

April 2025 Admissions

Akita University
Graduate School of International Resource Sciences
Graduate School of Engineering Science

Akita University SPRING Program

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

Application Procedures for Eligible Students

Schedule

	Date
Application Period	July 12th – July 19th, 2024
Screening Date	To be announced
Result Announced	To be announced

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Akita University SPRING Program

The objective of the Akita University SPRING Program (hereinafter referred to as the "SPRING Program") is designed to strengthen financial support for outstanding aspiring doctoral students who will lead the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan. The SPRING Program strengthens financial support for outstanding doctoral students with aspirations to play a leading role in the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan, and to support a variety of career paths for doctoral students to play an active role in a wide range of fields. For particularly outstanding doctoral students who are willing to engage in challenging and interdisciplinary research, the program provides career path support by providing a research incentive grant (equivalent to living expenses) and research expenses, as well as career development and nurturing content.

The Graduate School of International Resource Sciences and the Graduate School of Engineering Science at Akita University will conduct a challenging research program for the next generation of researchers called the "Co-creative Doctoral Human Resource Development Program in Resource Science and Engineering Science for the Realization of Green Society". The objective of this program is to develop researchers who are able to consider not only international or regional issues, but also both, by deriving emergent innovations related to the realization of a green society, ranging from natural resources science to materials, renewable energy, and carbon neutrality.

In order to achieve this objective, we will support doctoral students who are motivated to work toward the realization of a green society through the following initiatives.

Initiatives through career development and training content:

- 1) Practical language acquisition and improvement of academic communication skills through English language training programs
- 2) Conducting joint research and internships with external organizations and other departments within the university
- 3) Implementation of transferable skills training and "career development" courses for the purpose of career path development

Research incentive grant (equivalent to living expenses) and research expenses:

A monthly research grant of 150,000 yen and an annual research grant of 400,000 yen will be provided.

(However, the maximum duration of the stipend is three years, the standard period of study for the doctoral program.)

We are accepting applications from first-year doctoral students who understand the purpose of the

SPRING Program, have enthusiasm and planning for research, and are willing to actively participate in the efforts of the SPRING Program.

However, the applicant must not be receiving support from any other scholarship. For details, please refer to Application Eligibility.

1. Number of Students to be Admitted

Program Name	Number Admitted
Co-creative Doctoral Human Resource Development Program in Resource Science and Engineering Science for the Realization of Green Society	*8 (the 1 st year of the Doctoral Program)

* Akita University will provide financial support for those hired in FY2025 from its own resources.

However, support for FY2026 and thereafter may be subsidized by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

2. Application Requirements

Applicants must be qualified to apply to the Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of International Resources Sciences and the Graduate School of Engineering Science of the Akita University. In addition to that, applicants must meet these requirements below.

- (1) Applicants must have been done a face-to face interview (including online) with the applicant's intended supervising professor before submitting the application, and have obtained the intended supervisor's consent beforehand.
- (2) Applicants must NOT have the Japan Society for a Promotion of Science (JSPS) research fellowship, students receiving a sufficient level of scholarship (2.4 million yen/year) for living expenses, the Japanese Government Scholarship. Applicants also cannot have scholarships from their home country. Doctoral students belong to working course and have sufficient funds for living expenses from their companies are not eligible.
- (3) English proficiency equivalent to 450 or above on TOEIC or 45 or above on TOEFL iBT.

3. When and Where to Apply

- (1) Application period : July 12th - July 19th, 2024

Please attach application materials to the e-mail and send them to the e-mail address below.

- (2) Where to submit the application

- Graduate School of International Resource Sciences,
Academic Affairs Division
Akita University
E-mail: sg-shigen@jimu.akita-u.ac.jp
1-1 Tegata Gakuen-machi, Akita-city AKITA 010-8502, Japan
Tel: +81 18-889-2236
- Graduate School of Engineering Science,
Academic Affairs Division
Akita University
E-mail: koudai@jimu.akita-u.ac.jp
1-1 Tegata Gakuen-machi, Akita-city AKITA 010-8502, Japan
Tel: +81 18-889-2316

4. Application Procedures

(1) Application materials

Documents	Notes
Application Form to Attend	Fill in the blanks on the prescribed application form to attend provided by this Graduate School.
Research Plan	The desired field or topics for study must be explained in the outline of the research plan on the form in 300 words (in Japanese, 1,000 characters) or less, upon consultation with the applicant's intended supervising professor.
Letter of Recommendation	A letter of recommendation must be written by the applicant's supervising instructor. (in English or Japanese)
Academic Record Transcript of the most Recent Academic Background	Academic record transcript of the most recent academic background (in English or Japanese)

(2) Points to consider when applying

- 1) Applications with errors cannot be accepted, so please be sure to double-check your application to make sure that you have entered all the required information correctly.
- 2) Once submitted, application materials cannot be returned or revised.
- 3) If any misrepresentations are found in the application materials, students may be expelled from the program even after being selected for this program.
- 4) If there is any change to the "preferred mailing address" you indicated on the application form after the application has been submitted, please notify the office immediately.
- 5) The Research Plan may be prepared using a computer application as long as the form and style match the form designated by this Graduate School.

5. Selection Process

Selection will be based on an explanation of the research plan, an interview (scheduled to be conducted online), and the application documents, we will make a comprehensive judgment of your research ability, foreign language ability, attitude toward co-creation with fields other than your own, and willingness to contribute to science, technology, and innovation in Japan (especially contribution to a green society).

Regarding the interview schedule, place, and waiting area, the Academic Affairs Division of this Graduate School and/or your intended supervising professor will notify the applicants later.

6. Announcement of Acceptances

The notification of the date and time of the announcement of acceptances will be forwarded to the applicants separately. Under no circumstances will results be given over the phone.

