Kyushu University SPRING program, Future-Creation (MIRAI) Course (K^3-SPRING)

【FY2027 Regular Recruitment】Application Guidelines Category 3 (Working adult students)

This is a K^3-SPRING regular recruitment for those who already enrolled in, advanced to, or entered a doctoral program at Kyushu University or advance to the third year of an integrated doctoral program in October 2026, and those who intend to enroll in, advance to, or enter a doctoral program at Kyushu University, or advance to the third year of an integrated doctoral program in April 2027 (Hereinafter referred to as "Regular Recruitment Eligible Candidates".)

・Applicants who have not yet taken the Kyushu University Graduate School doctoral program entrance examination are also eligible to apply.

・Please note that no further recruitment will be conducted for the Regular Recruitment Eligible Candidates.

・The categories are defined as follows. For details, please refer to Appendix 1.

Category 1: Japanese nationals and equivalent students

Category 2: International students

Category 3: Working adult students (those with a stable annual income exceeding 2.4 million yen)

[1. Purpose]

In Japan, the number of students advancing from master's programs to doctoral programs and the rate of advancement to doctoral programs are on a downward trend due to financial insecurity and uncertainty about career paths. The most important issue is to encourage students to advance to doctoral programs. In March 2024, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) announced the "Doctoral Human Resource Success Plan: Let's Get a Doctorate," and prior to this, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) launched the " Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation" (SPRING) in FY2021. Based on the Law Concerning the Revitalization of Science, Technology and Innovation (Law No. 63 of 2008), the SPRING Project provides financial support to outstanding students who have the will and ability to be directly involved in the creation of science, technology and innovation in Japan after completing their doctoral program, with the aim of leading them to become doctoral candidates who can work in a variety of career paths.

Our university was selected for the SPRING program in FY2021 and has since been continuously engaged in the development and support of doctoral students. Following a recent review and revision of the program, our university has been newly selected for the SPRING program beginning in FY2027. Under the "Kyushu University SPRING program, Future-Creation (MIRAI) Course (K^3-SPRING)," our university will continue to provide support for doctoral students. We are therefore inviting applications from individuals who aspire to enroll in or advance to a doctoral degree program and

become members of the program.

【2. Application Eligibility】

Applicants for K^3-SPRING (for FY2027 Regular Recruitment) must meet all the following requirements from 1 to 5.

1 Those who have the will and ability to directly engage in the creation of science, technology and innovation in Japan even after completing their doctoral program, and who can follow this path in their career path after completing their doctoral program.

2 Those who are fall under any of the following categories as of April 1, 2027.

(1) Those who will be in the first year of a doctoral program as regular students with a standard course length of three or four years.

(2) Those who will be in the third year of the five-year integrated doctoral program as regular students.

・For items (1) and (2), “those who will be” apply include individuals who have not yet applied for, taken, or received the results of the entrance examination for the Kyushu University doctoral program.

3 Those who understand the purpose of this program and actively take the curriculum (career development/training content) provided in this program to enhance their own abilities and potential. In addition, those who have the desire to use the skills they have cultivated to **open up the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan** after completing the program.

4 Those who will not fall under any of the following categories as of April 1, 2027

(1) Those appointed as research fellows of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).

・Currently applying as a JSPS Fellow may apply for K^{3-}SPRING rregular recruitment.

(2) Those who receive scholarships, etc., from the national government, private organizations, or other bodies (hereinafter referred to as "the national government, etc.”) and are not permitted by the national government, etc., to receive financial assistance apart from the said scholarships, etc.

・Applications from JICA-sponsored international students and similar categories are not accepted.

(3) Those who are on a leave of absence (**including those currently on leave of absence**)

・Please note that if you take a leave of absence starting April 1, 2027, your acceptance will be revoked even if you have been selected.

5 Those who are expected to complete their doctoral program within the standard years of study.

【3. Period of payment】

Within the standard period of study

Until the expiration date written on the front of the student ID card distributed at the time of admission to the doctoral program, advancement, or transfer.
e.g., if a student will be enrolled in the first year of a three-year doctoral course as of April 2027, the maximum period of payment is three years.

- The start date of the support will be April 1, 2027.
- The period of payment may be shortened in case of suspension or cancellation of the research aids described in Appendix 3.
- Even in the case of course extension system, the payment period will not be extended.

【4. Amount of Research Aids】

The following are plans for FY2027. Subject to change depending on circumstances.
Research expenses: 400,000 yen per year

- This research expenses are allocated to support the applicant's own free, challenging, and interdisciplinary research activities in this program.
- Additional research expenses may be allocated based on applications and selection for the Integrated Research Projects [Elective subject:7. Refer to the curriculum (Appendix 2)].
- Additional research expenses will be allocated to selected students who request additional funding or have demonstrated outstanding achievements.

Tuition exemption: Two-thirds of the tuition will be exempted.

【5. Application procedures and selection】

(1) Consultation with your **academic advisor** (for the doctoral program)

① **Students**

Before applying, please consult with your academic advisor and **<u>be sure to obtain his or her approval</u>**. Then, ask your academic advisor to create and submit an "Evaluation Report"

② **Academic advisors**

- Academic advisors should carefully read these application guidelines and judge the applicant's suitability.
- Academic advisors should also keep the following points into consideration and please nominate those who are committed to directly engaging in and contributing to science, technology and innovation in Japan after completing the program.
  - "Doctoral students are responsible for the future of Japan's science, technology, and innovation, but (omission) we should (1) strengthen financial support for talented and aspiring doctoral students who will lead the future of Japan's science, technology, and innovation, and (2) We are running out of time to develop diverse career paths that are not bound by traditional frameworks so that doctoral personnel can play an active role

in a wide range of fields. (omission) In order to overcome this situation, the SPRING project is aimed at universities that have the ability and desire to independently carry out (1) and (2) above. , we will appoint a project manager who will select excellent doctoral course students beyond the existing framework of university graduate schools and laboratories, and under his leadership, we will provide various support to these doctoral course students. The government supports the efforts of universities to implement and expand their efforts." (Excerpt from JST SPRING FY2027 Application Guidelines[*1] P.7)

- "When supporting international students, please fully explain how they will contribute to 'Japan's science, technology, and innovation,' such as creating innovation and contributing to strengthening Japan's international competitiveness." (Excerpt from JST SPRING FY2027 Application Guidelines[*1] P.3)

(2) Pre-entry by **students**

Please access the following URL during the entry period, enter the required information, and complete the pre-entry process.

