

# "Fostering Advanced Human Resources to Lead Green Transformation (GX)" (SPRING GX) Project

## Application Details [for Autumn 2023 enrollment]

### 1. About the project

To protect the earth, one of the Global Commons, or humankind's shared resources, we must confront and resolve a wide variety of global challenges. In this project, we focus on green transformation (GX) as the social innovation needed to better manage the shared global environment and pass it on to future generations. SPRING GX aims to train a large number of professionals who will play an active role in the realization of GX in all fields. In an environment in which curiosity-driven students with a high level of specialist knowledge and strong research skills can freely conduct pioneering and emergent research, students will understand that the future vision of society can only be GX. They will have multiple opportunities to develop an awareness of the link between their research and the issues facing humanity and to acquire the transferable skills needed to fully utilize their specialist expertise in society.

We expect SPRING GX students to develop into the following:

1. Researchers who remain curious and consistently pursue pioneering research
2. Professionals who, in view of the fact that GX is the pursuit of all human society, are aware of a variety of fields other than their specialization and who have an advanced and wide-ranging education
3. Researchers who can actively conduct emerging research with other researchers in a wide variety of fields

For career development and training, SPRING GX provides core programs as well as advanced skill development programs. The three core programs are the "GX Bird's-eye View Lectures", which aim to instill a broad knowledge of GX in each student; the "Green Future Meeting", which gives students opportunities to uncover the relationship between their research and GX through interdisciplinary exchange with other students; and the "GX Inspire Lectures", which aim to provide an awareness of the role that GX plays in cutting-edge research in a variety of fields. The advanced skill development programs aim to cultivate GX professionals who can fully utilize their field-specific knowledge in their future careers. The programs provide a variety of activities tailored to the students' individual expertise and circumstances, including overseas assignments, collaboration with industry, and transferable skills acquisition programs.

### 2. Eligibility

The applicant must be a person who will be admitted to the doctoral program (including 4-year doctoral program\*<sup>1</sup>) of the university's graduate school in September or October 2023, and who meets all of the following requirements.

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\*<sup>1</sup> the doctoral program of veterinary medicine, medical science, or pharmaceutical science

- You fully understand the purpose of the project, as well as the project requirements and other rules, and will cooperate with activities related to the project.
- If you are accepted for this project, you are required to apply for the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellowships (DC), and to remain enrolled in this project if they are selected for JSPS DC.
- You are eager to participate in overseas dispatch program, Industry-academia collaboration internship, and transferable skills acquisition program.

However, the following students (status on October 1, 2023) are not eligible to apply:

- Students on a leave of absence
- International students supported by the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship or other support from their home country, JSPS Research Fellowships (DC), Students of the "University Fellowship Program for the Creation of Innovation in Science and Technology" by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, MEXT Doctoral Program for World-leading Innovative & Smart Education (WISE) students
- Program for Leading Graduate Schools students<sup>※2</sup>, World-leading Innovative Graduate Study Program (WINGS) students
- Students receiving financial support of over 160,000 yen per month from other programs of the University of Tokyo or national research and development agencies. <sup>\*3</sup>
- Students who work for a company and have a stable income from salary or executive compensation that is sufficient to cover their living expenses (2.4 million yen per year or more).

After being selected, the amount of support from the University of Tokyo cannot exceed 280,000 yen per month when combined with the amount of support from SPRING GX (180,000 yen per month).

### 3. Selection method

Project students will be selected on the basis of their application documents.

Interviews may be conducted as necessary.

### 4. Number of students to be admitted

Around 30 students

### 5. Selection announcement and enrollment procedures

- (1) The results of the selection will be announced around 2:00 p.m. on September 15, 2023 (Fri), and the applicant IDs of successful applicants will be posted on the recruitment page.
- (2) Enrollment procedures will be notified by e-mail to those who have been accepted. Successful applicants must complete the necessary procedures by the designated date.

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<sup>※2</sup> Excludes students enrolled into Integrated Human Sciences Program for Cultural Diversity after April 2020.

