

AY2027 Shinshu University SPRING Program Application Guidelines for Eligible Students

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

Shinshu University Graduate School of Medicine, Science and Technology

Doctoral Training Enhancement Project: Doctoral Program for Independent Growth (6S Model)

Having been selected for the JST Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING) Program, a national doctoral student support project, Shinshu University is implementing this project to provide financial support as well as career development and training support for doctoral students.

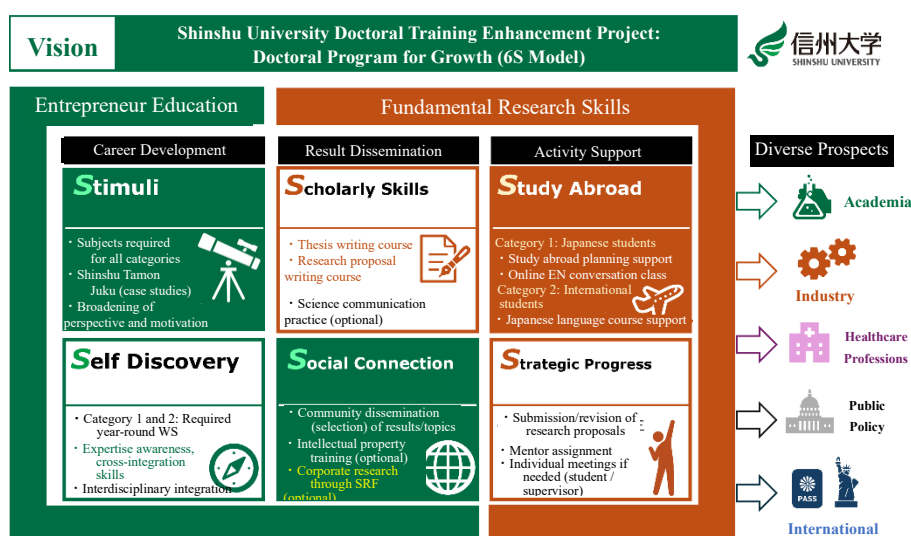
Shinshu University is currently recruiting doctoral students to be supported under this project.

Purpose of the JST SPRING Program

- (1) To support primarily Japanese students in entering doctoral programs
- (2) To enable students to pursue challenging and interdisciplinary research activities with peace of mind, while independently choosing research topics and other projects based on their own free ideas, during their enrollment
- (3) For universities to provide career support and improve the research environment so that doctoral students can play active roles in diverse sectors of society, such as academia and industry, after completing their programs

Shinshu University's Initiatives

Positioning the doctoral program as "an educational stage in which motivated students grow independently and systematically," we will foster doctoral talent who grow independently based on Shinshu University's unique "6S Model." We encourage applicants to pursue their research activities while being mindful of their current capabilities and of the growth they aim to achieve by the time they complete the doctoral program (upon obtaining their degree).



1. Application Eligibility (Common to All Support Categories)

Applicants must **satisfy all of ① to ③ below**, as well as **meet the conditions for each category** described in "2. Eligibility Conditions and Support Details for Each Support Category."

*The following conditions must be continuously satisfied throughout the support period.

If you no longer meet the conditions, you will no longer be eligible for support.