(Note) Application documents without pre-entry will not be accepted.

[Entry period] Until Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 12 p.m. (noon)

[Entry URL] https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/rxa6qxUv7X

(3) Documents to be prepared by **students**

① Application Form (required)

Please obtain the application form from the URL below and prepare the required documents.

https://k-spring.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/admission/#admission-section-1

② Transcript (undergraduate) (required)

③ Academic Papers (optional) (Submit only after peer review and decision of acceptance)

Please convert ① Application Form, ② Transcript and ③ Academic Papers to one PDF file and submit it from the application submission URL. **No documents will be submitted or modified after the application period**. For details, please check the Appendix 5 "Application Documents Checklist".

The file name should be "Entry number_Applicant's Name".

[Submission period] From Monday, November 9 to Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 12 p.m. (noon)

[Application submission URL] The URL is included in the receipt confirmation email at the time

of pre-entry.

(4) The evaluation report by **academic advisors**

Academic Advisors should obtain the evaluation report from the following URL and create an evaluation form.

https://k-spring.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/admission/#admission-section-1

When preparing the evaluation report, please pay particular attention to the "aptitude" and "contribution to Japan" mentioned in (1).

The Evaluation Report must be submitted **by the academic advisor himself/herself** using the form below after converting it to PDF format. **No documents will be submitted or modified after the application period.**

The file name should be "Entry number_ Student Name_ Evaluation"

[Submission period] From Monday, November 9 to Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 12 p.m. (noon)

[Evaluation report Submission URL] https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/2WchamUz3s

【6. Selection Perspectives and Process】

The selection of "outstanding and ambitious doctoral students who will directly pioneer the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan" to be supported by this program will be made based on the "Selection Perspectives" described below.

[Selection Perspectives]

(1) Even after completing the doctoral program, those who have the will and ability to be directly involved in the creation of science, technology, and innovation in Japan are assumed, and the career path after completion of the program is also compatible with this. Also, must have a concrete vision for his/her own career plan, future plans, and how he/she will be directly involved in science, technology, and innovation in Japan (This includes relevant language skills).

(2) In the application form, the concepts of the doctoral dissertation research must be stated in a manner that is understandable to researchers outside the field of specialty, and the research idea must be excellent. Applicants should demonstrate originality in the research methodology and indicate future prospects for the research topic.

(3) Based on a self-analysis of your own ability to conduct research (strengths, factors considered necessary for your future development as a researcher), you must have a concrete concept for your original research (based on your own ideas, not the theme given by your academic advisor) that you plan to carry out using the K^3-SPRING research aids. It is even better if the idea is about interdisciplinary fusion research with students from different fields within Kyushu

University.

(4) The Applicant must have the prospect of being able to complete both the preparation of their doctoral dissertation based on their own research plan and research guidance and the coursework required by this program within the standard period of study (within the support period).

[Selection Process]

(1) Selection will be conducted in two stages: an initial screening based on submitted documents and a secondary screening (interview).

(2) In the initial screening, applicants will be classified as those who pass the initial screening, those who fail the initial screening, and those selected to proceed to the secondary screening (interview), and they will be notified accordingly.

(3) Applicants selected for the secondary screening (interview) will be interviewed based on their submitted documents, and successful candidates for the secondary screening will be determined.
Note: Applicants who pass the initial screening will not be required to undergo the secondary screening.

(4) Applicants who pass the initial screening and those who pass the secondary screening will be selected as **FY2027 K³-SPRING program students**.

(5) Assigned units will be determined based on the evaluation results from among the K³-SPRING FY2027 prospective candidates and regular recruitment candidates.

【7. Selection Schedule】

Until Wednesday, November 18, at 12 p.m. (noon): Pre-entry Period

Monday, November 9 to Thursday, November 19, at 12 p.m. (noon):
Application, Evaluation and Transcript Documents Submission Period

Tuesday, February 2, 2027: Initial Screening Results Notification

Thursday, February 4, 2027: Conducting Secondary Screening

Friday, February 12, 2027: Announcement of the Results

・The dates are tentative and subject to change.

・The secondary screening (interview) will be conducted on February 4 only if deemed necessary.

【8. Number of students】

FY2027 K³-SPRING program students Category 3: Approximately 5 students (tentative)

(Note) The number of available positions is subject to change depending on the number of applicants who decline the offer due to selection as a JSPS Research Fellow (DC1 or DC2) or for other reasons.

【9. Curriculum (Career Development and Training Content)】

K^3-SPRING will provide a curriculum as shown in Appendix 2.

【10. Obligations as a K^3-SPRING student】

Those selected by K^3-SPRING must fulfill all of the following obligations from 1 to 8.

1 Students must take **one compulsory subjects and one elective subject** in the career development and training content offered in this program to cultivate not only research skills, but also a bird's eye view, interdisciplinary and international mindset, and a wide range of advanced transferable skills.

2 Students must devote themselves to study and research **based on their own K^3-SPRING research plan** determined in advance.

3 Students must submit a yearly report to the Project Director on the progress of the course work and research, including a description of research expenses. When requested by the Project Director, students must report as required on matters such as the progress of the research and the use of research expenses.

4 When conducting research, students must comply with the rules and regulations established by the University and strive to carry out research activities that meet the trust and expectations of society, in accordance with their own conscience and decency. Furthermore, students must fully recognize that the source of research funds is public funds, comply with relevant laws and regulations, and strive to carry out research efficiently.

5 Students must attend research ethics education and compliance education classes as designated by the University.

6 When presenting the research results obtained through the Project, students must indicate that the research was subsidized under the Project.
Examples of acknowledgments in the treatise (Grant No. JPMJSP2136).
【Example】This work was supported by JST SPRING, Grant Number JPMJSP2136.

