

**Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING Program),
University of Toyama**

Application Guidelines for Support Program [2026 Third round of selection]

Aim of the program

The University of Toyama (hereafter referred to as "the University") offers "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation." This program provides financial support and various training for PhD course students for their future success in various career paths after graduation. The program will promote the PhD dissertation research activities of promising students and thereby improve the research achievement of the University, which leads to the promotion of regional industries, including medicine, healthcare, light metals, and carbon-neutral technology. This program also aims to improve Japan's international competitiveness by developing the skills of the students so that they can contribute to the settlement of global issues.

The application procedure is explained below. The recipients can receive a grant covering the living expenses and research budget. Note that international students can receive the research budget only.

The rules are subject to change due to government policies and other factors.

Items that must be confirmed

Check out the following before submitting an application.

(1) The purpose and obligations of this program

This program is funded by the Japanese government and aims to promote to the improvement of Japan's competitiveness by supporting promising students at the PhD courses of the Graduate Schools of University of Toyama.

The recipients should participate in special training to develop career, internationality, interdisciplinarity, and transferable skills. They also fulfill the obligations listed in Section 9, "Obligations of the recipients." If a recipient fails to fulfill the obligations, the support may be canceled even before the end of the support period.

(2) Admissions to Graduate Schools of University of Toyama

SPRING Program will support only students who have passed the admission examination of one of the PhD courses of the graduate schools listed below:

Graduate School of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences

<https://www.mps.u-toyama.ac.jp/category/admission/>

Graduate School of Science and Engineering

<https://www.gsse.u-toyama.ac.jp/category/admission/>

Graduate School of Pharma-Medical Sciences

<https://www.gpms.u-toyama.ac.jp/category/admission/>

(3) Graduate School Admission and Tuition Fees

SPRING Program does not cover the admission and tuition fees. If you need, you may apply for fee waiver programs listed below:

【Admission Fee Exemption】

- Eligibility

Students with excellent academic records who have difficulty paying the admission fee for financial reasons.

- Application Schedule for students joining the graduate school in April 2026

Application Guidelines will be released in mid-February 2026.

Deadline for application submission: early April 2026.

- Documents to be submitted

Application forms, official certificate on income and tax

For details, please see the application guidelines that will be released on the University's website.

【Tuition Fee Exemption】

- Eligibility

Students with excellent academic records who have difficulty paying the admission fee for financial reasons.

- Application Schedule for the exemption from the tuition fee of April 2026-September 2026

Application Guidelines will be released in mid-February 2026.

Deadline for application submission: early April 2026.

- Documents to be submitted

Application forms, official certificate on income and tax

For details, please see the application guidelines that will be released on the University's website.

See the following web site for details:

<https://www.u-toyama.ac.jp/studentsupport/financial-support/exemption/>

Submission and Inquiries:

Student Support Division



(4) For International Students

SPRING Program is funded by the Japanese government and aims to train researchers who will play a leading role in the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan. Our international student screening checks whether the applicants understand the aim of the program and have a solid vision for contributing to Japan's international competitiveness after their graduation.

The research budget can be used after the start date. A substantial delay of the arrival date may result in the cancellation of the determination of SPRING support.

(5) Surveys after Graduation

SPRING Program will conduct a follow-up survey on their careers for ≥ 10 years after the completion of the supporting period using the JGRAD system operated by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP). The program may also ask the former recipients to cooperate in other surveys.

1. Eligible students and Total number of program recipients

(1) Eligible students

The students who will have any of the following statuses as of April 2026 can apply to this selection:

- The 1st grader of the PhD course of any University of Toyama's graduate school
- The 2nd grader of the PhD course of any University of Toyama's graduate school

- The 3rd grader of the PhD course of any University of Toyama's four-year graduate school

(2) Total number of recipients to be selected this time

~5

2. Eligibility for Application

The program is open to PhD course students at University of Toyama who have excellent research skills and are expected to contribute to the development of science, technology, and innovation of Japan.

However, the following are not eligible.

- (1) Recipients of JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists. You may apply for a JSPS Research Fellowship, but if you are selected as a recipient of JSPS Research Fellowship, you must decline either a JSPS Research or SPRING scholarship.
- (2) Students who receive a scholarship including living expenses of ≥ 2.4 million yen per year.
- (3) Students who earn wages of ≥ 2.4 million yen per year from private companies or institute.
- (4) International students receiving support from the Japanese government or home country.
 - If you are currently receiving or expected to receive a scholarship other than SPRING scholarship, you should consult with the SPRING Program Administrative Office as indicated in “12. Inquiry”.
 - If you receive SPRING scholarship, you will not be able to apply for scholarship waiver by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).
 - If you have any questions about eligibility, please refer to “12. Inquiry”.

