

February 26, 2025

2025 Fukushima University
Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation Program
Application Guidelines

<< Purpose of the Program >>

Fukushima University has established the Fukushima University Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation Program (hereinafter referred to as "SPRING") with the aim of securing excellent doctoral resources and fostering young researchers who will drive innovation. The university will invite applications for the students who are eligible for this program.

The selected applicants (hereinafter referred to as "Program students") will be supported with a research incentive grant (equivalent to living expenses) and a research grant. The program also provides opportunities for overseas training, research skill enhancement, and career development initiatives.

1. Numbers of Students to be Selected: 5 students

2. Eligibility Requirements

- (1) Individuals who are enrolled in a doctoral program as of April 1 of the year in which selections are made (including the students who have been admitted to a doctoral program in the 2025 academic year).
- (2) Individuals who are not receiving support from the Japan Society for a Promotion of Science (JSPS) as a Research Fellow or from the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for International Students, or financial support from their home countries (prospective recipients of such supports must plan to decline them).
- (3) Individuals who are not receive a grant-type scholarship that provides a sufficient level of financial support for living expenses (equivalent to 2.4 million yen per year).
- (4) Individuals who are not employed students (refers to those who earn a salary, wages, remuneration, or other ordinary income (2.4 million yen or more per year)).
- (5) Individuals who have never been subject to disciplinary action as stipulated in Article 44 of the Fukushima University Regulations (established on June 1, 1949), including its application under Article 37 of the Fukushima University Graduate School Regulations (established on May 25, 1976, hereinafter referred to as the "Graduate School Regulations").

3. Amount of Support

The support consists of a research incentive grant and a research grant.

- (1) Research Incentive Grant: 2,160,000 yen per year (180,000yen per month)

* This grant is provided as an amount equivalent to the living expenses to allow the student to focus solely on research.

- (2) Research Grant: 300,000 per year

4. Period of Support

In principle, the period of payment and allocation of research incentive grant and research grant will be from April 2025 to the period during which the student is enrolled in the graduate school (limited to the standard period of study).

5. Revocation of Program Student Status

If a program student falls under any of the following conditions, their status will be revoked, and the disbursement of the research incentive grant and research grant will be discontinued.

- (1) If false information or significant errors are found in the submitted documents.
- (2) If they take a leave of absence, withdraw, or are expelled from the university.
- (3) If they receive disciplinary action.
- (4) If they pass away.
- (5) If their academic performance or conduct is deemed unsatisfactory.
- (6) If their fulfillment of obligations as a Program Student is deemed insufficient.
- (7) If they request the revocation or suspension of support under this program.
- (8) If they no longer meet the eligibility requirements.
- (9) If the university president determines that there are other valid reasons for revocation.

In principle, program students who take a leave of absence will lose their eligibility for this support. However, only when there is a prospect of resuming research, the grant may be suspended during the period of leave and resumed upon the student returns to school.

6. Selection Method

Selection will be based on document screening and an interview screening. Applicants will be evaluated on their ability to explain their research to individuals from other research fields and on their career plans after obtaining their degree.

7. Obligations of Program Students

Program students are obliged to complete the research ethics education provided by Fukushima University, focus on research activities based on their research plan, and to fulfil the following obligations to develop a clear career path after obtaining their degree. Details will be announced separately after the selection decision is made.

- (1) Develop a research plan for each academic year and focus on the research activities based on their research plan.
- (2) Submit a research progress report annually (designated form).
- (3) Participate in activities related to the improvement of research skills and career path support.
- (4) Cooperation in various surveys, including follow-up surveys on careers (survey results will be provided to the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) upon request.)

8. Application Procedure

- (1) Where to submit application documents

Please send the application documents by email as attachments to the following address.
Support Unit (Faculty of Symbiotic Systems Science)

E-mail: kyosei@adb.fukushima-u.ac.jp

(2) Application Documents

Documents	Notes
Application Form	Please fill out the required information on the designated form.
Research Plan	Please complete the research topic or field of study according to the instructions provided in the research plan.
Recommendation Letter	A recommendation letter from your current academic supervisor (Japanese or English)
Final Educational Transcript	A transcript of your final academic degree (Japanese or English)

* Notes on Application Process

- ① Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please make sure that there is no omissions or errors on the application documents.
- ② Once submitted, application documents cannot be returned or revised.
- ③ If any false information is found in the application documents, participation in this program may be revoked even after selection.
- ④ If there is any change to the “place where the applicant will receive notifications” indicated on the application form after the application has been submitted, please notify us immediately.
- ⑤ Regarding the “research plan” listed in the “Application Documents” above, it is acceptable to use word-processing software or other tools to create documents, as long as the format matches to the form specified by our graduate school.

9. Application Deadline and Screening Results

Noon, March 10, 2025 【Non-negotiable to change】

The results of screening documents will be notified to each applicant. Applicants who pass the document screening will be provided with details of the interview screening. The interview screening is scheduled for late March. Applicants will be notified of the results of the interview screening (final screening) in mid to late March.

Please note that we will not be able to respond to any inquiries regarding the reasons for acceptance or rejection. We appreciate your kind understanding in advance.

10. Handling of Personal Information

- (1) Personal information obtained in the application process will be used for screening, implementation of various contents, follow-up surveys, and other tasks related to this program.
- (2) The name and affiliation of the selected program students will be published on the university website.
- (3) The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) will provide JST with the names and e-mail addresses of the selected students for conducting direct monitoring surveys on them.

11. Other Notes

- (1) Although there is no employment relationship between the selected students and the university, the research incentive grant is treated as miscellaneous income and subject to taxation under tax law. Therefore, tax returns are required.

- (2) Research expenses must be used appropriately under the supervision of Fukushima University (under the supervision of the academic supervisor).

12. Office for Inquiries

Support Unit (Faculty of Symbiotic Systems Science)

TEL 024-548-5213 / E-mail kyosei@adb.fukushima-u.ac.jp

Overview of Fukushima University
Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation Program

1. Support for Program Students

(1) Research Incentive Grant (equivalent to living expenses)

- A research incentive grant equivalent to living expenses of 180,000 yen per month will be provided for up to three years from enrolment.
- The support will be discontinued if the student remains in the doctoral program beyond the standard period of study. If halt or extension of this support is deemed necessary due to childbirth, childcare, injury or illness, etc., decision will be made based on the individual circumstances.
- The research incentive grant may be reduced depending on the timing of its selection or revocation.
- The research incentive grant is taxable as miscellaneous income, and the applicant is required to file his/her own income tax return. In addition, those who are dependent on their parents or other persons responsible for their support may lose their dependent status. Please inform your supporter (parent, etc.) that the research incentive grant is treated as miscellaneous income under the tax law and contact the person in charge at your supporter's (parent's) workplace, etc. for information on health insurance and treatment of dependents.

(2) Research Grant

Annual research grant of 300,000 yen will be allocated from the year of selection to this program onwards, up to a maximum of three years from enrolment.

(3) Notes

In principle, international students will start receiving research incentive grant and research grant from the month in which they enter Japan and are able to commute to the university's campuses (grant will not be provided retroactively to the period during which they have not yet entered Japan).

If the student is unable to enter Japan within six months of the original start date of the adopted support, the selection will, in principle, be revoked.

2. Return of Research Incentive Grant and Research Grant

If the program student is disqualified and has received excess payment of research incentive grant or has used research grant more than allocated, the excess amount must be returned.

3. Others

Within the limits that do not interfere with research activities, it is possible to receive compensation through positions such as Teaching Assistant (TA), Research Assistant (RA), or engage in part-time work. However, if the student is found to have a certain level of income (2.4 million yen or more per year), the selection will be revoked.