



DAAD KIWi

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



## DAAD GLOBUS Country Report short version

# Japan 2024

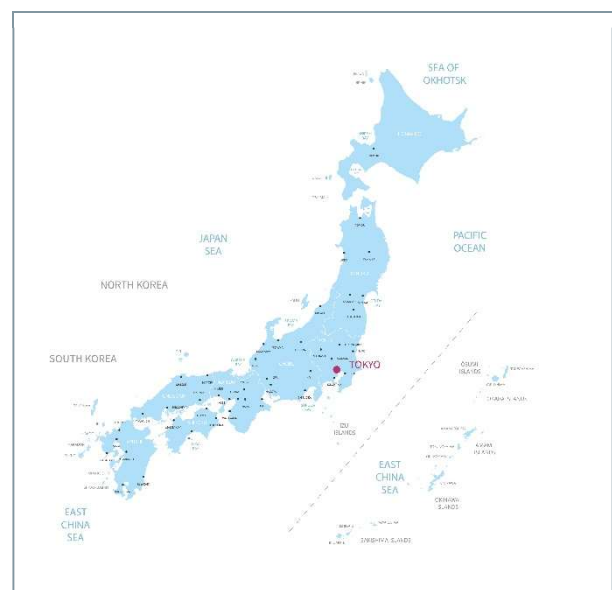
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## Current trends in academic exchange

According to the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), there were a total of 810 higher education institutions in Japan in 2023. The top Japanese universities are among the best in the world in research and teaching. However, a maximum of 100 of the 810 Japanese HEIs can be described as research universities.

The Japanese government is intensively promoting research and international exchange with three new initiatives: the 'Universities for International Research Excellence' programme is financed by an investment fund of 10 trillion yen (approximately 72 billion euros). The programme focuses on promoting cutting-edge research and young academics, as well as attracting international talent. In the first round of selections in 2023, the University of Tohoku was the only candidate to be selected. With the programme 'Promoting the Enhancement of Research Universities with a Regional Core and Distinctive Characteristics', Japan aims to support regional universities in developing individual research profiles. In addition, the internationalisation of regional universities is to be expanded and the transfer to the regions is to be promoted. Finally, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is trying to implement ambitious mobility targets with its new '[J-Mirai](#)' funding programme: by 2033, 400,000 international students per year should be invited to Japan, while 500,000 Japanese students and high school students should go abroad.

Germany stays in close contact with Japan in the field of science. In the winter semester of 2023/24, 2,323 Japanese foreign students were studying at German higher education institutions. According to the HRK, there are currently 875 university partnerships between Germany and Japan (as of November 2024).



- 338 funding recipients from Japan (2023)
- ← 1,034 funding recipients from Germany (2023)  
(excl. EU mobility grants)

**Regional Office:** Tokyo

## DAAD activities

The DAAD is represented in Japan by a Regional Office in Tokyo. Since 2017, the DAAD has also managed the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) in Tokyo. In addition, the DAAD supports one of the largest networks worldwide of 73 German-speaking local lecturers in Japan. In the area of individual funding, the cooperation with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) focuses on various joint funding programmes, as well as on project funding programmes such as '[Partnerships with Japan and Korea \(PAJAKO\)](#)', '[Programme of the project-related persons exchange \(PPP\)](#)' and several individual partnership programmes with Japanese universities and institutes.

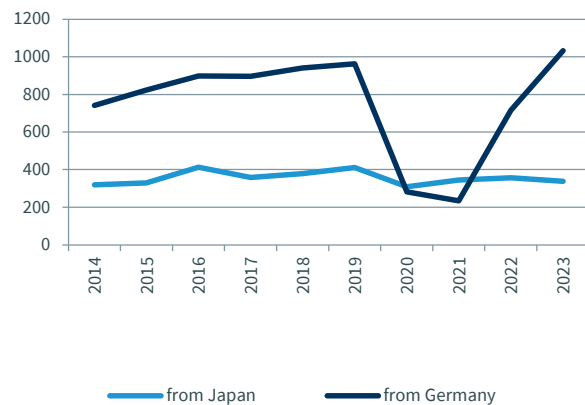
Through the special programme ‘Language and Practice Japan’, the DAAD supports the training of graduates to become Japan experts for bilateral economic cooperation. In 2023, the programme celebrated its 40th anniversary; it has now produced over 450 alumni and alumnae. The [German Center for Research and Innovation \(DWIH\) Tokyo](#) showcases research and innovation from Germany and provides a platform to support the activities of German higher education institutions, research

institutions and research-based companies in Japan. It supports the exchange of knowledge between the two countries and networks relevant stakeholders, thereby creating the conditions for academic cooperation. The annual topic of the worldwide DWIH network in 2024 is ‘Artificial Intelligence’.

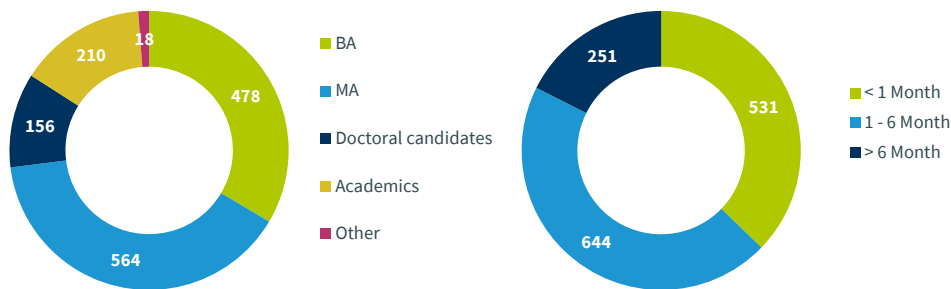
**Selected funding programmes by number of DAAD funding recipients 2023**

Individual funding	Japan	Germany
Local lecturers programme	73	-
Congress and lecture tours	-	64
Internationalisation of universities of applied sciences (UAS)	-	50
Project funding	Japan	Germany
Increasing the mobility of students at German universities PROMOS	-	559
Centres for German and European Studies	51	-
Partnerships with Japan and Korea	15	57
EU	Japan	Germany
ERASMUS mobility grants	-	-

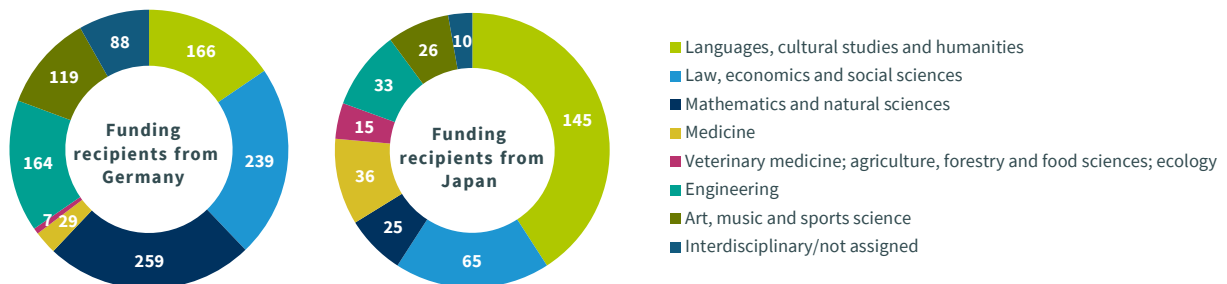
**DAAD funding recipients Japan, 2014-2023 (excl. EU mobility grants)**



**Distribution of DAAD funding recipients 2023 by academic status and funding period (incl. EU mobility grants)**



**Subject distribution of DAAD funding recipients 2023 (incl. EU mobility grants)**



Sources: DAAD statistics, 2023 funding data, © Atelier Hauer + Dörfler/moloko\_vector/shutterstock.com, CIA WFB