

**URP ‘Platform for Leading-Edge Urban Studies’
Application Guidelines for Special (Young) Research Fellows (February 2016 Applications)**

Urban Research Plaza (URP), Osaka City University is seeking applications for URP Special (Young) Research Fellows positions, according to the terms below in order to support proactive and world class research activities by young researchers.

In continuation with URP’s previous Global COE activities and in conjunction with its current “Joint Research Base” project since 2014, two classifications are available for the URP Special (Young) Research Fellow, depending on his research preference. For classification 'A', the Global Course, the researcher conducts research activities such as field work and presentations at international conferences under the general supervision of a host researcher. For classification 'B', the Meister Course, the researcher pursues an independent research project that is closely linked to the host researcher's own project. Please see the attached chart of research themes and researchers able to act as host researchers, and apply accordingly.

1. Application Categories, Remuneration, and Number of Researchers

The two course classifications, the 'A' Global Course and 'B' Meister Course, are each divided into four categories (according to academic level), making a total of 8 categories.

Those chosen for acceptance based on their research plans, etc. (including applications for research funds) will be appointed as URP Special Researchers and will be able to carry out research using the funds specified in their research plans. They will also be paid a researcher salary, depending on their academic degree level and whether they are receiving fellowships or salaries from other sources. However, we will not provide duplicate research funding or duplicate payments, meaning that in this case we may not provide travel expenses and salaries etc.

We will be accepting 5 applicants or less for the categories A-1&2 and B-1&2, and 3 applicants or less for the categories A-3&4 and B-3&4 (the actual number of successful candidates may be less).

‘A’ Global Course

Category	Eligibility	Remuneration
A-1	Doctor Course (a) : 1st to 3rd yr student	Research funds (mainly travel; max. ¥500,000/12 months)
A-2	Doctor Course (b) : 4th to 6th yr student	Research funds (mainly travel; max. ¥300,000/12 months)
A-3	PD	Researcher salary (hourly) and Research funds (mainly travel; max. ¥500,000/12 months)
A-4	Ph.D. Candidate	Researcher pay (hourly) and Research funds (mainly travel; max. ¥500,000/12 months)

‘B’ Meister Course

Category	Eligibility	Remuneration
B-1	Doctor Course (a) : 1st to 3rd yr student	Research funds (max. ¥700,000/12 months)
B-2	Doctor Course (b) : 4th to 6th yr student	Research funds (max. ¥420,000/12 months)
B-3	PD	Researcher pay (hourly) and Research funds (max. ¥700,000/12 months)
B-4	Ph.D. Candidate	Researcher pay (hourly) and Research funds (max. ¥700,000/12 months)

Pay scale fixed by Osaka City University (as of Oct. 2015):

Postdoctoral Fellow (PD)	¥ 1,924/hour
Research Fellow (fairly high-level research under supervision)	¥ 1,600/hour

Important:

- URP Special Researchers (A1 and A2, B1 and B2) must make at least two research presentation per year at workshops or seminars. The Researchers (A3 and A4, B3 and B4) are also expected to actively take part in organizing these workshops/seminars.
- Research plans may be extended up to three years in total, but research fund budgets are approved on a yearly basis. Also, “research result reports (interim reports)” and “budget reports” must be submitted yearly.
- Research funds are disbursed according to the rules of the university. It is possible that some planned expenses are not eligible for approval.
- The working terms and conditions, together with the researcher’s research fund will be set annually for each fiscal year.

2. Applicant Qualifications

The applicant must match one of the categories below (1-4), must be able to specify as 'host researcher' someone who belongs to the URP 'Reinventing Cities for Cultural Creativity and Social Inclusion' base, and must be able to pursue research as their main occupation while registered as a URP Special Researcher (not bound by work responsibilities at other institutions).

* In applying, applicants should first contact a 'Researcher Qualified to be a Host Researcher' as listed in the attached chart.

	Degree and position as of April 2016	Eligible category and research period	
(1)	Registered in doctor’s course	A-1, B-1	3 year max. beginning from April 2016 (up to 3 rd year of doctor’s course)
		A-2, B-2	1 year max. beginning from April 2016
(2)	Doctorate coursework completed	A-4, B-4	1 year max. beginning from April 2016
(3)	Ph.D. holders	A-3, B-3	2 year max. beginning from April 2016
(4)			

3. Selection Process

Applications will be screened by the URP Special Researchers Screening Committee in two stages: 1) Screening of application forms (see [1] in No. 4 below), and 2) an oral interview.

The oral interviews will be conducted at Osaka City University's Urban Research Plaza (3-3-138 Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka) on February 15, 2016 (Mon.). (Successful candidates will be notified of the details).

4. Application Procedure

- (1) Application documents: Special Researcher (Young) Application Form (Feb. 2016 version) (7 pages total)
- (2) Submission period: January 4 (Mon.) - January 25 (Mon.) 2016 (deadline)
- (3) Mailing Address (By mail or personal delivery only): See ‘**Address for Inquiries and Submitting Applications**’ below.

5. Notification of Acceptance

1st Stage Screening (Paper screening): Acceptance or rejection sent out by mail on February 5 (Fri.)

2nd Stage Screening (Oral Interview): Acceptance or rejection sent out by mail on February 19 (Fri.)

6. Next Planned Call for Applications

Next applications will start in August 2016 (details to be announced in July, 2016).

Address for Inquiries and Submitting Application Forms

Urban Research Plaza, Osaka City University 3-3-138 Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka-shi, 558-8585 Japan
TEL (+81)-06-6605-2071, FAX (+81)-06-6605-2069, EMAIL: office@ur-plaza.osaka-cu.ac.jp

(Attached Chart) **URP ‘Platform for Leading-Edge Urban Studies’
Research Themes and Host Researcher Candidates**

	Research Themes	Possible Host Researchers ○ (Unit Leader)
U R B A N T H E O R Y	<p>◆Unit theme: Taking an historical overview of the individual cultural backgrounds of cities and their governance based on the theory of creative cities, and considering the formation of space in creative cities.</p> <p>◆Research areas: Urban economics, urban policy studies, urban administration, urban social history, history of spatial form, comparative urban history, regional history, Asian urbanism, architectural history.</p> <p>◆Keywords: Creative cities, culture industry, creative industry clusters, compact cities, revitalization of city cores, suburban new towns, core urban living, environmental capacity, governance, traditional cities, modern cities, urban law, social cohesion, core and periphery, historical museums, preservation and vitalization, historical town-building.</p> <p>◆Research projects: (1) Comparative International Research on Creative Cities and Creative Cultural Industries (2) Comparative Research on Creative Down-sizing of Cities (3) Research on the Formation and Changes of the Osaka Megacity (4) Comparative Urban Research Centered on Osaka (5) Research on Town-building Using Historical Resources</p> <p>◆Message: We are seeking ambitious people who will rise to the challenge of developing advanced urban thoughts on an accumulation of comparative research from a global and historical perspective.</p>	<p>○ABE Masaki (Grad. School of Law) SASAKI Masayuki (URP/Doshisha Uni.) TSUKADA Takashi (Grad. School of Literature) NIKI Hiroshi (Grad. School of Literature) FUJITA Shinobu (Grad. School of Human Life Sciences) FUKUDA Miho (Grad. School of Human Life Sciences) TATEMI Jun’ya (Grad. School of Creative Cities)</p>
C R E A T I V I T Y	<p>◆Unit theme: Rebuilding urban spaces that mediate art and design and ensuring the diversity and vitalization of communities.</p> <p>◆Research areas: Cultural policy, urban planning, art management, urban culture, culture economics.</p> <p>◆Keywords: Art, historical space, town management, inclusive society, community, diversity, minorities, communality, cultural resources, dramatic performances, soundscapes, community tourism.</p> <p>◆Research projects: (1) Art accessibility in contemporary society– toward building a society that recognizes minorities (2) Revitalizing Asia's historical urban spaces and ensuring diversity (3) Research on culturally creative town management and spatial form (4) Community regeneration through university-based management of art centers and theatre arts education</p> <p>◆Message: We are seeking people who will plunge into the urban space, passionately speak out and boldly act to recreate cities through art and design.</p>	<p>○KANA Koichi (Grad. School of Engineering) NAKAGAWA Shin (Grad. School of Literature) MIYAMOTO Katsuhiko (URP, Grad. School of Engineering) HIRATA Oriza (Center for the Study of Communication Design, Osaka University) HASHIZUME Shin’ya (Osaka Prefectural University /Osaka City University)</p>

I N C L U S I O N	<p>◆Unit theme: Steps toward social inclusion through housing assistance to the homeless, minorities, the housing-poor, or those in socially disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>◆Research areas: Geography, sociology, housing, urban planning.</p> <p>◆Keywords: Homeless, minorities, ethnicity, gender, social exclusion and inclusion, the aged and handicapped, housing assistance, NPOs, urban housing problems, housing policy, local housing planning, housing planning, town building.</p> <p>◆Research projects:</p> <p>(1) Moving from exclusion to inclusion, developing jobs aid systems, welfare and housing assistance for the homeless and the housing-poor.</p> <p>(2) Capitalist culture, ethnic relations, and foreign workers in the cities of East Asia.</p> <p>(3) Research on aid policies for the housing-poor using local housing stock.</p> <p>◆Message: We are looking for people who will pierce through the roots of social division and inequality, and who sincerely try to find ways from exclusion to inclusion while reshaping and deepening our understanding on these matters!</p>	<p>○MIZUUCHI Toshio (URP/Grad. School of Literature)</p> <p>TANI Tomio (Konan University)</p> <p>JEON Hong-Gyu (URP)</p> <p>MIURA Ken (Grad. School of Human Life Sciences)</p>
G L O B A L D E S I G N	<p>※ This unit only accepts Global Course candidates</p> <p>◆Unit theme: We focus on fostering researchers who work with urban/local design schemes (suggestions, practice and evaluation) to coordinate aspects of ecology, society and people by redefining the urban and local cultures. In particular, we seek people to plan, run and supervise structures, tools and technology for the management of “interfaces”, “cultural discrepancies” etc. between several actors such as policy makers, urban planners, technical experts and the local residents by focusing on the inner workings of governance.</p> <p>◆Research areas: Strategic Urban Accounting, Economic Geography, Political Geography, Social Design Studies, Information Design Studies, Cultural Ecology.</p> <p>◆Keywords: Urban Creativity, Interurban Linkage, Local Revitalization, Social Design, Industrial Location, Political Geography, GIS, Traffic Engineering, Combining Humanities and Sciences</p> <p>◆Research projects:</p> <p>(1) Creating academic spaces through socio-cultural colleges.</p> <p>(2) Globalization and the revitalization of urban/local economies.</p> <p>(3) GIS in healthcare.</p> <p>(4) Connections between political geography and scientific sociology.</p> <p>(5) Traffic patterns analysis and social design.</p> <p>(6) Interfusion of cultural heritage and urban creativity.</p> <p>(7) Shared service and interface of services/goods</p> <p>◆Message: We are looking for people who have a high interest in (inter-)urban creativity and cultural linkages between cities and between cities and local areas, and who have the will to surpass traditional scholarship.</p>	<p>○OKANO Hiroshi (URP)</p> <p>NAGAO Kenkichi (Grad. School of Economics)</p> <p>KIMURA Yoshinari (Grad. School of Literature)</p> <p>YAMAZAKI Takashi (Grad. School of Literature)</p> <p>UCHIDA Takashi (Grad. School of Engineering)</p>

For details of projects and Host Researchers please see this link: <http://www.ur-plaza.osaka-cu.ac.jp/>.