

Q&A

Q1: Are supporting research staff and technicians applicable for the program?

A1: Although we advise supporting research staff to also complete the program if deemed to be materially involved in research activities that are funded by research expenditures controlled by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), research institutes should decide accordingly.

Q2: I took part in a Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) project in 2013, and completed the CITI Japan e-learning program. Do I need to re-take the 2015 version of the CITI program?

A2: The CITI program is not required to be re-taken for 2015 if the CITI Japan e-learning program was completed in 2013. The Science Council of Japan has stated that it is desirable for researchers affiliated with research institutes to complete RCR education programs at least once every five years in its response for a request for discussion from MEXT (“Improving the Integrity of Scientific Research” (March 6, 2015)).

Q3: How should the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science’s textbook, “For the Sound Development of Science - The Attitude of a Conscientious Scientist” (“the green book”) be used?

A3: AMED does not specify education course methods. Research institutes should plan class format and readings accordingly.

Q4: The RCR education program is specified to be as appropriated from the initial year of research. How often should the program be taken?

A4: The Japanese government’s guidelines (“Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (Adopted August 26, 2014 by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, Science and Technology)) stipulates that research institutes “should provide regular RCR education for their affiliated researchers involved in research activities.” Research institutes may thus handle this subject based on Japanese guidelines.

Q5: Are reporting of completion status required for researchers researching in subcontracted institutes?

A5: If an institute's researcher is researching in a subcontracted institute, confirm with contributory researchers in the institute to check completion status and submit reports.

Q6: Can fees for CITI Japan e-learning registration and green books be included in expenses?

A6: As stipulated in "Shared Guidelines on Treatment of Indirect Expenses for Competitive Funds" (Agreed on in the liaison meeting among the cabinet and ministries involved on revised competitive funds, May 29 2014), such fees cannot be accounted for as direct expenses, but can be accounted for as indirect expenses if the head of the research institute determines the expenses as necessary for improving the research development environment and overall function of the institute in which the researcher who acquired the competitive fund belongs to.