7 In order to verify the training effect of the curriculum, students must cooperate with the career tracking survey conducted by the University for approximately 10 years after the completion of this program.

8 Students must register for Coop-J (Cooperative Education through Research) Internships (Optional for Category 3).

【11. Publication of names】

Those selected for the K^3-SPRING program will have their names published on the SPRING website.

【12. Cooperation of Academic Advisors and Faculty Members】

In this program, the following cooperation from academic advisors and faculty members of the

school (major) to which the program students belong is required.

1 The academic advisor understands and agrees with the purpose of the program, and supports the students' coursework and activities, including budget management.

2 The academic advisor and the faculty members of the school to which the program students belong actively attend online discussion and meetings in the Fusion-of-Intelligence A, activate the exchange of opinions of program students and promote interdisciplinary research. Also, each faculty member plays the role of a mentor for the students.

3 The academic advisor is required to guarantee the portability (Change of affiliation) of program students required in this program.

4 Research proposals (compulsory subject) must be conducted at the school to which the program students belong, and training and tutoring must be provided for the students. The implementation procedure of the research proposals will be announced separately from the school to which the students belong.

5 The research aids supported by K^3-SPRING to program students are provided to program students for their free, challenging, and interdisciplinary research (proposals) (JST SPRING Application Guidelines[*1] P.13). Please understand that we do not intend to support academic advisors' research or doctoral dissertation research based on their suggestions.

6 Responsible for supervising the "contribution to Japan after completion of the doctoral program" as confirmed at the time of application and providing support as necessary. Additionally, <u>if a program student secures employment overseas after completing their doctoral programs, the academic advisor shall fulfill their accountability obligations.</u>

【13. Continuation Screening as program students after the start of support】

1 **<u>At the end of each fiscal year, a continuation screening will be conducted to determine whether the student can continue the program for the following year.</u>**

(Note) If, as a result of the screening, continuation is deemed not possible, the support will be terminated.

2 Continuation will be determined based on subject acquisition status, annual report, and other facts.

3 The status of submission of various documents will also be considered in the screening process.

[Criteria]

1st year screening (early February 2028): Must have completed 1 compulsory subject (Fusion-of-intelligence A)

2nd year screening (early February 2029): Must have completed 1 compulsory subjects and 1 elective subject

3rd year screening (at the end of the support period, completion judgment): Must have fulfilled all

program completion requirements

(Note) The completion requirements include fulfillment of the obligations of program students, submission of required reports, and other program requirements.

However, this does not preclude students from taking more than the standard number of subjects each year. For example, it is acceptable to take all the subjects required for completion in the first year.

- Research proposals will be offered by your academic department, so please follow the instructions from your department. Please follow the instructions provided by each unit regarding the research proposal for Units ②–⑤.
- If you do not meet the above screening criteria, **your support will be discontinued from the following year** unless there are special circumstances.

[Supplementary Criteria]

At the time of 2nd year screening (early February 2029), international students are encouraged to achieve JLPT N2 level proficiency or higher.

【14. Definition of K³-SPRING 】

K³-SPRING consists of five units (① Interdisciplinary Unit, ② Q-Energy Innovator Unit, ③ Space Quantum Unit, ④ Material DX Unit and ⑤ Mathematics for Innovation Unit), and program students will belong to one of the units.

K³-SPRING students will link their research themes to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the open platform "MIRAI-SDGs Platform", select the SDGs most relevant to their research, and participate in the platform. Within the platform, program students will share introductions to their research content and proposals for collaborative or interdisciplinary research with students, faculty members, and corporate members (corporate consortium members). This platform serves as an "innovation hub" for fostering challenging and interdisciplinary research, where participants are encouraged to engage in open and free-flowing discussions with students, faculty members, and corporate members (corporate consortium members), breaking through the boundaries of their specialized fields (Fusion-of-intelligence A: Compulsory).

- As for ④ Material DX Unit and ⑤ Mathematics for Innovation Unit, we will not be accepting applications for program candidates at this time, as these units operate as integrated programs spanning both master's and doctoral program.

① Interdisciplinary Unit

In this unit, we will develop the exchange of opinions on the "MIRAI-SDGs Platform", which is a "place of emergence" that gives rise to challenging and fusion research, into an Integrated

Research Project (elective subject). We hope that you will actually propose and implement interdisciplinary fusion projects. For this purpose, we will formally start an AI Co-Pilot Boundary Crossing (elective subject) to support the proposal of Integrated Research Project from FY2025. Having friends of the same generation who are studying different specializations through Integrated Research Project, etc. will enrich your research life as a relationship in which you can support each other even after completing your doctorate. In addition, this unit will develop various career path development support, including the new Fusion-of-Intelligence B and C. Through learning in this unit, we will develop outstanding doctoral human resources with abundant creativity who can contribute to the development of science and technology, the creation of innovation, and the solution of social issues in Japan by acquiring a cross-disciplinary, bird's-eye view in addition to their specialized fields and being able to flexibly generate new thinking that transcends existing values.

② Q-Energy Innovator Unit

This unit provides an environment where you can concentrate on research on decarbonization systems such as advanced energy such as hydrogen, geothermal energy, wind power, and CO_2 capture, mobility, and a decarbonized society, which are our university's strengths. We expand students' horizons through custom-made remote lectures in the arts and sciences, as well as opportunities to collaborate with industry, domestic and international organizations, and report on research results. This unit also strategically nurtures "GX doctoral human resource" who can envision, realize, and create a future decarbonized society based on their research and bird's eye view of energy, and who will lead the Green Transformation (GX).

https://q-pit.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/

③ Space Quantum Unit

The Space Quantum Unit supports research and education in space- and quantum-related fields and promotes interdisciplinary education in collaboration with the Quantum and Spacetime Research Institute (QuaSR) at Kyushu University.

