

**"Fostering Advanced Human Resources to Lead Green Transformation (GX)  
(SPRING GX)  
Application Details [for Spring 2024 enrollment]**

**This project is currently under application for the "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation" offered by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). The purpose of initiating recruitment prior to the decision on acceptance is to enable prompt implementation once approval is granted.**

**The program's implementation is contingent upon the University's adoption of the project. Please note that the number of applicants and the content of the program may be changed, or the program may not be implemented, depending on the status of adoption.**

### **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." Achieving GX requires participation from diverse fields such as humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, in addition to green innovation through innovative developments in science and technology. This includes ensuring social justice, equity, trust, and inclusivity through addressing global economic disparities, as well as building a society with inclusivity 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 such individuals in a substantial quantity, contributing to the formation of a network of GX professionals who can actively engage 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 to engage freely in challenging and emergent research with curiosity, based on the understanding that GX is the overall vision of the future of human society itself. The vision of the doctoral program is as follows.

- (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.

In SPRING GX, we provide a platform for project students to gain "realizations" 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. In the former aspect, as part of the GX core program, we conduct GX Bird's Eye View lectures, Green Future Meetings and GX Inspire Lectures. In the latter aspect, we offer programs such as overseas study and dispatch programs, industry-academia collaboration internships, and transferable skill development 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 April 2024, 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

- Those who 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). Additionally, those selected for JSPS DC must maintain their enrollment in this project.
- Students who are 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 who have a sufficient level of scholarship (2.4 million yen/year) to cover living expenses
- Students who are recognized as having a stable income from their university or company at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (based on 2.4 million yen/year), such as salary, executive compensation, etc.
- International students receiving support through the government-funded foreign student program or scholarships from their home country.
- 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. <sup>※2</sup>

After being selected, 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).

Moreover, for students currently enrolled in the World-leading Innovative Graduate Study Program (WINGS) who wish to apply, it is important to note the following:

- If selected, enrollment in WINGS will continue. Therefore, it is essential that the responsibilities associated with WINGS activities can be balanced with those required as a SPRING GX participant.
- Overlapping receipt of benefits from both WINGS and SPRING GX is not permissible.
- If the student declines participation in WINGS, financial support from SPRING GX will be terminated.

### **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. 350 students

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<sup>※2</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.

## **5. Selection announcement and enrollment procedures**

1. The results of the selection will be announced around 2:00 p.m. on March 18, 2024 (Mon.), 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.
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 April 2024.

## **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. Note that students currently enrolled in WINGS must select the WINGS in which they are currently enrolled.

#### (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. Students who do not have a faculty advisor 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

Wednesday, January 31, 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. Enrollment period**

Period until completion of the doctoral program (however, the standard term of study cannot be exceeded).

## **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 for the research grant. In addition, travel expenses for overseas travel will be paid after screening. However, students who are selected as Research Fellowship for Young Scientists of JSPS will no longer receive financial support (for the research stipend, the annual research grant and overseas travel expenses) from this project due to the financial support will end. 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 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.

In addition, the following points should be noted.

- 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.**

- 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](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) 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)