RIKEN's Programs for Young Researchers

Welcome to RIKEN

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Why do we pursue science?

Because we have an instinctive desire to understand our natural environment. Knowledge – including scientific knowledge – is fundamental to culture, and technology enriches society.

RIKEN offers the best research environment in the world. Come join us in cutting-edge research, pushing forward the frontiers of science and technology. Together we can do great things.

Advances you can be part of -won't you join us?

For Doctoral Candidates

If you are a doctoral candidate, your research may qualify you for an International Program Associate (IPA) position at RIKEN. We are looking for research that advances work now underway at RIKEN and for non-Japanese researchers to help us create a borderless, interdisciplinary research environment. IPAs carry out their research under the joint supervision of their graduate school and RIKEN.

IPAs are expected to bring fresh thinking to research in physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, or engineering and to take full advantage of the RIKEN research environment through collaboration and use of shared equipment and facility.

For Postdoctoral Researchers For Leaders in Their Fields

If you have completed your doctorate, consider joining the researchers who are making RIKEN a stimulating interdisciplinary research environment that knows no borders. Candidates for the Foreign Postdoctoral Researcher Program (FPR) are internationally active scientists who can contribute their own thinking to the research underway at RIKEN.

FPRs apply their innovative ideas, under the direction of their laboratory head, to research currently being carried out at RIKEN. RIKEN will assist in the selection of a mentor and provide guidance on laboratory and administrative procedures.

Is your goal to become a world-class researcher? RIKEN's Initiative Research Unit (IRU) program could be the opportunity you seek. The IRU provides funding opportunities for promising young scientists who, as unit leaders, will contribute to advances in RIKEN-designated research fields in an environment that develops world-class researchers. IRU unit leaders will independently draw up and carry out a detailed research proposal, making full use of the RIKEN research environment, including applying for funding, establishing collaborative relationships, and using shared equipment and facilities.

Diversity at RIKEN

By attracting the most talented scientists from Japan and abroad, RIKEN activity promotes a research environment that fosters the very best of international research. Diversity among personnel is a vital factor contributing to RIKENS's success and RIKEN has set ambitious targets for increasing the number of international scientists.

Europe	194
China	114
Asia	94
Korea	54
North America	37
Oceania	11
Central & South America	5
Africa	2

International Researchers by Countries and Regions (including visiting researchers, as of October 2008)

Curiosity knows no borders

RIKEN is growing not only in numbers, but also in scope. RIKEN actively supports young researchers, collaboration with overseas organizations, and the exchange of personnel with overseas universities and institutions. The map below, with the number of joint projects and programs in parentheses, shows the countries engaged in such collaborations and agreements between RIKEN and research organizations and universities aroung the world.



The number of joint projects and programs in parentheses



