

FAQ about Recruitment <K<sup>2</sup>-SPRING Reservation>

\*When you contact to program office by e-mail, please be sure to include "Student ID No." and "Name" at the beginning.

Questions	Answers
<About Application>	
<p>1</p> <p>I am currently a research student. After passing the PhD exam, I plan to enroll in the PhD program in April. Can I apply? (6/21Update)</p>	<p>No, you can't apply for this time. However, you can apply for the regular recruitment which will be held in this fall or winter for prospective doctoral students. (including examinees). We will announce details of the regular recruitment on this website later, so please check it out.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>When I submit academic papers, may I submit non-Japanese papers (ex, in Chinese) in its original language? (6/20 Update)</p>	<p>If your papers were written in a language other than Japanese or English, please submit the full Japanese or English translation as well. (Add)For papers that have been accepted, please also attach a copy of the acceptance letter from the Editor.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>I'm currently in M1 and will apply for FY2026 reserved recruitment. If I'm not selected for this recruitment, does it mean that the FY2026 Reserved Recruitment has reached its capacity? (6/20 Update)</p>	<p>Even if you are not selected this time, you may apply for the regular recruitment which will be held in the fall or winter before entering the doctoral program. We will announce details of the regular recruitment on this website later, so please check it out.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>I understand that there are 3 units with a capacity of 100 students, but is there a fixed number of unit students per graduate school? (6/20 Update)</p>	<p>There is no fixed number of unit students per graduate school. However, there is an approximate capacity for each unit, and those with the higher rank student of this recruitment will be assigned to the unit which they want. Therefore, please understand that you may not sure to be assigned to the unit which you want.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>I am currently enrolled in a master's program at another university and will enter the doctoral program at Kyushu University in October FY2024.</p>	<p>No, you can't apply. This recruitment is for students currently enrolled in a master's program at Kyushu University. Please apply for regular recruitment which is scheduled to</p>

	Can I apply?	begin in this winter.
6	Are there any restrictions on working students (including those with work experience) or 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.
7	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 research aid. So, if working students can receive living expenses from the companies, they are not eligible to apply for this program.
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 research aids from the university 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	What exactly does a stable income of over 2.4 million yen per year mean?	Stable income is defined as stable, fixed income such as salaries and executive compensation. Part-time job, TA/RA salaries and paid internships are 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.
10	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. After becoming a program student, if there is any false information in the application form, or 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 program student. In case you start to earn more than 2.4 million yen a year, please notify us immediately.
11	I need to submit my transcripts for my application, but I cannot obtain them in time for the submission deadline. What should I do?	Instead of a transcript, please submit objective documentation of your request for a certificate. After obtaining the transcript, please submit it to the SPRING office by e-mail as soon as possible.
12	For transcripts from a technical college, is it necessary to have both the main course and the major course of the technical college?	Yes, both are required.
13	I didn't study for my bachelor's degrees at Kyushu University, so I don't have the relevant academic transcripts to provide. Do I have to submit the transcripts from my previous university where I completed my bachelor's degrees?	Yes, you have to submit your transcript (undergraduate) from university which you completed.
14	My academic advisor differs between the master's and doctoral programs. Which one should I ask to write the evaluation report?	Please ask your academic advisor in the doctoral program to write an evaluation report. The academic advisor who wrote your evaluation report will be in charge of managing your research expenses, so please ask for academic advisor's approval in advance. In addition, if your academic advisor belongs to Kyushu University Hospital, we are not

		<p>able to allocate your research expenses as a budget to him/her.</p> <p>In that case, please contact us by e-mail after the selection.</p>
15	To what extent do you mean by “directly pioneer the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan”?	It refers to direct involvement in research and activities that will contribute to innovation in Japan in the future by demonstrating the abilities cultivated in the doctoral program at Japanese universities, government offices (including basic research), or in industry (companies, etc.).
16	Conducting research overseas and contributing to Japanese science and technology in the form of papers would be “directly pioneer the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan”?	Just conducting research overseas and publishing papers is not considered “directly pioneer the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan” as required by this program.
17	If I bring back to Japan my experience and knowledge from overseas, is it considered “directly pioneer the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan”?	As stated in the application guidelines, the program students will be tracked by the government survey for approximately 10 years after you complete this program. In other words, the program requires that the students contribute directly to innovation at a research institution, company, or other place in Japan during the 10-year period. On the other hand, if students contribute to the creation of a new innovation in Japan within 10 years after serving as a postdoctoral fellow overseas, for example, this will be considered a direct contribution to Japan.
18	Is the content different from the doctoral research project considered different even if it is derived from the doctoral research project?	<p>Although derivative content is acceptable, the research must be original and based on the applicant's own ideas.</p> <p>The quality and originality of the applicant’s research will be evaluated in an evaluation report by the applicant’s academic advisor.</p>