The Unit covers a broad range of activities, from fundamental research to applications, and supports interdisciplinary research centered on either space- or quantum-related themes. Through this program, we aim to foster diverse doctoral researchers who can contribute not only to academia, built upon the strong foundation of basic sciences cultivated at Kyushu University, but also to innovation that addresses societal needs. In doing so, the Unit seeks to contribute to enhancing both the quality and quantity of doctoral talent in Japan.

The Quantum and Spacetime Research Institute (QuaSR) was established at Kyushu University in 2025 as a research and education hub dedicated to accelerating collaboration and synergy

across space- and quantum-related fields. Further information is available on the Institute's website. https://quasr.jp
https://kyushu-quanta.com/

④ Material DX Unit

This unit aims to develop human resources who can learn and practice "Materials DX" (data-driven materials development), which has attracted attention as a powerful approach to accelerating research and development in the materials and chemistry fields—areas in which Japan has traditionally excelled.

In the first year, students systematically and comprehensively acquire data analysis techniques and practical methodologies essential for materials research. From the second year onward, they further develop and advance their own ideas into original Materials DX research projects.

Working in close collaboration with researchers in universities and industry, the program seeks to establish an as-yet underdeveloped framework for education in Materials DX. It aims to cultivate globally competent professionals who can make immediate contributions and lead materials research and development in Japan.

Capacity: 4 students.

https://www.chem.kyushu-u.ac.jp/~cstm/fellow/

⑤ Mathematics for Innovation Unit

This unit primarily consists of students enrolled in the Joint Graduate School of Mathematics for Innovation. With the collaboration and cooperation of its affiliated graduate schools—the Graduate School of Mathematics (Department of Mathematics), the Graduate School of Information Science and Electrical Engineering (Department of Informatics and Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering), and the Graduate School of Economics (Department of Economic Engineering) - the program aims to cultivate individuals who possess the following five competencies, referred to as the "Math Five Forces (MFF)".

(ⅰ) Internationally outstanding "mathematical proficiency,"
(ⅱ) "Statistical proficiency" essential for data handling,
(ⅲ) "Modeling ability" to identify the essence of complex problems and construct mathematical models,
(ⅳ) "Co-creation ability" to collaborate with researchers in other fields, and
(ⅴ) "Emergent innovation ability" to integrate these competencies and generate innovation.

These competencies are developed through a five-year integrated degree program.

Therefore, no recruitment will be conducted this time; applicants will be recruited and selected separately by the Joint Graduate School of Mathematics for Innovation.

https://www.jgmi.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/

【Inquiries about recruitment】

Student Affairs Department SPRING program office

E-mail: jisecho@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp

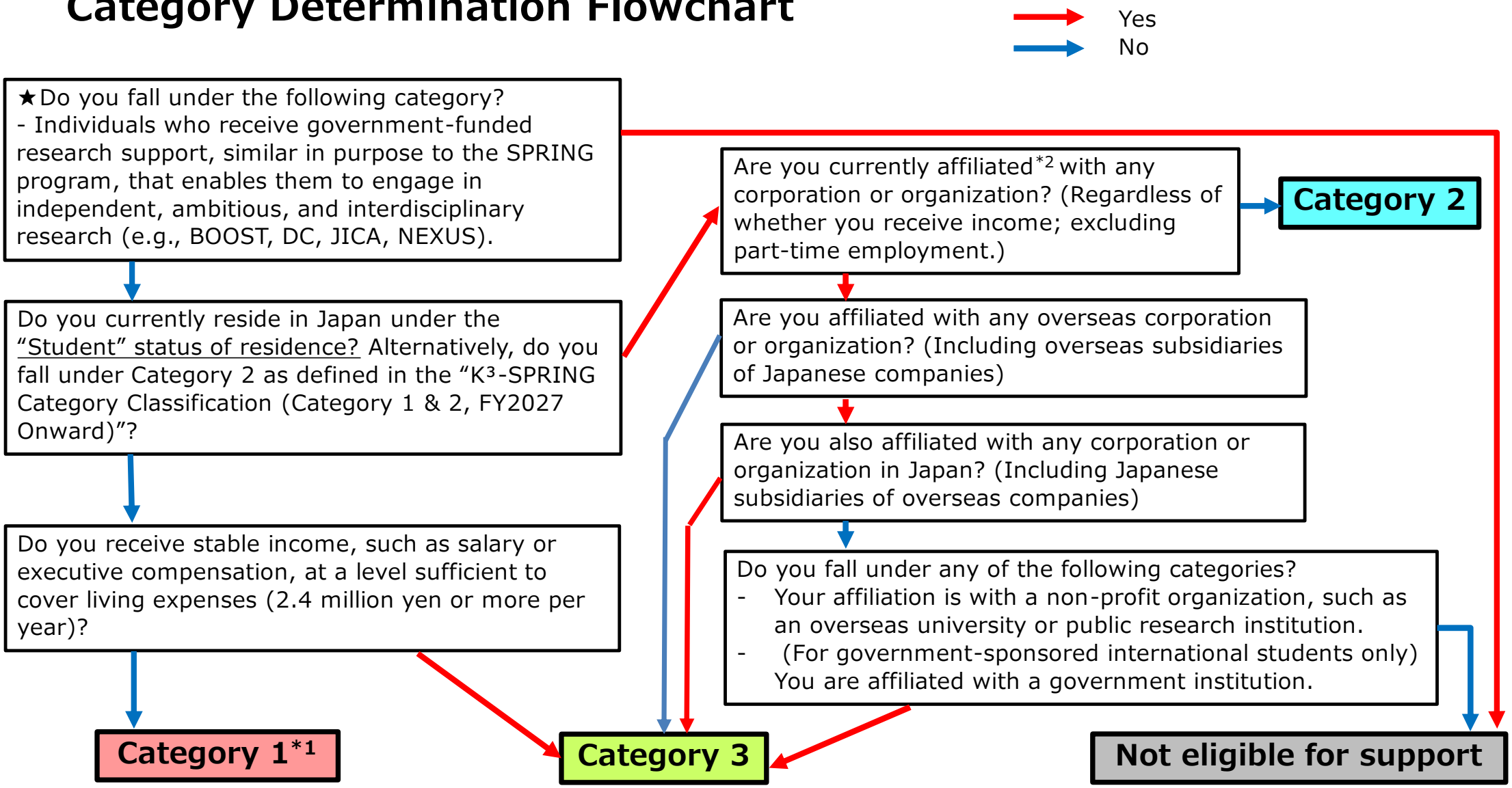
Contact Form: https://k-spring.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/contact/#form

(Note) We will not be able to respond to inquiries regarding the selection process, screening results, or evaluations.

