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Application Guidelines for  
“AY2025 Support Project for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation  
in Doshisha University Doctoral Course”  
(additional recruitment)

Note: If there are any contradictions between Japanese and English version of this document, then the Japanese version shall take precedence.

Doshisha University has started a new support project for students in doctoral and consistent doctoral courses in 2024.

The Project Students are expected to keep your passion on research and to become leaders of advanced science & technology, which will create innovation in future Japan ethically and conscientiously respect for individual dignity and human value.

Furthermore, Doshisha University emphasizes on interdisciplinary approach to the creation of science and technological innovation. The University also promotes education and research activities which focus on social issues such as diversity, multicultural coexistence, environment and so on. As the Project Students, we expect you to consider the relationship between such social issues and your own researches, and broaden the perspective of your career paths.

The Project Students are demanded to carry out overseas activities, such as overseas internships, studying abroad, international research exchanges, and international field researches, based on their own plans and proposals. The Project will provide financial support regarding the travel expenses and the other related expenses for the plans that have a high possibility of being implemented. In addition, you can get extra research expenses if you suggest a good proposal that seek to take on challenging and interdisciplinary research questions that will significantly advance your own research.

The Project Students are expected to be active not only in academic field but also in diverse career paths after completing the doctoral program, so, it is necessary to participate in various programs offered by the Project to acquire the skills to play a broad role in society.

The obligations as a project student and various programs offered by the Project are described in this application guideline, in addition, they are described in “Guide for the Candidates” on the webpage. You are required to read and understand these contents carefully before submitting the application form.

Students who are going to advance to the second or third year of the University's doctoral program in April 2025, or those who are going to be in the fourth or fifth year in the consistent doctoral course can apply.

Application period:

December 9 (Mon),2024 – 12:00:00PM (JPN time:noon) of January 7 (Tue), 2025

[Strict Deadline]

## 1. Purpose

The Support Project for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation in Doshisha University Doctoral Course (hereinafter “The Project”) aims to develop the students who equip with not only the ability to create the most advanced technology for the innovation for the future, but also who ethically and conscientiously respect for individual dignity and human value.

As a Principle of Doshisha University, the Project aims to develop highly specialized professionals who can create the new era by profunded learnings and outstanding practical abilities, and who can

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understand and corroborate with diverse people with different values, views and culture. Moreover, the Project aims to promote mutual understanding among the humanities, social sciences, and natural science in order to develop outstanding researchers who foresee future problems and find out the solutions with global perspectives.

## 2. Outline

In the Project, which is implemented as a selected program of “Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation” (SPRING) by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), the Project will offer the following support to the doctoral students who wish to conduct pioneering and interdisciplinary research independently.

- Research circumstances (see the item 6 “Financial support”) to concentrate on your research activities and enhance your research competence.
- Career development programs to secure your career paths.

## 3. Recruitment targets

The targets of the Project is to select the PhD students who go beyond their graduate schools, research units, or the other existing frameworks. The students need to be doctoral students who eagerly aim to pioneer the future by tackling social issues, developing new science, and practicing globally. The students from all graduate school and research fields are acceptable. The project students selected for this project are expected not only to improve their research skills, but also to systematically attend and practice the various programs offered by the Doshisha University to secure a career path, and to engage in independent career development.

## 4. Recruitment numbers

- Second-year students of the University's doctoral program or fourth-year students in the consistent doctoral course in 2025 : a small number of students
- Third-year students of the University's doctoral program or fifth-year students in the consistent doctoral course in 2025 : a small number of students

## 5. Support period

Up to the standard number of years required for graduation, i.e., a maximum of two consecutive years from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2027, or one year from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

\* Consecutive three years means that the first to third-grade of doctoral courses or third to fifth-grade of consistent doctoral courses. The duration of the support under this recruitment is the duration of the standard period minus the period already enrolled. Support duration of the students using the long-term course system cannot exceed the standard period.

## 6. Financial support

The following amount will be issued to each the Project Student during the period of adoption.

- Research incentive: 1,800,000 yen/year
- Research expenses : 400,000 yen/year

\*Research incentive is taxable as a miscellaneous income, so you will need to file your own tax return

\*Research incentive will be paid monthly (evenly divided amount of the above yearly amount) until

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the end of the adoption period.

\*Research expenses will be managed by Doshisha University.

\*Research expenses might be increased for competitive research funds or overseas activities.

## 7. Eligibility

Applicants need to meet the following requirements:

- (1) Students who enroll in a graduate doctoral program as of April 1, 2025, and fall into one of the following categories (including foreign nationals).

[Application Requirements for Second-Year Student Vacancies]

- ① Students must be enrolled in the equivalent of the second year of a doctoral course (12 months or more but less than 24 months in school).
- ② Students must be enrolled in the equivalent of the 4th year of a consistent doctoral course (36 months or more, but less than 48 months in school).

