Advanced AI Talent Development to Lead the Next-Generation Intelligent Society (BOOST NAIS)
Application Details for Recruitment of Project Students [for Fall 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.

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 enter the doctoral program (including 4-year doctoral programs) of the university's graduate school in September or October 2024, 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 October 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 receiving an income equivalent to a sufficient living expense level (2.4 million yen/year) from scholarships.

- Students having a stable income, such as salary or executive compensation from universities, companies, etc., at a sufficient level for living expenses (2.4 million yen per year).

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. 6 students

5. Selection announcement and enrollment procedures

（1）The results of the selection will be announced around 2:00 p.m. on September 5, 2024 (Thu.), 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) Confirmation of approval from the supervisor

Note: Confirmation of approval from the supervisor must be submitted after the announcement of acceptance.

The successful candidates must inform their supervisor about the acceptance and obtain approval to participate as a BOOST NAIS student. If approval from the supervisor is not obtained, the acceptance will be withdrawn, so please be aware of this. For those who do not have a supervisor at the time of the acceptance, please request approval from the head of the department you will be enrolling in. The method for submitting the confirmation of approval from the supervisor will be notified at the time of acceptance.

(2) Application Deadline

Thursday, August 1, 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.

Regarding the research stipend, students who have not yet arrived in Japan will be paid starting 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.

The research stipend (corresponding to living expenses) is considered miscellaneous income under tax law and is subject to income tax and resident tax. Therefore, it is necessary to file a tax return and to confirm the following matters yourself, as well as properly inform your sustainers (such as parents):

- Manage and handle procedures for social insurance, pensions, etc., on your own.
- For matters related to sustainer status for health insurance, family allowance, etc., consult with the relevant person in the workplace of your sustainers (such as parents).
- For matters related to sustainer status for income tax purposes, consult with the nearest tax office.

9. Obligations of the project students

- Participation in training programs provided by the project.

- During the support period, present your AI research at academic conferences or journals.
- 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