

International Postgraduate Program



昭和大学
SHOWA University

International Exchange Center

Showa University is a private, comprehensive medical university with 4 schools (Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences) and 4 research centers. It has 4 campuses located in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Fujiyoshida and independently owns and operates 8 hospitals and 2 clinics located throughout Tokyo and Yokohama. Since 1982, Showa University has funded a selective, non-degree **International Postgraduate Program** designed for foreign-trained medical specialists (physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and others) and related researchers from around the world to spend up to 1 year at Showa University to receive further education in Japan. By developing a connection with these promising professionals early in their career, Showa University hopes to lay the foundation for future collaborations when they become the next leaders in their institutions or departments. **We encourage and prioritize faculty/researchers from universities that are sister schools or have exchange agreements with Showa University to apply to this program as a way to encourage exchange between our institutions.**

****If space is available, we may accept approximately 1-2 fellows from institutions that do NOT have a sister school agreement or exchange agreement with Showa University****

Purpose of Program

1. The purpose of this program is to allow:
 - A) Early-career medical professionals (doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and others) to study in a specific clinical department in one of Showa University's hospital and learn about the latest treatments and technology being used there.And/Or
 - B) Researchers to collaborate with a faculty member at Showa University and conduct research with the goal of future publication and/or presentation of the results.
2. By participating in this international training and research program:
 - A) Fellows can return home and use their knowledge from Showa University to help advance their career and improve the quality of medical care/research in their home country.
 - B) Fellows can come to know about Showa University, with the hope that they continue to collaborate with the university throughout their career. This is especially true from fellows who come from universities that have sister school or exchange agreements with Showa University.

Eligibility

Promising medical professional (physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and others) or related researcher who have already completed their degree (M.D., D.D.S., Pharm.D., M.S./Ph.D., etc.) and received their license, if applicable.

While there is no specific age requirement, this program is designed for early-career professionals. **We encourage and prioritize faculty/researchers from sister schools universities or universities that have individual exchange agreements with one of our schools (Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, or Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences) at Showa University to apply.**

****Applicants from other institutions may also apply, but we might only accept approximately 1-2 as fellows if space is available****

Training Period

1 year. In Japan, the academic year is from April 1st~March 31st. Showa University highly recommends that international fellows complete their training during this period. Fellows are expected to attend training every day, except for Japanese national holidays and weekends.

Program Options

This program offers 3 options, in order to provide a more tailored fit for fellows' interest.

1. International Postgraduate Program

Our most common option, the "International Postgraduate Program" provides fellows the opportunity to study in one of our university's hospitals and learn about the latest treatments and technology in a clinical department of their choice. Under this option, they can attend patient rounds and surgeries/treatments, view relevant patient data and records, participate in meetings and conference, co-author publication and articles, and utilize training models/equipment to improve their knowledge and skills. An official certificate of program completion with this title will issued at the end of the program. Please note that due to Japanese law, medical professionals who do not hold a Japanese medical license are not allowed to provide direct treatment to patients.

2. Advanced Clinical Training

"Advanced Clinical Training" is an option accredited by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare under the Japanese law. If a "foreign medical practitioner" is granted a permit for this program, he/she may receive clinical training which includes clinical diagnosis and treatment of patients. Fellows in this option will receive an official certificate of program completion with this title at the end of the program.

About this option, applicants should be aware that the application process generally takes a couple of months and application must be started **after** the person's arrival to Japan. Therefore, we cannot guarantee to applicants that they will be able to receive this permit. In addition, the final decision to apply/not apply for this permit will be made by your department and faculty sponsor. **Interested applicants in this option are strongly encouraged to discuss with their desired department/faculty sponsor as soon as possible.**

Documents required for the Advanced Clinical Training application include:

- A) Copy of professional license (medical, dental, pharmacy, etc.). If the applicant is from a country which does not issue medical licenses, he/she must prove that they may be lawfully engaged in the practice of medicine in their country. Specifically, the applicant must submit a public certificate, such as one issued by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of their home country, which states that medical licenses are not issued by their government, and, in addition they must submit a certificate providing their right to engage in clinical practice, such as a diploma (the original and one photocopy) from their medical/dental/pharmacy/etc. school.
- B) Documentation proving at least 3 years' clinical experience in English. The applicant must submit a certificate regarding the duration of their employment, issued by the director of the medical facilities where they have experience in their clinical practice.
- C) Certificate of proficiency in Japanese or English. For English proficiency, scores from TOEFL or TOEIC are preferable.
- D) Two photographs (full-faced and without a hat, 3 cm x 2 cm, taken not more than six months prior to the date

of application)

3. Visiting Researcher

This option is available through any research lab in the schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences. The objective of this option is for foreign fellows to collaborate with a researcher in his/her lab in order to learn a new research technique and/or to conduct new research with the goal of future publication and/or presentation of the results. Researchers will be provided lab space and have access to the same equipment and facilities as any other researcher at Showa University. An official certificate of program completion with this title will be issued at the end of the program.

