Dear Colleagues,

Welcome the EURAXESS Links Japan Newsletter for May 2014.

This newsletter looks at the latest funding opportunities, developments and jobs shaping EU-Japan research relations.

In this month’s edition, the newsletter begins by introducing the new university ranking, U-multirank, which aims to rank universities across a diverse range of criteria.

Other news and developments concern the European Higher Education Fair, which took place in Tokyo and Kyoto in April. The competition for the Delegation’s robot competition is still open and you are welcome to submit your ideas and proposals until the middle of this month. We also look at some of the other developments that have occurred recently.

As usual, we then have the round up of calls, jobs and events.

In wishing you a successful month ahead.

EURAXESS Links Japan
EURAXESS Links Japan Newsletter is a monthly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Links Japan, which provides information of specific interest to European researchers in Japan and Japanese researchers who are interested in the European research landscape and conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan.

Please email to japan@euraxess.net for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

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1 EU Insight – Launch of U-Multirank

A new global university ranking tool, U-Multirank, which assesses the performance of more than 850 higher education institutions worldwide, was launched by the European Commission (EC) on May 13, 2014.

With U-Multirank, the universities are tested against up to 30 separate indicators and rated in five performance groups: teaching and learning, research, international orientation, knowledge transfer and regional engagement.

As a multidimensional ranking tool, U-Multirank demonstrates the diversity of university profiles in the international context for the first time. It provides no composite overall scores, as the adding and weighting of scores to one overall score, leads to a loss of transparency.

The European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou said:

“We are proud of our world-class higher education, but we need many kinds of universities, catering for a wide range of needs; that means strong technical and regional universities just as much as outstanding research universities. U-Multirank highlights many excellent performers that do not show up in current, research-focused, global rankings- including more than 300 universities that have never appeared in any world ranking until now.”

Results show that while over 95% of institutions achieve an ‘A’ score on at least one measure, only 12% have more than 10 top scores. Of the 850 universities in the ranking 62% are from Europe, 17% from North America, 14% from Asia and 7% from Oceania, Latin America and Africa.

U-Multirank is a flexible learning tool for students, academics, policy-makers and administrators looking for information to support decision-making. At this stage it covers four subject areas, namely business studies, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and physics. Fields of study to be included in 2015 are psychology, computer science and medicine. Another target for 2015 is also to increase the number of institutions in U-Multirank to a total of 1000-1100 universities.

The U-Multirank project receives seed funding through the European Commission’s Lifelong Learning Programme (now Erasmus+) for an initial period of two years (2013-2015) totaling €2 million with the option of an extension for a further two years.
(2015-2017). The goal is for an independent organization to manage the ranking on a sustainable funding model thereafter.

The initiative originated at a conference under the 2008 French Presidency of the European Union, which called for a new methodology to measure the different dimensions of excellence of higher education and research institutions in Europe and in an international context. Subsequently, the EC commissioned a feasibility study on a multi-dimensional ranking in 2011.

An independent consortium led by the Centre for Higher Education (CHE) in Germany and the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS) in the Netherlands compiled the new ranking. Other partner organisations include the Centre for Science and Technology at Leiden University (the Netherlands), Catholic University Leuven (Belgium), academic publishers Elsevier, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the student advice organisation Push and software firm Folge 3.

Sources:

[1] U-Multirank website
[5] Presentation on U-Multirank from the European Commission
2. News & Developments

European Higher Education Fair

In what is now an established annual event, the European Higher Education Fair took place over 16-18 May. Similar to last year the event was held at Meiji University in Tokyo, and Doshisha University in Kyoto.

Overall, the numbers were up quite substantially on last year, increasing to 2100 from 1900 last year.

There were close to sixty universities or other organisations represented at the fair.

Name that Cute Robot on the EU Delegation Wall!

In February 2014, a cute robot suddenly appeared on the wall of the Delegation of the European Union in Tokyo. Who is he/she, what does he/she want – and most importantly, "what is his/her name"?

The cute robot is looking around the corner to see what the EU and Japan can do together in interesting new technologies. It symbolises EU-Japan...
cooperation in research and innovation. The robot is expected to stay on the EU Delegation wall throughout 2014.

Proposals should be sent by email to: DELEGATION-JAPAN-ST@eeas.europa.eu no later than 15h00 on Friday, 13 June 2014.

Please help us name our cute robot!

Further information: EU Delegation, Tokyo

EU-Japan summit in Brussels

The 22nd Summit between the European Union (EU) and Japan took place in Brussels on 7 May. Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission, and Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

They covered the general outline of EU-Japan relations, including the ongoing discussions on the Free Trade Agreement and Economic Partnership Agreement, the EU-Japan Business Round Table, and other aspects of the relationship. Particularly towards science, technology, research and higher education they noted the following key points.

