

August 2023

# Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)

~Doctoral Student Support Project~.

Application Guidelines [Fall AY 2023]

The University has been working with the JST Next-Generation Researchers Challenging Research Program - Doctoral Course Student Support Project - to support the development of the next generation of researchers.

The program was adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "MEXT"), and from FY 2021, the program will provide excellent doctoral-level equivalent students with a benefit-type support expenses (living expenses equivalent and research expenses. The scholarship is provided to outstanding doctoral-level students.) The outline of this project is as follows, and this guideline stipulates necessary matters regarding the adoption of this project in the fall of 2023 (FY 2023).

## ■ Purpose of the Project

- Supporting free, challenging, and integrative research by doctoral students outside of existing frameworks
- Providing an environment in which students can devote themselves to research by providing an amount equivalent to their living expenses
- To guide excellent doctoral students to become doctoral candidates who can be active in a variety of career paths

## ■ Initiatives at University of Tsukuba

### • Project Title

Transnational value-creating human resource development that transcends the barriers of academic disciplines and enables co-creation with diverse human resources Project.

~The doctoral students will be trained to be active in diverse career paths, equipped with the ability to change the world in response to unpredictable social transformations.

### • Business Management

Kato Mitsuyasu Vice President (Education), Director

## ■ Project period

FY 2021 – FY 2025

\*Medical courses will be offered in 2026 (2026 academic year)

## 1. Applicants, number of recruits, and Fellowship period

### (1-1) Application Category A

Course	Subject	Number of Recruits	Fellowship t period
Sectional Doctoral Program	October 2023	About 9 students	From October 2023 to September 2026 (3 years)
3-year doctoral program	First-year students		
Five-year Consecutive Program (excluding courses in medicine)	October 2023 3rd year transfer student Or, those who are enrolled in an integrated doctoral program and will advance to the third year of the program and who have passed the mid-term exams.		

\*However, applications for continuation will be submitted and reviewed each fiscal year.

Even if the period of study is extended due to a leave of absence, etc., the period of study will remain the same as above.

Foreign students who have not yet arrived in Japan may also apply. They must be employed and receive.

If the applicant is unable to come to Japan on the date of arrival, his/her employment will be cancelled.

\*For the fall of 2023, there will be no openings for courses in medicine.

### (1-2) Application documents

#### (1) Research Plan for Students Eligible for Research Scholarship (SPRING):

Designated Form

\*In your research plan, please include how your research theme in the doctoral program will lead to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or how you can contribute to human society in 30 or 50 years from now from a longer-term perspective.

\*Please leave the signature field for the confirmation of the academic advisor's signature, student ID number blank on application form.

(2) For applicants admitted through the Special Selection for Working Adults, applicants who were employed at the time of admission, and applicants enrolled in the program for working adults, please submit a certificate of withholding tax or other evidence of income for the previous year.

We will confirm the income of the previous year for all selected applicants.

(2-1) Application Category B

Students enrolled in the following as of October 2023

Course	Subject	Number of Recruits	Fellowship period
Sectional Doctoral Program	Students who have 2 years left in their period of study	Small number of people	From October 2023 to September 2025 (2 years)
3-year doctoral program			
Five-year Consecutive Program (excluding courses in medicine)	Students who have passed the mid-term exams etc., and who 2 years left in their period of study.		

\*However, applications for continuation will be submitted and reviewed each fiscal year.

Even if the period of study is extended due to a leave of absence, etc., the period of study will remain the same as above.

\*For the fall of 2023, there will be no openings for courses in medicine.

(2-2) Application documents

- (1) Research Plan for Students Eligible for Research Scholarship (SPRING):  
Designated Form

\*In your research plan, please include how your research theme in the doctoral program will lead to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or how you can contribute to human society in 30 or 50 years from now from a longer-term perspective.

- (2) For applicants admitted through the Special Selection for Working Adults, applicants who were employed at the time of admission, and applicants enrolled in the program for working adults, please submit a certificate of withholding tax or other evidence of income for the previous year.

We will confirm the income of the previous year for all selected applicants.

### (3-1) Application Category C

Students enrolled in the following as of October 2023

course	subject (of taxation, etc.)	Number of Recruits	Fellowship period
Sectional Doctoral Program	Students who have 1 year left in their period of study	Small number of people	From October 2023 to September 2024 (1 year)
3-year doctoral program			
Five-year Consecutive Program (excluding courses in medicine)	Students who have passed the mid-term exams etc., and who 1 year left in their period of study.		
Medical Sciences	Students who have 1 year left in their period of study.		

\*However, applications for continuation will be submitted and reviewed each fiscal year.

Even if the period of study is extended due to a leave of absence, etc., the period of study will remain the same as above.

### (3-2) Application documents

#### (1) Research Plan for Students Eligible for Research Scholarship (SPRING):

Designated Form

\*In your research plan, please include how your research theme in the doctoral program will lead to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or how you can contribute to human society in 30 or 50 years from now from a longer-term perspective.

(2) For applicants admitted through the Special Selection for Working Adults, applicants who were employed at the time of admission, and applicants enrolled in the program for working adults, please submit a certificate of withholding tax or other evidence of income for the previous year.

We will confirm the income of the previous year for all selected applicants.

## 2. Ineligible students (common to all application categories)

In the fiscal year 2023, those who fall under any of the following categories shall not be eligible.

