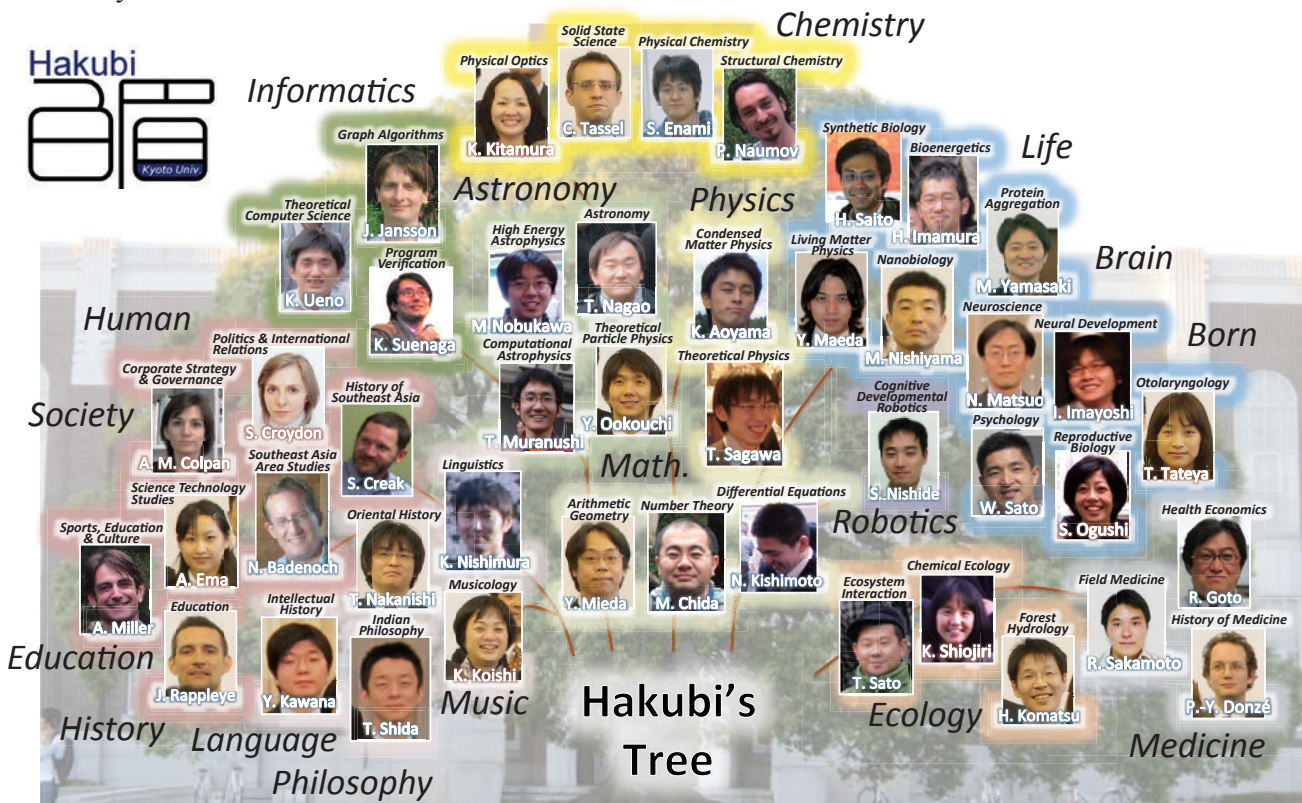


The Hakubi Project: Fostering Young Researchers



The Hakubi Project was established by Kyoto University in 2009 to foster outstanding young researchers with the creativity, broad perspectives and flexible mindset needed in this globalized age. The program recruits up to twenty international researchers per year, and gives outstanding scholars the valuable opportunity to devote themselves entirely to their research activities.

Researchers on the Hakubi Project receive a generous annual salary and annual research funding. They are also given a great deal of freedom to focus on their studies. They are not required to perform any administrative or teaching duties and are free to pursue their research at institutions outside of Kyoto University.



Hakubi Researchers as of October 2012

■ Employment conditions and affiliation

Hakubi researchers are employed for five years by Kyoto University as associate or assistant professors, during which time they engage in research at their host faculty, graduate school, institute, or research center. They are provided with various forms of support to ensure that they can effectively pursue their research and realize their maximum potential. The logistics of the program are handled by the Hakubi Center for Advanced Research, which provides support for the Hakubi researchers and acts as a liaison between the researchers and the relevant departments of Kyoto University.

■ What does Hakubi mean?



The term hakubi literally means “white eyebrows” in Japanese. The project is named after a legend from *Shu* (蜀), one of the states of the Three Kingdoms era in ancient China. According to the legend, in the Kingdom lived five brothers with extraordinary talents. Since the fourth brother who was particularly outstanding, had white hairs in his eyebrows, the term *hakubi* has come to refer to the most prominent individuals.

■ Call for application and screening flow

The Hakubi Project welcomes applications from researchers throughout the world regardless of the applicant's nationality, and is open to any researcher holding a doctoral degree in any academic field (or with equivalent research abilities in any basic or applied studies).

Hakubi researchers are selected based on a comprehensive evaluation of their research history, research proposals, and their prospects for assuming a leadership role in the future. The first screening of applicants is performed by an Expert Committee, composed of Kyoto University professors selected in accordance with the relevant academic fields, which screens the application documents. For the second screening, the Hakuraku Council, consisting of influential intellectuals from within and outside the university, interviews the candidates selected by the Expert Committee. The Steering Committee then makes the final selection of successful applicants, up to a maximum of twenty per year.

Schedule for 2013 Selection



■ Number of Total and Successful Applicants

	Total No. of Applicants	Successful Applicants	Competition Rate
FY 2010	588	18	32.7 times
FY 2011	517	19	27.2 times
FY 2012	416	19	21.9 times
FY 2013	655	20	32.8 times

Ratio of Total Applicants*	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Male : Female (%)	77.9 : 22.1 (77.8 : 22.2)	81.4 : 18.6 (89.5 : 10.5)	80.5 : 19.5 (73.7 : 26.3)	78.0 : 22.0 (85.0 : 15.0)
Humanity & Social Sciences : Natural Sciences (%)	33.3 : 66.7 (33.3 : 66.7)	27.3 : 72.7 (31.6 : 68.4)	34.4 : 65.6 (36.8 : 63.2)	45.8 : 54.2 (50.0 : 50.0)
Kyoto U. Affiliates : Others (%)	38.4 : 61.6 (44.4 : 55.6)	35.4 : 64.6 (52.6 : 47.4)	31.5 : 68.5 (36.8 : 63.2)	22.0 : 78.0 (45.0 : 55.0)
Address Japan : Other Countries (%)	81.0 : 19.0 (83.3 : 16.7)	79.5 : 20.5 (84.2 : 15.8)	82.2 : 17.8 (94.7 : 5.3)	65.2 : 34.8 (75.0 : 25.0)

* Figures in parentheses indicate the ratios for successful applicants.

■ Place for Research Activities

Individual researchers should make their own arrangements for a "host" within Kyoto University that is willing to provide suitable research facilities. The arrangement is not necessarily a prerequisite for application. The Program Manager can provide assistance in arranging appropriate facilities, based on consultation of needs and interests.

Stay tuned for the call next spring

Call for applications will open for the fifth time in March 2013.

■ For further information:
www.hakubi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/eng