Paragraph 14 of the statement concerns the contribution of EU-Japan cooperation in science, technology and innovation to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness, and to address shared societal challenges.

They note that, building on the progress achieved since the entry into force of the Agreement on Science and Technology, in particular in the key areas of mutual interest such as critical raw materials, aeronautics and information and communications technology, they aim for a new strategic partnership in research and innovation.

They noted the new opportunities offered in the context of the EU programme Horizon 2020 and of the Japanese ‘Comprehensive STI Strategy’. They added: “We take note of the results of the senior officials’ meeting, mandated by the last Summit, which took place in Tokyo in April to exchange views for and exploring more effective and efficient mechanisms to enhance future research
cooperation. Based on these fruitful discussions, a dialogue will be pursued in order to identify a concrete way forward.”

They then noted that they are encouraged by the steady progress of cooperation in information and communications technology through measures such as the success of the second high level ICT Security Workshop and the second coordinated call for proposals on research and development.

They also identified the following:

- To seek enhanced cooperation in transport, an area that is central for addressing common challenges, such as security, safety, oil dependency, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions. We will continue our dialogue on aviation with a view to exploring the shared benefits of expanded cooperation.

- Reaffirmed that the EU and Japan will strengthen their partnership on the ITER Project and the Broader Approach Activities for their complete success towards the realisation of fusion energy.

- People-to-people exchanges and cooperation in higher education are essential tools to engage with each other’s culture and deepen mutual understanding, particularly amongst young people. The EU-funded Erasmus Plus programme can deepen academic cooperation between the EU and Japan already developed through double degree programmes and student, researcher and staff exchanges, providing new opportunities to increase mobility. Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions are supporting the exchange of research staff from institutions in the EU and Japan. The EU Institutes in Japan further mutual understanding, engage with a wide array of audiences and reinforce EU-Japan academic cooperation. In addition, we have decided to mutually support our respective events to promote student exchanges between the EU and Japan, such as the European Higher Education Fair held in Japan in May and the Study in Japan Fairs, including those being held in London and Paris in November 2014.

- Reaffirm the importance of safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities, and have decided to hold the inaugural meeting of the EU-Japan Space Policy Dialogue in Tokyo in the latter half of 2014. We will continue to cooperate on promoting the adoption of an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities.

- Facing more severe, widespread and globalised risks surrounding cyberspace and the need to protect human rights online, protection of a safe, open and secure cyberspace is needed. With this shared recognition, we have decided to launch an EU-Japan Cyber Dialogue, with a view to promoting
cooperation on cyberspace through exchanges of our respective extensive experience and knowledge.

The full press statement regarding the summit is available from the Delegation homepage.

Delegation of the EU to Japan, (2014), 22nd EU-Japan Summit Joint Press Statement, 7 May

Publication – Updated Horizon 2020 country factsheets

The Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation European Union country factsheets have been updated with the latest figures including new data on:

Innovation Output Indicator position | SME participation | The number of ERC Principal Investigators | The number of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Fellows | Top 10 beneficiaries in each country

These fact sheets give an overview of the research & innovation landscape of the 28 EU member states. It includes country profiles and featured projects in each country.

Read more: Horizon 2020

Green Talents - International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development (GERMANY)

Deadline: 16 June 2014

Since 2009, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has held the prestigious "Green Talents - International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development" to promote the international exchange of ideas regarding green solutions. The award, whose patron is Minister Professor Johanna Wanka, honours 25 young researchers from around the world each year. The winners come from various scientific disciplines and are recognised for their outstanding achievements in making our societies more sustainable. The Green Talents 2014 will be selected by a high-ranking jury of German experts and are granted unique access to the elite of the country's sustainability research field. This includes:
• An invitation to Germany in 2014 to participate in the fully funded **two-week science forum**. While touring Germany, top locations will open their doors to the Green Talents and offer them an exclusive insight into their facilities and projects.
• A chance to present themselves and their work in personal discussions held as part of **individual appointments** with experts of their choice (during the two-week science forum).
• A second invitation to Germany in 2015 for a **fully funded research stay** of up to three months. At an inspiring location of their choice, the Green Talents will gain new experiences and advance their professional careers while establishing long-lasting partnerships.
• Exclusive access to the "**Green Talents Network**" of over 100 high potentials in sustainable development from over 35 countries.

Open to non-German nationals and not residing in Germany. More information [here](#).