- (1) Those who are employed as JSPS Postdoctoral Fellows (DC)
- (2) Those who receive support through the Japanese Government Scholarship Program (MEXT Scholarship)
- (3) Those who receive support from their home government
- (4) Those who are supported by WISE Program (Doctoral Program for World-leading Innovative & Smart Education)
- (5) Those who receive a stable income from the company to which they belong, such as salary or executive compensation, at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (2.4 million yen or more per year) (excluding TA,RA,part-time work).

- (6) Recipients of the MEXT's "University Fellowship Establishment Program for Science and Technology Innovation Creation
- (7) Students on leave of absence as of October 2023
- (8) Those who have been enrolled for longer than the standard period of enrollment for your program

### **3. Application Requirements**

- Students who are willing to explore various career paths
- To encourage proactive, original and interdisciplinary education and research by conducting research and other activities that can contribute to the SDGs.
- To increase the number of contacts and opportunities to be active in companies, etc., through long-term internships at companies, etc., working as research staff at companies, etc., actively participating in exchange meetings with external parties at companies, etc. and gatherings of doctoral students at the University, and actively immersing oneself in the research environment overseas by studying abroad, etc. To make efforts to increase contacts and opportunities to play an active role in companies, etc.

### **4. Research incentive funds, etc.**

Class 1: Particularly outstanding students: 1,450,000 yen in FY2023 \*.

(1,200,000 yen equivalent to living expenses, 250,000 yen for research expenses)

Class 2: Other excellent students: 1,360,000 yen in FY2023 \*.

(1,110,000 yen equivalent to living expenses, 250,000 yen for research expenses)

\* The support in FY2023 will be half of the annual amount (Class 1: 2,900,000 yen, Class 2: 2,720,000 yen) since the support will be provided for six months.

\*The screening committee will decide whether to employ the applicant in Class 1 or Class 2.

The first and final year of support will be for six months, so half of the annual amount will be provided.

### **5. where to submit**

[gk.jst-spring@un.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:gk.jst-spring@un.tsukuba.ac.jp)

The application form must be submitted as PDF data (file name should be "Exam Number, Name, Degree Program Name").

In addition, those who are enrolled in an integrated doctoral course (excluding medical courses) and will advance to the third year in October 2023 should enter their student ID number in place of their examination number.

### **6. submission deadline**

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 17:00 (strictly enforced)

### **7. matters to be imposed on the employer, etc.**

(1) Required

- To take the APRIN e-learning program on research ethics (CITI Japan).  
(The method of attendance will be notified separately to successful applicants.)

- Submit a research progress report at the end of each month and a completion report at the end of the research year.
- Participation in research presentations organized by the Program
- To agree to provide JST with the university's email address so that JST can follow up directly with the selected students.
- The University is expected to report follow-up of the recipients for more than 10 years, so everyone must register with "JGRAD".
- Register for "PhD x FUTURE.", a matching system for young researchers.
- At least 1 credit in a common graduate school subject

(2) Perform to the fullest extent possible

Endeavor to secure opportunities for proactive career development and training on your own, including participation in the following initiatives

- Studying abroad (including opportunities equivalent to studying abroad)
- Participation in the on-campus mini-camp (tentative name; collaborative study and exchange events involving 1-2 weeks of overnight stay) for mutual exchange between Japanese students and international students.
- Students in the Natural Sciences (students enrolled in the Faculty of Science and Technology, Information and Life Sciences and the Faculty of Comprehensive Human Sciences) must register for the separately promoted "Job-Based Research Internship" program.
- Long-term internship at a company or research staff at a company
- Participation in the doctoral student exchange meeting organized by JST
- Actively participate in other projects as instructed by the project manager.

## 8. cancellation of support

If the business manager determines that any of the following are applicable, he/she will provide guidance for improvement, but if he/she determines that no improvement is expected, he/she will cancel the employment.

- The obligations imposed by the Program are not being fulfilled.
- Research is not progressing as planned.

In the event that research misconduct or false applications are discovered, the employment will be cancelled and the research incentive funds already granted will be returned.

## 9. other

(1) Since JST requires universities to conduct a follow-up survey on careers for at least 10 years after the completion of the program, the successful candidates will be required to report to the university.

(2) The names and other information of students who are selected for the research scholarship will be announced on the website.

(3) Of the research incentive expenses, the amount equivalent to living expenses is taxed as miscellaneous income, so you are required to file a tax return and pay taxes in the year following the year of receipt.

## Reference

- (1) Income tax: If you are a dependent of a parent or other family member under the tax law, if the amount of your living expenses from January to December, less necessary expenses, exceeds 480,000 yen, you are not eligible for the deduction for dependent care and are subject to income tax. If the amount of living expenses (January-December) exceeds 480,000 yen, the parent/guardian cannot receive an exemption for dependents

and will be subject to income tax. In addition, the resident tax for the following year will be calculated according to the income of the relevant year.

- (2) Dependents on health insurance or mutual aid association: If the estimated annual amount equivalent to living expenses exceeds 1.3 million yen, the student cannot become a dependent. If a student falls under the requirement that he/she cannot be a dependent because the amount equivalent to living expenses is determined from the beginning, he/she must enroll in the National Health Insurance on his/her own.
- (3) Tuition fee waiver: Tuition fee waiver may not be waived depending on income, although the calculation of the household standard varies depending on the household's situation.

**10. For inquiries regarding this matter, please contact**

Student Life Division, Student Affairs Department, University of Tsukuba  
email: [gk.jst-spring@un.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:gk.jst-spring@un.tsukuba.ac.jp)