

**Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)**  
**- Doctoral Student Support Project -**  
**Application Guideline [AY2024]**

The University of Tsukuba has been selected by JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency) as one of the universities / colleges that leads promising students through their program "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)." Through this program, the University provides financial support (living & research allowance, hereinafter referred to as Research Fellowship) to our promising doctoral students in the form of grants. The overview of the JST project "SPRING" and our application requirements are shown below.

■ **Purpose of the Project**

- Supporting PhD students to devote themselves to unrestricted, challenging and interdisciplinary research projects
- Supporting the students to devote themselves to their own research by covering their living expenses.
- Assisting promising students to become doctorate degree holders who are ready for a variety of diverse and important careers

■ **The University's Commitment to the Project "SPRING"**

- The Project Run by the University of Tsukuba;

<Project Title >

「学問分野の壁を超えて多様な人材と共創できるトランスボーダー型価値創造人材育成プロジェクト」  
～予測不能な社会変容にも対応して世界を変える力を備えた、多様なキャリアパスで活躍できる博士人材育成～  
Transborder Human Capital Development Project: Fostering Agile Doctoral Students in a VUCA World

- Project Officer  
KATO Mitsuyasu - Vice President and Executive Director for Education

■ **Project Period**

From AY2021 to AY2026\*

\*In case of the PhD students in Medical Sciences; AY2027

## 1. Applicants, number of hires, application period:

### (1-1) Application Category A

Course	Target	Number of hires needed	Employment period
Doctoral Program (区 分制の博士後期課程)	2024/4 1st year enrollees	About 188 students	From AY2024 to AY2027 (3 years)
3 <sup>rd</sup> year of PhD course (3年制博士課程)	2024/4 1st year enrollees		
Enrolled in the Doctoral Course 一貫 制博士課程 (Medical Sciences not included)	2024/4 3 <sup>rd</sup> year admitted/transferred students  Or Students who have passed the mid-term exams etc., and who have 3 years left in their period of study.		
Medical Sciences	2024/4 1st year enrollees		From AY2024 to AY2028

\* To continue this program, a new application will be reviewed each year. Even if the student's period of study is extended due to a leave absence, etc., the program period will not change.

Foreign students, who are not able to come in Japan yet, can apply as well. However, if after being selected, you are not in Japan by the time the payments start, your application will be cancelled.

\* For application category A, recruitment for the academic year 2024 (Reiwa 6) will be based solely on the fields of the University Fellowship Establishment Program for Science and Technology Innovation Creation\*. For details, please refer to the application guidelines provided by each support office.

\* "University Fellowship Establishment Program for Science and Technology Innovation Creation" (implemented by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) until the academic year 2023)

### (1-2) Application Category B

Students enrolled in the following as of April 2024

Course	Target	Number of hires needed	Employment period
Doctoral Program (区 分制の博士後期課程)	Students who have 2 years left in their period of study.	About 58 students	From April 2024 to March 2026 (2 years)
3 <sup>rd</sup> year of PhD course (3年制博士課程)			
Enrolled in the	Students who have		

Doctoral Course 一貫制博士課程 (Medical Sciences not included)	passed the mid-term exams etc., and who 2 years left in their period of study.		
Medical Sciences	Students who have 2 or 3 years left in their period of study.		

\*To continue this program, a new application will be reviewed each year. Even if the student's period of study is extended due to a leave absence, etc., the program period will not change.

### (1-3) Application Category C

Students enrolled in the following as of April 2024

Course	Target	Number of hires needed	Employment period
Doctoral Program (区分制の博士後期課程)	Students who have 1 year left in their period of study.	About 80 students	From April 2024 to March2025 (1 years)
3 <sup>rd</sup> year of PhD course (3年制博士課程)			
Enrolled in the Doctoral Course 一貫制博士課程 (Medical Sciences not included)	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.		

\*The student's period of study is extended due to a leave absence, etc., the program period will not change.

### (1-4) Required Documents

#### ① Research Plan for Students Eligible for Research Incentive Funds

[Note]

When you write a plan, please include either of the following:

- (a) How can your research theme contribute to the SDGs (\*United Nations Development Programme)
- (b) How can your research theme contribute to future society in the next 30 or 50 years.

②For those who were enrolled in the University with the Special Selection of Working Individuals, those who were employed at the time of admission, and those who are in "the early completion program for working people", please attach some form of documentation showing the income earned during the previous year such as the tax withholding slip (源泉徴収票) etc.