*1 JST SPRING FY2027 Application Guidelines:
https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/spring/dl/fy2027/application-guideline-2027SPRING.pdf

*2 JST SPRING FY2027 Application FAQ:
https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/spring/dl/fy2027/faq-2027SPRING.xlsx

Category Determination Flowchart



*1 Students who receive living expense support of 2.4 million yen or more per year through privately funded scholarships or similar programs are not precluded from receiving concurrent support; however, they are not eligible for research aid.
*2 "Affiliation" refers to a status in which an individual is affiliated as an officer, employee, or in a similar capacity with an institution or organization other than the university in which they are enrolled as a doctoral student.

K³-SPRING Category Classification (Category 1 & 2, FY2027 Onward)

Classification	Example	Period of stay	Eligibility for Research Aid
(1) Person with Japanese Nationality	Japanese citizen, foreigner who have naturalized in Japan	—	Category 1
(2) Special Permanent Resident (Article 3 of the Special Act on Immigration Control for Persons Who Have Lost Japanese Nationality under the Treaty of Peace with Japan)	A person residing in Japan as a legal special permanent resident under Article 3 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act Special Provisions.on Law	Indefinite	Category 1
(3) Permanent Resident, Spouse or Child of Japanese National, Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident (Appended Table II of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)	Permanent resident: A person who has obtained permission for permanent residence from the Minister of Justice	Indefinite	Category 1
	Spouse or Child of Japanese National: Spouse, child or specially adopted child of Japanese national	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 6 months	Category 1
	Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident: Spouse of a permanent resident or special permanent resident, and a child born in Japan who has continuously resided in Japan		Category 1
(4) Long-Term Resident (Appended Table II of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)	Certain Indochinese refugees, certain Vietnamese refugees, third-generation Japanese descendants, spouses of long-term residents, biological children of naturalized Japanese nationals, permanent residents, special permanent residents, or long-term residents, remaining Japanese resident in China and their children, foreign parents supporting biological children of Japanese nationals, etc.	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 6 months or for a period individually designated by the Minister of Justice (within 5 years)	Category 2
	Those among the above who are deemed to have the intention of permanently residing in the future		Category 1
(5) Dependent Stay (Appended Table I of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)	Children supported by individuals residing in Japan under the following statuses: Professor, Artist, Religious Activities, Journalist, Highly Skilled Professional, Business Manager, Legal/Accounting Services, Medical Services, Researcher, Instructor, Engineer/Humanities/International Services, Intra-company Transferee, Care Worker, Entertainer, Skilled Labor, Specified Skilled Worker (Type 2), Cultural Activities, or Student	Period individually designated by the Minister of Justice (within 5 years)	Category 2
	① Those among the above who fall under any of the following categories ・Those who were born in Japan or entered Japan for the first time by the end of the school year that includes the date of reaching 12 years of age ・Those who have graduated or completed education from Japanese elementary to high school ・ Those who are recognized as having the intention to work and settle in Japan after graduating or completing their studies at universities or other institutions		Category 1
	② Those who are deemed equivalent to those listed in (1) based on a comprehensive consideration of their period of stay in Japan and other circumstances		
(6) Person residing in Japan under the status of residence listed on the right (Items (1) through (5) of Appended Table I of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)	① Diplomat, Official, Professor, Artist, Religious Activities, Journalist	15 days to 5 years depending on status (some Highly Skilled Professionals may have indefinite stay)	Category 2
	② Highly Skilled Professional, Business Manager, Legal/Accounting Services, Medical Services, Researcher, Instructor, Engineer/Humanities/International Services, Care Worker, Intra-company Transferee, Entertainer, Skilled Labor, Technical Intern		
	③ Cultural Activities, Short-Term Stay		
	④ Student, Trainee		
	⑤ Designated Activities		

K^3-SPRING Standard Curriculum

Subject Name	Description (Interdisciplinary unit)	Interdisciplinary	Q-Energy Innovator	Space Quantum	Material DX	Mathematics for Innovation	Category 3 (Working adult students)
Fusion-of-intelligence A *Mandatory in the first year	Create a research information page (research outline, A4 summary, 3 min video, and description of the relevant SDGs) on the MIRAI-SDGs platform built on the web (in principle, all information should be created in Japanese and English). Then, explore each research information page and conduct a spontaneous exchange of opinions on each channel on Slack, with a view to joint research.	compulsory	compulsory (required to create a research information page, while discussions will be conducted independently by the unit)	compulsory	compulsory (Unit Original) Integrated curriculum from the second year of the master's program.	compulsory	compulsory
Research Rroposals *Recommended up to the second year	This is conducted in each graduate school and department. Students will survey and summarize the current state of research in fields that are not direct extensions of their doctoral research topics (i.e., different areas of specialization), as well as in related neighboring research areas. They will then identify and articulate important unresolved issues, formulate a research proposal to address these issues, and prepare materials outlining the expected (anticipated) results and discussions arising from the proposed research. Students will present these materials orally and respond to questions in an oral examination (defense). Through discussions with their academic supervisors, students will complete and submit a written proposal document. By developing a wide range of competencies expected of doctoral researchers—such as a broad, integrative perspective, problem-finding ability, planning skills, logical proposal formulation, the ability to break through challenges, and resilience—students will acquire the capacity to pioneer new paths and succeed in diverse fields in the future.	compulsory	compulsory (Presentations and discussions in joint seminars)	compulsory (Year 1: Presentation of research proposal)		compulsory (e.g.,Basic Mathematical Modeling)	Recommended (mandatory for students in the Mathematics for Innovation Unit)
Career Development *Recommended up to the second year	Seminars and panel discussions will be held by the heads of research institutes and managers of companies on themes such as "What is expected of Ph.D. graduates". Participate in this seminar or other lectures related to career development held in each unit and submit a report.	compulsory	compulsory (Participation in a summer camp, Energy Week, and company visits, with submission of reports)	compulsory (Participation in symposiums and lectures in the first and second years, with submission of at least two reports)		Select one subject (e.g., IMI Colloquium)	--
Fusion-of-intelligence B	In order to raise the awareness and momentum of doctoral students to contribute to solving social issues through their own research, we ask consortium members (companies and government agencies) to introduce unsolved issues, and have students prepare solution proposals and submit them as a report.	Select one subject (required elective)	Select one subject (required elective)	Intensive lectures are conducted independently	Select one subject (required elective)	--	Select one subject (required elective) (excluding Fusion-of-intelligence B, Fusion-of-intelligence C, and Internship) (This requirement does not apply to students in the Mathematics for Innovation Unit.)
Fusion-of-intelligence C	Among the proposals submitted for "Fusion-of-intelligence B" those that are recognized as excellent after review will be sent for internships to actually work on-site at companies, etc. Submit a report after completing the internship.						
AI Co-Pilot Boundary Crossing *Must have obtained (or expected to be obtained) Fusion-of-intelligence A	Ph.D.students for today are required to conduct interdisciplinary collaborative research. On the other hand, it is very difficult to break out of one's own field of expertise and carry out interdisciplinary collaborative research. Therefore, this subject is designed to serve as a bridge to subjects such as "Integrated Reserach Project" (an elective subject for K^3-SPRING students) and "AI Research Proposal" (a required subject for K-BOOST students). Students will also refer to the results of AI analysis of research information (keywords, interests, etc.) to meet potential collaborators and discover and develop interdisciplinary research projects of academic and social significance.It is highly expected that this subject will function as a "resonance place" where students from the two doctoral support programs, K^3-SPRING and K-BOOST, can meet.						

Integrated Reseach Project *Must have obtained Fusion-of-Intelligence A	This program invites interdisciplinary and creative research proposals arising from Fusion-of-Intelligence A and AI Co-Pilot Boundary Crossing. Following a review process, research funding will be provided to selected proposals. This project supports research planned and conducted by teams of two or more K^3-SPRING students with differing affiliations and areas of specialization. Participants are encouraged to take on challenges proactively and to create and develop interdisciplinary research. Course credit will be granted upon submission of a proposal, implementation of the interdisciplinary research, submission of a mid-term report, and submission of a final report.	Select one subject (required elective)	Select one subject (required elective)	Intensive lectures are conducted independently	Select one subject (required elective)	--	Select one subject (required elective) (excluding Fusion-of-intelligence B, Fusion-of-intelligence C, and Internship) (This requirement does not apply to students in the Mathematics for Innovation Unit.)
Graduate School KIKAN Education	Take one course from the group of KIKAN Education courses that sophisticated and universal set of knowledge, skills and mindsets (high-end literacy).						
Entrepreneurship Training	Take one course from the Entrepreneurship Education group.						
Data Science	Obtain one of the data science practical courses for beginners, aimed at students who need or want to learn the basics of data analysis and AI. You can take either "Introduction to Data Science I & II " or "Data Science Practice I ~IV".						
Resilience Training	Resilience is the ability to quickly rise up from adversity and setbacks and to grow, and is a human ability that is the source of the ability to take on challenges without fear of failure or the unknown. The concept of resilience is broad, and lectures on the concept and acquisition of resilience will be given by lecturers from outside the university. Attendance at lectures and reports will be required for course approval.						
Internship	Approved upon participation in an internship and submission of a report. Required to report the internship they plan to participate in to the office in advance. Depending on the content of the internship, it may not be approved.					compulsory (conducted independently)	
International Network A	Short-term study abroad, overseas training, and presentations at international conferences will be approved upon submission of reports. Required to report the participation schedule to the office in advance. Depending on the content of the internship, it may not be approved.					--	
International Network B	Participate in the Spring Short-Term Study Abroad Program - AsTW (ASEAN in Today's World: An international collaborative program jointly organized by Kyushu University and leading partner universities in ASEAN member countries) and submit a report.						
International Network C	Approved with an entry to the Kyushu U 3MT Competition, an English presentation competition sponsored by Kyushu University.						

PhD–Industry in-person networking events *Not limited to SPRING/BOOST participants	Optional participation
Tax Return Seminar	Optional participation
PhD Lounge, dissertation talks, etc. *Organized by the Promoting Organization for Future Creators	Optional participation

Continuation review and criteria (end of the first year)	・Must have completed 1 compulsory subject (Fusion-of-intelligence A)	
Continuation review and criteria (end of the second year)	・Must have completed 2 compulsory subjects（Fusion-of-intelligence A and one additional） ・Must have completed1 elective subject	・Must have completed 1 compulsory subject（Fusion-of-intelligence A） ・Must have completed1 elective subject (However, this requirement does not apply to students in the Mathematics for Innovation Unit.)
Language proficiency requirements	Category 1: TOEIC L&R score equivalent to 700 or higher. Category 2: Equivalent to JLPT N2 or higher is recommended *Note: For Category 1, if the requirement is not met by the end of the second year of continuation review (score as of early February), the research aid will be reduced in the third year onward.	Equivalent to TOEIC L&R score 700 or higher/JLPT N2 or higher is recommended
Completion requirements	・Must have completed all 3 compulsory subjects ・Must have completed1 elective subject	・Must have completed 1 compulsory subject ・Must have completed1 elective subject (However, However, students in theMathematics for Innovation Unit are required to complete two 1 compulsory subjects)

(Appendix 3)

Suspension or Revocation of Research Aid and Research Expenses after Selection for the K^3-SPRING Program

1. Suspension, cancellation, and return of Research Aid and Research Expenses

(1) If any of the following situations arise, then the provision and expenditure of Research Aid will be suspended, or the status of the program student will be revoked.