<sup>\*3</sup> In this application guideline, such programs refer to activities that the University of Tokyo or any national research and development agency is responsible for accounting as an institution, regardless of the source of the budget.

- (3) Successful applicants will not be admitted as SPRING GX project students if they are not accepted and enrolled in the doctoral programs (including 4-year doctoral program) of the University's Graduate School in September or October 2023.

## 6. Application procedures

(1) Application documents

(a) Applicant Information

Input the required items in the application website that can be accessed from the recruitment page. At that time, choose which WINGS you want to be associated with.

(b) Application form

Download the designated form in the recruitment page, fill it out, and upload the electronic file (PDF converted from WORD) from the designated location on the application website.

(c) Supervisor's confirmation of acceptance

\*Confirmation of acceptance from the faculty advisor must be submitted after the announcement of the preliminary acceptance.

Students who have received a preliminary acceptance for participating in SPRING GX must inform their supervisor of the acceptance and obtain consent to take part in SPRING GX. Note that if you cannot obtain consent from your faculty advisor, you will not be accepted. Students who do not have a supervisor at the time of the preliminary acceptance should ask the head of the department in which they will enroll. The method of submitting the confirmation of consent will be notified at the time of the preliminary acceptance.

(2) Application deadline

August 1, 2023 (Tue) 15:00 (Japan Standard Time)

The server may be crowded just before the end of the application period, so please apply well in advance.

Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted, even if the application is still in progress.

## 7. Enrollment period

Students will be enrolled in the project until they complete the doctoral program.

(However, the standard period of study cannot be exceeded.)

## 8. Financial support

Students will receive a monthly grant of 180,000 yen. We also plan to provide each student with 340,000 yen per year for research grant. In addition, applications for overseas travel expenses may be paid after evaluation by the Project Officer. However, students who are selected as a Research Fellowship for Young Scientists of JSPS will no longer receive financial support and will become not eligible to receive it (for the monthly grant, the annual research grant and overseas travel expenses) from this project. In addition, if a student takes a leave of absence, financial support will be terminated and will not be resumed after the student returns to school, except in the case of a leave of absence for childbirth or childcare reasons.

The monthly grant (for living expenses) is treated as miscellaneous income for tax purposes and is subject to income tax and residence tax. Recipients must thus file a tax return to the National Tax Agency. Please also check the following points and inform those responsible for your support (e.g., your parents) as necessary:

- You are responsible for carrying out the necessary procedures regarding social insurance, pension, etc.
- Contact the workplace of the person responsible for your support (e.g., your parents) regarding health insurance and dependents' allowance.
- Contact your local tax office regarding dependents' allowance on your income tax.
- For 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).

## **9. Obligations of the SPRING GX students, etc.**

- Participate in the core programs.
- Participate in advanced skills development programs which WINGS provides.
- Receive the guidance from secondary supervisors.
- Submit an activity report at the end of the fiscal year or at the time of completion.
- Attend research ethics training.
- Apply for a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship (DC) (unless you are not eligible to apply).
- Cooperate with monitoring surveys of students conducted by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).
- Cooperate with surveys of experienced project participants during and after their time with the project.
- Cooperate with follow-up surveys conducted by the university for 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://www.cis-trans.jp/spring\\_gx/index-e.html](https://www.cis-trans.jp/spring_gx/index-e.html)).
- (4) Personal information such as name and others made known to SPRING GX through the application process will be used for the following purposes: (1) selection of SPRING GX students (application processing and selection), (2) announcement of selected applicants, (3) enrollment procedures, and (4) management of the project, including career development and academic content, (5) follow-up surveys, (6) payment of monthly grants and research grants. Names and e-mail addresses will be provided to JST for monitoring 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 SPRING GX student removed retroactively.
- (6) The successful applicants' name will be published on the university website.
- (7) It does not matter whether you are applying for JSPS Research Fellowships (DC) or not at the time of application.

## 11. Contact Information

SPRING GX Office

Email: [spring-gx-application.adm@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:spring-gx-application.adm@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp)