefully screens each applicant based on submitted documents.

For more details, please refer to the URL below or send an Email message to: jra@ml.riken.jp
<https://www.riken.jp/en/careers/programs/jra/>



International Program Associate (IPA)

This program offers non-Japanese doctoral students an opportunity to carry out their doctoral studies at RIKEN under the joint supervision of senior RIKEN scientists and their research partners at collaborating organizations in and out of Japan. IPAs will aim to acquire their PhD degree while taking full advantage of RIKEN's research environment. We endeavor to identify and foster talented junior scientists capable of contributing to future research collaborations and to create an international network between Japan and other nations.

Qualifications

Applicants must be enrolled as doctoral candidates at universities that have (or expected to have) an agreement with RIKEN to participate in the Joint Graduate Program, which is willing to give permission for the applicant to undertake research supervision at RIKEN.

Research fields

Mathematical sciences, physics, chemistry, biology, medical science and engineering areas for which RIKEN is prepared to provide instruction and supervision.

Contract status and duration

IPAs are not employed by RIKEN. Their status is similar to internship students. The duration of stay is between 1 to 3 years.

Support from RIKEN

Living allowance (5,200 JPY/day)
Rent-free use of on-campus housing, or payment of actual amount of rent for off-campus apartment (up to 70,000 JPY/month)
Roundtrip transportation between RIKEN and the IPAs home country
Accident insurance premium

Application and screening

Spring/autumn internal calls for overseas university graduate students. Calls for application to Japanese universities are set separately, in accordance with the university's entrance exam schedule. A committee comprised of RIKEN scientists carefully screens each applicant based on submitted documents. Note that the applicants for the calls are RIKEN's hosting researchers, not the doctoral students themselves. Start by contacting a RIKEN researcher you would like to work with.

For more details, please refer to the URL below or send an Email message to: ipa-info@ml.riken.jp
<https://www.riken.jp/en/careers/programs/ipa/>



RIKEN Student Researcher (RSR)

The RIKEN Student Researcher (RSR) program provides opportunities for energetic and open-minded graduate students enrolled in master's or doctoral courses at Japanese universities for the purposes of giving them the opportunity to carry out research alongside RIKEN scientists, enhancing RIKEN's creative and basic research capabilities, and fostering the talents of students who aspire to become researchers in the future, as well as strengthening ties between RIKEN and universities in Japan. In the future, there are also plans to accept students in their final year of undergraduate course.

Qualifications

- (1) A person who falls under any of the following.
 - a. Those who are enrolled or scheduled to be enrolled in a master's course at a Japanese graduate school who wish to advance to a doctoral course
 - b. Those who are enrolled or scheduled to be enrolled in a doctoral course at a Japanese graduate school
- (2) Applicants who have been trainees, interns, or research part-time workers at RIKEN for at least one month in the laboratory of their choice at the time of application.

Research fields

Mathematical sciences, physics, chemistry, biology, medical science and engineering areas for which RIKEN is prepared to provide instruction and supervision.

Contract duration and work conditions

Contract duration: Until the end of the fiscal year of employment. By completing the required evaluation at the end of contract period, the contract may be renewed up to a maximum of 1 time for master's programs requiring 2 years, up to a maximum of 2 times for doctoral programs requiring 3 years, and up to a maximum of 3 times for doctoral programs requiring 4 years. Work hours: Part-time position limited to 20 hours per week, in principle. Student trainee status will also be granted as an additional post.

Salary and benefits

Salary: Hourly wage of research part-time staff is applied
Commuting allowance: Paid in accordance with RIKEN regulations

Application and screening

Internal calls for application are set twice a year. A committee comprised of scientists working in the relevant fields in RIKEN carefully screens each applicant based on submitted documents. Start by contacting a RIKEN researcher you would like to work with.

For more details, please refer to the URL below or send an Email message to: rsr_sr@ml.riken.jp
<https://www.riken.jp/en/careers/programs/rsr/>

