List of Programs Offered by the SPRING Project (Required and Required Elective Programs)

2026.11

①The programs offered by SPRING are categorized into three groups: Required, Elective Required, and Elective (Starting in AY2027).

②Required Electives (〇): you must participate in at least one program (or one session of a program offered multiple times) from each “Required Elective Course Group.”

③Programs marked **Annually**: you must attend every academic year.
Programs without this mark: you must attend at least once during the SPRING support period.

	Program	Program Outline	Classification ●：Required 〇：Required Elective △：Optional	Required Elective Course Group	Additional Information	Schedule for AY2027 (Tentative)
A.Basic Program						
1	Research Expenses Plan	SPRING students are required to prepare a research plan as well as a research expenses plan each academic year. This process will help you use your research expenses effectively and systematically, enhance the quality of your research, and ultimately lead to the production of reliable research outcomes. In addition, we aim to strengthen your ability to develop research plans, communicate your ideas across disciplines, and manage research expenses responsibly. Depending on your research progress or experimental results, you may need to revise your budget plan. We will conduct progress monitoring approximately three times a year to review your research plan and encourage effective budget utilization, including necessary plan revisions. Through these processes, you will gain practical experience in effective research fund management.	● 【Annually】			【Submission Deadline】 （Current Students）: March 12, 2027 （New Students）: April 16, 2027
2	Overseas Activity Plan	SPRING students are required to carry out at least one overseas activity during the support period. You must create and execute an overseas activity plan that enhances your research plan you submitted when applying to the Project—making it more challenging and interdisciplinary—while also developing your global skills. Eligible activities include not only actual travel abroad, but also domestic engagements that enhance global skills, such as interacting with international researchers or presenting your work to multicultural and multilingual research communities.	● 【Annually】		※Students in Category 2 selected in AY 2027 or later are not eligible. ※Submission of an Overseas Activity Plan is required; Application for Overseas Activity Expenses is optional.	Same as above
3	Research Activity Report	Submit a Research Activity Report reviewing your project activities over the course of the year. The report should include information on your participation in the SPRING programs, your research progress, your overseas activities, and your career development, etc.	● 【Annually】			March
4	PROG (Program for Generic Skills) Test Assessment of Basic Competencies for Working Professionals	To quantitatively evaluate the effectiveness of the SPRING programs in helping students develop transferable skills, all SPRING students are required to take the PROG Test each academic year.	● 【Annually】			February 1–February 15 (Approximately 40 minutes on a date convenient for you)
5	Registration for the Job-Based Internship Program	Students are required to register with the dedicated system provided by the Council for the Promotion of Job-Based Research Internships. They are also encouraged to regularly seek out internship information through the system and other sources.	●		※Register upon enrollment in SPRING.	Register promptly after enrollment
6	Applying for a JSPS Doctoral Course (DC) Research Fellowship	All SPRING students who started in AY 2026 and beyond are required to apply for the JSPS Doctoral Course (DC) Research Fellowships.	● 【Annually】		※Applications for the JSPS Postdoctoral (PD) Research Fellowships are optional for third-year doctoral students. ※SPRING students selected in AY2026 or later are required to apply, while applying is optional for those selected in AY2025 or earlier.	Internal University Deadline：Around April–May ※For details, please refer to the university-wide announcement.