3. Amount to be paid

- (1) Research scholarship (living expenses): 180,000 yen per month (2,160,000 yen per year)

Note: International students cannot receive Research scholarship (living expenses).

- (2) Research budget: 500,000 yen per year
 - The research scholarship will be paid every two months upon receipt of invoices from the recipient.
 - Research budget should be used in accordance with the University's regulations.
 - If the student has not arrived in Japan on the first day of SPRING Program, she/he can use the research budget only from the next month.
 - SPRING Program does not support entrance and tuition fees. Entrance and tuition fees set by the university must be paid separately.

4. Career development training programs

SPRING Program offers various training programs for developing the following abilities so that the recipients will be able to play an active role in various career paths in the future.

- (1) Career path finding
 - Long-term internships in cooperation with local companies
 - Providing opportunities for joint company information sessions
- (2) Internationality
 - Studies at overseas partner universities or international collaborative research
- (3) Interdisciplinarity

- Interdisciplinary research under supervision by multiple supervisors of different scientific fields
- (4) Transferable skills
- Convergence Camp, a retreat where all the recipients and supervisors gather

5. Period of support

The scholarship will continue to be paid from April 2026 to the end of the recipient's standard PhD course period.

Note that the support may be cancelled before the end of the standard course period if the recipient does not fulfill his/her obligations.

6. Application Procedures

The applicant should submit the application form (Form 1) and the letter of recommendation from the possible supervisor at University of Toyama (Form 2) to the SPRING administrative office whose e-mail address is shown below. The office will send you an e-mail to acknowledge the receipt of your application by Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

NOTE: The applicant should fill out the application form herself/himself. We do not accept the form prepared by someone else or using an automatic translation application including an AI system. The application form should be written in English. Those who applied during the first or second application period for SPRING Program are requested to prepare and submit their documents based on the contents of their respective application forms from those periods.

Submission period: From Tuesday, January 13, 2026

To Monday, January 19, 2026, 12:00 (noon, Japan Standard Time)

Method of submission:

● Application form (Form 1):

- Please, prepare this form using MS Word and convert the resultant Word file into PDF format. E-mail the PDF file as an attachment to the administrative office.
- The e-mail address is "jisedaipro[.]adm.u-toyama.ac.jp" *Please remove the [].
- Note: we do not accept an application form whose original layout is disarrayed due to PDF conversion.
- The e-mail containing the application form should be entitled "[SPRING] Third round of Application (XXXXXX)" in the subject; replace XXXXXX with your name.

● Letter of recommendation (Form 2):

- Submit by regular mail a printed copy of the form with the signature of the University of Toyama faculty member who is the candidate supervisor of the applicant.
- Students of the University should submit this form to:
 - Gofuku Campus : Educational Affairs Division, Science and Engineering
 - Sugitani Campus : Educational Affairs Division, Medicine and Pharmaceutical Science
- Students from other universities should submit this form by mail to the following address.
 - University of Toyama, 3190 Gofuku, Toyama-City, Toyama 930-8555, Japan.
 - Employment and Career Support Division (SPRING Administrative Office)

7. Selection and notification of results

The recipients will be selected by the Selection Committee based on the submitted documents and interviews. The final decision will be made by the Program Manager.

Interviews will be held at the Gofuku Campus mid-February 2026. The details will be explained in the e-mail confirming receipt of your application.

The results of the decision will be notified to the applicants via e-mail by early March.

NOTE: The student will be officially selected as the recipient only after the committee confirms that she/he has joined the PhD course on April 1, 2026

8. Points evaluated for selection

Points evaluated for selection are as follows. Note that the students who failed at the first round of selection should improve the points suggested by the Program Manager.

NOTE: The applicant should be responsible for the contents of the submitted documents. It is OK for an applicant to sparingly use artificial intelligence to help her/his translation of some parts of the text from her/his mother tongue to Japanese or English. However, it is not morally right that an applicant uses artificial intelligence to GENERATE a majority of the text. During the interview, we will verify whether the applicants understand what they wrote in their application.