1) If the student falls under any of the categories set forth in【2. Application Eligibility】4.
2) If the student takes a leave of absence, withdraws, or is expelled from the program
3) In cases where program manager deems special consideration necessary due to circumstances such as childbirth or childcare
4) In the event of death
5) In the event of disciplinary action
6) If, in the review conducted each year for the continuation of payments, the program student is found not to have fulfilled their obligations
7) If a student is found to be unqualified as a program student; for example, if the student is not devoted to their studies or research, failure to meet submission deadlines, or if their attitude and conduct is poor
8) In cases where program students are unable to enter Japan due to entry restrictions imposed by the Government of Japan, travel restrictions due to disease, or other similar circumstances

(2) If the suspended or revoked Research Aid has already been transferred or used, then the program student must promptly return it.

(3) If the Research Expenses already disbursed include costs related to research conducted on or after the day following the suspension of the Research Aid or the revocation of eligibility to receive the Research Aid, the program student shall be required to return the corresponding amount and must promptly do so.

2. Resumption of the payment of Research Aid and Research Expenses

Where the payment of Research Aid and Research Expenses has been suspended, such payment may be resumed when the reason for the suspension has ceased to exist and it is deemed appropriate for the student to receive them.

Procedures required for receiving a research aid after being selected for K^3-SPRING

The research aid (200,000 yen per month) is treated as **miscellaneous income (others)** subject to taxation. Therefore, program students themselves must complete the following procedures: (1) Tax Return, (2) National Health Insurance, and (3) National Pension Insurance.

It should also be noted that the amount of payment for (1) - (3) above is related to the amount of income from the previous year (January 1 to December 31). In this program, the total amount of income received in the second year is higher than the one in the first year, so the amount paid in the second year tends to be higher. Therefore, the amount you must pay in the first year is different from the one in the second and subsequent years of the program.

1 Tax Return and other taxes

(Tax Return)

Since the research aid* **taxable** as miscellaneous income (others), program students are required to file their own tax returns and obliged to pay "income tax ".

*Since it is not a "scholarship," it is not tax-exempt income.

(Note) Tuition and other research expenses are deductible as necessary expenses.

(Note) In order to file a tax return, it is necessary to keep records of income and expenditures, receipts and other evidence.

For more information on filing tax returns, refer to the IRS website.

(Inhabitant Tax)

The taxpayer is obliged to pay "inhabitant tax " to the municipality in which he/she resides according to the taxable amount. The system of inhabitant tax is a levy tax system in which local governments calculate the tax amount and notify the taxpayer.

2 National Health Insurance

If a program student is enrolled in his/her family's health insurance, etc. as a dependent, and if he/she receives research aid and starts earning a constant income of 1.3 million yen or more per year, he/she will no longer be a dependent of his/her family's health insurance, etc. and will be required to enroll in the National Health Insurance.

(Note) Tell the person who supports you as a dependent (parent, etc.) to check with his/her workplace about his/her handling of dependent care benefits, etc. At that time, be sure to inform them that research aid is "miscellaneous income (others)" subject to taxation.

(Note) The enrollment procedures and the amount of National Health Insurance premiums varies

depending on the municipality, so please check with the National Health Insurance office at the city (ward) office or town hall where you reside.

3 National Pension Insurance

In principle, all people between the ages of 20 and 60 who live in Japan are insured under the National Pension Plan and are required to pay National Pension Plan premiums. Students are allowed to defer payment of the premiums if their income for the previous year is below a certain level* under the “Special Student Payment System”.

If the student is no longer eligible for the deferment under the "Special Student Payment System" due to receiving research aid, the student will be obliged to pay the National Pension Insurance premiums.

* The income of the person for the previous year is below a certain level.
Approximate amount: 1,280,000 yen + number of dependents x 380,000 yen + deduction for social insurance premiums, etc.

(Note) For specific National Pension Insurance procedures, please contact the National Pension Office at the city (ward) office or town hall where you reside.

--- For details on procedures related to taxes, insurance, and pensions, please consult with a specialized contact. The SPRING office is unable to provide accurate information. ---

(Appendix 5)

Application Documents Checklist

■ List of Application Documents

1. **Application Form (required)**

   Use the "Regular Recruitment for FY2027" format.

   * Use correct format—avoid outdated or wrong-year versions.

2. **Transcript (required)**

   Only undergraduate transcript is needed. (Those who graduated from a technical college (KOSEN)'s advanced course must submit both the KOSEN's undergraduate course and the advanced.)

   A transcript you previously received (with date of graduation) is acceptable. No need to obtain a new one.

3. Thesis (optional)

   If your research achievements of your application form include published (peer-reviewed) or unpublished-accepted (peer-reviewed) academic papers, please submit the full text of those papers.

   If the thesis is an unpublished - accepted (with peer review), attach a copy of the acceptance letter (email) from the editor to the first page of the thesis.

   *For papers written in languages other than Japanese or English, a Japanese or English translation of the title and abstract must be submitted in front of the full text of the thesis.

   e.g.1) Order of a PDF file in case of Published (peer-reviewed) thesis:

   ① A Japanese or English translation of the title and abstract of your thesis (in the case of published thesis in languages other than Japanese or English)

   ② Your original thesis

   e.g.2) Order of PDF file in the case of unpublished-accepted (with peer review) thesis:

   ① A copy of the acceptance letter (email) from the editor

   ② A Japanese or English translation of the title and abstract of your thesis (in the case of published papers in languages other than Japanese or English)

   ③ Your original thesis

■ How to Submit

The files 1 and 2 (or 1 to 3 if you have) above must be **arranged in numerical order and** combined into a single PDF file and submitted to the entry URL indicated in the confirmation of receipt e-mail received at the time of pre-entry.

*The evaluation report is submitted by the applicant's academic advisor, so the applicant does not submit it.

File name should be **Entry No._Name.**

e.g. If the entry number is No. 7: **7_KYUDAI Taro**

[Reference: How to merge multiple PDFs into one]

Adobe's Official PDF Merger Tool

(Appendix 6)

FAQ <K^3-SPRING Regular Recruitment>

2026/10/23

*Please click HERE to contact the SPRING office.

