University of Toyama

Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING Program)

Students who plan to enroll in April 2027 and students who have already enrolled in April 2026 or later

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 the regional industries, including medicine, healthcare, light metal production, and carbon-neutral technology. This program also aims to improve Japan's international competitiveness by developing the students' skills so that they can contribute to the settlement of global issues.

The recipients can receive a grant covering the living and research expenses.* The application procedure is explained below. The rules described below are subject to change due to government policies and other factors.

*International students can receive the research budget only.

1. Categories of recipients

An applicant can apply for only one of the following categories:

Category 1: Japanese students who are not earning an annual income of 2,4000,000 yen or more from any organization.

Category 2: International students who are officially approved to stay in Japan for study abroad and do not belong to any organization inside or outside Japan.

Category 3: Student workers whose job status meets either of the following criteria:

1) She/he is earning an annual income of 2,4000,000 yen or more as a worker for a private company, government, or public agency, nonprofit organization, etc.
2) She/he is working for an overseas university or nonprofit public institute
3) She/he is receiving a scholarship, affiliating with Japanese government.

2. Number of recipients to be selected and contents of support

Category	Total number of recipients to be selected at this round	Major contents of support		
		Grant for living expenses	Research budget	Training for career development
1	Approximately 8 students	2.16 million yen per year	500,000 yen per year	Obligatory
2	A few	–	500,000 yen per year	Obligatory
3	A few	–	500,000 yen per year	Not obligatory

(1) Grant for living expenses (for Category 1 only)

i. Covers living expenses.

ii. Will be offered to the recipient upon her/his request once every two months.

iii. The recipient does not need to repay after graduation unless she/he violates any of the rules of the SPRING Program.

(2) Research budget (for all the categories)

i. For each year, 500,000 yen will be offered to each recipient. In addition to this budget, an incentive will be offered to recipients who achieve excellent outcomes.

(3) Training for career development (for Categories 1 and 2)

The recipients of Categories 1 and 2 should participate in the following training:

i. Long-term internship in a private company, student-company matching events, *etc*.
ii. Study abroad to brush up on international collaboration skills.
iii. Training for building interdisciplinary skills.
iv. Training for developing transferable skills.

Note: The SPRING grant does not cover the admission or education fee. If she/he needs financial support for these fees, the recipient should apply for the University's waiver programs.

3. Period of support

For the recipient selected at this round, the financial support of the SPRING Program will start in April 2027 and continue to the end of the recipient's standard PhD course period.

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

4. Eligibility

Applicants should meet all the following criteria:

i. Students who are expected to join any PhD courses of the University in April 2027, students who have joined any 3-year PhD courses of the University since April 2026 or later, or students who have joined any 4-year PhD courses of the University since April 2025 or later.
ii. Students who achieved excellent research outcomes.
iii. Students who are thought to be able to contribute to developing Japan's science, technology, and/or innovation.

Notes:

i. The applicant who failed the admission examination of the PhD course cannot receive the SPRING grant.
ii. A recipient of the SPRING grant can apply for Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Research Fellowship for Young Scientists. When selected as the recipient of the latter, she/he should give up the SPRING grant.
iii. Non-worker Japanese students who are receiving a scholarship of 2,400,000 yen per year or more can apply for Category 1 of the SPRING Program. When selected as the recipients of the SPRING Program, they cannot receive a grant covering living expenses.
iv. All the applicants who have been accepted or plan to apply for any other scholarship(s) should contact University of Toyama SPRING Program Administrative Office before the applicants submit applications for the SPRING Program.
v. Students who have received scholarships from Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) can apply for the SRPING Program. Note that the recipients of the SPRING grant are not eligible for the repayment waiver of the JASSO scholarship.

vi. Students who failed at the previous round of selection can apply for this round of the SPRING Program.

5. Application Procedures

The applicant should submit the Application Form (Form 1), the Application Category Check Sheet (Form 2), and the letter of recommendation from the possible supervisor at the PhD course (Form 3) to the SPRING Administrative Office, whose e-mail address is shown below. The office will send you an acknowledge e-mail by Wednesday, January 6, 2027.

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 (i.e., an AI system). The application form should be written in English.

Period of submission: Tuesday, December 15, 2026
- Noon (Japan Standard Time) of Tuesday, December 22, 2026

Method of submission:

- Application form (Form 1) and Application Category Check Sheet (Form 2):
  - Fill out these forms using MS Word and convert the resultant Word file into PDF format and then e-mail the PDF file as an attachment to the administrative office.
  - The e-mail address of the administrative office is "jisedaipro@adm.u-toyama.ac.jp.
  - 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 2027 Application (XXXXXX)"; replace XXXXXX with your name.
- Letter of recommendation (Form 3):
  - 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 at the PhD course.
  - 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.
    SPRING Administrative Office, Employment and Career Support Division
    University of Toyama, 3190 Gofuku, Toyama-City, Toyama 930-8555, Japan.

6. 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 in late January 2027. The details will be explained in the e-mail confirming receipt of your application.

The decision will be notified to the applicant via e-mail by early March 2027.

NOTE: The student will not be officially selected as the recipient unless the committee confirms that she/he has completed the procedures to join the PhD course on April 1, 2027.

7. Criteria for selecting the recipients

The selection committee will score the applicant's achievement in the following points and make a decision based on the total score.

(1) Application form

i. Achievement in research activity (e.g., presentations at scientific meetings, patent applications, publishing original papers, TOEIC score)

ii. The novelty, importance, feasibility of the proposed research plan.

iii. The plan of and passion for internship or study abroad (for Categories 1 and 2 only).

iv. Eagerness to contribute to Japan's future science, technology, and/or innovation.

Note: The SPRING Program aims to support PhD students who will take jobs in Japan-based private companies, public institutes, or their overseas branches.

(2) Interview

i. Evaluation will be made based on whether the applicant is highly motivated to challenge research to plow novel ground in science or to settle social problems.

ii. An interview consists of the applicant's self-introduction and a brief explanation of her/his research plan (5 min) and a Q&A session. The committee will check whether the applicant can do global thinking necessary for developing Japan's science, technology, and innovation. The applicant whose mother tongue is Japanese should communicate with the interviewers in English throughout the interview. The applicant whose mother tongue is not Japanese should make the first 5 min session in Japanese and the consequent Q&A session in either Japanese or English.

Note to applicants who failed the previous selection rounds: Most of them did not perform well in the interview. Prepare for the interview, closely following the comments raised in the letter of decision.

8. Obligations of the recipients

The scholarship recipients should carry out the following obligations.

(1) Concentrate on the research activities based as proposed in the application.

(2) Participate in the internship or study abroad as proposed in the application (foe Categories 1 and 2 only).

(3) Every year, submit at least one manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal or make at least one presentation at an international scientific meeting.

(4) Participate in the University’s special educational programs for improving research skills, etc.

(5) Present the progress report at the campus meetings held on a regular basis.

(6) Students must be interviewed by their supervisor and associate supervisor on a regular basis.

(7) Complete the e-learning program of the Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity (eAPRIN).

(8) Register her/himself to the system operated by the National Council for the Promotion of Job-Based Research Internships (for Categories 1 and 2 only).

(9) After completion of the graduate program, students are required to report their career paths by registering in the graduate employment tracking system designated by the university.

(10) Students must respond to various surveys related to this program.

(11) Carry out tax law procedures such as tax declaration for the grant for Living expenses (for Category 1 onry).

9. Tax law procedures (for Category 1 recipients only)

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

10. 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.

11. Inquiry

University of Toyama SPRING Administrative Office

E-mail: jisedaipro@adm.u-toyama.ac.jp