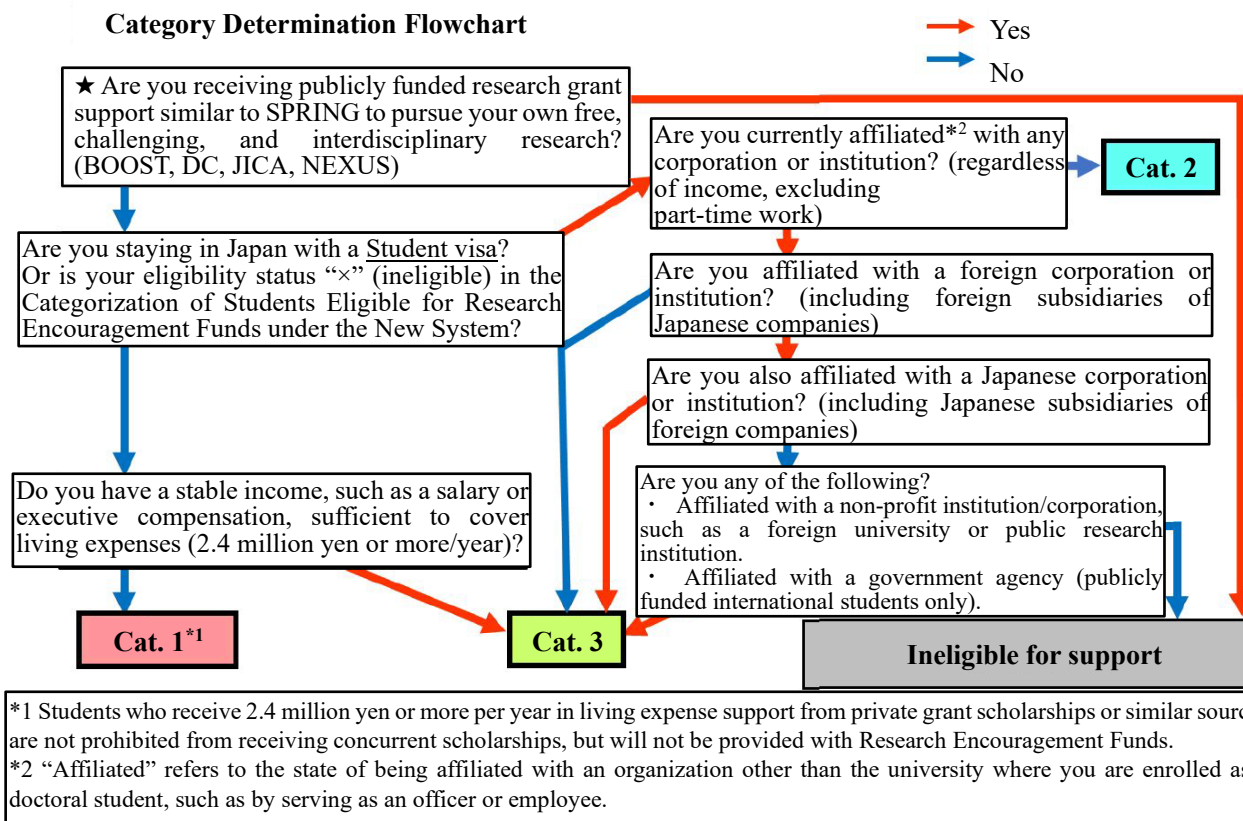
- ① Persons who are enrolled as regular students in the Graduate School of Medicine, Science and Technology, Shinshu University as of the start of support (including those who are planning to be enrolled by the time support begins). However, the following persons are not eligible.
 - 1) Those on a leave of absence
 - 2) Those who plan to withdraw prior to completing the doctoral program
 - 3) Those enrolled beyond the standard period of study
 - 4) Students receiving publicly funded research grant support with the same purpose as SPRING (research grant support for students to pursue their own free, challenging, and interdisciplinary research)
(Examples of research grant support with the same purpose as SPRING)
 - Recipients of JST's Broadening Opportunities for Outstanding young researchers and doctoral students in Strategic areas (BOOST) program for doctoral students
 - Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
 - JICA international students
 - Recipients of young researcher development support under the Networked Exchange, United Strength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN (NEXUS) program
 - 5) Persons receiving scholarships, etc., for which concurrent receipt with this program is not permitted
- ② Persons who fully understand the purpose of this project and "10. Requirements for Selected Applicants" and cooperate with activities, etc., related to this project
- ③ In the case of foreign nationals, persons who intend to contribute to science, technology, and innovation in Japan

2. Eligibility Conditions and Support Details for Each Support Category

From the 2027 academic year, selection and support will be conducted under the following three categories.

