

# **Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING) in FY2026**

## **Application Guidelines**

### **1. Purpose**

Based on the Japan Science and Technology Agency's (JST) "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation Program", the Institution provides sums equivalent to living and research expenses for the Project "Fostering PhD Researchers in Engineering to Solve Global Issues" (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") to provide an environment in which students can focus on challenging and integrated research. The goal of this project is to train engineering personnel who can flexibly respond to society's difficulties and complicated environmental changes on a global scale along with the advancement of science and contribute to the solution. Students selected for this project (hereinafter referred to as 'project students') are encouraged to undertake study abroad programs for research and career exploration purposes, with the aim of acquiring international competence, advanced research skills, and specialized expertise. Furthermore, through participation in internships and entrepreneurship education programs offered by this project, they aim to cultivate engineering doctoral candidates who contribute to the discovery and solution of social issues by acquiring transferable skills.

### **2. Qualified Applicant**

Students enrolled in the project must meet all the following conditions. Applications are limited to one time only.

- (1) Those who are enrolled in a doctoral program at graduate schools of Kyushu Institute of Technology as of April 2026 or October 2025 and have been enrolled for less than 12 months.
- (2) In principle, those who applied for the Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC1) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for FY 2026.
- (3) Those who do not fall under any of the following categories.
  - ① Those appointed as research fellows of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
  - ② Those receiving a Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship for international students
  - ③ International students receiving scholarships or other support from their home countries.
  - ④ Those who receive scholarships, etc., from the national government, private organizations, or other bodies (hereinafter referred to as "the national government, etc.") and are not permitted by the national government, etc., to receive financial assistance apart from the said scholarships, etc.
  - ⑤ Those who are recognized as having stable income exceeding 2.4 million yen from the Institute, a company, or other organization, or from their own business, including salary, executive remuneration, etc.

### 3. Number of recruits

13 students

When a vacancy occurs among the accepted candidates, we will prioritize selecting the rejected candidate from the same grade as the relevant student.

### 4. Amount of payment

(1) Living expenses: 150,000 yen per month

(2) Research expenses: up to 900,000 yen annually

※ Living expenses for international students will be provided only for the fiscal year 2026 (April 2026 to March 2027). Starting from fiscal year 2027, only research funds will be provided.

※ RA (Research Assistants) salaries cannot be compensated in addition to the Living expenses. However, international students will be eligible to receive RA salaries starting in the 2027 academic year.

※ The amount of research expenses may change due to budget constraints.

### 5. Period of payment and method of payment

The period of payment must be within the usual training period (e.g., the maximum period of payment for a student enrolled in October 2025 is 2 years and 6 months). However, if the research incentive is suspended or canceled, the grant period may be reduced.

The amount of living expenses is transferred to the individual's account by the end of each month. As this income is classified as miscellaneous income, a tax return is required every year.

Research expenses shall be allocated to the supervisors of hired doctoral students and executed as research expenses for such students under the management of supervisors.

### 6. Criteria for selection

The Review Committee shall conduct the following criteria. At the time of selection, the committee may conduct interviews.

- (1) The research plan is concrete and excellent.
- (2) The research outcomes, capabilities, and state of preparation are shown.
- (3) The specific plan and preparation status for foreign research activities and international joint research are displayed.
- (4) The applicant has great potentials to become an outstanding researcher who will lead the future science or engineering personnel who will contribute to solving social problems.

### 7. Procedure for application

(1) Application form: ①Research Plan ②Evaluation Report

(2) The deadline for submission: Sunday, January 25, 2026

(3) Method of Submission:

① Research Plan: Complete the application form below, upload and the research plan (PDF), and submit it. The file should be named “Student Name 【研究計画書 ResearchPlan】 R8-SP.pdf” (e.g., “YAMADA Taro 【研究計画書 ResearchPlan】 R8-SP.pdf”).

[Form to submit Research Plan]

<https://forms.office.com/r/d6h8Rx4rRi>

② Evaluation Report: The applicant requests the academic supervisor to create the evaluation report. The academic supervisor will convert the evaluation report into a PDF file and then upload it directly to the following URL. The filename should be named “Student Name 【評価書 EvaluationReport】 R8-SP.pdf” (e.g., “YAMADA Taro 【評価書EvaluationReport】 R8-SP.pdf”).