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### 2 Grants & Fellowships

**ERC: Forthcoming Calls**

The European Research Council are to publish the call for their Advanced Research Grant on 17 June.

See the [participant portal](#) for the call outline. The ERC has further information on the [Advanced Grants](#).

Call identifier: ERC-2014-ADG

**Horizon 2020 Calls**

See the [Participant Portal](#) for the full list of currently open calls.

See also the [JEUPISTE](#) website, where further information and links can be found.

**European Commission: Joint Research Centre**

The European Commission’s Joint Research Centre is currently advertising the following vacancies:

- 7 trainee positions
- 2 Grantholder
- 1 Auxiliary Contract Staff Members

Deadlines: Various

More information: JRC

**Austria: Marietta Blau Grant for PhD students**

Financial support to spend abroad 6 to 12 months of a doctoral programme enrolled and carried out in Austria. Doctoral programmes that are carried out completely or mostly abroad cannot be supported. Applicants must not yet have started their studies abroad at the time of application.

Target group: Highly qualified doctoral candidates who have studied a maximum of six semesters of their doctoral / PhD programme at an Austrian university.

Deadline: 1 September, 2014.

Further information: Scholarship Portal

**Canon Foundation Europe Fellowships**

Annually, the Canon Foundation in Europe grants up to 15 Fellowships to highly qualified European and Japanese researchers. European nationals should have permanent citizenship in the country.

The candidates hold a doctorate or at least a Master’s degree. Canon Fellows from Europe are free to choose their host institutes and hosts in Japan.

The same freedom is given to Japanese Canon Fellows coming to Europe.

Deadline: 15 September

Further Information: Canon Foundation

**EMBO Long Term Fellowships**

The EMBO Long-Term Fellowships are awarded for a period of up to two years and support post-doctoral research visits to laboratories throughout Europe and the world. International exchange is a key feature in the application process. All fellowships must involve movement between countries. The receiving institute or the applicant's nationality must be from one of the EMBC Member States.

Next deadline: 15 August 2014

Further information: EMBO

**European Respiratory Society: Short Term Fellowships**

The ERS allow young scientists and clinicians to visit a host institution in Europe. Short term stays of 1-3 months are supported.

Next deadlines: 1 October 2014.
Further Information: ERS

France: CNRS Permanent Engineers

Each year, CNRS organizes external competitive examinations to fill a wide variety of jobs, including many positions in research support. All these functions are organized in Professional Activity Branches (BAP) and fall under the category of engineers and technicians, who assist researchers in their scientific activities.

Calls open in June, closing in mid-July.

Further information: CNRS

France: Fernand Braudel-International Fellowships

The Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme and its partners offer postdoctoral fellowships to researchers in the social and human sciences for periods of nine months as part of its “Fernand Braudel-IFER” (International Fellowships for Experienced Researchers) programme. This programme is supported by the European Union (Action Marie Curie – COFUND – 7th PCRD).

Two calls for applications per year are published, the deadlines for submission is March 31 and September 30. All applications are made exclusively online via the application form.

Further information:
http://www.fmsh.fr/en

France: Doctoral Programme Calmette and Yersin

The Institut Pasteur International Division funds one to two researchers each year to promote and facilitate the realization of their PhD in an institute within the Institut Pasteur International Network (RIIP) except metropolitan France. Areas may include all themes developed in the laboratories of the RIIP.

Application deadline: July 11, 2014

Further information: RIIP

France: Hosting High Level Researchers (Awaiting official announcement)

The French National Research Agency (ANR) are shortly to launch a new call to attract high level researchers to France. The programme is aimed at junior and senior levels, and will provide funding to selected institutions in the range from 150-900k EUR.

Further information: ANR
France: National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA) – Experienced Junior Researchers

51 positions are available in fields relevant to agricultural research. There are 6 vacancies for experienced research scientists (at least 4 years of post-PhD experience); and 45 research director positions (at least 8 years experience).

There are four junior positions that are also being advertised.

Further information: INRA (senior) INRA (junior)

France: Roux, Howard, Cantarini Post-doctoral Fellowships

These contracts are for up to two years and intended to fund a first or a second post-doctoral internship for scientists wishing to extend their training and contribute their expertise to research at Institut Pasteur (Paris). Candidates must have defended their PhD thesis less than 4 years before they take up their fellowship. These contracts can not fund the first post-doctoral internship of a former Institut Pasteur PhD student.

Deadline: 19 September

Further information: Pasteur Institute

Germany: Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Awards

Scientists and scholars, internationally renowned in their field, who completed their doctorates less than 18 years ago and who in future are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements which will have a seminal influence on their discipline beyond their immediate field of work, are eligible to be nominated for a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award.

The Humboldt Foundation grants up to 25 Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Awards annually.

Direct applications are not accepted. The award is valued at 45,000 EUR.

Nominations may be sent via postal service at any time.

More information: Humboldt Foundation

Ireland: SFI Investigators Programme Thematic Priorities

The thematic priorities for the SFI Investigators Programme have been announced and include:

- Software Defined Networking
- Cyber Security and Digital Forensics
- Connected Health and Independent Living (Priority Area D)*
Deadline: 27th June 2014
Further information: SFI

Japan: Kansai Research Foundation for Technology Promotion

There are two types of grants: research grants and international exchange support. Field: Energy Recycle and Disaster Prevention.

Deadlines: 29th August 2014 for research grant, 31st July for international exchange

Further information: KRF

Japan: NSK Foundation (Mechatronics)

The NSK Foundation will provide support for basic or applied research on mechatronic systems. Funding of up to 2m yen will be provided over a period of 2 years.


Further information: NSK (J)

Japan: Pfizer Health Research Foundation

Health research is the problem-solving study for the purpose of improving the quality of life of individuals to research the mechanism to provide all the people the best care, and to make recommendations to the society, based on the results of social science and natural science.

For health research promotion in Japan, they provide three types of funding: International collaborative research grant, Collaborative research grant with age limit, and Collaborative research grant without age limit.

The deadlines of all grants are 30 June 2014.

More information: Pfizer

Japan: Sir Martin Wood Prize Nominations

The Sir Martin Wood Prize, named after the founder of Oxford Instruments, was established in 1998 with the objective of giving recognition and encouragement to young scientists in Japan. The Prize is sponsored by the British company Oxford Instruments plc. The Sir Martin Wood Prize is awarded annually to a scientist, younger than 40, who has achieved remarkable results in condensed matter science at a university or research institute in Japan. Condensed matter
science includes condensed matter physics, inorganic-organic chemistry, material science and surface-interface physics.

Deadline for nomination: 1 August 2014.

More information: MS Forum

Japan: STart Programme

Funding programme from the Japan Science and Technology Agency to support start-ups from Japanese research institutions.

Deadline: 7 July 2014

Further information: JST (E)

Luxembourg: INTER Mobility Programme

The aim of the INTER Mobility Programme is to promote the scientific exchange between research groups of the Luxembourg public research institutions and research groups abroad in order to foster innovative, internationally competitive research and support the exchange of key knowledge and technological know-how. Thus the activities should have a strong impact on the research programme of the Luxembourg research group as well as on the career development of the researcher. The INTER Mobility Programme allows for research stays in both directions (researchers working in Luxembourg to go abroad or for researchers from elsewhere to come to Luxembourg).

Deadline: 30 June 2014.

Further information: FNR

Luxembourg: FNR's AFR Grant Scheme

The FNR's AFR Grant Scheme supports PhD and postdoctoral research training projects in Luxembourg and abroad, up to 4 years for PhDs and up to 2 years for postdocs.

The FNR's AFR Grant Scheme (Aides à la Formation-Recherche) supports PhD and postdoctoral research training projects in Luxembourg and abroad, up to 4 years for PhDs and up to 2 years for postdocs.

The next round will be launched in mid-June, with the deadline in September.

More information: FNR

Netherlands: Rubicon

Rubicon aims to encourage talented researchers at Dutch universities and research institutes run by KNAW and NWO to dedicate themselves to a career in postdoctoral research.

Deadline is 3 September, 2014.
Further information: [NWO](http://www.nwo.nl)

**Pfizer Health Research Foundation**

This programme supports medical or other health related research. Collaborative research with partners in Japan or internationally is supported up to a period of 1 year.

Deadline: 30 June, 2014.

Further information: [Pfizer](http://www.pfizer.com) (J)

**Spain: 2014 International Scholarships for Master and PhD Programme at Charles III University of Madrid**

Various scholarships for masters and continuing education at the Charles III University website are issued on the webpage.

Further information: master and doctoral programme as well as on the scholarships on the Charles III University website.

Further information: [UC3M](http://www.uc3m.es)

**Spain: 15 positions for Senior Researchers - Ikerbasque Research Professors**

Ikerbasque, the Basque Foundation for Science, has launched a new international call to reinforce research and scientific career in the Basque Country (Spain) with 15 positions for Senior Researchers Ikerbasque Research Professors.

Deadline: 10 September

Further information: [www.ikerbasque.net](http://www.ikerbasque.net)

**Sweden: Incoming and Outgoing Fellowships**

VINNMER Marie Curie Industry Outgoing: Funds international mobility from Sweden with project times of 1–3 years, open to researchers of all nationalities in industry or research institutes with at least four years of research experience. The fellowship can cover up to 50% of salary costs - additional relevant and justifiable costs relating to mobility.

Deadline: 16 September

VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming: Funds international mobility to Sweden with project times of 1–3 years, open to researchers of all nationalities who have at least four years of research experience. The fellowship can cover up to 50% of salary costs as well as additional relevant and justifiable costs relating to mobility.

Deadline: 16 September

Further information: [Vinnova](http://www.vinnova.se)
Sweden: Various

The Swedish Research Council announced various new calls in February. These include grants to support international mobility, such as:

- Grants for Distinguished Researchers (TBD)
- Grants for International Recruitment of Leading Researchers (TBD)

Further information and full list: [Swedish Research Council](#)

UK: Royal Society International Exchanges Scheme

This scheme is for scientists in the UK who want to stimulate new collaborations with leading scientists overseas through either a one-off visit or bilateral travel. Covers all areas of the life and physical sciences, including engineering, but excluding clinical medicine.

Deadline: 1 July 2014.

More information: [Royal Society](#)

3 Jobs

Jobs in Europe: EURAXESS Jobs

There are currently 9,107 jobs advertised on the EURAXESS Jobs webpage. They can be viewed by country, level of seniority, field or research or via free text searches. Please also note that these jobs include doctoral fellowships.

All the positions can be viewed at the [EURAXESS Jobs page](#).

Jobs in Japan

JREC-IN

The Japanese job website, JREC-IN are currently advertising 1,689 positions in Japanese, and 165 positions in English.

All the positions can be viewed at the [JREC-IN website](#).

JAIST

Various openings at the Japan Advanced Institute for Science and Technology. In the following fields:

- technology management
- software science
- service science
- chemistry
- others

See JAIST for further details and deadlines.

**JAMSTEC**

There are a number of openings at the Japan Agency for Marine Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) at junior and more senior levels.

Deadlines: Various

Further information: JAMSTEC

**Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology**

Various openings in administration, technical support and research. See OIST

**RIKEN Jobs**

RIKEN have numerous openings at their various centres. Including:

- Various postdoctoral & technical positions
- Positions at the Advanced Science Institute
- Brain Science Institute
- RIKEN Center for Life Science Technologies
- RIKEN Center for Emergent Matter Science
- Spring8

Check the RIKEN homepage for the full listing.

**Shizuoka University**

A press report from the university suggests that they are to recruit five foreign researchers / faculty in due course.

Further information: Shizuoka University

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**4 Events**

EU-Japan Friendship Week2014
2-30, June 2014.
Further information: EUIJ Kansai
DIJ Social Science Study Group:
Meanings of Graduate Education for Women in Japan: A study of University of Tokyo Alumnae in the Social Sciences and Humanities
June 4, 2014

iCeMS Symposium "Light Control in Cell Biology"
12-13, June 2014.
Further information: ICEMS

EUJO-LIMMS Information Day
18 June, 2014 in Finland.
Further information: EUJO-LIMMS

Lecture “History as Present in East Asia: A Geopolitical Perspective “
27 June 2014.
Further information: Maison Franco Japonaise

K’avenir des relations franco-japanaises: dans un monde en transition
28-29 June 2014.
Further information: Maison Franco Japonaise

NIMS Conference 2014
1-3, July 2014 in Tsukuba.
Further information: NIMS

The 7th International Symposium on Isotopomers 2014 (ISI 2014)
1-4, July 2014.
Further information: Tokyo Tech
International Symposium on Geodesy for Earthquake and Natural Hazards (GENAH 2014)
22-26 July, 2014 in Miyagi.
Further information: GENAH

Third Symposium "Make a Difference —Kobe University"
7, September 2014.
Further information: Kobe University

Innovation Connecting Show
16-18, September 2014.
Further information: ICS

"4th International Conference on Metal Organic Frameworks and Open Framework Compounds"
Sep 28 - Oct 1, 2014.
Further information: ICEMS

See also: Science Links Japan for a listing of forthcoming events in Japan

About EURAXESS Links
EURAXESS Links is a networking tool for European researchers working outside Europe and non-European ones wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a research career in Europe. It has this far been launched in the USA and Canada (as the "North-America" hub), Japan, Brazil, China, India, the ASEAN hub encompassing Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. EURAXESS Links provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. Membership is free.