

**Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)  
in FY2022  
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. In general, the students hired in this project (hereinafter referred to as Project Students) will conduct international collaborative research with excellent overseas universities and other research institutions, and through opportunities to engage in research in collaboration with overseas researchers, the project will cultivate Ph.D. candidates who have a great deal of an experience and are expected to play an active role internationally.

**2. Qualified Applicant**

Students enrolled in the project must meet all the following conditions.

- (1) Those who are enrolled in a doctoral program at graduate schools of Kyushu Institute of Technology as of April, 2022 and have been enrolled for less than 12 months.
- (2) In principle, those who applied for the Research Fellow (DC1) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for FY 2022.
- (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 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.
  - ④ 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**

3 students

#### 4. Amount of payment

- (1) Living expenses: 150,000 yen per month
- (2) Research Expenses: up to 600,000 yen annually
- ※ RAs (Research Assistants) cannot be compensated in addition to the Living expenses.
- ※ It is possible to receive a Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) scholarship and Research Aid at the same time.

#### 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 2021 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 the 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) Possess a certain degree of English proficiency.

#### 7. Procedure for application

- (1) Application form: ①Research Plan ②Recommendation Letter
- (2) The deadline for submission: Monday, February 28, 2022
- (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 "SPRING\_name" (e.g., "SPRING\_Yamada").  
[Form to submit Research Plan]  
<https://forms.office.com/r/KyS9K6ufLf>
  - ② Recommendation Letter: The applicant requests the academic supervisor to create the Recommendation Letter. The academic advisor will convert the evaluation report into a PDF file and then upload it directly to the following URL.  
[Submission URL for Recommendation Letter]  
<https://proself.jimu.kyutech.ac.jp/public/mA9YAAAtLHszAhGYBpQt-1CfWn5TkIhCc7LEWYFkV0zA5>

## 8. Student Obligations for the Project

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

- (1) Project students must carry out research systematically.
- (2) Project students will receive International Collaborative Research Guidance (\*1) for research guidance on their Ph.D. thesis, and the overseas co-supervisors should be guiding the research when they travel to the co-supervisor side.
- (3) Even after being hired for the project, applicants who are competent to apply for the JSPS's Special Researcher (DC2) should apply.
- (4) At the end of the academic year, project students shall report to the project manager on the progress of their research. At the end of each fiscal year and at the end of each project, a research report and a research expense report are submitted, and the progress of the research and the use of the research expense are confirmed at the research report meeting based on the reports and reports.
- (5) Project students must seek to develop a wide range of advanced transferable skills (\*2), including bird's-eye view, interdisciplinarity, and internationality. Participation in the Institution's program of research ability enhancement, career development, and other related activities shall occur at least twice per academic year.
- (6) Students must complete Institution-mandated research ethics education and compliance education.
- (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.

※1 International Collaborative Research Guidance: The supervisor and overseas university faculty work together to give students with guidance on their Ph.D. thesis research. The co-supervisor should also participate in the thesis review as an "external reviewer". If you have not completed the selection of co-supervisors for overseas university faculty by the application deadline, please confirm within 3 months after hiring and notify the project manager. Although international students are not prohibited from receiving international collaborative research guidance from university faculty in their home country, travel expenditures to their home country cannot be paid from this project research fund.

※2 Efforts to build transferable skills including participation in seminars and study meetings both inside and outside the Institution, corporate internships, and courses related to career development, interdisciplinarity, and internationality are recommended. At the end of each academic year, business management will be informed of these efforts.

## 9. Supervisors' cooperation and contribution

The supervisor shall be familiar with and supportive of the provision of international collaborative research guidance to project students and conduct Ph.D. thesis research guidance in partnership with faculty from an overseas university.

## 10. Publication of Names

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

## 11. Notes

(1) International students are required to submit their residence card for the procedure to start the project.

(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.

## 1 2 . Contact

Organization for Promotion of Research and Innovation

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