



Vulcanus in Japan

Strengthen your innovation and international competitiveness with Europe's top science and engineering talent

An international internship programme that brings outstanding European science and engineering students to companies in Japan. It is run by the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, founded in 1987 by the European Commission and Japan's METI. The Centre handles student shortlisting, matching, residence status applications, the three-party contract and language training.

APPLICATION PERIOD

15 October 2026
to
15 December 2026

No cost until a student
is successfully matched

8 months

Aug 2027 – Mar 2028
language course + internship

up to 25

students selected
for 2027-2028

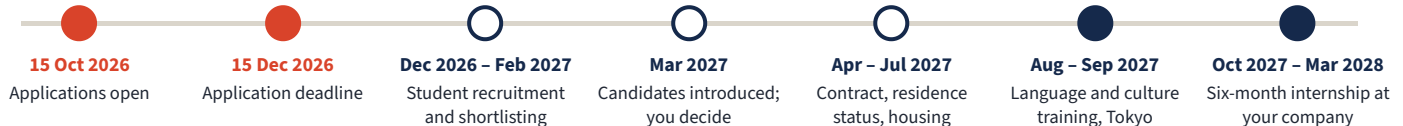
400-800

applicants
every year

about 800

alumni
since 1997

1 Schedule



2 Benefits for host companies

Top European STEM talent

Capable, motivated students chosen from a large applicant pool.

New perspectives for R&D

Academic expertise applied to your research and development.

Internationalisation

Builds international communication and cross-cultural skills.

Future talent and networks

Links for future recruitment and with Europe.

3 The students

Eligibility

EU and Single Market Programme (SMP) nationals studying science or engineering at a university in an eligible country: bachelor's, master's and PhD.

Language

Most students have beginner-level Japanese, so guidance is given in English.

Representative fields

Mechanical engineering Electrical & electronic engineering
ICT & computer science AI & digital technologies Chemistry
Biotechnology Nanotechnology Materials engineering
Aerospace engineering Life sciences Architecture

4 Example internship themes

2026-2027

AI and machine learning

Foundation models, generative AI, explainable AI

Robotics and automation

Robot learning, vision systems for industrial robots

Telecommunications

Optical network digital twins, sound processing

Quantum and materials science

2D materials, nanofabrication, cryogenics

Space and aerospace

Lunar missions, flight dynamics, satellite navigation

Energy and infrastructure

Nuclear seismic design, renewable energy tools

Electronics and manufacturing

Embedded firmware, Industry 4.0, visual inspection

Life and human sciences

Multicellular modelling, brain decoding, biosignals

5 Costs

participation contribution per student

Standard

JPY 600,000

SMEs*

JPY 300,000

- Equal to JPY 100,000 per internship month, towards the student's scholarship.
- Invoiced after arrival (August 2027). No cost before a successful match.
- Rent, including management and maintenance fees, is paid by the company; utilities by the student.
- No salary or allowances (Cultural Activities residence status). The scholarship covers commuting, flights, insurance and living costs; business travel is paid by the company.

*European Commission SME definition: fewer than 250 employees, turnover up to EUR 50 million or balance sheet up to EUR 43 million, economic independence. Self-assessment form after matching.

6 Main conditions

accepted by applying

- 1 Japanese or foreign-affiliated company in Japan
- 2 Accommodation for eight months
- 3 A six-month internship project
- 4 On-site supervisor guiding in English
- 5 Arrival support: housing, municipal office, bank
- 6 The participation contribution
- 7 Signing the Centre's three-party contract
- 8 Evaluation sheet at the end
- 9 Flexibility in emergencies

7 Accommodation

Furnished, ready to live in and for the student's exclusive use (a private room if shared), for all eight months. In August-September, within commuting distance of the language school in Shibuya, Tokyo. If your site is further away, the student moves near it in October. Guideline: up to 1-1.5 hours one way.

8 Selection and matching

- Your theme is published in the List of Placements; students apply to themes in their field.
- In March 2027 we introduce shortlisted candidates, and you decide after interviews (company-specific tests are not permitted). A placement is confirmed only if a suitable student is selected.

How to apply | Deadline 15 December 2026

Apply through the online form (QR code), or with the Word application form on the programme page. Submit one application per internship theme, in English.

Contact

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Online
application form



Programme
details



Book an
info session