

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

Project Student Application Guideline [for April 2026 enrollment]

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-government-academia collaboration internships, and transferable skill development programs.

2. Eligibility

The applicant must be a person who will be admitted (including those who are currently applying) to the doctoral program (including 4-year doctoral program*¹) of the university's graduate school in April 2026, and who meets all of the following requirements.

- 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.
- Those who, if accepted for this project, commit to applying for the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellowships (DC), and who agreed to remain enrolled in this project even if they are appointed as a JSPS DC.

※¹ the doctoral program of veterinary medicine, medical science, or pharmaceutical science

- Those who are willing to actively participate in overseas study and dispatch programs, industry - government-academia collaborative internships, and transferable skills training programs (such as advanced skills development programs provided by WINGS, self-directed and integrated project research, and self-promotion video production).

However, people who fall into one of the following categories as of April 1, 2026 are not eligible to apply. In addition, if an applicant comes to fall into any of these categories after being selected, the financial support will be terminated.

- Students on leave of absence
- Students who have been appointed as 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
- People who are recognized as having a stable income from a 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 (including JICA-sponsored students and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association scholarship students, etc.).

Students receiving or applying for other scholarships should check the application guidelines for the scholarship in question and be sure to consult the department in charge at the University in advance regarding the possibility of dual funding and application to this program.

Moreover, applicants who are currently enrolled, at the time of application, in the World-leading Innovative Graduate Study Program (WINGS), an integrated master's and doctoral degree program, should note the following:

- Even if selected for this project, applicants should continue to be enrolled in WINGS. Therefore, it is essential that the responsibilities associated with WINGS activities can be balanced with those required as a SPRING GX project student.
- 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.

Students who belong to WINGS must apply using the application form exclusively for WINGS students (no prescribed application form required).

3. Application Category

Domestic Students

Persons expected to fall under any of the following categories as of April 1, 2026:

- Persons who hold Japanese nationality
- Persons with one of the following residence statuses: “Special Permanent Resident”, “Permanent Resident”, “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, or “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident”

- Persons with a “Long-Term Resident” status who intend to obtain permanent residency in the future
- Persons with a “Dependent” status who meet all of the following conditions:
 1. Were born in Japan or entered Japan for the first time by the end of the school year in which they turned 12
 2. Have completed their education from elementary school through high school in Japan
 3. Intend to work and settle in Japan after graduating from a university or equivalent institution

Note: Persons whose residence status is “Long-Term Resident” or “Dependent” may be required to submit additional documents; therefore, they must consult with the SPRING GX Project Office in advance.

International Students

Persons who do not fall under the above category of “Domestic Students”.

For the number of positions in each category, please refer to “5. Number of students to be admitted,” and for financial support, please refer to “9. Financial Support.”

4. Selection method

Selection of project students will be based on the application form etc., by the WINGS selected at the time of application, and by the Project office. Interviews, etc. may be conducted if necessary.

5. Number of students to be admitted

Domestic Students: Approx. 300 students

International Students: Approx. 50 students

6. Selection announcement and enrollment procedures

1. The results of the selection will be announced around 2:00 p.m. on March 17, 2026 (Tue.), 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 2026.

7. Application procedures

(1) Application documents

(a) Applicant Information

Fill out the online 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 apply using the application form exclusively for WINGS students.

(b) Prescribed Application form

Download the prescribed form from the application page, complete it, and upload the electronic file (PDF converted from WORD) to the designated section on the online application form. Note that students currently enrolled in WINGS are not required to prepare the prescribed application form.

(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

Friday, January 30, 2026, 3:00 p.m. (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.

8. Enrollment period

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

9. Financial support

Domestic Students

- Research stipend: 180,000 yen per month
- Research grant: 360,000 yen per year
- Additionally, overseas travel expenses, etc., will be paid through a review process

International Students

- Research stipend:
April 2026 - March 2027: 180,000 yen per month
April 2027 onward: 90,000 yen per month (under the University of Tokyo's original support program)
- Research grant: 360,000 yen per year
- Additionally, overseas travel expenses, etc., will be paid through a review process

Notes:

Students who are selected as Research Fellowship for Young Scientists of JSPS will no longer receive financial support (for the research stipend, the research grant and overseas travel expenses) from this project as such support will be terminated. 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 on the first day of the month, the payment of the monthly stipend will start from the month following the month in which they arrive in Japan (no retroactive payment will be made for the period prior to arrival).

10. Obligations of the SPRING GX students, etc.

- Participation in the GX Core Program.
- Participation in advanced skills development programs provided 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.

11. Co-application with BOOST NAIS

Applicants may apply concurrently with BOOST NAIS. Note that an applicant who will be offered a position in BOOST NAIS will not be offered a position in SPRING GX.

Applications must be submitted as one combined application. If submitted separately, the applications may be deemed invalid. The application form must be uploaded as one PDF file, in the order "Application form for SPRING GX" and "Application form for BOOST NAIS". Note that students who are currently enrolled in WINGS and apply concurrently must follow the instructions in the BOOST NAIS application guidelines.

12. 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/).
- (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.

13. Contact Information

SPRING GX Project office

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