When applying, please be sure to confirm which category you fall under using the "Category Determination Chart" and "Categorization of Students Eligible for Research Encouragement Funds under the New System" (posted at the end of these guidelines).

Category Determination Flowchart



(Source: JST SPRING Program Application Guidelines)

Category 1: Primarily for Japanese students who are not employed

Eligibility conditions	Students (Japanese nationals, Permanent Residents, etc.) whose eligibility status is "○" (eligible) in the Categorization of Students Eligible for Research Encouragement Funds under the New System (posted at the end of these guidelines)
Exclusion criteria	Persons who are recognized as receiving a stable and fixed income, such as a salary or executive compensation, at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (2.4 million yen or more per year) *Please note that income from so-called part-time work, compensation for TA/RA activities, etc., are not included in stable and fixed income. *Persons receiving a total of 2.4 million yen or more per year in living expense support from grant-type scholarships from private organizations, etc., are not eligible for Research Encouragement Funds (recipients of loan-type scholarships are eligible for Research Encouragement Funds regardless of the amount).
Support details	- Research Encouragement Funds (equivalent to living expenses): 2.4 million yen per year (200,000 yen per month) - Research Grants: 300,000 yen per year Depending on the progress of research activities, etc., an additional allocation of approximately 300,000 to 600,000 yen may be provided based on an application. - Provision of career development and training content (planning, etc., related to study abroad, internships, acquisition of transferable skills, and career path development)

	● 50% tuition exemption *If support begins or ends in the middle of an academic year, the amount will be calculated on a monthly pro-rata basis.
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Category 2: Primarily for international students

Eligibility conditions	Persons residing in Japan with the status of residence of "Student," or persons whose eligibility status is "×" (ineligible) in the Categorization of Students Eligible for Research Encouragement Funds under the New System (foreign nationals, etc.)
Exclusion criteria	Persons who are affiliated with domestic or foreign institutions/corporations as officers, employees, etc. (regardless of whether they receive income, and excluding so-called part-time jobs)
Support details	● Research Grants: 300,000 yen per year Depending on the progress of research activities, etc., an additional allocation of approximately 300,000 to 600,000 yen may be provided based on an application. ● Provision of career development and training content (planning, etc., related to study abroad, internships, acquisition of transferable skills, and career path development) ● 50% tuition exemption *If support begins or ends in the middle of an academic year, the amount will be calculated on a monthly pro-rata basis.

Category 3: Primarily for working students

Eligibility conditions	Persons who meet either of the following conditions 1 or 2. Condition 1 (Japanese nationals, Permanent Residents, etc.): Among those whose eligibility is designated as "○" in the "Categorization of Students Eligible for Research Encouragement Funds under the New System," those who are recognized as receiving a stable and fixed income, such as salary or executive compensation, at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (2.4 million yen or more/year) Condition 2 (foreign nationals, etc.): Among those whose eligibility is designated as "×" in the "Categorization of Students Eligible for Research Encouragement Funds under the New System," those who fall under any of the following 1) Employees, etc., of corporate entities with Japanese corporate status, public servants, or non-enterprise corporations (incorporated administrative agencies, foundations/associations, medical corporations, NPOs, etc.) 2) Persons who are affiliated only with foreign institutions/corporations, and whose affiliation is with a non-profit institution/corporation such as a foreign university or public research institution 3) Among those affiliated with foreign government agencies, students who receive support from the Monbukagakushō Scholarship Program
Support details	● Research Grants: 300,000 yen per year

	Depending on the progress of research activities, etc., an additional allocation of approximately 300,000 to 600,000 yen may be provided based on an application. ● Provision of part of the career development and cultivation content (planning, etc., regarding the acquisition of transferable skills) *If support begins or ends in the middle of an academic year, the amount will be calculated on a monthly pro-rata basis.
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3. Planned Number of Selections and Start of Support

Two types of selection will be conducted: standard selection and advance selection. The number of students to be selected is tentative and subject to change.

