



**IRES: Summer Biology Research Program in Japan:
Neurobiology of tetrachromatic vision and behavioral
responses in Zebrafish and Medaka**

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY



January to July, 2027 with travel Saturday, May 8 to Saturday, July 10, 2027

This summer program allows students to engage in scientific collaborations at top biology institutes in Japan. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF Project #2505377), this program provides students with invaluable research and intercultural experiences while working with an international team of biologists to perform advanced neurobiology research on how visual information is processed to drive behavioral responses.

The program consists of full-time research in a Japanese laboratory, mentored by a faculty member from a top Japanese institute. This competitive fellowship is open to Montclair State University and non-Montclair State University advanced undergraduate and graduate students interested in neurobiology.

After participating in biweekly online pre-departure sessions during the spring semester, the 6 students will spend a week in Okazaki for on-site orientation and then 8 weeks at one of the following sites: Riken Institute, Aoyama Gakuin, or the National Institute of Basic Biology (NIBB)

Program Highlights

- Research experience and mentorship in top-class laboratories
- Roundtrip airfare between a U.S. airport and Nagoya
- \$7,200 stipend and housing during the program
- Pre-departure meetings including language lessons
- Orientation and cultural immersion

Program dates for 2027

- January - May : Online pre-departure introduction
- May 8: Students depart for Japan
- May 10-May 14: Orientation in Okazaki
- May 17-July 9: Eight week program on site
- July 10: return to US

Applicants must submit all required application materials (statement of purpose, unofficial transcripts, a resume and two letters of recommendation from research advisors) by the deadline, Friday, November 6, 2026 11:59pm PT. Applications will be accepted from August 15, 2026 to November 6, 2026 and must be submitted online.

- Application Deadline: Friday November 6, 2026 11:59 PT
- Interview of Finalists: late November, 2026
- Final selection of participants and alternates: December, 2026

What is covered (in ADDITION to the \$7,200 stipend):

- Roundtrip airfare between a U.S. airport and Nagoya, Japan
- Ground transportation between Nagoya airport and site
- Domestic travel in Japan to mid-program retreat
- Housing during the program in Japan
- Laboratory supplies

What is NOT covered:

- Passport fees
- Ground transportation to/from US airport
- Meals and personal expenses
- Ground transportation not related to program
- Travel insurance

Eligibility

- o Applicants must be enrolled in good standing in a degree program at a U.S. Institution of higher education with a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 and minimum GPA of 3.0 in science courses.
- o Graduate students (Masters or PhD) and upper-level undergraduate science students can apply. Bachelor's level applicants must have completed their sophomore year by the start of the program and students planning to graduate in Spring 2027 must be accepted to a graduate program in science for Fall 2027 before Summer 2027.
- o Applicants are expected to have taken a molecular and cellular biology course or equivalent by time of application and have basic knowledge of molecular laboratory techniques. Applicants must have worked previously on a laboratory research project outside of class.
- o Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident (as per NSF requirements) and must have a passport valid through February 2028 (six months past program end) at time of selection.

****Acceptance into the program is competitive. A total of 6 participants will be selected, with alternates. The members of the "NSF IRES-US Japan Collaboration" program committee are responsible for all final decisions.**

Join us for a webinar

Tuesday September 15, 2026,
8–9pm ET



Visit our website



Apply



Registration Link:

<https://montclair.zoom.us/meeting/register/-x2PngvQSSocl-8NigEdyQ>

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