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B.Enhancing Research Abilities						
	Competitive Research Expenses					
1	Applying for Competitive Research Expenses	Proposals aiming to expand current research into more challenging and interdisciplinary domains are invited for additional funding. Selected top proposals will receive supplementary research funds based on a document and presentation screening.	△			June 14–30: Application Period July 19: Selection Results Notification
2	Research Pitch Day （Presentation Review Session for Competitive Research Expenses）	Applicants are required to submit a proposal for developing challenging and interdisciplinary research and give a presentation to the reviewers (faculty members) and SPRING students. Through this process, applicants will enhance their skills in planning and proposing research, as well as effectively communicating their work to researchers from other disciplines. Furthermore, learning about research plans across diverse fields provides valuable opportunities to gain fresh insights and spark new ideas.	○	（Interdisciplinary Research Exchange Program）	※Applicants for Competitive Research Expenses are required to attend. ※Students who are not applying may also attend as auditors.	Early July
	Interdisciplinary Research Exchange Program					
3	Interdisciplinary Research Exchange	This program aims to provide opportunities for SPRING students to gain new insights as researchers and generate ideas for advancing their research by learning about research in other fields and communicating their own research to researchers from different disciplines. It also aims to bring together researchers in similar positions so they can share common challenges, find inspiration and ideas for addressing them, and build a foundation for long-term research networks.	○	（Interdisciplinary Research Exchange Program）		The first Saturday in August
4	Doctoral Career Messe【Part 2】	In Part 2 of the "Doctoral Career Messe," hosted by Kyoto Qualia Forum, participants will engage in research exchanges with doctoral students from other institutions and corporate professionals (including PhD-level researchers) through pitch presentations and poster sessions. Additionally, by building networks and connecting with doctoral peers participating in the event, students aim to establish a solid foundation for their career development through sharing and resolving career concerns, as well as exchanging information.	○	（Interdisciplinary Research Exchange Program）		Around November
5	Mirai no Hakase Fes (Future Doctoral Researchers Festival)（JST event）	SPRING students will be selected and dispatched to participate in this event hosted by JST. Please note that participation is based on a selection process, so applicants are not guaranteed a spot.	○	（Interdisciplinary Research Exchange Program）	※Selection-based (Participation not guaranteed)	Around September（※subject to the announcement from JST）
6	Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference	If participating in any of the Interdisciplinary Research Exchange Programs is difficult, presenting at a Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference may be an acceptable alternative.	○	（Interdisciplinary Research Exchange Program）	※For more details, please check the Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference website. https://hic.lne.st/ ※The participation fee must be covered by your own Research Expenses or other sources. ※You can use the “Overseas Activity Expenses” (application and approval required) to participate in events held overseas.	Check the “Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference” website.
	Basic Skills Development Program for Researchers					
7	English Academic Presentation Training	In this training, participants will learn how to structure logical presentations, convey key points clearly, and engage a broad audience through lectures and practical exercises led by external experts. Students are encouraged to apply what they learn in this training at international conferences and other venues, continuously enhancing their English presentation skills.	○	（Basic Skills Development Program for Researchers）	※Held over two days, consisting of one half-day online session and one half-day in-person session. Attendance at both sessions (online + in-person) is mandatory. ※Scheduled to take place twice—once at Kyotanabe and once at Imadegawa. However, if participant numbers are low, the event may be consolidated into a single session.	（Kyotanabe）Around May （Imadegawa）Around June
8	Workshop for Writing Papers in English	Through an online workshop-style session led by external experts, participants will learn key points to consider when writing research papers, practical solutions to common issues, and effective methods to present research outcomes more compellingly. Even those who have already published English papers will benefit from this opportunity to revisit the fundamentals.	○	（Basic Skills Development Program for Researchers）	※This workshop consists of three modules (some of which are rotated each year). You may choose to take only the modules that interest you.	Around September–October （The three modules will be conducted over three days.）
9	Research Management Skills	Researchers must possess not only the ability to conduct research, but also the skills to properly manage and execute their research activities and outcomes. On-demand training is provided covering the basic knowledge and abilities that researchers should acquire.	○	（Basic Skills Development Program for Researchers）		As the program is offered on demand, you can take it at any time.
	Research Outcome Outreach Support Program					
10	Open Access Support (Gold Open Access)	Full financial support is provided for Article Processing Charges (APCs) of SPRING-supported research papers that meet specific criteria.	△		※There are requirements regarding eligible journals and papers published.	Accepted anytime (until budget limits are reached).
11	Publication of Papers in Institutional Repositories (Green OA)	Support is available for registering peer-reviewed research papers into the Doshisha University Academic Repository.	△		※For more details, please refer to the university-wide announcement. https://rd.doshisha.ac.jp/rd/inside/oa/oa_support.html	Accepted anytime (until budget limits are reached).
	International Research Outreach	For research outcomes generated through SPRING support, assistance is provided in drafting press releases via professional science writers and publishing them on EurekAlert!, a major global portal for academic news distribution.	△		※There are requirements regarding the journals and papers in which the work is published.	Accepted anytime (until budget limits are reached).