(1) Achievements of academic activities such as presentations at scientific meetings, patents, journal papers, and language proficiencies

- 1) Conference presentations
- 2) Patent application
- 3) Original papers and other publications
- 4) External language examinations

(2) Plans of research, internship, and study abroad

- 1) Novelty, importance, relevance, and possible future impact of the research plan
- 2) Motivation for and rationale of the plan of the internship or study abroad

NOTE: The scholarship recipient should participate in an internship or study abroad to develop their career.

The applicant who is willing to seek a future job in the industrial sector should state her/his motivation and plan for an internship. The applicant who is willing to seek a future job in the academic sector should state her/his motivation and plan to study abroad.

(3) Motivation to become a researcher or developer working in a Japan-based firm or institute who will play a leading role in the science, technology, and innovation of Japan.

NOTE: This scholarship program aims to support graduate students who will contribute to the development of science, technology, and innovation of Japan. We strongly recommend that the scholarship recipients take a job in Japan-based firms or institutes including their overseas branches after her/his graduation.

(4) Interview by the Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will examine whether the applicant can perform a challenging and integrative research Program that could possibly lead to the establishment of a new field of science/technology or the settlement of social issues. In the first five minutes of the interview, the applicant will be asked to introduce himself/herself and outline the applicant's research plan and then answer the interviewer's questions. The

Selection Committee also examines whether the applicant has a global point of view and an ability to contribute to the development of the science, technology, and innovation of Japan. To this end, all parts of the interview will be held in English for the Japanese applicants. The violation of this rule greatly lowers the applicant's chance to be selected as recipients. Foreign applicants should make a self-introduction and a brief explanation of their research plan in Japanese at the beginning of the interview; they may answer the questions from the interviewers in Japanese or English. The violation of this rule greatly lowers the applicant's chance to be selected as recipients.

To applicants who were not selected during the first or second application period of SPRING Program:

Please carefully review the points mentioned in the “Comments from SPRING Program Director” which were attached when the selection results were announced.

9. Obligations of the recipients

The scholarship recipients should carry out the following obligations.

- (1) The recipients are strongly advised to apply for a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC).
- (2) Concentrate on the research activities based as proposed in the application.
- (3) Participate in the internship or study abroad as proposed in the application.
- (4) Every year, submit at least one manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal or make at least one presentation at an international scientific meeting.
- (5) Participate in the University's special educational programs for improving research skills, etc.
- (6) Present the progress report at the campus meetings held on a regular basis.
- (7) Students must be interviewed by their supervisor and associate supervisor on a regular basis.
- (8) Complete the e-learning program of the Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity (eAPRIN).
- (9) Register her/himself to the system operated by the National Council for the Promotion of Job-Based Research Internships.
- (10) Register her/himself to the Japan Graduates Database (JGRAD) operated by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The student must also report to JGRAD when she/he finds a job.
- (11) SPRING Program will conduct a follow-up survey on their careers after the completion of the support for at least 10 years using the JGRAD system operated by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP). In addition to the above, the program will ask them to cooperate in various surveys conducted by SPRING Program.
- (12) Carry out tax law procedures such as tax declaration for the scholarship.

10. Tax law procedures, etc.

Although there is no employer-employee relationship between the university and students, the scholarship is legally taken as a miscellaneous income under the tax law and is subject to income tax and inhabitant tax.

11. Privacy policy

- (1) Personal information such as names provided in the application form will be used for recipient selection and the administration of the SPRING Program.
- (2) The names, affiliations, photographs, etc. of the recipients will be used for publication on the website and

in various reports, and other printed materials.

- (3) The names and affiliations of the recipients will be used as a record of the Program activities. The photographs taken in the classes, events, etc. will be used on the website and in various reports, and other printed materials.
- (4) This scholarship is funded by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), JST will directly follow up with the supported students regarding the implementation status of the Program, etc. JST will also ensure that the supported students have access to the department in charge at JST, directly receive their opinions, etc., and use the results directly in the evaluation of this Program. We will provide JST with the names and other personal information listed in the application form, as well as e-mail addresses and other information that will enable us to contact you, and we ask for your cooperation when we receive requests for evaluation and other surveys.

12. Inquiry

University of Toyama SPRING Administrative Office

E-mail: jisedapro[]adm.u-toyama.ac.jp *Please remove the []

NOTE: The above e-mail address is not for application submission. See **6. Application Procedures** for the e-mail address for application submission.