

FAQ

Application Requirements

Q. I am planning to enter a doctoral course in Fall 2025. Can I apply this time? Are there any plans for future?

A. Applicants who will enroll the doctoral program in Fall 2025 should apply in Fall 2025.

The application period and qualification will be announced later.

The followings are eligible applicants for Spring 2025:

- Those who enrolled in the 1st year of the doctoral program or in the 3rd year of the 5-year doctoral program at the University as of April 1, 2025, including those who are scheduled to enroll in April 2025.
- As of April 1, 2025, among those who enrolled in April 2024 and will be in the 2nd year of the doctoral program or in the 4th year of the 5-year doctoral program, those who were previously ineligible to apply due to reasons such as leave of absence.

Q. Can I reapply this time if I were rejected in Fall 2024?

A. Yes, if you are 1st year of the doctoral program at Waseda or 3rd year of a 5 year doctoral program as of April 1st, 2025.

Q. I am employed as an RA/TA and receive a salary of 1.5 million yen per year. Can I apply for this program?

A. Yes, as long as your income from paid internships, TA, RA, and part-time jobs are not considered "stable income" and do not interfere with your participation in this program.

Q. I am employed as a full-time employee and earn 2.4 million yen or more per year from my employer. Can I apply for this program?

A. Fixed income such as salary as a full-time employee, remuneration as a director of a venture company, and salary as a part-time lecturer are included in "stable income".

If you fit the above requirements at the time of application, but plan to resign after being selected, please contact us individually as your application may be approved.

Q. The income requirement is 2.4 million yen or more per year, but does it refer to the amount of income before or after withholding tax?

A. It is the amount of income before withholding tax.

Q. Is the amount equivalent to living expenses under this program included in the stable income requirement?

A. No, it is not included in the stable income. In fiscal law, "a sum to cover living expenses" is considered "miscellaneous income," which means that it is subject to income and residence taxation, so it needs to be declared annually. Since it also affects health insurance, dependent support, make sure to discuss this with your financial supporters such as your parents before applying for W-SPRING.

Q. I am receiving a scholarship from an institution outside the university. Is it possible to apply for this program?

A. You can apply for this program if the institution outside the university allows you to receive the scholarship together with this program. However, depending on the scholarship, if you are selected for this program, you may be asked to cancel your scholarship or refund the scholarship money you have already received.

Q. I am a recipient of an internal scholarship. Is it possible to apply for this program?

A. Depending on the scholarship, you may be asked to cancel your scholarship or refund your scholarship when you are selected for this program. Therefore, please confirm the conditions of your scholarship with the Scholarship Section in advance.

Q. I am receiving a scholarship from JASSO. Is it possible to apply for this program?

A. It is not possible to receive a scholarship (benefit type) from Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) in addition to W-SPRING support. It is possible to receive a scholarship (loan type) from JASSO in addition to W-SPRING support. However, for category 1 scholarship loan from JASSO recipients since AY2023, who also receive W-SPRING support, are not eligible for recommendation as "candidates for exemption from repayment based on outstanding achievement" in the doctoral program.

Q. If I am an international student and cannot come to Japan, when can I start receiving the research scholarship?

A. You are eligible to receive the scholarship from the month you arrive in Japan.

Q. I am planning to applying for a “Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) special researcher” in AY 2026. Can I apply for W-SPRING this time?

A. Yes, but if you are selected as the “Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) special researcher”, your W-SPRING support period will end on March 31st, 2026

Q. I plan to study abroad during the adoption period of W-SPRING program. What happens to the incentives while I am abroad?

A. While your student status is “During overseas abroad”, your incentives will be suspended. Your incentives will be restarted after your student status are switched to “Attendance at school”. Please contact us regarding the support period as it depends on the decision of JST.

Application Documents

Q. Are there any restrictions on the fields of study that I can apply for?

A. There are no restrictions on the fields of application depending on your major. Please check the eligibility requirements in the application guideline and apply to the field that matches your research theme.

Q. Is it possible to apply in English?

A. Yes, you can. If you submit your application documents in English, the interview screening will also be conducted in English in principle.

Q. I noticed an error in my application form. Can I resubmit it?

A. No. Once an application is submitted, no changes can be made. Please check the documents carefully before submitting them.

Q. Are there any color specifications for text and figures to be included in the application?

A. Although there are no specific requirements, the text should be written in black color.