✅ JSPS DC Fellowship Proposal Self-Evaluation Rubric (English Version)

Category	Criteria	1 Needs Improvement	2 Below Standard	3 Meets Minimum	4 Good	5 Excellent
1. Research Significance and Originality	Clear identification of academic problem or research gap	Unclear or absent	Vague or generic	Basic understanding	Mostly clear	Very clear and compelling
	Originality or innovative elements in research approach	No originality	Limited or derivative	Some novelty	Clearly innovative	Highly original and creative
	Contribution to the field and/or social value	Not addressed	Minimally addressed	Adequately addressed	Well explained	Strongly articulated and impactful
2. Research Plan and Feasibility	Clearly stated research objectives and aims	Unclear or unfocused	Broad or weak	Clear but needs refinement	Mostly clear	Precise, focused, and well justified
	Suitability of research methods and design	Inappropriate or absent	Vague or incomplete	Appropriate but underdeveloped	Clear and mostly sound	Thorough, suitable, and well justified
	Feasibility within proposed timeframe and available resources	Unrealistic	Questionable	Feasible with conditions	Generally realistic	Highly feasible and well scheduled
3. Applicant Capabilities	Research motivation and background	Unclear or irrelevant	Weak or underdeveloped	Adequate	Strong and relevant	Very strong, aligned, and well expressed
	Academic track record and readiness	No supporting evidence	Minimal experience	Some relevant experience	Strong background	Highly qualified and well prepared
4. Research Ethics	Ethical considerations of the research	Not mentioned	Vague or underdeveloped	Basic ethical awareness	Clearly addressed	Strong, proactive ethical planning
	Identification and mitigation of ethical risks	Not addressed	Weak or unclear	Some risks considered	Risks clearly outlined	Detailed, comprehensive risk management
5. Clarity and Structure of the Proposal	Logical structure and coherence	Disorganized or confusing	Difficult to follow	Mostly clear structure	Well organized	Exceptionally clear and well structured
	Writing style and readability	Hard to understand	Requires major editing	Adequate but inconsistent	Mostly polished	Fluent, concise, and professional

	Compliance with formatting and submission guidelines	Non-compliant	Minor issues	Mostly compliant	Fully compliant	Perfectly formatted and clean
6. Future Vision and Broader Impact	Anticipated academic outputs (papers, presentations)	Not mentioned	Vague or unrealistic	Reasonable but modest	Clear and relevant	Well planned and ambitious
	Alignment with career development goals	Unclear or missing	Weak alignment	Adequate alignment	Strong alignment	Very strong and well integrated
	Contribution to internationalization and/or interdisciplinary collaboration	Not addressed	Minimally addressed	Some potential	Good potential	Strong, clear contribution articulated

English version of the JSPS DC (Doctoral Course) Fellowship **Self-Evaluation Rubric**, based on the official JSPS assessment criteria—including research ethics—as presented in Japanese on JSPS websites (e.g., https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-pd/pd_shinsa.html).

🧠 Final Pre-Submission Checklist: Before submitting your JSPS DC proposal, ensure you can answer YES to the following:

- **Have I clearly explained why this research matters to both the field and society?**
- **Does my proposal reflect a deep understanding of the current academic landscape and unresolved challenges?**
- **Are my methods, schedule, and goals realistic and well supported by evidence or examples?**
- **Have I clearly addressed ethical considerations and anticipated any potential risks?**
- **Is my proposal aligned with JSPS goals, such as supporting early-career researchers and promoting international collaboration?**
- **Have I incorporated feedback from mentors or peers and revised my proposal accordingly?**
- **Is the language polished, the structure clear, and the formatting consistent with JSPS requirements?**