

Waseda University Open Innovation Ecosystem

Program for Pioneering Research

(W-SPRING)

【Reserved Hiring】 Application Guidelines

(For April 2026 D1 entrants)

【Eligible Applicants】

Those who are currently enrolled as full-time graduate students at Waseda University as of April 1, 2025, and are scheduled to enroll in the first year of the doctoral program or the third year of the 5-year doctoral program at Waseda University in April 2026.

Note: For more details, see "Application Eligibility". Please note that if any discrepancies are found in the application form or pre-registration form (e.g., the stated academic year or enrollment period differs from the actual one), the support may be retroactively canceled.

Note: If appointed through the reserved hiring system, the formal appointment (and commencement of support) will be made upon enrollment in the first year of the doctoral program or the third year of the 5-year doctoral program on April 2026. However, the reserved hiring will be revoked if the applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria for support at the time of the formal appointment.

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1. Aims and Outline

Waseda University (hereinafter, "the University") aims to foster PhD students who have a perspective on both social implementation and academia and has knowledge in and outside their areas of specialization and human networks. Our aim is also to ensure diverse career paths for our PhD students.

The "Pioneering Research Program for a Waseda Open Innovation Ecosystem" (hereinafter, "W-SPRING") provides an environment so that students can dedicate themselves to independent, pioneering, and interdisciplinary research. This will be possible through financial support of both living and research expenses (for up to three years) to excellent and ambitious PhD students who are the future of Japan's science, technology, and innovation. All in all, W-SPRING offers talented PhD student's opportunities to acquire training that will prepare them for industry and other sectors through various forms of support, including career development and training contents (cultivating international and inter-disciplinary character, career development, learning transferrable skills, internships, etc.).

We hope the students who receive W-SPRING to become very active in industry and eventually contribute to developing the University into a world-class research university and strengthen Japanese industrial competitiveness.

Moreover, W-SPRING is managed by the "Committee of the Pioneering Research Program for Waseda Open Innovation Ecosystem" (W-SPRING Committee) that is part of the University's Research Enhancement Head Office, with the support of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (hereinafter, "JST") and the "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next-Generation (SPRING)". While the number of support amount and the duration provided by JST to the University are guaranteed until FY2026, the subsequent support for FY2027 and beyond is premised on the assumption that the University's request to JST for the number of support amount and the period will be granted.

2. Application Eligibility

Applicants are required to be motivated to **participate in career development and training contents offered by W-SPRING, and to have a desire to contribute to industry or implement their own research or ideas through society (incl. entrepreneurship).** In addition to this, applicants must meet the following criteria (1) to (4) and (7) to (8) as well as either (5) or (6).

- (1) Those who currently enrolled as full-time graduate students in the University's master's, professional degree, or 5-year doctoral program as of April 1, 2025, and who are scheduled to advance to the first year of the University's doctoral program or the third year of 5-year doctoral program on April 1, 2026.

* Applications are also accepted from those who plan to enroll in the first year of University's doctoral program on April 1, 2026, utilizing our "5-year Bachelor's and Master's Degree Program" or early completion of the master's program offered by each undergraduate school and graduate school.

The following explains the relationship between D1, D2 and D3 as described in this Application Guidelines and each academic year of the doctoral and 5-year doctoral programs.

	Doctoral program	5-year doctoral program
D1	Year 1	Year 3
D2	Year 2	Year 4
D3	Year 3	Year 5

- (2) Applicants are invited from individuals whose research theme aligns with one of the following four cross-disciplinary areas and who intend to contribute to that area. Applicants may only apply to one area. It is not possible to apply to multiple areas.

	Areas	Examples of chief research themes
1	Green Innovation	Planetary boundary, climate change, carbon neutrality, social de-carbonization, smart grid, next-generation solar batteries, solid-state battery, next rechargeable battery, carbon recycling, hydrogen society, energy carrier, material innovation, zero-carbon city, zero emission houses/buildings, etc.
2	Life Innovation	COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, population decline and society aging, health and medical strategy, online healthcare and nursing, health economics, precision medicine, genome editing, well-being, 100-year lifespan, social participation lifespan, innovation strategies for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, ocean basic plan, regulatory science, alternative protein, planetary health, etc.
3	Digital Innovation	Digitization, DX, ultra low power consumption calculation, merging cyber and physical spaces, social transformation through robots, AI and information, quantum computing, beyond 5G, data-driven research, smart labs, digital twin, smart cities and super cities, etc.