[Submission URL for Evaluation Report]

<https://forms.office.com/r/anSh7MuUCF>

## 8. Student Obligations for the Project

The obligations that students must accomplish after being hired are as follows:

- (1) Project students must carry out research systematically.
- (2) Project students must participate in study abroad programs for research purposes or career exploration. \*1  
(Study abroad programs proposed on/off campus such as participation in employment in overseas companies, entrepreneurship programs, on-site visit are also acceptable.).
- (3) Project students must participate in internship for research or career exploration purposes. Students must register for the "Cooperative Education through Research Internships (ジョブ型研究インターンシップ)" operated by the "Consortium for Cooperative Education through Research Internships of Japan" and utilize them for considering internship participation.  
(Internships at research institutions as well as companies are also acceptable. The duration and method of participation (including online options) are not restricted.)
- (4) Project students must engage in the following programs.
  - ◆ Project students must strive to cultivate a wide range of advanced transferable skills, including wide perspective, interdisciplinarity, and internationality. (They are required to participate in the transferable skills acquisition support programs offered by the institute at least twice per fiscal year, in principle.) \*2
  - ◆ Project students must actively engage in career planning after obtaining their doctoral degrees. (They are required to participate in the institute's career management programs at least once per fiscal year.)
  - ◆ Project students must complete Institution-mandated research ethics education and compliance education.
- (5) Project students must attend the annual research report meetings and exchange sessions, where they present updates on their research progress and activities within projects. Additionally, at the end of each fiscal year and upon project completion, students must submit research reports and

research expenditure reports. Based on these reports, the project manager and Review Committees verify the progress of research and the utilization of research funds.

- (6) Among project students, those who are eligible for the JSPS's Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC2) must apply for DC2.
- (7) Project students must cooperate with the monitoring survey and the follow-up survey after completion of the doctoral program based on the request from JST.
- (8) Project students are required to register in the "Japan Graduates Database (JGRAD)", operated by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and report their career paths after completion of the project.

- \*1 International students are not prohibited from conducting research activities in their home countries, however, if they intend to use this project research funds for travel expenses to their home countries, they must follow preliminary reporting and prescribed procedures in advance.
- \*2 Enrollment in the Graduate School's Entrepreneurship Education courses and the Robotics Synthesis & Management (RSM) courses is strongly encouraged. For each course, one subject credit will be recognized as equivalent to one participation in the transferable skills acquisition support programs.

## **9. Supervisors' cooperation and contribution**

The supervisor must understand the purpose of this project and the obligations that students are expected to fulfill, providing support for achieving their goals.

## **10. Publication of Names**

Those accepted as project students will have their names published on the Institution's website.

## **11. Notes**

- (1) The Project may not be combined with an RA position, However, international students will be eligible to receive RA salaries starting in the 2027 academic year.
- (2) Taxation on sums equivalent to living expenses
  - ① The amount equivalent to living expenses is treated as miscellaneous income subject to taxation, and the project students themselves must file a tax return. The amount of taxable income is the balance after deducting tuition and other research expenses as necessary expenses from the amount received during the year (January 1 to December 31). In order to file a final income tax return, it is necessary to keep records of income and expenditure and to preserve evidence such as receipts. For more information on tax returns, please refer to the National Tax Agency website.

Note: In the case of international students, the tax treatment may differ depending on the tax treaty between Japan and the student's home country.

- ② The project students are obliged to pay "resident tax" to the municipality where you live according

to the taxable amount. (In the case of foreign students, the handling of taxes may vary depending on the tax treaty between Japan and their home countries.)

### (3) Management of National Health Insurance

#### ① Loss of dependent criteria for National Health Insurance, and so on.

When project students are enrolled as dependents in family health insurance, seamen's insurance, and mutual aid associations, if they receive an annual income of 1.3 million yen or more by receiving the equivalent amount of living expenses, they will be eliminated from family health insurance, and so on, and project students themselves will be required to register in national health insurance.

※ Since the amount of national health insurance premiums differ depending on the municipality, please check with the contact point in charge of national health insurance at the municipality office or municipality office where you reside.

※ Confirm the obligor's (relatives') management of support allowances, and so on. in the workplaces, and so on.

#### ② Payment of National Pension Insurance Premiums

In principle, all residents of Japan between the ages of 20-60 years will be the first insured person of the national pension system, and payment of the national pension insurance premiums is needed. Students will be exempt from paying insurance premiums if their income in the previous year was less than a certain level (\*) under the "Special Payment System for Students", which exempts the student from paying insurance premiums on application. If a student fails to receive a grace period under the Special Student Payment System due to the receipt of equivalent living expenses, the obligation to pay national pension insurance premiums increases.

(\*) The individual's salary in the previous year was less than a certain level

Reference: 1.28 million yen + several dependent relatives × 380,000 yen + social insurance premium deduction, and so on.

※ For information on specific national pension insurance procedures, contact the national pension office of the city (ward) or municipality office where you reside.

## 12. Contact

SPRING Office, Industry-Academia Innovation Center

Email: [phd-fellowship@ccr.kyutech.ac.jp](mailto:phd-fellowship@ccr.kyutech.ac.jp)

TEL: 093-884-3674