

Call for Selection for PhD Candidates Support Project

Graduate School of Medicine, Science and Technology, Shinshu University Next-generation Advanced Human Resources/Local Leader Development Program

Application Guidelines for Academic Year 2021

Shinshu University starts providing salary-style support consisting of a stipend to defray **living expenses** along with **research funding** to talented students enrolled in doctoral programs from the 2021 academic year under Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING) program of JST (<https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/en/outline/index.html>).

An overview of the project follows. These guidelines summarize the requirements for selection of this project.

Program Objectives

- To help doctoral program students pursue free, challenging, and cross-discipline research that goes beyond traditional boundaries
- To provide an environment in which students can focus on research by providing research incentives
- To prepare talented doctoral program students so they can flourish through a diverse array of career paths

Shinshu University initiative

Next-generation Advanced Human Resources/Local Leader¹ Development Program

Program Leadership

Prof. Dr. Hideaki Morikawa, Program supervision of Shinshu University

Program Dates

Academic years 2021 to 2025

Program career and personal development content

The Shinshu Tamonjuku² will be established to offer the following core program:

1. Student exchanges that transcend field boundaries
Student exchanges will provide opportunities for learning about others' research and intentions while thinking deeply about one's own latent qualities and potential.
2. Regional Implementation Project
Students will participate in a research project dedicated to resolving regional issues with groups of students from different fields.
3. Intensive English writing and presentation courses
This program will help students author academic papers in English and improve their English communication skills.
4. International joint research and venture internships
This program will help students participate in overseas joint research with institutions that have entered into partnership agreements with Shinshu University and in internships at venture companies. In addition, instructors from various industries will give lectures and participate in round-table talks in order to help students master transferable skills.

1. Eligibility

The program is seeking talented students who meet requirements (1) and (2) below. Applicants must have been enrolled in the Shinshu University Graduate School of Medicine, Science and Technology as of November 1, 2021.

1. Applicants must be enrolled as a first- to third-year student or equivalent in a three-year course offered by the Health Science Division of the Department of Medical Sciences, the Department of Science and Technology, or the Department of Biomedical Engineering.
2. Applicants must be enrolled as a first- to fourth-year student or equivalent in a four-year course offered by the Department of Medical Science Division or the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

However, the following individuals are not eligible, regardless of whether they meet the above requirements:

Ineligible individuals
1. Students who have been selected as a special fellow (DC) by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
2. International students who are being supported by a Japanese government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) scholarship
3. International students who are receiving scholarship or other support from their home country
4. Students with a stable income in the form of salary or director remuneration from a company or other organization that provides sufficient funds to cover their living expenses (¥1.8 million or more per year)
5. Students who are receiving funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology's University Fellowship Establishment Program for Promoting Innovation in Science and Technology
6. Students who are on a leave of absence
7. Students who are planning to withdraw before completing their doctoral program
8. Students who have been enrolled for longer than the standard term of study

2. Application Requirements

- Students who have anticipated the future course of events and who are carrying out research to address issues that may occur (future problem solving [FTS students])
- Students who are carrying out research based on their own intellectual curiosity (curiosity-driven students [CDS])
- Students who have a good understanding of the project's goals and the requirements imposed on selected applicants and who will cooperate with activities related to the project
- Students who will actively participate in the Shinshu Tamonjuku project, in international joint research, and in venture internships
- Students who plan to apply to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for a special fellow (DC) position during or after the second year of their doctoral program

3. Number of Places

25 per academic year

4. Research Incentives

Total annual amount: ¥2.2 million (stipend of ¥1.8 million and research funding of ¥400,000)

*Since applicants will be selected partway through the academic year, amounts will be prorated to reflect the dates they are eligible for funding.

Starting with the 2022 academic year, students will receive up to 12 months of funding based on the period during which they are eligible to receive funding.

5. Funding Period

Up to three years after selection (or for students in a four-year program, up to four years)

If students are enrolled for more than three years (for students in a four-year program, four years), they will lose eligibility for funding after that point.

However, the funding period may be canceled, extended, or otherwise adjusted based on students' individual circumstances, including life events such as childbirth and responsibilities such as parenting and nursing care.

Additionally, the funding period may be shortened if certain conditions under which funding may be canceled or terminated are satisfied.

November 2021 to March 2022

Students will need to reapply for the 2022 academic year in accordance with the application guidelines for that year. The program will open a new application window.

6. Application Documents

Fill in the appropriate Research Incentive Application Form and submit it after obtaining approval from your faculty advisor.

(*Selection will be canceled if a student is found to have included false information on his or her application documents.)

(1) Future Technology & Science-style (FTS)

Your research proposal should provide a description of social problems or issues that could occur in the future. It should also explain how the research topic you're pursuing in your doctoral program will provide a resolution process for those issues. Moreover, You should also provide a specific description of the goals and objectives you have established, the means and methods you will use to achieve them, and the difficulties you anticipate facing,. Additionally, you should describe how your research findings will contribute to human society 30 years or 50 years in the future, from a long-term perspective.

(2) Curiosity-Driven Science-style (CDS)

Your research proposal should describe the motivation for the research that you will try in your doctoral program based on your intellectual curiosity, as well as the background and perspective that characterized that process. You should also provide a specific description of the goals and objectives you have established, the means and methods you will use to achieve them, and the difficulties you anticipate facing. Additionally, you should describe how your research findings will develop the basic science over the next 30 or 50 years, from a long-term perspective.

7. Submission Information

Email address to which to submit application documents: daigakuin@gm.shinshu-u.ac.jp
(Graduate School Office, Educational Affairs Section, Educational Affairs Department)

Applications (one page of PPT file (PDF file stype is available) and 2 minutes-video presentation file; totally 2 files) should be submitted in electronic form. With respect to video presentation, see Presentation Example Movie.

Filename:

One-page of PPT file: Presen_StudentID_surname_name

Two-minute video presentation file: Video_StudentID_surname_name

8. Submission Deadline

5:00 pm on [Tuesday], December 21, 2021 (STRICT DEADLINE)

9. Screening Method

(1) Document screening (primary screening)

Application documents submitted by applicants will be screened.

(2) Interview screening (secondary screening)

Applicants who pass the document screening will move on to an interview screening (including oral presentation). The interview screening will be conducted in early January. Details will be provided to eligible applicants as they become available.

10. Selection

Applicants will be notified if they were selected by email in late January 2021.

11. Obligations of Selected Applicants

(1) Requirements

- Applicants must take an e-learning course on research ethics through the APRIN e-learning program (CITI Japan). (Applicants should complete this requirement by the time they submit their application if possible.)
- Successful applicants must submit a research report at the end of each month as well as a completion report upon the completion of their research for the academic year.
- In the event their plan needs to be changed because their research does not progress in line with expectations, students must communicate that fact and present a new plan in their end-of-month submit a research report.
- Successful applicants must consent to the sharing by Shinshu University of their email address with JST so that that organization can follow up directly with selected students.

(2) Recommendations

Successful applicants will be expected to take the initiative to actively pursue career development opportunities, for example by participating in the following initiatives:

- Study abroad (including similar opportunities)
- Participation in mutual exchange and other interactions between Japanese and international students at on-campus mini-camps (official name to be determined; cooperative training and exchanges that involve overnight stays from one to two weeks)
- Registration with a separate job-style research internship program (students enrolled in the Department of Science and Technology only)
- Participation in a long-term internship at a company or other entity or in work as a research staff member at a company or other entity
- Participation in exchanges hosted by JST for doctoral students from various universities
- Active participation in other activities as instructed by the program's leadership

12. Cancellation/cessation of support

In the event it determines any of the following has occurred, the program's leadership will either provide guidance so that the student can improve his or her conduct or, if it determines that such improvement will not be forthcoming, cancel the student's selection for participation in the program. It may also cancel or

cease support.

- If the student is not fulfilling his or her obligations under the program
- If the student fails without a legitimate reason to implement the research plan he or she submitted at the time of application for research incentives
 - *In the event their plan needs to be changed because their research does not progress in line with expectations, students must communicate that fact and present a new plan in their end-of-month submit a research report.
- If the student fails to satisfy the requirements set forth in “1. Eligibility”

In the event a student is found to have conducted fraudulent research or included false information on his or her application, his or her selection will be canceled, and he or she will be required to repay research incentives already received.

13. Other

1. JST requires that universities conduct a survey to track selected students’ careers for at least 10 years after graduation. Successful applicants are required to cooperate with this tracking survey and report associated information to the University.
2. The names and other information of students selected to receive research incentives will be published on the University’s website and in other materials.
3. Since the stipend portion of the research incentive is considered miscellaneous income, successful applicants will need to pay tax on those funds by filing their income taxes the year after they are received. Applicants who are listed as a dependent of a taxpayer (for example, a parent) should inform that person that they will be receiving a stipend that is treated as miscellaneous income and seek instructions from the person responsible for tax issues at that person’s employer.

Reference

1. Under Japan’s Income Tax Act, if a dependent of a family member such as a parent earns more than ¥380,000 after necessary expenses are subtracted from stipend payments received from January through December, that family member may not be able to claim the student as a dependent, and the student will be subject to income tax. In addition, the dependent will have to pay resident tax the following tax year based on his or her income during the year in question.
2. For the purpose of health insurance and mutual-association insurance, students who expect to receive stipend payments of greater than ¥1.3 million during the year may not be classified as dependents. Since the amount of the stipend is determined at the outset, students who do not meet the requirements for being classified as a dependent are responsible for registering for National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken).
3. Although the manner, in which household income is calculated for students who are exempt from tuition payments depends on their particular circumstances, successful applicants may not qualify for a tuition exemption as a result of their income.

¹Local Leaders: Local Leaders are able to identify the issues that will face local communities in the future by deploying international knowledge in line with the principle of “Think Globally, Act Locally” and embrace the challenge of problem-solving research driven by a high level of academic specialization and intellectual curiosity.

²Shinshu Tamonjuku: The program will establish the Shinshu Tamonjuku, which will help students refine their commitment to social and academic reform and put into practice the mission they have discovered for themselves while focusing on research activities that deepen academic specialization. Drawing on energy derived from creative exchanges between students from different fields, the School will involve talented researchers and entrepreneurs in an effort to convert new value for the society of the future and plan its realization. The School will pursue a Regional Implementation Project through

which students will refine their dedication to value realization in an effort to create and implement problem-solving research that brings together different fields. The School will also offer intensive English education in order to foster an outlook that makes use of differences along with academic ability through international activities.