4	Social Innovation	Cities and community building, multicultural society design, strategic revival of urban agriculture, resilient society, resilience, safety and peace of mind, security, SDGs, circular economy, resource circulation, social transformation through multi-disciplinary knowledge, ELSI, innovation ecosystems, nature positive, etc.
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- (3) Applicants must be recommended by their current PhD supervisor based on the requirements of this program.
- (4) Applicants must have completed research ethics training (APRIN e-learning program (eAPRIN) "Responsible Research Activities") or must complete it before the commencement of research expenses.
Note: Details of how to take the program will be announced after the adoption.
- (5) Applicants must be Japanese citizenship, special permanent residence, status of residence according to Appended Table II of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, such as permanent resident, long-term resident, spouse or child of Japanese (permanent resident).
- (6) Applicants must be qualified to study in Japan as an "international student" and be a privately funded and formally enrolled in a program.
- (7) Those who were not adopted for the W-SPRING-AI Reserved Hiring System starting support from April 2026.
- (8) Applicants for the Graduate Minor Program for Carbon Neutrality (hereinafter the "CN Minor Program") under recommendation must meet the following requirements at the time of application.
 - For the following courses, applicants must be enrolled in that course.
 - Nano-energy Course
 - Resources and Environment Course
 - ICT and Robotics Course
 - Mathematical and Physical Sciences Course
 In addition, applicants must be willing to pass the Qualifying Examination (QE) or an equivalent interim examination upon completion of their master's program.
 - For the following courses, applicants must have completed all the introductory courses specified for each course (Introduction to Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences for a Carbon-Neutral Society) and at least one Entrepreneurship exercises alpha course.
 - Life Science Course
 - International Relations Course
 - Economics and Management Course
 - Humanities and Interdisciplinary Course
 - Public Policy Course
 In addition, applicants who intend to complete the first semester of the CN Minor Program upon completion of the master's program.

Those who have been accepted by reserved hiring system will be formally accepted (and support will commence) on April 1, 2026, upon enrollment in the doctoral program. However, reserved hiring acceptance and subsequent support will be revoked for those who meet any of the following criteria after formal appointment.

- Students who were unable to advance to the first year of a doctoral program or the third year of a 5-year doctoral program in April 2026.
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellowship for Young Scientists
- Research Associate, Research Associate for a research project
- W-SPRING-AI students.
- Students adopted through the CN Minor Program recommendation who will not pass the QE (or an equivalent interim examination) or were unable to complete the first term of the CN Minor Program.
- Students who are recognized as receiving a *stable income such as salary, director's remuneration from their university or company, at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (2.4 million yen per year).
 - * "Stable income" refers to fixed income such as salary as a full-time employee, remuneration as a director of a venture company, or salary as a part-time lecturer. Income from paid internships, TAs, RAs and part-time jobs, as well as support in the form of research funds, are not included in "stable income".
- International students who are receiving support through the Japanese Government Scholarship Program, including JICA Scholars, or who are receiving financial support such as scholarships from their home country.

Students who are receiving or are scheduled to receive scholarships may also apply for W-SPRING. However, depending on the terms of scholarships they receive at entering doctoral program, there is a possibility that they may be asked to cancel or refund the scholarship they have already received if they are selected for W-SPRING.

(Note 1) Students who are currently receiving or are scheduled to receive scholarships from private organizations, local governments are encouraged to confirm the conditions with the organization in advance.

(Note 2) 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.

(Note 3) If you plan to apply for the "Scholarship for Fostering Researchers in Doctoral Programs (Internal Scholarship)", please read thoroughly the application guidelines, such as income restriction.