[Application Requirements for Third-Year Student Vacancies\*]

- ① Students must be enrolled in the equivalent of the third year of a doctoral course (24 months in school)
- ② Students must be enrolled in the equivalent of the 5th year of a consistent doctoral course (48 months in school).

\* It takes at least one year for SPRING-supported students to implement the “8. Obligations” therefore, students whose “5. Support period ” will be less than one year can not apply.

- (2) Students who have sufficient English skill to attend and participate in the various programs offered by the project.

※You are required to submit the official scores (copies) as an evidence of English proficiency. If you do not have the certificate, we recommend that you take the exam as soon as possible. If you do not meet the requirements, such as failure to submit certificates by the deadline or lack of English proficiency, you will not be considered as a candidate.

※The following students are exempted from submitting the official scores of English proficiency.

- International students from countries where English is the native language.
- Students who have graduated or completed higher education such as universities or graduate schools in English-speaking countries.

(If you are uncertain about your eligibility, you can ask in advance using the “18. Inquiries about open recruitment” form.

However, applicants who are in any of the following positions after April 1, 2025 are NOT eligible.

- (1) JSPS research fellows (funded by JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists).
- (2) The government-financed overseas students (funded by the National Scholarship System for International Students).
- (3) Overseas students who receives a scholarships or other financial supports from the home countries.
- (4) Recipient of scholarship, which imposes the engagement in the funded research full-time.
- (5) Those who earn more than 2,400,000 yen as salary, executive compensation, or other stable income from the institutions belonging to.

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(6) Those who do not correspond to the condition of the support target of the SPRING.

※To confirm the eligibility, the Project might ask for some certificates of income.

## 8. Obligations

The Project Students are have to accomplish all of the followings;

- (1) Observe Doshisha University Code of Research Ethics.
- (2) Comply with the regulations for the treatment of misconduct concerning research activities in Doshisha University.
- (3) Properly execute research incentive, etc., in accordance with the rules for the operation and management of Doshisha University's public research expenses.
- (4) Take Research Ethics Education Programs assigned by Doshisha University and JST.
- (5) Participate in career development programs, such as career development guidances, networking events with companies, etc., assigned by the program supervisor.
- (6) Take courses assigned by the program supervisor from career-creating systems of Advanced Liberal Arts (ALA) offered by the Institute for Advanced Research and Education.
- (7) Submit an overseas activity plan that will advance your research and lead you to develop as a researcher with the confirmation by your academic advisor.
- (8) Participate in events such as student networking events provided by the JST.
- (9) Respond to surveys conducted by the JST and Doshisha University.
- (10) Actively participate in academic conferences, and archive your academic papers submitted to journals and oral presentations provided at academic societies.
- (11) Submit the report of research activities to the program supervisor every academic year.
- (12) Register for the Japan Graduates Database (JGRAD) of the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP), MEXT.

In addition, you are required to make a research plan to significantly develop your own research for proper execution of (3) above, and submit a research plan sheet for the effective use of research funds at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Also, please refer to separate documents for programs and guidance on (5) and (6) above.

The Project Students have to do the following activities after the adoption period;

- (1) Respond to follow-up surveys conducted by the JST and Doshisha University after finishing your doctoral courses.
- (2) Occasionally update the information of JGRAD.

## 9. Combined payment with other scholarships

Combined payment with the following scholarships are accepted.

- (1) Doshisha University Graduate School Scholarships for Young Doctoral Students/Researchers
- (2) Doshisha University Graduate School Scholarships
- (3) Doshisha University Scholarships by Endowments
- (4) Doshisha University Graduate School of Brain Science Special Scholarship
- (5) Doshisha University Graduate School Reduced Tuition Special Scholarships for Self-Funded International Students
- (6) Doshisha University Reduced Tuition Scholarships for Self-Funded International Students
- (7) Doshisha University Merit Scholarships for Self-Funded International Students
- (8) Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Scholarships
- (9) Other benefit scholarships issued to pay for tuition

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10. Disqualifications

Project students will lose your eligibility if you no longer meet the requirements in “7. Eligibility” on the above and also in the following cases:

- (1) The Project Students take a leave of absence during the support period.
- (2) The Project students lose their student status at the University due to withdrawal from the University or other reasons.
- (3) The Project Students are punished for reprimand according to Doshisha University regulations regarding reprimand of students, or in similar occasions.
- (4) The Project Students are judged to have committed misconduct, according to Doshisha University's Regulations on Dealing with Misconduct in Research Activities.
- (5) The project Students are judged to be inappropriate as a student eligible for support by the SPRING Steering Committee, depending on their performance of the obligations of the project, etc.

11. Application Procedures

- (1) Application period: from Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
until 12:00:00 (JPN time:noon) of Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.  
[Strict Deadline]

(2) Application materials

- Application form (fill in the prescribed form of Microsoft Forms) 【See “15. Submission”.】
- Statement of Purpose and Research Plan (prescribed)

\*The body of the text should be written in the font size of 10.5 or larger.

What to fill in:

[Reasons for applying to the program]

This program aims to support pioneering and interdisciplinary research free from existing frameworks. Defining your vision of as a researcher you aim for, write concisely your reasons for applying to the project including how you take advantage of this project in realizing your vision.

[Plan of overseas activities]

To nurture the pioneering and independent spirit as a researcher, the Project ask the Project Students to suggest your plan of overseas activities in which to develop your research subject. Then explaining where your research is situated in international trends, write your plan to develop your research through international activities.

[Research plan]

- ① Your research progress history, the position of your research, overall circumstances of the research field, and your subject's background.
  - ② Objects, methods, and details of your research plan, including how to utilize the research expenses in order to develop the research.
  - ③ Characteristics and originalities of your research, including comparison with the prior research, expected impact brought by the completed research, future prospect, and so on.
  - ④ How to apply your research to solve social issues.
- Copy of official scores of English proficiency.
    - If it is an official score, it can be old.
    - If you meet the requirements for exemption indicated on “7. Eligibility-(2)”, you need to

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submit “Notification of Exemption from Submission of Certificate of English Proficiency”(prescribed).

• If you cannot submit a copy of the official certificate by the application deadline, you may submit a screen capture of your score displayed on the Internet. In this case, please submit a copy of the official certificate to the SPRING Management Office by e-mail (see “19.Contact”) as soon as you obtain it.

If you do not submit it by 9:00 a.m. on January 16 (Thu), you will not be considered as a candidate.

○Recommendation Letter (prescribed)

If you are selected as the Project Students, you will not only concentrate on your research, but also work on developing your career as a researcher (see “8. Obligations”). You are required to obtain the understanding of your academic advisor about the balancing both roles, and then to submit a letter of recommendation (autograph signed by the advisor) from him/her.

## 12. Selection criteria

- (1) Possessing capability and distinct vision as a researcher.
- (2) Concrete, valid, and promising research plan.
- (3) Career path plan (including overseas activities) as a researcher

## 13. Selection

The Project will select the Project Students by your application documents and interviews. Application documents will be initially screened. The interview will be provided to those who passed the application screening. The Project will inform the details of interview to those who are targeted to the interview by e-mail not later than 17:00, February 18<sup>th</sup> (Tue), 2025.

### 【Interview Schedule】

Date: February 25<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday), 2025, 9:00-17:00

Place: Imadegawa Campus (Face-to-face)

Duration of interview: 10 minutes/person (3min for presentation, 7min for Questions and Answers)

### 【The details of Interview】

- The Project will evaluate how you analyze yourself, and how you plan to develop yourself as a researcher from three point of views such as abilities to conduct research, expanding global views, and obtaining transferrable skills.
- Using the presentation material, you submitted in advance, you will provide three minutes presentation. Please note that even if you are in the middle of your presentation, you must finish at the 3-minute mark. Followed by questions and answers from the interviewers.
- The interviewers may not be a specialist in your research areas; therefore, we recommend you to prepare a presentation understandable for non-specialists of your field and kind way.
- If you fail to attend the interview, the interview points will not add to your evaluation. You must inform your absence to the SPRING office.

### 【Presentation Materials】

- The format is free but basically use the Power Point and include plans for ①abilities to

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conduct research, ②expanding global views, and③obtaining transferrable skills.

(Example)

- ① the researcher you aim for, and how you plan to be.
  - ② Visions and plans to become a globally active researcher.
  - ③ Beside research skills, what do you think is need and how you develop its abilities.
- The presentation file must be not exceeded 10MB. You need to submit the presentation file through the webform by 12:00 (JPN time:noon), February 21<sup>st</sup> (Fri), 2025. Whatever the reasons you have, we will not allow you to revise the presentation. You have to check it carefully before submitting.
  - You may not have enough time after the announcement of interview, therefore, we recommend you to start preparing the presentation as soon as possible.
  - If you fail to submit the presentation material by the deadline, your interview will not be counted.
  - We will send you an e-mail after receiving your presentation materials. If you do not receive any reply from the SPRING office, contact to the office (see “19.Contact”).

#### 14. Notification of selection

The selection result will be notified to the applicants on March 11<sup>th</sup> (Tue), 2025, via e-mail. Even if you are not selected as the Project Students, we will inform you your position among all the applicants. If you do not receive any mail by March 11<sup>th</sup> (Tue), 2025, contact to the SPRING office (19.Contact).

#### 15. Submission

Submission should be done by online application form through Microsoft Forms.