(1) Standard Selection

Eligibility	Start of Support	Planned Number of Selections
Persons enrolled in this Graduate School as of April 2027 (including those planning to enroll)	April 2027*	Support Category 1: Approx. 19 students Support Category 2: Approx. 2 students Support Category 3: Approx. 2 students

*For those who are enrolled during the 2026 academic year, support may begin during the 2026 academic year (among applicants, those with the highest screening results).

(2) Advance Selection

Eligibility	Start of Support	Planned Number of Selections
First-year students currently enrolled in Shinshu University's Master's program who are planning to enroll in this Graduate School as of April 2028*	April 2028	Support Category 1: Approx. 11 students Advance selection will not be conducted for Support Category 2 and Support Category 3.

*Eligibility is limited to applicants who can commit to entering the doctoral program. Please note that you must separately take and pass the entrance examination for the doctoral program of this Graduate School. If you are not enrolled as a regular student in the doctoral program of this Graduate School at the start of the support, you will not be eligible for support.

4. Support Period

The period of support shall be within the standard program duration. A period of enrollment exceeding the standard program duration is not eligible for support. However, depending on individual circumstances such as childbirth, childcare, or caregiving, it is also possible to suspend or extend the support period. If you meet the requirements for the termination or suspension of payment, the payment period may be shortened.

*Since this project is implemented with national funding, changes may occur in the support period and support details depending on government policies, etc.

5. Application Documents

Please prepare the Form "Shinshu University SPRING Application Form," obtain the approval of your academic advisor, and submit it.

The contents of the application form differ between standard selection and advance selection. Please be sure

to use the form corresponding to the type of selection.

- When preparing the application, please carefully review the instructions provided within the form.
- The language to be used shall be Japanese or English.
- If there is any false information in the application documents, the selection will be cancelled.

Please download the application form below.

Type of Selection	Application Form Please download the application form from the website at the link below. https://www.shinshu-u.ac.jp/graduate/spring/recruitment/
Standard Selection	SPRING(StandardSelection)ApplicationForm (docx)
Advance Selection	SPRING(AdvanceSelection)ApplicationForm (docx)

6. Submission Method and Where to Submit

After converting the application form to PDF format, name the file as follows and submit it using the form below.

File Name

Standard Selection: **StudentID(Examinee)Number** **Name** SPRING(StandardSelection)ApplicationForm.pdf

Advance Selection: **StudentIDNumber** **Name** SPRING(AdvanceSelection)ApplicationForm.pdf

*For the student ID (examinee) number, those currently enrolled in a master's program at Shinshu University should enter their master's program student ID number, and those currently enrolled in a doctoral program (this graduate school) at Shinshu University should enter their doctoral program student ID number. If you are an applicant from outside the university, please enter your examinee number for the entrance examination of this Graduate School (if your examinee number has not yet been determined, please enter your student ID number from your former university).

[Submission Form]	https://forms.gle/BMYeGYieqp7H3Gg39
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*A Gmail account is required to submit via the form.

*If you cannot submit via the form, please contact the address below.

Graduate School Office, Academic Affairs Division, Academic Affairs Department shin-jisedai@shinshu-u.ac.jp

7. Submission Period

Thursday, November 12, 2026, noon – Monday, November 16, 2026, noon (Japan Standard Time)

8. Screening Method

(1) Document Screening

Document screening will be conducted based on the submitted application documents. Screening will be conducted from the following two perspectives.

- ① Level of understanding of the research topic and logical coherence of the research plan
- ② Motivation for study and potential for growth in the doctoral program

Based on the results of the document screening, successful applicants, unsuccessful applicants, and

candidates for interview screening will be determined.

*Interview screening will not be conducted for those who pass the document screening.