The application website: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/scholarship/en/doctoral/>

3. Number of Positions and Support Duration

Status when the support starts		Number of Positions(*2)	Support Duration (maximum) (*3)
Academic Year	Enrollment Period(*1)		
D1	0.0 year (Enrolled in April 2026)	① CN Minor Recommendation: Approximately 15 students	From April 1, 2026 To March 31, 2029
		② General Application: Approximately 10 students	

*1 The enrollment period in brackets above applies to a student who has not taken a leave of absence since commencing the doctoral program. If you have questions about how leaves of absence, study abroad, or other factors may affect your enrollment period after enrolling in a doctoral program, please contact us listed in "13. Contact".

*2 Recruitment will be conducted in two categories: ① the CN Minor Recommendation, which is linked to the CN Minor Program launched in the 2024 as an interdisciplinary minor program for graduate students, and ② the General Application.

*3 If the student has a period of non-enrollment due to a leave of absence after commencement of support, support will be suspended during that period. However, the support period will not be extended due to the suspension of support.

The support duration end at the conclusion of the standard D3 program. However, if you are employed as JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, an assistant at the University, or otherwise do not meet the criteria for W-SPRING support, the support will be canceled.

As the JST will review the University's situation annually, there may be changes in the support duration or the amount in FY2027 and beyond.

4. Research Incentives

The research incentives (living expenses*¹, research expenses*²) will be one of the following depending on the evaluation results of document review and interview.

Evaluation results	Research Incentives
S grade	2.9 million yen a year (living expenses 2.4 million yen + research expenses 0.5 million yen)
A grade	2.7 million yen a year (living expenses 2.2 million yen + research expenses 0.5 million yen)

*1 In fiscal law, "living expenses" is considered "miscellaneous income", meaning that it is subject to income and residence taxation and must be declared annually. Moreover, as living expenses also affects health insurance, dependent support, and others, make sure to discuss this with supporters (parents, etc.) before applying.

*2 "Research expenses" are considered public research funds and therefore generally fall under scientific research assistance projects for the purposes of the University procedures. For specific procedures, adhere to the "Research Expenses Execution Manual." However, the use of expenses may be defined separately for W-SPRING.

○Research Expenses Execution Manual

<https://waseda-research-portal.jp/how-to-use/research-expenses-execution/>

(1) Support duration and payout amounts

The following outlines the support duration and payout amount for successful applicants (S grade, A grade). The support duration may also be shortened if support is suspended.

International students who are unable to come to Japan at the start of the support and are engaged in educational or research activities outside of Japan are not eligible to receive the research incentives during the period prior to their arrival in Japan. Upon arrival in Japan, they will be eligible to receive research incentives (living expenses) based on the duration of their stay in Japan, provided that the W-SPRING support is continued. While the research incentives (research expenses) is provided in full as stipulated, but the amount may be reduced depending on the time of arrival date in Japan.

[S grade]

(Start of Support)	Type of Incentives	2026		2027		2028	
		Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall
D1	0.0 year	Living expenses		2.4 million yen		2.4 million yen	
		Research expenses		0.5 million yen		0.5 million yen	

[A grade]

(Start of Support)	Type of Incentives	2026		2027		2028	
		Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall
D1	0.0 year	Living expenses		2.2 million yen		2.2 million yen	
		Research expenses		0.5 million yen		0.5 million yen	

(2) Payout times for incentives (living expenses, research expenses)

Living expenses	Payment made monthly to the student's personal bank account with the University. Only Japanese bank account are acceptable. S grade: 0.2 million yen/month A grade: 0.185 million yen/month for April and October, 0.183 million yen/month for all other months.
Research expenses	A lump sum of payment of 0.5 million yen per year.

5. Obligations

(1) **Registering the Cooperative Education through Research Internships system**

*The Cooperative Education through Research Internships is a long-term, paid, job-based internship carried out by companies and universities in collaboration. **Registration in a dedicated system is required**, and once registered, students will be able to view the company's job description (job content, required knowledge and abilities, etc.), but applying to the job description is optional.

*Overview of job-type internship

① [Cooperative Education through Research Internships system](#)

② [Cooperative Education through Research Internships Information session for Waseda University](#)

*For details on internships, see "9. Participating in Internships".

- (2) To complete required credits in Career Development and Training Programs designated in W-SPRING.
- (3) In addition to the above, they participate in a program that Cultivates International Character.
- (4) They are strongly recommended to participate in a corporate internship.
- (5) They write and submit a "Program Progress Report" in a specified format at the end of every academic year. D3 students will make a presentation in the final semester of their support.
- (6) Upon completing their PhD, they shall pursue research aimed at fostering industrial innovation.
- (7) If requested by the University, they shall assist the program's PR and research activities as much as possible.
- (8) They shall answer various surveys after the end of W-SPRING. W-SPRING is conducted with the support of the JST's "Program for Pioneering Research by Next-Generation Researchers," so we may survey participants' employment for approximately 10 years after the end of the program.
- (9) After attending and passing the research ethics training (eAPRIN) designated by this program, the research funds must not be used in research malpractice.
- (10) As the research expenses are for the students to conduct independent research, they need to agree to documents that concern the handling of intellectual property, etc.
- (11) There may also be other items stipulated by the University as needed.
- (12) It is recommended to apply for JSPS Research Fellowship (DC2) for 2027. If you are selected as a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow, you will not be eligible for W-SPRING support, and it is recommended that you work as a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow.

* If you are selected as a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, you will not be able to take any post during the period (e.g., being an officer of a company, organization, or running one's own commercial enterprise, with or without compensation). Please note that if you are considering starting a business.

* The obligations mentioned above apply after the formal appointment (commencing on April 1, 2026). During the reserved hiring period (from the decision of reserved hiring until March 31, 2026, while enrolled in the master's program at this university), there are no restrictions.

* However, we strongly encourage you to apply for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists in FY2026 during your reserved hiring period. Furthermore, if you are selected for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists program in FY2026, you will no longer be eligible for support under this reserved hiring system.

6. Suspension and Repayment of Support

Research incentives and other support will be suspended if any of the following apply. Reserved hiring will be revoked for those who meet any of the following (1), (2), (3), (4), (7) or (9) during reserved hiring.

- (1) You are no longer enrolled at the University due to expulsion, etc.
- (2) You are not enrolled at the University for a period of time due to taking a leave of absence. (The support is suspended for the duration of the leave of absence.)
- (3) You are suspended from school as a disciplinary measure.
- (4) You committed research fraud or misused research expenses, etc.
- (5) You were deemed to neglect your obligations after registering with W-SPRING.
- (6) Your progress is deemed to be considerably insufficient at the end-of-year review of your "program progress report".
- (7) You do not meet the eligibility criteria for application, or you become ineligible after selection.
- (8) When an international student is unable to come to Japan and is conducting educational or research activities outside of Japan. However, this excludes the case where the student is conducting activities overseas based on participation in a program to cultivate internationalism imposed by W-SPRING.
- (9) You are found to be unsuitable for W-SPRING, aside from (1) to (8) above.

If you have received research incentives despite not being eligible due to causes for support suspension or cancellation, including deletion of your school register due to unpaid tuition fee, you need to repay these incentives to the University.

7. Taking Courses in Programs for Career Development and Training

(1) Policy

In addition to research skills, the following three competencies are necessary for PhD to pursue diverse career paths in the future:

- ① Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills
- ② Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues
- ③ Practical English proficiency

In particular, developing entrepreneurship leads to enhancing ambition and the will to take on difficult tasks, an enterprising spirit to forge a path where there is none, inclusivity for team building, and the skills to convey your own ideas to procure funds. We believe this is necessary when not only entrepreneurs and businesspeople but also researchers create new multi-disciplinary fields as well as engage in research that contributes to solving social issues. It is mandatory to take courses designated by the University to develop these competencies and a total of 9 credits should be obtained over three years.

However, students do not have to take some courses depending on their period of enrollment.

(2) Conditions (Reference: FY2025)

The required courses and credits for the FY2025 are as listed in the table below (e.g., in the case of [A], 9 credits are required during the support period). However, for students who are selected with the Reserved Hiring System, the details will be notified again before the start of the formal appointment (commencement of support).

