

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

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

The University of Tokyo "Fostering Advanced Human Resources to Lead Green Transformation (GX)" project (Project officer : Professor Shin-ichi Ohkoshi) supported by Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by Next Generation (SPRING) of Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), is a project involving approximately 1,200 doctoral students (including those in 4-year doctoral programs) from across the university. The new SPRING GX will begin in April 2024. The University is now accepting applications for about 180 additional project students from doctoral students who entered the doctoral program between autumn 2021 and autumn 2023 (or between autumn 2020 and autumn 2023 in the case of 4-year doctoral programs^{*1}).

The program's implementation is contingent upon the acceptance of the project of the University of Tokyo. Please note that the recruitment number and the content of the program may be changed, depending on the status of acceptance.

1. About the project

At the University of Tokyo, Green Transformation (GX) is defined as a "social transformation for better management of the Earth's environment, a shared asset of humanity, and for passing it on to future generations." To realize GX, in addition to green innovation through the innovative development of science and technology, it is necessary to engage all fields of humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences in ensuring social justice, fairness, and trust by addressing the economic disparities the world faces, and in building an inclusive society through multicultural coexistence. As a leading university in Japan, the University of Tokyo aims to cultivate highly skilled individuals (doctoral candidates) who can effectively lead GX in various fields. The expectation is to train and graduate a large quantity of such individuals, forming a network of GX professionals who can actively engage and thrive with each other.

This project will support doctoral students with deep expertise and high research ability who belong to the 15 graduate schools of the University, so they may engage freely in challenging and emergent research with curiosity, based on the understanding that GX represents the entire vision of the future of human society. The envisioned development of doctoral students is as follows.

- (1) Researchers who remain curious and consistently pursue pioneering research
- (2) Professionals who, in recognizing that GX is the pursuit of all human society, are knowledgeable in 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.

In SPRING GX, we provide a platform for project students to gain "awareness" about the connection between their research and GX, as well as advanced skill development programs to enable them to fully leverage their abilities in society. For the former, as part of the GX core program, we conduct GX Bird's Eye View lectures, Green Future Meetings and GX Inspire Lectures. For the latter, we offer programs such as overseas study and

^{*1} the doctoral program of veterinary medicine, medical science, or pharmaceutical science

overseas dispatch programs, industry-academia collaboration internships, and transferable skill development programs.

2. Eligibility

The applicant must have entered the doctoral program (including 4-year doctoral program) of the university's graduate school between September 2021 and October 2023 (or between September 2020 and October 2023 for the 4-year doctoral program), be enrolled in the graduate school in April 2024, and who meets all of the following requirements.

- 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). Additionally, those selected for JSPS DC must maintain their enrollment in this project.
- Be willing to actively participate in overseas study and dispatch programs, industry-academia collaborative internships, and transferable skills training programs.

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

- Students on leave of absence
- Research Fellow (DC), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- Students receiving a scholarship covering a sufficient level of living expenses (2.4 million yen/year)
- Students recognized as having a stable income equivalent to a sufficient level of living expenses (2.4 million yen/year as a standard) from salaries, executive compensation, etc., from their university or company.
- International students receiving support through the government-funded foreign student program or scholarships from their home country.
- Students enrolled in the World-leading Innovative Graduate Study Program (WINGS) program
- Students receiving financial aid of more than 180,000 yen per month from other programs of the University of Tokyo or national research and development agencies. ^{※2}

From June 2024, the amount of support and payment 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

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.180 students

^{※2} 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.

(about 90 students who have entered the university in FY2023 and about 90 students who have entered the university between FY2020 and FY2022)

5. Selection announcement and enrollment procedures

1. The results of the selection will be announced around 2:00 p.m. on May 8, 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. In doing so, select which WINGS you wish to be associated with.

(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 consent of academic advisor

*Confirmation of consent from the faculty advisor must be submitted after the announcement of the offer of enrollment.

Students who have received a preliminary acceptance for participating in SPRING GX must inform their faculty advisor 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. The method of submitting the confirmation of consent will be notified at the time of the preliminary acceptance.

(2) Application Deadline

Monday, March 25, 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

180,000 yen per month will be provided as the research stipend. We also plan to provide each student with 360,000 yen per year as a research grant. In addition, travel expenses for overseas travel will be paid after review. However, students who are selected as Research Fellowship for Young Scientists of JSPS will no longer receive financial support (including the research stipend, the annual research grant and overseas travel expenses) from this project. In addition, financial support will be terminated if the student takes a leave of absence, and financial support will not be resumed after the student returns to the University, except in the case of a leave of absence for childbirth or childcare.

The research stipend (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 will be 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.

In addition, the following points should be noted.

- 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).

9. Obligations of the SPRING GX students, etc.

- Participation in the GX Core Program.
- Participation in a transferable skills training program offered by WINGS.
- 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.
- Apply for a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship (DC) (unless you are not eligible to apply).
- Even if the financial support ends due to employment as a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow (DC) or other reasons, the student must remain enrolled in the project and participate in the core program and the advanced skills training program offered by WINGS.
- Register and create an account in the dedicated matching system for the MEXT Coop-J internships program.
- 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://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) 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 SPRING GX student removed retroactively.
- (6) The successful applicants' name will be published on the university website.
- (7) Whether an applicant has applied for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC) at the time of application is not considered.

11. Contact Information

SPRING GX Office

Email: spring-gx-application.adm@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp