

Application Guidelines for the 2026 Extended Doctoral Human Resource Development Project by “Crossing Borders”

This project is supported by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the “SPRING Program for Challenging Researchers in the Next Generation” provided by JST. It invites applications for the 2026 Extended Doctoral Human Resource Development Project by “Crossing Borders” as follows.

1. Outline of Application

The purpose of this project is to cultivate an expansive doctoral workforce that is able to respond to the needs of the society and contribute to the development of science, technology, and innovation in Japan by “crossing borders” between specialties, organizations, regions, and generations while improving them. To this end, we will provide research support to students selected for this project and offer a curriculum designed to help them achieve outstanding research results and pursue diverse career paths.

In this call for applications, we expect those from outstanding students who will conduct free, challenging, and integrative research in the doctoral program at the University and who will play a leading role in academia in the future.

2. Subject of application

Applicants must be enrolled in the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Yamanashi and meet the requirements in “4. eligibility to apply.”.

3. Number of Adopted for this Program

Several students, April FY2026

4. Eligibility for Application

(Category 2)

Applicants for Category 2 must be international students (*Note 1*) who, at the time of application, are qualified according to “2. Eligibility for Application” , possess excellent research abilities, have a clear vision for their future career, wish to actively participate in the Career Path Support Program during their doctoral studies, and meet the following requirements.

(1) Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program at the time of application

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or be scheduled to enroll in the applicable academic year.

(2) Individuals who do not fall under any of the following:

(a) Those receiving government-funded research support intended to enable students to devote themselves to independent, challenging, and interdisciplinary research of the same purpose as SPRING.

(b) Those enrolled in a graduate school while simultaneously holding a position as an executive, employee, or equivalent at a domestic or overseas institution or corporation.

(c) Those selected for the “Co no Hana Fellowship.”

(3) Applicants must have obtained confirmation from their academic supervisor as follows:

- The applicant’s research plan is appropriate for a doctoral dissertation.
- The applicant is capable to properly manage and use the research funds.
- The applicant is expected to complete the doctoral program within the standard period of study.

- The applicant does not plan to take a leave of absence or long-term withdrawal at the time of application.

(*Note 1*) Individuals who reside in Japan under the status of residence “Student.” This includes those who fall under the “Not Eligible” category (×) in the document titled “Classification of Students Eligible for Research Encouragement Funds under the New Scheme” (Appendix 1-1) issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

(Category 3)

Eligibility for Category 3 applicants shall be limited to students who, at the time of application, fall under “Eligibility for Application” and possess excellent research abilities.

(1) Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program at the time of application or be scheduled to enroll in the applicable academic year, and must fall under any of the following categories:

(a) Individuals who are recognized as having stable and fixed income (2.4 million yen or more per year), such as salary or executive compensation, at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (i.e., working students), and who are employed by a Japanese juridical entity, including private corporations, national or local government agencies, or other incorporated organizations (e.g., independent administrative institutions, foundations, incorporated associations, medical

corporations, or nonprofit organizations).

(b) Individuals who are affiliated only with overseas institutions or corporations, and whose affiliation is limited to overseas universities or public research institutions and other nonprofit organizations (regardless of whether they receive income).

(c) International students who receive a scholarship from the Japanese government (MEXT Scholarship students) and who are affiliated with a government entity (regardless of whether they receive income).

(2) Applicants must have obtained confirmation from their academic supervisor as follows:

- The applicant's research plan is appropriate for a doctoral dissertation.
- The applicant is capable to properly manage and use the research funds.
- The applicant is expected to complete the doctoral program within the standard period of study.
- The applicant does not plan to take a leave of absence or long-term withdrawal at the time of application.

5. Support period

The period of support will be up to the standard period of study, depending on the length of enrollment in the doctoral course at the time of commencement of support, but it may be withdrawn depending on the status of the presentation of research results each year. The support may be terminated depending on the government budget allocation for the current fiscal year.

6. Details of Support

The University will provide research expenses during the doctoral course period in order to nurture highly creative doctoral human resources who will lead the future by providing opportunities to engage in independent research based on free ideas and to participate in programs related to career path support.

Research expenses: 400,000 yen per year

*Note

The research incentive fee and research expenses are subject to change according to budget conditions.

7. Application Procedures

Application Documents: Attached Application Form (Form 1-2 or Form 1-3)

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Submit the completed Form 1-2 or Form 1-3 via the following link by the due date.

