Advanced AI Talent Development to Lead the Next-Generation Intelligent Society (BOOST NAIS)

Application Details for Recruitment of Project Students [for Spring 2024 recruitment]

Supported by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) under the BOOST initiative for young researchers and doctoral students in national strategic areas, the University of Tokyo's project "Advanced AI Talent Development to Lead the Next-Generation Intelligent Society (BOOST NAIS)" is open to all doctoral students (including those in 4-year doctoral programs) at the university. We are now seeking approximately 25 project participants who entered in the doctoral program in the spring of 2024.

1. Project Objectives and Content

The purpose of this project is to provide an environment where project participants can acquire not only the knowledge and skills necessary to pioneer and lead the next generation of AI research but also the ability to collaborate across disciplines and communicate their research outcomes as societal value. Unique to this project, a variety of development programs will be offered, including interdisciplinary research exchange meetings, on-campus internships, research planning workshops, and entrepreneurship lectures. Furthermore, this project will be closely coordinated with the university's SPRING GX project, offering all participants access to the complete range of transferable skills development programs conducted by SPRING GX, including core GX programs, study abroad and dispatch programs, voluntary interdisciplinary project research, and industry-academia partnership internships.

2. Eligibility

The applicant must have entered the doctoral program (including 4-year doctoral programs) of the university's graduate school in April 2024 and be currently enrolled in the graduate school, and meet all the following requirements.

- Aspire to pioneer and lead in the field of AI in the future.
- Currently engaged in research and development in the field of AI, or planning to undertake research and development that contributes to the advancement of the field of AI by leveraging their high level of expertise in various fields.
- Understand the purpose of the project, as well as the project requirements and other rules, and will cooperate with activities related to the project.
- Be willing to actively participate in the training programs provided by this project.

However, the students who fall into one of the following categories as of April 1, 2024 are not eligible

to apply:

- Students on leave of absence
- International students receiving support through the government-funded foreign student program or scholarships from their home country.

Students who are currently employed as Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellows (DC), enrolled in the World-leading Innovative Graduate Study (WINGS) or SPRING GX, or receiving an income through scholarships or salaries equivalent to a sufficient living expense level (2.4 million yen/year), are eligible to apply for BOOST NAIS. However, the following points must be noted:

(1) Students employed as DC:

- If selected for BOOST NAIS, it is necessary to resign from the DC position.
- The appointment and support from BOOST NAIS will start from the first day of the month following the resignation from DC.
- Appointments will not be retroactive to April 2024.

(2) Students enrolled in WINGS:

- Enrollment in WINGS will continue after being selected for BOOST NAIS.
- Activities of WINGS and BOOST NAIS must be both manageable.
- Double receiving of funds from WINGS and BOOST NAIS is not allowed. However, the difference from the BOOST NAIS research stipend will be additionally provided retroactively to April.

(3) Students enrolled in SPRING GX:

- If selected for BOOST NAIS, the transition from SPRING GX to BOOST NAIS will be retroactive to April, and the difference from the BOOST NAIS research stipend will be additionally provided.

(4) Students receiving an income equivalent to a sufficient living expense level (2.4 million yen/year) from scholarships, salaries, etc.:

- If selected for BOOST NAIS, it is necessary to reduce the income excluding the BOOST NAIS research stipend to less than 2.4 million yen per year through measures such as declining the scholarship.

3. Selection method

Selection of project students will be determined based on the application form. Interviews, etc. may be conducted if necessary.

4. Number of students to be admitted

Approx. 25 students

5. Selection announcement and enrollment procedures

（1）The results of the selection will be announced around 2:00 p.m. on June 18, 2024 (Wed.), and the applicant IDs of successful applicants will be posted on the recruitment page.

（2）Enrollment procedures will be sent by e-mail to those who have been accepted. Successful applicants must complete the necessary procedures by the designated date.

6. Application procedures

(1) Application documents

(a) Applicant information

Fill out the application form on the application website provided on the application page.

(b) Application form

Download the prescribed form from the application page, fill it out, and upload the electronic file (PDF converted from WORD) from the designated section on the website for application.

(c) Consent from the supervisor

Request your supervisor to fill out and sign the document, then upload it as a scanned electronic file (PDF).

Note that the "Application form" and the "Consent from the supervisor" should be compiled in that order into a single PDF file for upload.

(2) Application Deadline

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 15:00 (Japan Standard Time)

Please apply well in advance, as the servers may be crowded just before the end of the application period.

Applications received after the acceptance period will not be accepted even if the application is still in process.

7. Recruitment period

Period until completion of the doctoral program (provided it does not exceed the standard duration of study).

8. Financial support

A monthly research stipend of 280,000 yen will be granted. Furthermore, an annual research grant of 540,000 yen is planned to be provided to each student.

Additionally, travel expenses for overseas travel provided by the SPRING GX project can be provided after review.

The research stipend and research grant will be paid retroactively from April 2024. However, students who have not yet arrived in Japan, the monthly grant will be paid from the month they arrive in Japan (no retroactive payment will be made for the period prior to arrival).

In the event of a leave of absence, financial support will be terminated, and, with the exception of leaves taken for childbirth or childcare reasons, will not be resumed upon the individual's return to study.

9. Obligations of the project students
   - Participation in training programs provided by the project.
   - To be supervised by a sub-supervisor.
   - Submit an activity report at the end of the fiscal year or upon completion of the program.
   - Take a course in research ethics training.
   - To be registered in the Japan Graduates Database (JGRAD) operated by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).
   - Cooperate in monitoring surveys of students conducted by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).
   - Cooperate in surveys of experienced project members during and after completion of the project.
   - Cooperate in follow-up surveys conducted by the University for a period of about 10 years after completion of the program.

10. Notes
   (1) In principle, only applications for which all of the necessary documents are submitted by the deadline will be considered.
   (2) Under no circumstances may an applicant change the contents of their application once it has been submitted.
   (3) For unforeseen reasons, changes may be made to these guidelines or the application procedures. In such cases, an announcement will be made on the website (https://spring-gx.adm.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/boost/).
   (4) Personal information such as name and others made known to the project through the application process will be used for the following purposes: 1) selection of the project students (application processing and selection), 2) announcement of selected applicants, 3) enrollment procedures, and 4) implementation of various content, 5) follow-up surveys, 6) payment of

research stipend and research grants. Names and e-mail addresses will be provided to JST for monitoring the survey.

(5) Any student who is found to have made a false statement in their application, even after being selected to join the project, may have their status as a project student removed retroactively.

(6) The successful applicants' name will be published on the university website.

11. Contact Information

BOOST NAIS Office

Email: boost-nais.adm@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp