

# Frequently Asked Questions

Question matters		Answer
1	Are there any restrictions on working students (including experienced working adults) and age?	In this project, there are no restrictions as long as the income exceeds 2.4 million yen per year. It is not possible for those earning stable payments such as salary and executive compensation exceeding 2.4 million yen per year.
2	If a working student does not receive a sufficient amount of living expenses (2.4 million yen/year) despite the company has a salary system that pay equivalent amount of salary, can he/she apply?	The purpose of this project is to create an environment for students to be able to concentrate on their research, and this is done by paying the amount equivalent to their living expenses. So if working students can receive living expenses from the companies, they are not eligible to apply for this program.
3	Is it possible for a D1 student enrolled from another university in October 2023 to apply?	Yes, he/she can.
4	I am currently on a leave of absence. Am I able to apply?	Students whose return to school is confirmed as of October 1, 2023 may apply.
5	I was not selected for the program in April 2023. Can I apply again for the current recruitment?	Yes, you can apply if you meet the eligibility requirements for this application. Please note that the application form has changed.
6	Could you tell me why I was not accepted?	Please understand that we will not be able to respond to any inquiries regarding the screening results.
7	Is it possible for international students to apply?	Yes, international students can also apply. However, international students who receive government scholarship programs for foreign students are not eligible for this project from the perspective of avoiding duplicate payments. In addition, based on the purpose of this project: <b>“Strengthening the support of excellent doctoral students who will bear the future of science and technology and innovation in Japan,”</b> the students who are eligible for support must be willing and able to be directly involved in the development of science and technology and innovation in Japan after completion of their studies. (JST-SPRING, FAQ, A3-3) Also, for international students who have not yet entered Japan, support will start from the month they arrive in Japan.

		In addition, most elective courses are offered in Japanese only. Compulsory courses and some elective courses can be taken in English only.
8	Can I apply if I am receiving a scholarship provided by a foundation, or if I am receiving a salary from a company with an annual income of 2.4 million yen or less?	Scholarship recipients of the foundation should confirm whether the foundation allows the scholarship recipients to receive the amount equivalent to the living expenses in parallel. If the foundation does not allow the combined payment, the recipients of the foundation are not eligible for the application. This project sets 2.4 million yen per year as a standard living expense. You may apply in the following cases. -Income is less than 2.4 million yen per year. -Income exceeds 2.4 million yen per year, but the total income is only from part-time jobs.
9	Is it necessary to submit a certificate of income at the time of application?	You do not need to submit a certificate of income at the time of application. However, please indicate your income status on the application form. If you become a working student with stable income of more than 2.4 million yen a year, you will lose your qualification as a course student. In case you start to earn more than 2.4 million yen a year, please notify us immediately.
10	What exactly is a stable income in excess of 2.4 million yen per year?	Stable income is defined as stable, fixed income such as salaries and executive compensation. Part-time job and TA/RA salaries are not included in stable income. Paid internships and students starting their own businesses to earn income are also not included in stable income. Cases in which an employment contract is concluded with a clear post and term (e.g., fiscal year staff), for example, may not be supported, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please be sure to consult with us.
11	What if I am hired for the Research Fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science?	As shown in Question 8, you will lose your qualification as a course student. However, it is possible for you to continue your activities as a student of this course after being selected as a JSPS research fellow.
12	If I am selected as a course student, is it okay to continue TA / RA?	Yes, you can continue. Income from TA/RA, part-time jobs, part-time work, paid internships are not included in the income threshold.
13	Is it possible to work part-time after being selected as a course student?	Yes, it is possible provided that the part-time job never interferes with your research activities and the course works. Income from TA/RA, part-time jobs, part-time work, paid internships, etc. are not included in the income threshold.

14	Is it possible to receive a subsidy for the purpose of tuition support (tuition exemption, scholarship for tuition support by the fund)?	There is no problem because the purpose of this program is to "create an environment where you can concentrate on your research" and not to support tuition fees.
15	What month will the payment start?	If you are certified as a course student in October, your payment from October will be accumulated in December. After that, the amount for each month will be paid every month. However, for international students who have not yet entered Japan, the month of your arrival in Japan will be the month when the living expense equivalent payment begins. As for the research expenses, they will be allocated after your arrival in Japan, so that you will be able to purchase goods from the date of your arrival.
16	Is there a field designation such as "Kyushu University Innovator Fellowship"?	Unlike "Kyushu University Innovator Fellowship", no field is specified in this project. However, in application form 1, please specify one field from the four fields in which your application form will be reviewed.
17	Is it possible to apply for "Kyushu University Innovator Fellowship" and this project at the same time?	No, you can only apply for one of them.
18	If I take a leave of absence, can I receive financial support as a course student?	In the case of a leave of absence, as a general rule, support will be suspended, but support will be resumed after returning to school. Depending on the reason and period of the leave of absence, it may be necessary to consult with JST. So please contact us individually.
19	If I drop out of school after being selected as a course student, do I need to refund the living expenses equivalent and research expenses?	As a general rule, no return is required. However, if you are expelled from school due to improper receipt of living expenses equivalent and research expenses or due to disciplinary disposition, you may be required to return all or part of the living expenses equivalent and research expenses.
20	If I am selected as a course student, will my living expenses equivalent and research expenses be supported during the standard period of study?	Course students are required to submit a yearly report at each end of the fiscal year. The activity of research and course-work will be examined each year, and the financial support may be discontinued if it is evaluated that research activities or course-works are not carried out properly.
21	I do not expect to complete my doctoral degree within the standard period of study, and I intend to continue my doctoral studies in the next academic year. If I extend my graduation, will the period of support also be extended?	No. Even if you extend your graduation, the support period ends within the standard period of study. It is not possible to stay in a course after the standard period of study or to receive a research aid.

		However, if you have a period of leave of absence in the doctoral course, please contact us.
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**【Reference】**

JST SPRING Application Guidelines:

<https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/dl/application-guideline-2021.pdf>

FAQ

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