[A] Standard doctoral program

Competencies	Required Credits	Remarks
① Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills	5 credits	Select courses from the "Business Creation Course" (for graduate students) and "Entrepreneurship exercises alpha" offered by the Global Education Center. For details, see (4) AY2025 Course List ①.
② Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues*	2 credits	Select the "Data science certification system courses" either an intermediate or advanced offered by the Global Education Center. For details, see (4) AY2025 Course List ②.
③ Practical English proficiency	2 credits	Select courses from (4) AY2025 Course List ③ Practical English proficiency courses.
Credits needed to pass	9 credits	

[B] 5-year doctoral program (Students in School of Advanced Science and Engineering)

Competencies	Required Credits	Remarks
①Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills	5 credits	Select courses from the "Business Creation Course" (for graduate students) and "Entrepreneurship exercises alpha" offered by the Global Education Center. For details, see (4) AY2025 Course List ①.
②Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues*	2 credits	<ALL students> Select the "Data science certification system courses" either an intermediate or advanced offered by the Global Education Center. For details, see (4) AY2025 Course List ②.
③Practical English proficiency	Exempt	-
Credits needed to pass	7 credits	

- *1. For "②Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues", the designated courses of the "Data science certification system courses" are intermediate-level courses that require basic knowledge on statistics and data science. Students who wish to learn the basics of statistics and data science should make use of the following support services offered by the Data Science Center and make a study plan.

[Support from the Data Science Center]

- Using self-learning on-demand contents
Registration will allow you to freely view contents on statistics and data science and learn the basics at your own pace (note that no credits can be obtained from viewing self-learning on-demand contents).
<URL> <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cds/education/d-data>
- Consultation about taking data science
You can have an online consultation about how you should study statistics and data science.
<URL> https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cds/forms#anc_4
- Consultation about data science research
You can have an online consultation about using statistics and data science in your own research.
<URL> https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cds/forms#anc_7
- Reference: Data science certification system
The University's original certification system established in AY2022.
<URL> <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cds/education/accreditation>

However, if both [A] and [B] meet any of the following conditions, the stated requirements shall be applied.

a. Students in Graduate Program for Power Energy Professionals (PEP)

Competencies	Required Credits	Remarks
①Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills	2 credits	Select courses from the "Business Creation Course" (for graduate students) and "Entrepreneurship exercises alpha" offered by the Global Education Center. For details, see (4) AY2025 Course List ①.
②Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues*	Exempt	-
③Practical English proficiency	Exempt	-
Credits needed to pass	2 credits	

b. Graduate Program for Embodiment Informatics

Competencies	Required Credits	Remarks
①Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills	3 credits	Select courses from the "Business Creation Course" (for graduate students) and "Entrepreneurship exercises alpha" offered by the Global Education Center. For details, see (4) AY2025 Course List ①.
②Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues*	Exempt	-
③Practical English proficiency	2 credits	Select courses from (4) AY2025 Course List ③ Practical English proficiency courses.
Credits needed to pass	5 credits	

- c. Students who take “Graduate Minor Program for Carbon Neutrality (Life, International relations, Economics/Management, Humanities/Interdisciplinary, Public policy course)” in graduated school

Competencies	Required Credits	Remarks
①Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills	Exempt	-
②Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues*	Exempt	-
③Practical English proficiency	2 credits	Select courses from (4) AY2025 Course List ③ Practical English proficiency courses.
Credits needed to pass	2 credits	

* Student who is expected to complete the CN Minor Program during their master program and who intends to continue with the CN Minor Program's coursework during their doctoral program will be considered a student enrolled in the CN Minor Program.

* Those who are selected through the Reserved Hiring System (the CN recommendation) may be required to return the research incentive received if they fail to complete the CN Minor Program requirements by the end of the support period, excluding completion of the doctoral program.

(3) Credit exemptions

If you have already taken the courses designated before applying to W-SPRING

<All students>

You do not have to retake them but are only required to take the courses you have not taken yet. However, similar courses taken outside the University will not be counted as part of credit exemptions.

*e.g.: If a D1 student accepted for AY2025 has already taken 2 credits of intermediate or higher "Data science certification system courses" in D1 or during their master's, the credits required for the "Career development and training program" is a total of 7 credits: 5 credits of courses related to entrepreneurship and communication and presentation skills as well as 2 credits of courses related to practical English proficiency.

①Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills & ②Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues

<All students>

As explained in “9. Participating in internships” if you participate in an internship, you will be exempt from taking 2 credits in “Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills” OR “Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues.”

① Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills

<All students>

For PhD students to polish their research proposal skills, they are recommended to also apply to the social implementation-type public research projects a or b below, which PhD students can apply

to. If you are selected either of the research projects, you are exempted from all courses related to entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills.

[The public research projects]

- a. JST "Strategic basic research programs" (ACT-X)
- b. New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) "Government and private project for discovering and supporting young researchers"

Further, for the "Strategic basic research programs" and the "Government and private project for discovering and supporting young researchers," URA belonging to the University's Research Innovation Center (RIC) instruct students about how to write proposals and make presentations.

Participation in the "Design Thinking Workshop by Stanford University d.school Instructors" held annually (2 days, 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. each day, language: English) will be exempted from the equivalent of 2 credits. The W-SPRING Secretariat will announce the details of this program and the application for participation separately.

(Reference) Details of this program in FY2024

<https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/topics/611>

<Students in Power Energy Professionals (PEP) Program>

Students who have taken the following course can waive 2 credits from "Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills".

"Marketing and Social Value Creation" (2 credits)

<5-year doctoral program, Students in the School of Advanced Science and Engineering>

Students who have taken the following course can waive 1 credit from "Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills".

"Leadership development program" (1 credit)

- ② Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues

<5-year doctoral program, Students in the School of Advanced Science and Engineering>

Students who have taken the following course can waive a maximum of 2 credits from Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues

"Material informatics α" (1 credit), "Material informatics β" (1 credit),

- ③ Practical English proficiency

<All students>

Although expected to take courses with quantitative discussions in English, students who fulfill the conditions below are fully exempted from taking courses related to practical English proficiency by going through the prescribed procedure. These courses are not simply courses for learning English as a language, so even if you are a native English speaker, you are not exempt from taking them.

- TOEIC score 800 or higher
- TOEFL iBT score 79 or higher
- IELTS Academic score 6.5 or higher

<Students in Fundamental, Creative and Advanced Science and Engineering

Students who have earned credits for the following courses in the master's course will be exempted from the credits earned after completing the prescribed procedures.

- Professional Communication 2
- Workplace English 2
- Advanced Technical Reading and Writing 2
- Advanced Technical Presentation 2

<5-year doctoral program, Students in the School of Advanced Science and Engineering>

Students who have earned credits for the following courses will be exempted from the credits earned after completing the prescribed procedures.

- Discussion Tutorial English in Science and Engineering 1
- Discussion Tutorial English in Science and Engineering 2

(4) AY2025 Course List

*The list is as of January 1, 2025. Subject to change in the future.

- See the course registration guide for more about the Global Education Center courses.

URL: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/gec/graduate/registration/>

Please note that the course name may be different as they are translated from Japanese.

① -1: Global Education Center: Business creation courses

Course Group	Course Name	Credit
Stage1. Raise awareness	Top Leader Management A	1
	Start-up Essential B	1
	Data Business Creation alpha	1
	Advanced Course on Entrepreneurship D ※	1
	Coaching Yourself to be an Entrepreneur (Basic)	1
	Developing and Managing Global Venture Enterprises (Chair Course by Okawa Dream Foundation) ※※	2
Stage2. Idea generation	Business Idea Design	2
	Innovation Creation Thinking 1	1
	Innovation Creation Thinking 2	1
	Business Idea Creation	1
	Data Business Creation beta	2
	Design Thinking 1	1
	Design Thinking 2※	1
Stage3. Business Model Hypothesis verification	Business Model Design ※※※	2
	Business Model Hypothesis Testing (Essential)	2
Stage4. Business Model Hypothesis verification (Premium)	Business Model Hypothesis Testing (Premium)	4
Industry-academia collaboration course	Innovation Leadership	2
	Innovation for Industry and Career Design	1
	Logical Communication	2
	Global Business Communication Fundamental	1
	CSR Management	2
	Introduction to Innovation alpha	1

	Introduction to Innovation beta	1
	Innovation and Technology Start-Up alpha	1
	Innovation and Technology Fundamentals β ※	1
	Innovation and Technology Practice alpha	1
	Innovation and Technology Practice β ※	1
	AI Business Creation alpha *not offered in FY2025	1
	AI Business Creation β ※ *not offered in FY2025	1
	Artificial Intelligence and Business Model Creation alpha	1
	Business Model Creation with AI Technologies β ※	1

※ Courses offered in English

※※ Students who enrolled in School of Fundamental /Creative /Advanced Science and Engineering take courses from the graduate school which they belong, students other than that take courses from the Business school

※※※ Class location is “Graduate School of Commerce”.

① -2: Global Education Center: Entrepreneurship exercises alpha

Course Name	Credit
Entrepreneurship exercises alpha 01	1
Entrepreneurship exercises alpha 02	1
Entrepreneurship exercises alpha 03	1

② Global Education Center courses: Data science certification system courses *Pick out intermediate-level subjects:

Course Name	Credit
Data Science on Regression and Classification 01	1
Data Science on Regression and Classification 02	1
Data Science on Regression and Classification 03	1
Data Science on Regression and Classification 04	1
Data Science on Time Series 01	1
Data Science on Time Series 02	1
Data Science on Time Series 03	1
Data Science on Time Series 04	1
Data Science on Latent Structure 01	1
Data Science on Latent Structure 02	1
Data Science on Latent Structure 03	1
Data Science on Latent Structure 04	1
Data Science on Spatial Structure 01	1
Data Science on Spatial Structure 02	1
Data Science on Spatial Structure 03	1
Data Science on Spatial Structure 04	1
Data Science on Causal Structure 01	1
Data Science on Causal Structure 02	1
Data Science on Causal Structure 03	1
Data Science on Causal Structure 04	1
Statistics Literacy gamma 01 (※)	1
Statistics Literacy gamma 02	1
Statistics Literacy gamma 03 (※)	1

Statistics Literacy gamma 04	1
Statistics Literacy delta 01	1
Statistics Literacy delta 02 (※)	1
Statistics Literacy delta 03	1
Statistics Literacy delta 04 (※)	1

(※) Courses offered in English and Japanese.

② -2: Graduate School of Information, Production and Systems: Data science courses

Register the courses during the registration period of “Courses offered at other graduate schools” except for students are affiliated in Graduated School of Information, Production and Systems.

Offered at	Course Name	Credit
Graduate School of Information, Production and Systems	Machine translation technology (※1)	2
	Neural Networks (※2)	2
	Machine Learning (※2)	2

(※1) Courses offered in English. Remote learners may participate online.

(※2) Courses offered in English and Japanese. Remote learners may participate online.

③ Courses in School of Fundamental /Creative /Advanced Science and Engineering :

Practical English proficiency: For students in School of Fundamental /Creative /Advanced Science and Engineering only (※ 3)

Offered at	Course Name	Credit
School of Fundamental Science and Engineering	Doctoral Student Technical Writing, an intensive course (spring), ANTHONY (1) (2)	1
	Doctoral Student Technical Writing, spring, Wed-5, KUNIYOSHI	1
	Doctoral Student Technical Writing, fall, Wed-5, KUNIYOSHI	1
	Doctoral Student Technical Writing, fall, Thu-5, ROSE	1
	Doctoral Student Presentation Skills, an intensive course (fall), ANTHONY (1)(2)	1
	Doctoral Student Presentation Skills, spring, Thu-5, ROSE	1

For students other than the above: Register the courses during the registration period of “Courses offered at other graduate schools”

(1) Recommended courses

Offered at	Course Name	Credit
School of Fundamental Science and Engineering	Doctoral Student Technical Writing, an intensive course (spring), ANTHONY (1) (2)	1
	Doctoral Student Technical Writing, spring, Wed-5, KUNIYOSHI	1
	Doctoral Student Technical Writing, fall, Wed-5, KUNIYOSHI	1
	Doctoral Student Technical Writing, fall, Thu-5, ROSE	1
	Doctoral Student Presentation Skills, an intensive course (fall), ANTHONY (1) (2)	1
	Doctoral Student Presentation Skills, spring, Thu-5, ROSE	1