Expenses/Housing

There are no application fees or any tuition fees. Showa University also guarantees free housing to international fellows who stay the full year in the form of an international dormitory located on the Hatanodai campus. Fellows who stay less than 1 year may also be eligible, if space is available. However, housing is currently limited to 12 dormitory spots. Fellows who receive a scholarship from Showa University are responsible for their utilities (gas, water, and electricity). International fellows are also responsible for all travel expenses (including airfare to/from Japan and travel to/from the hospital) and all food expenses.

Scholarship

A monthly stipend of JPY 100,000 is available for fellows who stay the full year, if selected. Fellows who stay less than 1 year are not eligible. Fellows also are not eligible for this scholarship if they are already receiving any kind of scholarship from another group/organization.

Application Time

To ensure that their application is received on time and without complications, applicants should be aware of these important dates and try to follow this timeline:

May 1: Opening of application process (Application materials will be available through your university's international exchange office or online. More information below)

By June 30th: Submission of application materials to International Exchange Center.

October/November: University selection committee meets and makes official decision of next year's fellows, housing, and scholarships. Announcements regarding acceptance will then be sent to all applicants.

By the end of February: Showa University normally receives visa approval from Japanese government and will then mail official "certificate of eligibility" to fellows.

These dates are subject to change and may be different for some centers/departments (School of Dentistry, SUITE, and Digestive Disease Center at Showa University Koto Toyosu Hospital), so please confirm directly with the International Exchange Center (int-exc@ofc.showa-u.ac.jp) or those centers/departments.

Application Process

In order to be accepted into the program, applicants must find a department they are interested in at Showa University and have the department head agree to serve as their fellowship sponsor. Applicants are **not** required to have a

fellowship sponsor by the time they submit their application. A list of departments that have hosted fellows in the past can be found on Showa University's International Exchange Center website

(http://www.showa-u.ac.jp/en/international/research_and_training_opportunities.html). **Additionally, after receiving their application, the International Exchange Center can work with applicants to help identify possible faculty and departments who might match with their interests and then facilitate communication with that faculty/department.**

To start the application process, there are 2 routes depending on whether or not the applicant is from a university that has a sister school agreement or exchange school agreement with Showa University.

- A) **Applicants from a sister-school/exchange-agreement university with Showa University:** First, contact your university's international exchange office to discuss applying for this program and to receive the application materials. Then, submit completed application to your university's international exchange office. They will then forward the applications to Showa University International Exchange Center.
- B) **For all other applicants:** Download the application materials from the International Exchange Center's website (more details below) and email everything directly to our center.

Application Materials

Application materials are available through your university's international exchange office or on the International Exchange Center's website:

(http://www.showa-u.ac.jp/en/international/application_process_for_international_fellows.html). They will be posted on our website once the application period starts. Please complete these materials **in English or Japanese** (unless specified) and then submit them to the International Exchange Center (int-exc@ofc.showa-u.ac.jp) at Showa University:

1. Application from international training fellow: Applicants must provide basic personal information, preferred department(s), as well as 1 essay (at least 500 words) about their achievements and motivation for attending this program, such as specific treatment you wish to learn/observe or research plan.
2. Recommendation letter from home organization (ex: university or hospital): This should be from a current direct supervisor to evaluate the applicant's ability and should discuss the applicant's motivation and potential for future professional success.
3. Curriculum vitae: A detailed list of all higher education, work history, licenses/certificates, summary of any research projects, and publications and presentations, along with a passport-size identification photograph (JPEG format; full face, without headwear (unless for religious purposes), taken during the last 3 months)
4. Proof of English or Japanese proficiency (for applicants whose native language is not English or Japanese): Please submit copy of scores from an English language examination (i.e. TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC) or the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).
5. Copy of professional license: A copy of all medical, dental, pharmacy, and/or professional licenses obtained. If the license(s) are in any language other than English, they must be translated and have an official seal certifying the translation.
6. Copy of diploma or graduation certificate: A copy of university/college diploma or graduate certificate for all institutions attended. If the diploma and/or certificate is in any language other than English, it must be translated

and have an official seal certifying the translation.

Upon Acceptance

7. ID Photo: Please email another passport-size identification photograph. (JPEG format; full face, without headwear (unless for religious purposes), taken during the last 3 months) to the International Exchange Center (int-exc@ofc.showa-u.ac.jp).
8. Copy of passport. Please email scanned copy to the International Exchange Center (int-exc@ofc.showa-u.ac.jp).
9. Immunization records and chest X-ray form: Upon acceptance, Showa University requires all visiting fellows to submit this form – authorized by a medical doctor – indicating that they have received the following immunizations: measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella. In addition to the immunizations listed, this form also requires a chest x-ray reading result to certify that the fellow is negative for Tuberculosis. It is also recommended that fellows receive hepatitis B immunization. A copy of this form can be submitted to the International Exchange Center in an e-mail attachment (int-exc@ofc.showa-u.ac.jp) upon acceptance to Showa University. **However, this original, signed form must be submitted to the International Exchange Center upon arrival to Showa University.**

Thank you again for your interest in Showa University's International Postgraduate Program. For all inquiries, please contact the International Exchange Center using the information below:

International Exchange Center

Showa University, Building #15, Room #103 & 105

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Email: int-exc@ofc.showa-u.ac.jp

Website: <http://www.showa-u.ac.jp/en/international/>