<https://forms.office.com/r/ALWvsH5uBP>

*Note

- Confirm your category using the “Category Determination Chart” (Appendix 1-2) and apply under the applicable category.
- If the deadline for submission has passed, the application will not be accepted.
- After we receive your submission via the online form, we will reply to you by e-mail within 2-3 days (except Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays). If you do not receive our e-mail, please contact us immediately at this number. (055-220-8271)
- As the above online form requires a University of Yamanashi account, applicants who will enroll in April FY2026 must submit the form after receiving their student ID card.

8. deadline for submission of application form

Thursday, April 9, 2026 by 5:00 PM (JST) **【strict deadline】**

9. Selection

Selection will be made by the Doctoral Student Support Program Implementation Committee of University of Yamanashi.

10. Selection Methods and Review Policies

(Category 2)

Selection will be made based on the following screening policies (1) through (3) through a document review of the application form (within two A4 sheets (four pages)).

- (1) The feasibility of the research plan will be examined from the perspectives of whether the proposed theme is appropriate as a doctoral dissertation, whether the methodology and schedule are coherent and realistic, and whether the proposed use of research funds is appropriate.
- (2) The necessity of the research expenses will be examined from the perspective of what aspects of the research could not be carried out without this support.
- (3) The extent to which participation in the Career Path Support Program will contribute to the applicant's personal and professional development will be

examined.

*The applicant's actual research achievements are for reference only.

(Category 3)

Selection will be made based on the following screening policies (1) and (2) through a document review of the application form (within two A4 sheets (four pages)).

(1) The feasibility of the research plan will be examined from the perspectives of whether the proposed theme is appropriate as a doctoral dissertation, whether the methodology and schedule are coherent and realistic, and whether the proposed use of research funds is appropriate.

(2) The necessity of the research expenses will be examined from the perspective of what aspects of the research could not be carried out without this support.

*The applicant's actual research achievements are for reference only.

11. selection results

The applicant and his/her academic advisor will be notified of the results of the selection process.

12. obligations of supported students

In view of the purpose of the program, the following obligations shall be borne by the Supported Student.

(1) Submit a specific research plan after being selected as a Supported Student.

(2) To devote oneself to research activities based on the research plan, except in the case of interruption due to childbirth/childcare, or due to injury/illness.

(3) Actively participate in the programs and other activities related to the enhancement of research capabilities and career support (*Note2*) conducted by the University. (Category 3 excluded)

(4) Enter the "Job-Based Research Internship" program conducted by the Job-Based Research Internship Promotion Council. (Category 3 excluded)

(5) Report regularly to the University on the status of their research activities and participation in programs related to career support.

(6) Receive interviews with a mentor on a regular basis. (Category 3 excluded)

(7) When conducting research activities, be fully aware that the research funds are public funds, comply with all relevant laws and regulations, and conduct

research efficiently and without any misconduct.

In addition, they should read and complete educational materials related to ethics education and attend the research ethics education provided by the University.

(Note 2) See “Contents of Career Development and Training Programs” (Appendix 2).

13. revocation of support

In the event that any of the following grounds become applicable, the grant of the research incentive fee and research expenses may be suspended and the applicant may be required to return the funds.

(1) When the applicant loses the eligibility to apply under “4 Eligibility for Application”.

(2) When the status of execution of the research plan or the status of fulfillment of “12. obligations of supported students” is deemed insufficient

(3) When the student requests to withdraw

(4) When the President deems that there are other reasons to withdraw the support.

14. Notes

- Teacher assistant (TA) wages, part-time job wages, academic prizes from academic societies, and remuneration for paid internships are allowed to the extent that they do not interfere with the research activities.
- If you are already receiving other scholarships or other forms of support, check the eligibility requirements of the other institution and take appropriate measures, such as declining the scholarship or other forms of support.
- The “amount equivalent to sufficient living expenses from your company, etc.” in 4. (Category 3) (1)① is based on a regular income of 2,400,000 yen/year.
- To cooperate in various surveys, such as career tracking surveys, for 10 years after completion of the program.

15. Other

- The project recipient will be required to submit a written pledge to devote himself/herself to research activities.
- The university will provide the e-mail address of the project recipient to JST

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so that monitoring surveys, etc. can be conducted directly by JST. In addition, the University may be asked to participate and cooperate in student exchange meetings organized by JST.

- The name of the selected students will be announced on the university's website.
- After the selection of students to be supported by the program, the supervisors of the selected students will be asked to submit their educational and guidance policies for the students. Forms and other information will be provided at the time of notification of the selection results.

(担当) 教務企画課大学院支援グループ

TEL 055-220-8271

e-mail inshien-as@yamanashi.ac.jp