(2) Interview Screening

An online interview screening will be conducted for eligible candidates, who will be evaluated again from the following two perspectives:

- ① Level of understanding of the research topic and logical coherence of the research plan
- ② Motivation for study and potential for growth in the doctoral program

Based on the results of the interview screening, successful and unsuccessful applicants will be determined.

The interview screening is scheduled to begin at 17:00 on Friday, December 18, 2026. Details will be sent to eligible candidates in due course.

In principle, requests to change the designated interview time will not be accommodated, so please be sure to keep your schedule open.

9. Schedule (tentative at this stage and subject to change)

Thursday, November 12 (noon) – Monday, November 16 (noon), 2026 (Japan Standard Time): Application Submission Period

Early December 2026: Notification of Interview Candidates

Friday, December 18, 2026 17:00: Interview Screening Period

From late-January 2027 onward: Notification of Screening Results

10. Requirements for Selected Applicants, etc.

(1) Mandatory Requirements

Selected applicants must comply with the following requirements during the support period and after completion of the program.

- Take the research ethics e-learning program (APRIN e-learning program).
- Submit activity reports periodically.
- Participate in initiatives implemented by this project, such as Shinshu Tamon Juku.
- Consent to the university providing the selected applicant's email address to JST.
- Register for the "Job-type Research Internship" program (excluding Support Category 3).
- Use research grants appropriately in accordance with relevant regulations, etc.
- Cooperate with the public relations activities of this project to the extent that it does not interfere with the selected applicant's activities.
- Submit a written pledge.

In addition, please cooperate with the follow-up surveys regarding your career path and research outcomes after completion of the program. Based on JST requirements, surveys will be conducted for 10 years or more after completion. In addition to responding to surveys, please secure an email address and phone number where the university can contact you, and promptly notify the SPRING Office in the event of any changes to your contact information.

(2) Recommendations

Selected applicants should actively strive to secure opportunities for their own career development and training through participation in the initiatives listed below, among other activities.

- Apply for the open-application program under this project.
- Engaging in long-term internships at companies, etc., or in duties as research staff.
- Participate in SPRING-wide activities hosted by JST and in exchange programs with other universities.
- Additionally, actively participate in projects and other activities suggested by the faculty members in charge of the program.

11. Revocation, Termination, or Suspension of Support

- ① If you cease to meet any of the conditions described in "1. Application Eligibility" and "2. Eligibility Conditions and Support Details for Each Support Category," you will be excluded from support.
- ② If the Program Officer determines that any of the following applies, they will provide guidance for improvement. However, if they determine that no improvement can be expected, they may rescind the selection as a program student, or terminate or suspend the support, and at the same time demand the return of support payments already distributed.
 - Cases where the student has not met the Mandatory Requirements listed in section 10.(1), and cases where it is clearly determined that the student is not actively following the Recommendations listed in section 10.(2)
 - Cases where the student did not implement the initially planned research plan without justifiable reason
 - Cases where disciplinary action is taken as prescribed in the Shinshu University Graduate School Regulations
- ③ If research misconduct or a fraudulent application is discovered, the selection will be rescinded, and the student will be required to return the support payments, etc., already distributed.

*To receive the support payments, the student must be in Japan.

12. Other

- (1) Students selected for the program will have their names and other information published on the website, etc.
- (2) This call for applications is not an entrance examination for the Shinshu University doctoral program. To enroll in Shinshu University's doctoral program, students must separately pass the entrance examination conducted by the Graduate School.
- (3) Among the support payments, etc., Research Encouragement Funds (equivalent to living expenses) are taxable as miscellaneous income.
 - In principle, a final tax return must be filed every year.
 - If you are a dependent of a person with a duty of support (such as a parent) under health insurance, etc., please inform them that the amount equivalent to living expenses you will receive will be treated as miscellaneous income, and ask them to inquire with the person in charge at their workplace, etc.
 - Students themselves must handle the procedures and management for social insurance, pensions, etc.
 - For tax treatment and final tax returns, please inquire with the tax office of your place of residence.
- (4) If a student who becomes a Category 1 scholarship recipient in a doctoral program in or after AY2023 receives Research Encouragement Funds (equivalent to living expenses), they will be excluded from the Repayment Exemption System for Particularly Outstanding Achievement.

*Students who have never received support from Research Encouragement Funds (equivalent to living expenses) may be eligible.

■ Contact Information: Shinshu University Program Secretariat shin-jisedai@shinshu-u.ac.jp

Categorization of Students Eligible for Research Encouragement Funds under the New System

Category	Examples of Applicability		Period of Enrollment	Eligibility
① Persons with Japanese nationality	Japanese nationals, foreign nationals naturalized in Japan		—	○
② Special Permanent Residents (Special Act on the Immigration Control of, Inter Alia, Those Who Have Lost Japanese Nationality Pursuant to the Treaty of Peace with Japan, Article 3)	Persons residing in Japan as a Statutory Special Permanent Resident under the provisions of Article 3 of the Special Act on Immigration Control		Indefinite	○
③ Permanent Resident, Spouse or Child of a Japanese National, Spouse or Child of a Permanent Resident (Appended Table 2 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)	Permanent Resident	A person who has received permission for permanent residence from the Minister of Justice	Indefinite	○
	Spouse or child of a Japanese national	Spouse, child, or special adoptive child of a Japanese national	5 years, 3 years, 1 year, or 6 months	○
	Spouse or child of a Permanent Resident	Spouse of a Permanent Resident or Special Permanent Resident, or child born in Japan who continues to reside in Japan	5 years, 3 years, 1 year, or 6 months	○
④ Long-Term Resident (Appended Table 2 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)	Indochinese refugees within a certain scope, Vietnamese refugees within a certain scope, third-generation Japanese descendants (Nikkei), spouses of Long-Term Residents, biological children of naturalized Japanese citizens, Permanent Residents, Special Permanent Residents, or Long-Term Residents, Japanese orphans in China and their children, foreign parents supporting the biological children of Japanese nationals, etc.		5 years, 3 years, 1 year, or 6 months, or a period designated individually by the Minister of Justice (within 5 years)	×
	Those among the above who are recognized as having the intention to become Permanent Residents in the future			○

⑤ Dependent (Appended Table 1 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)	Children of other dependents of persons residing in Japan with the following status of residence: Professor, Artist, Religious Activities, Journalist, Highly Skilled Professional, Business Manager, Legal/Accounting Services, Medical Services, Researcher, Instructor, Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services, Intra-company Transferee, Nursing Care, Entertainer, Skilled Labor, Specified Skilled Worker (ii), Cultural Activities, or Student	Period designated individually by the Minister of Justice (within 5 years)	×
	① Those among the above who fall under all of the following conditions ・ Those who were born in Japan or who entered Japan for the first time by the end of the school year containing the day on which they reached 12 years of age ・ Those who graduated from or completed elementary school through high school, etc., in Japan ・ Those who are recognized as having the intention to work and settle in Japan even after graduating from or completing university, etc.		○
	② Those who are recognized as equivalent to those listed in ①, taking into comprehensive consideration their period of stay in Japan and other circumstances		
⑥ Those residing under the status of residence listed on the right (Appended Table I (1) to (5) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)	(1) Diplomat, Official, Professor, Artist, Religious Activities, Journalist (2) Highly Skilled Professional, Business Manager, Legal/Accounting Services, Medical Services, Researcher, Instructor, Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services, Nursing Care, Intra-company Transferee, Entertainer, Skilled Labor, Technical Intern Training (3) Cultural Activities, Temporary Visitor (4) Student, Trainee (5) Designated Activities	A period of 15 days to 5 years depending on the category details (no limit for certain Highly Skilled Professionals)	×

(Source: JST SPRING Program Application Guidelines)