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C.Cultivating Global Perspective						
	Overseas Activity Program ※Students in Category 2 selected in AY 2027 or later are not eligible.					
1	Overseas Activity (Self-Designed)	SPRING students may conduct the Self-Designed Overseas Activity based on the "Overseas Activity Plan" submitted each year. Financial support for Overseas Activity Expenses (up to 500,000 yen) is available to carry out the activity.	○	（Overseas Activity Program）	※Students in "Category 2" selected in AY 2027 or later will not be eligible for Overseas Activity Expenses.	Optional（※individual planning required）
2	Doshisha Week at Univ. of Tübingen	Doshisha University has an international partnership with the University of Tübingen, one of Germany's leading comprehensive universities. Every year, SPRING students have an opportunity to participate in "DOSHISHA WEEK" (an international symposium co-hosted by both universities and a platform for research presentations and exchanges for young researchers.), held at the University of Tübingen.	○	（Overseas Activity Program）	※Selection-based (participation is not guaranteed).	Around December
3	On-site Group Work（ALA Course Group）	This industry-academia collaboration program aims to foster global awareness and an international perspective by visiting overseas locations facing global challenges and experiencing firsthand the difficult situations and problems confronting societies around the world.	○	（Overseas Activity Program）	※Selection-based (participation is not guaranteed).	Review the syllabus and other materials for the ALA course group.
4	Overseas Activity Report Session	SPRING students who have conducted Self-Designed Overseas Activities will present their outcomes and insights, reflect on their experiences, and offer guidance to help fellow students plan and execute their own activities.	● ※See additional information △ ※See additional information		※Presentation is mandatory for students who conducted Self-Designed Overseas Activities, while attendance as a general listener is optional. ※Reports on overseas activities other than Self-Designed Overseas Activities should adhere to the guidelines of their respective programs.	Schedule (Held across multiple sessions): ・Activities conducted in Spring Semester: October to November ・Activities conducted in Fall Semester: February to March
D. Developing Transferable Skills						
	Common Graduate Courses: Advanced Liberal Arts Course（ALA Course Group）					
1	Future Design Workshop	This course brings together students and working professionals from diverse backgrounds, including researchers, technicians, and local government officials, to learn and create collaboratively. It provides an opportunity to reflect on how their research, abilities, and individual strengths can contribute to society and shape the future, while clarifying the significance and direction of their own research.	●		※This course consists primarily of discussions in Japanese. If you have difficulty in participating in Japanese, please consult the SPRING Management Office.	Refer to the syllabus and related materials for the ALA course group. （FYI : past schedule） Kyotanabe：July, November-December Imadegawa：December-January Both are offered as intensive courses.
2	Capacity Development for Coexistence and Cooperative Works	Refer to the syllabus for details on the ALA Course Group.	△			Refer to the syllabus and related materials for the ALA course group.
3	Self-Awareness (Introduction to Coaching)	Refer to the syllabus for details on the ALA Course Group.	△			Same as above
4	Other （Next Environment Collaborative Creation/ /GRM/Science Communication/Comm 5.0-AI）	Refer to the syllabus for details on the ALA Course Group.	△			Same as above

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E.Career Support						
	Internship					
1	Domestic Internship	SPRING students are strongly encouraged to undertake internships through the dedicated platform of the Council for Promoting Job-Based Research Internships.	○	（Corporate Exchanges）	※Domestic internships are considered a form of corporate exchange.	Individual planning required.
2	Overseas Internship	Financial support for travel expenses and related costs is available for internships at overseas companies and research institutions.	○	（Overseas Activity Program）	※Overseas internships are classified under Career Support; however, completion of an overseas internship will be recognized as fulfilling the “Overseas Activity Program.”	Individual planning required. April–May: Review of the implementation plan
	Learning through Guidance and Role Models					
3	Doctoral Career Guidance	These gudances will deepen understanding of diverse career paths following completion of doctoral programs, including opportunities beyond academia. In the 'Diverse Career Paths' guidance, an interactive session will feature PhD role models active in humanities and science fields across academia, private industry, and public research institutions.	●		※This program is offered twice a year. Participation is mandatory at least once during the support period.	Part1 (Comprehensive): Around May–June Part 2 (Diverse Career Paths): Around December
4	Doctoral Career Café (Discussion session with role models)	PhD holders serving as role models from various sectors, including academia, industry, and government agencies, will be invited to share their experiences regarding student research activities, career development, career choices, and current research efforts. Unlike the Doctoral Career Guidance sessions, the Doctoral Career Café are held in a small group discussion format. This setting offers a more intimate and in-depth opportunity for SPRING students to hear personal stories and engage in open conversations, creating a comfortable atmosphere for asking questions that may be difficult to raise in larger settings. Guest speakers with diverse academic backgrounds and career paths will be invited to every session. SPRING students are expected to engage actively in order to connect with suitable role models.	● 【Annually】		※Attendance is required annually for at least one of the four sessions held each academic year.	Scheduled four times in total between June and February （around July, October, December, and January–February）
	Learning through Diverse Interactions					
5	SPRING Students Networking	Following the Orientation for New SPRING Students, a networking event will be held for project participants, including current SPRING students. The event aims to facilitate interaction among doctoral students from different graduate schools—who might otherwise have little opportunity to connect—enabling them to gain exposure to research in other fields, exchange information on career development, and build a professional network for mutual support and consultation.	●		※As this session is held immediately after the orientation for newly enrolled students, attendance is generally mandatory in the year of enrollment. Students unable to participate due to unavoidable circumstances must attend at least once during their support period.	Early April （Afternoon of April 6, 2027 (tentative)）
6	Doctoral Career Messe	In the 'Doctoral Career Messe' hosted by Kyoto Qualia Forum, students explore industry expectations for PhD graduates and build connections with corporate professionals, including PhD degree holders. The session fosters post-doctoral career planning by facilitating cross-institutional networking, information sharing, and dialogue on common career development challenges.	○	（Corporate Exchanges）	※The event is held annually in two parts. Participation in either Part 1 or Part 2 is required. ※As the Doctoral Career Messe centers on interaction with industry professionals, it is categorized as a 'Corporate Exchanges' activity (fulfilled by participating in either Part 1 or Part 2).	Part 1：Around July Part 2：Around November
	Comprehensive Career Support by Doctoral Career Coordinator					
7	Doctoral Career Counseling	SPRING students participate in individual consultations with doctoral career coordinators and University Research Administrators (URAs). During these sessions, students discuss their progress and concerns regarding program activities and career development, receiving tailored feedback aimed at supporting both personal growth and overall project goals.	● 【Annually】		※Twice a year (mandatory)	Spring Semester（mid-May to mid-July） Fall Semester（December–February）
8	Career Counseling	Doctoral career coordinator maintains regular office hours to provide guidance and support for SPRING students' individual concerns as they arise.	△		※Students are encouraged to utilize the doctoral career coordinator's office hours.	Anytime
9	1on 1 Meeting（LabBase Inc.）	ilizing the 1-on-1 meeting service from LabBase, SPRING students gain access to consultations with a diverse range of professional mentors.	△		※Due to budgetary constraints, usage is limited to once per year.	Any time (Confirmation of intent to utilize the service will be conducted in October.)
	Others					
10	Ph.D. Career Fair	This event offers SPRING students direct engagement with around 20 doctoral-recruiting companies (includes AIST). Through corporate presentations, individual booth consultations, and a networking reception, participants can explore organizational culture, business activities, and career paths suited for PhD graduates. Nine universities in Kyoto and Nara co-host the session in collaboration with Acaric Co., Ltd.	△			Around July
11	Entrepreneurship Program	Instructional materials from the University of Tokyo's 'Endowed Chair for Entrepreneurship Education Design' are provided to program participants.	△			Acceccible Any Time (on-demand)
12	Pre-FD Program for Future University Faculty	SPRING students are offered a Pre-Faculty Development (Pre-FD) course aimed at cultivating essential teaching competencies and foundational knowledge required for faculty roles in higher education.	△		※ Refer to the Institute for Advanced Research and Education webpage for details. https://next.doshisha.ac.jp/next/unique/pre-fd/index.html	Check the information provided by the Institute for Advanced Research and Education. （FYI）Offered from October to November in AY2026.

Note: The schedule is based on plans as of the time this document was prepared and is subject to change. As the dates approach, please check for notifications (emails) from the SPRING management office, which will provide specific scheduling details.

【Regarding the Student Categorization Framework】
・For students selected in AY2025 or earlier; the previous system applies; therefore, students are not classifed by category.
・For students selected in AY2026; transition to the new system in AY2027; their support will shift to either "Category 1" or "Category 2."
・For students selected from the AY2027 onwards; will be subject to the new system.