

**Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)**  
**- Doctoral Student Support Project -**  
**Application Guideline [AY2021]**

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 AY2025\*

\*In case of the PhD students in Medical Science; AY2026

**1. The Students Subject to this Project:**

The best and brightest students who apply to the following (1) to (3) listed below.

- (1) Those who are enrolled in the program "一貫制博士課程 (4-,5-year full-term doctoral program)"; 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> year, or 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> year in courses of Medical Science
- (2) Those who are enrolled in Doctoral Program (区分制の博士後期課程／3年制博士課程); 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> year of PhD course)

However, those who apply to the following condition are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply for this project:

- 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 work for a company and get paid (annual income of 2.4 million yen or more, executive compensation, or receive some support for their living expenses)
- ⑥ The recipient of the support provided by the MEXT’s program “科学技術イノベーション創出に向けた大学フェローシップ創設事業 (university fellowship program for the creation of innovation in science and technology)”
- ⑦ Those who are on “Leave of Absence”
- ⑧ Those who are enrolled in their program exceeding the original duration of study

## 2. 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

## 3. Number of Recipients

351 students (recipient number in the whole University)

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

\*2 The classification level will be determined by the project committee.

## 5. Fellowship Period

From October 2021 to March 2022

[Note]

- \*1 The support for the following academic year (April, 2022 -) requires another application. Please wait for its announcement.
- \*2 Maximum support period is 3 years (4 years in case of Medical Sciences), within the original study period.

## 6. Required Documents

- (1) Student Research Fellowship Support Plan -Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)

[Note]

- \*1 When you write a plan, please include either of the following:
  - (a) How can your research theme contribute to SDGs (\*United Nations Development Programme)
  - (b) How can your research theme contribute to future society in the next 30 or 50 years
- \*2 Your supervisor's signature is required for the application form.

- (2) Those who meet the following conditions need to attach some form of documentation showing the income earned during the previous year such as the tax withholding slip (源泉徴収票) or taxation certificate (課税証明書)

## 7. Where / How to Submit

The application should be submitted through the applicants' respective Academic Service Office.

\*Please follow their instructions when you submit.

Both soft and hard copies (digital data & paper documents) of the required items must be submitted.

## 8. Application Deadline

5:00 p.m. (17:00), September 30 (Thu.), 2021 \*Late applications cannot be accepted.

## 9. Recipient Tasks

### (1) Mandatory Tasks

- Taking the online course "APRIN e-learning program (eAPRIN)"  
(\*If possible, please complete the course before you apply for this project.)
- Submitting the reports: "Research Progress Report" and "Final Reports"
- Submitting the pledge in order to agree with sharing your email address with the JST

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

In order 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

- In case of those who are enrolled in either program “Graduate School of Science and Technology” or “Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences,” it is expected to register to the program “ジョブ型研究インターンシップ (job-type research internship).”
- 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

## 10. 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.

## 11. 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 fellow ship, 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 380 000, the tax allowance cannot be taken in the following 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.