No.	Categories	Question	Answer
1-1	Application	I am currently enrolled in a master's program at another university and will enter the doctoral program at Kyushu University in April 2027. Can I apply?	Yes, you can. Please note that no recruitment will be conducted after April 2027, following your enrollment.
1-2	Application	I am currently a research student at Kyushu University. After passing the doctoral exam, I plan to enter the doctoral program in April 2027. Can I apply?	Yes, you can. Please note that no recruitment will be conducted after April 2027, following your enrollment.
1-3	Application	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 as Category 1?	The purpose of this program 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 as Category 1. Please apply for Category 3.
1-4	Application	Can I apply for Category 1 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 program sets 2.4 million yen per year as a standard living expense. You may apply for Category 1 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.

1-5	Application	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 SPRING office.
1-6	Application	I am receiving the JASSO Study Incentive Fee from April of this year until March of the following year. Will there be any negative impact on the screening process for this program?	There is no negative impact at the screening process, but if you become a program student, you will not be able to receive them in parallel.
1-7	Application	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. We plan to request that you submit a certificate of income and other relevant documents upon your official acceptance. After becoming a program student, if there is any false information in the application form or documents, you will lose your qualification as a program student. If eligibility is revoked after support has begun, eligibility will be revoked retroactive to the start date of support, and a refund will be issued.
1-8	Application	I need to submit my transcript for my application, but I cannot obtain it 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.
1-9	Application	I didn't study for my bachelor's degrees at Kyushu University, so I don't have the relevant academic transcript to provide. Do I have to submit the transcript from my	Yes, you have to submit your transcript (undergraduate) from university which you completed.

		previous university where I completed my bachelor's degrees?	
1-10	Application	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. If your academic advisor in the doctoral program is not decided yet, you may request your current academic advisor.
1-11	Application	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.).
1-12	Application	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.
1-13	Application	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 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.

1-14	Application	Is the capacity of the unit fixed per graduate school?	There is no fixed number of students per graduate school. However, there is an approximate capacity for each unit, and the top applicants will be assigned to the unit of their choice. Therefore, please understand that you may not necessarily be assigned to the unit of your choice.
1-15	Application	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.
1-16	Application	Is the content different from the doctoral research project considered different even if it is derived from the doctoral research project?	Although derivative content is acceptable, the research must be original and based on the applicant's own ideas. The quality and originality of the applicant’s research will be evaluated in an evaluation report by the applicant’s academic advisor.
1-17	Application	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^3-SPRING. If you are selected as a K^3-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.
1-18	Application	If I am unable to make the scheduled secondary screening date, is there an online or backup date available?	Interviews will be conducted online. In that case, please contact us individually when you are eligible for the secondary screening immediately.
1-19	Application	I am currently enrolled in the master's program at the Joint Graduate School of Mathematics for Innovation. Do I need to apply to SPRING to advance to the doctoral program?	You do not need to apply at this time. If there is any possibility that you might transfer to another Graduate School, please consult the GPMI Support Office.
1-20	Application	I plan to take the transfer entrance exam for the doctoral program at the Graduate School of Information Science	If you are not admitted to the Graduate School of Information Science and Electrical Engineering but plan to enroll in

		and Electrical Engineering. If I pass, I assume I will be assigned to the Information Science and Electrical Engineering Unit, but should I apply this time just in case I don't pass?	or transfer into the doctoral program at the Graduate School of Mathematics or the Graduate School of Information Science and Electrical Engineering, you may apply.
2-1	Financial support	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 2026, support will begin in April 2027. 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(April 1, 2027), the month when the research aids begin may be different.
2-2	Financial support	About tuition fee exemption, if I apply for entrance fee and tuition fee exemption, will I only receive two-thirds of the tuition fee exemption?	Under the K^3-SPRING program, only tuition fee is exempted two-thirds. Entrance fee exemption etc.: If you apply for the exemption yourself, please follow the result of the decision. Tuition exemption: Two-thirds 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. Additionally, the application system for tuition and enrollment fee exemptions will change starting FY2027. Applications to the University's Tuition Fee Exemption (original system) will no longer be accepted. For details regarding this matter, please contact Student Support Division, Student Affairs Department.
2-3	Financial support	What if I'm selected for the Research Fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (DC1) before official acceptance	You have to choose which financial support you would like to receive because

		as a K^3-SPRING student?	it's impossible to get both supports together. If you decline K^3-SPRING, please contact to the SPRING office as soon as possible.
2-4	Financial support	Can I apply for DC2 after I'm selected as a K^3-SPRING student? Also, if I'm selected as a JSPS Research Fellow DC2 at my second year of K^3-SPRING, do I have to refund the first year's research aids?	Yes, you can apply. Please select one of the supports as in 2-3 above. Even if you choose DC2, you do not need to refund the payment from the first year. Those who are supported as K^3-SPRING students in the first year are expected to continue their activities as K^3-SPRING students even after becoming DC2.
3-1	As a K^3-SPRING student	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^3-SPRING support period is limited to a maximum of three years (or four years for a 4-year program) as the standard period of study.
3-2 *Category 1.2	As a K^3-SPRING student	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.
3-3 *Category 1.2	As a K^3-SPRING student	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.
3-4	As a K^3-SPRING student	I'm currently a M2 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 K^3-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 Student Affairs Section of your Department or the Scholarship Section of the Career Scholarship Support Division.

3-5	As a K^3-SPRING student	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.
3-6	As a K^3-SPRING student	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.
3-7	As a K^3-SPRING student	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.
3-8	As a K^3-SPRING student	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.
3-9	As a K^3-SPRING student	If I do not complete the program due to dropping out of school or resignation, will I still be included in the career tracking surveys for approximately 10 years?	Yes, you will be included.

[Reference]

JST SPRING Application Guideline:
https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/spring/dl/fy2027/application-guideline-2027SPRING.pdf
SPRING Application FAQ:
https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/spring/dl/fy2027/faq-2027SPRING.xlsx