Fill out the prescribed form, and then upload and submit your PDF file of “Statement of Purpose and Research Plan”, “Recommendation Letter”, and “copy of official score that proves English proficiency”.

Applicants should log in with the e-mail address issued by the university.

\*The size of each PDF document should be less than 10MB.

\*Name the file as [“Name of the graduate school” \_ “applicant’s name”.pdf], [“Name of the graduate school” \_ “applicant’s name”.reco.pdf]

e.g., Theology\_ Dwight Whitney Learned.pdf/ Tecnology\_ Dwight Whitney Learned. reco.pdf

URL to the application form⇒<https://forms.office.com/r/X5z27BWvZe>

(It is also accessible via QR code.)



\* Please get in touch with the SPRING office (19. Contact) if you don’t have the user ID of Doshisha University. The secretariat will guide you through the procedure. If you wish to apply, please contact us early enough to meet the deadline.

#### 16. Detailed explanation document of the program and Application Forms, etc.

Please check the following URL.

[https://kikou.doshisha.ac.jp/inside/wakate/spring/spring\\_members.html](https://kikou.doshisha.ac.jp/inside/wakate/spring/spring_members.html)

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## 17. Briefing Session for Application

Date : Thursday, December 12, 2024, 12:30-13:00 @ Online

- Message from the Program Supervisor
- Project Outline
- Program Content / Annual Schedule
- Recruitment (New/Vacancies)
- Screening Method
- Application Form

If you would like to attend the Session, please register using the form below. We will contact you later with a connection link.

Application Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/XcXNFsmRir>



(Deadline: Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m., Japan time)

(It is also accessible via QR code.)

If you are unable to attend, you will be able to view a recording of the briefing that will be distributed at a later date (Distribution Schedule: Around December 13<sup>th</sup>).

The distribution will be posted on the following page

([https://rd.doshisha.ac.jp/rd/inside/wakate/sprig/spring\\_members.html](https://rd.doshisha.ac.jp/rd/inside/wakate/sprig/spring_members.html))

There will be no Q&A session at the briefing. If you have any questions about the application guidelines, etc., please contact us using the inquiry form in the next section.

## 18. Inquiries about open recruitment

You can contact us only through the question form below. No phone calls or e-mails to the SPRING Management Office are allowed.

Question Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/7ykBWjEEwP>

Period for accepting questions: until Monday, December 23, 12:00 (JPN time:noon)

We will respond through the University's Webdisk (shared disk) by Thursday December 26. We will not respond to individuals, so please check the latest files on Webdisk from time to time after Thursday, December 12.

※URL of Webdisk (shared disk) :

<https://webdisk.doshisha.ac.jp/public/bKpKgM8NsEAJFWYWKRYIDf81dpyL0lYwXOFFh167Y8y1>

Please note that from the fairness perspective, your questions and the answers will, in principle, be made public.

## 19. Contact

Department of Research Planning, Organization for Research Initiatives and Development  
2F, Rohm building, Kyotanabe Campus

E-mail: [dfs-spring@mail.doshisha.ac.jp](mailto:dfs-spring@mail.doshisha.ac.jp)



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## 20. Others

Selected as a Project Student, your name, research field, and so on will be released to the public. You are also expected to actively cooperate in the publicity of research achievements and activity progress.

### 【Information】

AY 2025 “Support Project for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation in Doshisha University Doctoral Course” Selection Schedule

Dec 9, (Mon), 2024 — 12:00:00PM of Jan 7 (Tue), 2025	Application period
Jan17 (Fri), 2025 — Feb13 (Thu), 2025	Document Screening
Feb25 (Tue), 2025	Interview
Mar11(Tue), 2025	Notification of the results

#### ~Message from the Project Supervisor~

This project supports doctoral students who will play a key role in the future of science, technology, and innovation. The challenges facing modern society are all complex and cannot be solved within the confines of a single field of expertise. There is a need for individuals who not only possess specialized knowledge but also have the ability to take a broad perspective on societal issues. Under this project, you will develop the skills necessary to tackle such challenges. The founder of Doshisha, Joseph Hardy Neesima, wrote the following Chinese poem:

真理似寒梅敢侵風雪開

(Truth is like a plum in the cold, it dares to bloom, braving storms and snows.)

Neesima speaks of truth as a force to challenge the trends of society and the times. At the age of 21, he crossed the seas and challenged the world. Doshisha continues to inherit this spirit of challenge. I hope that you will become seekers of truth who take on the challenges of the next generation.

Doshisha 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The future ahead rests on your shoulders.

Open the door to truth and pave a new path!



KOHARA Katsuhiko  
Project Supervisor  
Support Project for Pioneering  
Research Initiated by the Next  
Generation in Doshisha  
University Doctoral Course