## 2. Students who are not eligible (no matter the category)

Those who apply to the following conditions are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to apply for this project in 2024:

- ① The research fellows of the program “Research Fellowship for Young Scientists” (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)
- ② The recipients of MEXT Scholarship
- ③ The recipients of the scholarship granted by the government of their home countries
- ④ The recipient of the support granted by WISE Program (Doctoral Program for World-leading Innovative & Smart Education)
- ⑤ Those who have received a sufficient level of scholarship (more than 2.4 million yen/year) related to living expenses.
- ⑥ Those who work for a company (TA, RA, part-time jobs excluded) and receive a sufficient and stable level of income for living expenses (more than 2.4 million yen/year)
- ⑦ Those who are on “Leave of Absence” as of April 2024
- ⑧ Individuals who are enrolled beyond the standard period of study

## 3. Application Requirements

- Highly motivated students who are keen on developing their career path
- Those who aim to work hard and productively in unique and interdisciplinary research studies that can contribute SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)
- Those who will try to interact with companies or making chances to work in various fields by:
  - Participating in long term internship / Working as research staff
  - Participating in social events such as company networking events, or gatherings for PhD students
  - Having some experience abroad such as through study-abroad or other experience

## 4. Fellowship Amount

**Class 1. Particularly promising students** (aprx.25% out of recipients):

2.9 million yen (2.4 million yen for living, 500,000 yen for research)

**Class 2. Promising students** (aprx.75% out of recipients) :

2.72 million yen (2.22 million yen for living, 500,000 yen for research)

[Note]

\*1 In addition to the above categories, support based on the fields of the University Fellowship Establishment Program for Science and Technology Innovation Creation will be provided. However, please refer to the recruitment guidelines provided by each support office for details.

\*2 The amount of the Research Fellowship is subject to change depending on JST’s budget availability.

\*3 The classification level will be determined by the project committee.

## 5. Where / How to Submit

Submit through “u-Rad a management system for internal grants” after logging in using the university's unified authentication ID.

<https://u-rad.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp>

## 【筑波大学】2024 年度春 次世代研究者挑戦的研究プログラム Spring AY 2024.Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)

[https://u-rad.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/login/index.php?support\\_id=fgOr2jv0fivfvGamlVKnKA%3D%3D](https://u-rad.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/login/index.php?support_id=fgOr2jv0fivfvGamlVKnKA%3D%3D)

Submit the application form in PDF data (FILE NAME: application category A, B or C, student ID number, your name, degree program name)

## 6. Application Deadline

5:00 p.m. (17:00), June 7 (Fri.), 2024 \*Late applications cannot be accepted.

## 7. Recipient Tasks

### (1) Mandatory Tasks

- Taking the online course “APRIN e-learning program (eAPRIN)”  
(Selected students will be notified separately on how to attend)
- Submitting the reports: “Research Progress Report” and “Final Reports”
- Participate in the research presentation hosted by the Program
- Submitting the pledge to agree with sharing your email address with the JST
- The University is expected to report follow-up of the recipients for more than 10 years, so everyone must register with "JGRAD".
- Register on the matching system for the Cooperative education through research internships.
- Register for “PhD x FUTURE.”, a matching system for young researchers.
- Acquire more than one credit in the Graduate General Education Courses Program

### (2) Tasks to be implemented as far as possible

To develop your career path proactively, please implement the following tasks as far as possible:

- Studying abroad (or some overseas experiences equivalent to studying abroad)
- Participating in the intercultural event that involves 1 to 2 weeks-overnight stays (that will be) conducted by the University
- Participating in long term internship / Working as research staff
- Participating in social gatherings of recipients conducted by JST
- Participating actively in events / activities offered by the Project Officer of the University

## 8. Revocation of Fellowship

In the event that the Project Officer judges that the recipient meets one of the conditions described below, guidance on improvement will be provided. Should they fail to display any improvement, the fellowship grant will be discontinued.

- Not accomplish the assigned tasks
- Not proceeding / working as planned

In cases such as a false application or research misconduct, the approval will be revoked and the recipient will have to return the whole amount of the fellowship already paid.

## 9. Others

- (1) All recipients have the duty of giving their recent reports. The University is expected to report follow-up of the recipients for more than 10 years.
- (2) The selection results (the recipient of fellowship) will be disclosed on the University website.
- (3) The grant for living expenses, a part of the fellowship, will be considered miscellaneous income. Therefore, it will be necessary to declare it in the following year.

### [References]

(1) Income Tax (Allowance for Dependents)

A tax allowance per each dependent is granted to the taxpayer who has dependent family. If the dependent member's income (January to December) exceeds JPY 480 000, the tax allowance cannot be taken in the following year. In addition, the residence tax of the following year will be calculated according to the income of the year

(2) Health Insurance – Family Membership

The annual income of a dependent family member must be less than JPY 1.3 million. Since the living allowance is considered income, the recipients will need to join the National Health Insurance (国民健康保険) themselves.

(3) Tuition Fee Exemption

The major factors of selection are usually finance and the applicants' family structure. Depending on the applicant's incomes (including the fellowships), the waiver may not be granted.

## 10. Contact information

Division of Student Welfare, Department of Student Affairs, University of Tsukuba  
E-mail: gk.jst-spring@un.tsukuba.ac.jp