19	In the application form, should diagrams be in color or black and white?	Either way is fine. The diagram should be designed to be easily understood by non-specialized judges.
20	Regarding the budget plan for research expenses on the application form, should I write a 3-year plan or a plan only for the first year?	Please write your budget plan for research expenses for the first year of K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING. If you are selected as a K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING student, you will be asked to submit both a report for current fiscal year and a research plan for the following year at the time of the continuation review each fiscal year. Please provide for the second and subsequent years of research expenses at that time.
〈About Financial Support〉		
1	What month will the payments start?	Support will begin in April of the year after you enter the doctoral program. For those who are scheduled to enter the doctoral program in October 2024, support will begin in April 2025. Payment of research aids is scheduled to begin in May (or June), with the accumulated amount from April onwards being paid. However, if students are not in Japan when the support starts, the month when the research aids begin may be different.
2	About tuition fee exemption, if I apply for entrance fee and tuition fee exemption, will I only receive half of the tuition fee exemption?	Under the K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING program, only tuition fee is exempted half. Entrance fee exemption: If you apply for the exemption yourself, please follow the result of the decision. Tuition exemption: Half of the tuition will be exempted until the semester in which the standard period of study expires. However, the content of support may be subject to change depending on budgetary measures and other factors. You can apply for the University's Tuition Fee Exemption (original system) if you are

		applicable. For those who are judged to be in particularly high financial hardship during the tuition fee exemption (original system) screening process, the full amount may be exempted. If you think you are in high financial hardship, please apply for the University's Tuition Fee Exemption (original system)
3	What if I'm selected for the Research Fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (DC1) before official acceptance as a K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING student?	You have to choose which financial support you would like to receive because it's impossible to get both supports together.
4	If I'm selected as a JSPS Research Fellow DC2 at my second year of K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING, do I have to refund the first year's research aids?	Please select one of the supports as in 3 above. Even if you choose DC2, you do not need to refund the payment from the first year. Those who are supported as K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING students in the first year are expected to continue their activities as K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING students even after becoming DC2.
〈About As a Program Student〉		
1	I'm currently an M1 student with a JASSO scholarship type 1 loan. I would like to apply for a scholarship return waiver, but will I be exempt from applying for the return waiver of my current scholarship type 1 once I am selected for a reserved K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING student? I know that I will not be eligible to apply for a waiver of return after entering the doctoral program. <span style="color: red;">(6/21 Update)</span>	You can apply for the scholarship return waiver for master's degree programs. To submit the application, please follow the instructions of the Student Affairs Section in your Department or the Scholarship Section of the Career Scholarship Support Division.
2	I am planning to apply for the "Long-Term Registration System" for my doctoral program. Will this affect the selection? Also, will the period of support be considered?	No, there is no effect on the selection. However, even if you are accepted for the long-term registration system, the period of K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING support is limited to three years (or four years for a 4-year program) as the standard period of study.

3	Is the compulsory “Career development” subject offered in person at Ito Campus or online?	We would prefer to hold this seminar in person so that students can experience the enthusiasm of the lecturers, but as this is a compulsory subject, we plan to hold this seminar in conjunction with online. However, depending on the lectures’ schedule, it may be held online only.
4	Does registration for a job-based internship also require that I actually participate in the internship?	Registration for the job-based internship is mandatory, but participation in the internship is optional to those who wish to do so.
5	If I am selected as a program student, is it okay to continue TA / RA and part-time jobs?	As long as it does not interfere with your research activities or your efforts in the program works, there is no problem with continuing your work. Income from TA/RA, part-time job/work, paid internships, etc. is not counted toward the income threshold.
6	If I am selected as a program student, will my research aids be supported during the standard period of study?	Program students are required to submit an annual report at each end of the fiscal year. The activity of research and program-work will be examined each year, and the financial support may be discontinued or reduced if it is evaluated that research activities or program-works are not carried out properly.
7	I’m currently an M1 student with a JASSO scholarship type 1 loan. I would like to apply for a scholarship return waiver, but will I be exempt from applying for the return waiver of my current scholarship type 1 once I am selected for a reserved K <sup>2</sup> -SPRING student? I know that I will not be eligible to apply for a waiver of return after entering the doctoral program.	You can apply for the scholarship return waiver for master's degree programs. To submit the application, please follow the instructions of the Department Student Affairs Section or the Scholarship Section of the Career Scholarship Support Division.
8	If I take a leave of absence, can I receive financial support as a program 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. In that case, please contact us individually.
9	Can I decline even if I am selected for a reserved position?	We cannot prevent you from declining if you have unavoidable circumstances. However, one of the eligibility requirements for this program is “Those who have the desire to demonstrate the skills they have cultivated and contribute to opening up the future of science, technology and innovation in Japan after completing the program”. We ask that you consider these aspirations when applying. Also, successful applicants are asked to make careful decisions, taking into account the current situation in which many applicants have been rejected.
9	If I drop out of school after being selected as a program student, do I need to refund the research aids?	As a general rule, no refund is required. However, if you are expelled from school due to improper receipt of research aids or due to disciplinary disposition, you may be required to refund all or part of the research aids.

## [Reference]

JST SPRING Application Guideline:

<https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/spring/dl/application-guideline-2024SPRING.pdf>

SPRING Application FAQ:

<https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/spring/dl/faq-2024SPRINGr2.pdf>