

# Applying SPRING

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the SPRING program. At the top left is the SPRING logo and the text "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation". To the right is a search bar with "Google 提供" and a magnifying glass icon, and the JST Japan Science and Technology Agency logo. Below the search bar are navigation links: "Site Map", "Contact Us", and "Japanese". A horizontal menu contains "About", "Applications", "Funded Projects", and "Events & Achievements". Below the menu is a breadcrumb trail: "JST HOME > SPRING : Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation Home". The main content area features a large blue and green graphic with various scientific icons (microscope, flask, gear, etc.) and a central text box that reads: "This program aims to help PhD students become human resources that can actively pursue a variety of career paths." The background of the graphic shows a bright sky with clouds and a green grassy field at the bottom.

## The purpose of program

- The JST supports doctoral course students who are motivated to work towards achieving a sustainable green society.
- The objective is to develop a researcher who can derive innovative solutions by considering international and local issues. The program focuses on realizing a sustainable and eco-friendly society.
- Research support (equivalent to living expenses) and research expenses  
Research support of 150,000 yen/month (Planned)  
Research expenses of 400,000 yen /year (Planned)  
(The maximum payment period is 3 years)

## The target student and number of applicants

- Number of people recruiting: 8 people (planned)
- Target students for the support
  - 1st grade of doctoral course at the Graduate School of Engineering Science and the Graduate School of International Resource.
- Requirements of qualification
  1. Obtain consent for application from your supervisor
  2. English skills. TOEIC 450 / TOEFL iBT 45 or higher proficiency required.
- Not applicable
  - Special Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
  - Students who have received other scholarship
  - Adults enrolled in the doctoral program who receive a salary from the company, etc.
  - International students who receive support from the government fund
  - International students who receive support from their country through scholarships, etc.

## Necessary documents for the submission

Document	Notes
Application form	Please fill in the necessary information on the application form prescribed by our graduate school.
Research Plan	After consulting with your research supervisor, please write the purpose and concept of your research theme or field in approximately
letter of recommendation	Recommendation letter from your current supervisor (Japanese or English)
Final academic transcript	Transcript of final educational background (Japanese or English)
Proof of English proficiency	TOEIC score and others.

## Submission of application

- Application period: April 8 (Mon) - April 15 (Mon)
- Where to submit application documents  
Attach the application documents to an email and send to the address below.
  - ① Student at the Graduate School of International Resources  
Division International Resources Section, Student Affairs Office  
E-mail: [sg-shigen@jimu.akita-u.ac.jp](mailto:sg-shigen@jimu.akita-u.ac.jp)
  - ② Student at the Graduate School of Engineering and Science  
Division of Engineering Science, Student Affairs Office  
E-mail: [koudai@jimu.akita-u.ac.jp](mailto:koudai@jimu.akita-u.ac.jp)

## Selection

- Online interview and application documents
  
- Evaluation from the following points of view
  1. Research ability
  2. English proficiency
  3. Attitude toward co-creation with fields other than one's specialty
  4. Willingness to contribute to science, technology, and innovation in Japan, especially contributing to a green society

## Support for doctoral course students

- We aim to improve financial assistance for capable and driven students pursuing doctoral courses, who will eventually become leaders in the fields of science, technology, and innovation in Japan. Additionally, we plan to create various career paths for doctoral personnel, allowing them to participate actively in various fields.
  
- Career development/nurturing content in the program
  - Cultivating internationalism
  - Cultivating interdisciplinarity
  - Career development
  - Transferable skills
  - Internship

## Requirement of supported students during the program

- Apply to a special research fellow (DC2) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (required)
- Attendance at class subjects “Career development” and “Data science of artificial intelligence and interdisciplinary fusion” (required)
- Attending the class subject “English upskilling seminar” (recommended)
- Participation in an external organization internship (required)
- Participation in transferable skills training (required)

We look forward to receiving your applications.