(2) Courses that can be counted as credits other than the recommended courses above

Offered at	Course Name	Credit
School of Fundamental Science and Engineering	Professional Communication 2, Tue-2, ESTEVEZ (fall)	1
	Workplace English 2, Thu-2, SHEEHAN (fall)	1
	Advanced Technical Reading and Writing 2, Fri-4, KUNIOSHI (fall)	1
	Advanced Technical Reading and Writing 2, Mon-4, KUNIOSHI (fall)	1

	Advanced Technical Presentation, Thu-3, ROSE (spring)	1
	Advanced Technical Presentation, Wed-3, ANTHONY (spring)	1
	Advanced Technical Presentation, Thu-3, ROSE (fall)	1
	Advanced Technical Presentation, Wed-3, ANTHONY (fall)	1

(※ 3) When taking the "Practical English Proficiency Courses", please take the following points into consideration and take the courses systematically.

- Only one of the courses with the same name may be taken.

e.g.: "Doctoral Student Technical Writing, an intensive course (spring), ANTHONY (1)" and "Doctoral Student Technical Writing, spring, Wed-5. KUNIYOSHI " are two different classes of the same subject. Therefore, only one of them can be registered.

- For the following subject groups (No.1 and No.2), students may not take courses in the same subject group at the same time or take more than one course in the same subject group. Please note that only one of the courses in each course group will be approved for credit even if both courses are taken.

Subject Groups No.	Course Name	Credit
1	Doctoral Student Technical Writing Advanced Technical Reading and Writing 2	1 credit for either
2	Doctoral Student Presentation Skills Advanced Technical Presentation	1 credit for either

e.g.: If a student earns credits in both "Doctoral Student Technical Writing" and "Advanced Technical Reading and Writing 2," only one of the credits will be granted in W-SPRING.

8. Participating in Programs to Cultivate International Character

(1) Policy

The program aims to cultivate the international character of its students so that they can participate broadly in industry and elsewhere as PhD. Our efforts to promote the cultivation of international character include the following four programs.

Students receiving support are required to choose and take part in either of the programs after being selected. However, with regard to "③ Participate in educational programs in collaboration with overseas universities," you can be exempted according to "(3) Condition-based exemption."

Program selection is decided after consultation with the supervisor.

① Research presentations at international conferences

By presenting your research at international conferences, you can communicate in English with researchers from around the world and deepen your research as well as cultivate international character.

② Research guidance by foreign faculty members

You can deepen your research and cultivate international character by receiving investigations from foreign faculty members from overseas universities and research institutions or ask them to give research guidance as a research advisor.

③ Participate in educational programs in collaboration with overseas universities

Students cultivate international character by taking part in the Micro MBA program in collaboration with University of California San Diego, which provides English programs led by energetic teachers.

④ Sending students to overseas universities and research institutions

Students cultivate international character through research activities as they stay more than one month abroad at an overseas university or research institution that is a partner of the University

(2) Conditions

Students are required to participate in one of the programs after the adoption.

Program Name	Overview and Requirements
① Research presentations at international conferences	To report on your research presentations in your Program Progress Report.
② Research guidance by foreign faculty members	To report on your research guidance in your Program Progress Report.
③ Participate in educational programs in collaboration with overseas universities	To participate in and complete the Micro MBA program (need to pass the selection process) that recruits around between February and March.
④ Sending students to overseas universities and research institutions	To report on your research activities abroad in your Program Progress Report.

(3) Exemption from Requirements

Individuals who have completed the Micro MBA program in collaboration with University of California, San Diego before the adoption of W-SPRING are considered to have fulfilled "Participate in educational programs in collaboration with overseas universities" as outlined in (2), following the completion of necessary procedures.

9. Participating in Internships

(1) Policy

We strongly recommend participating in job-type research internships or other internships to practice the skills you have acquired and obtain career design opportunities. If you cannot find a place to do the internship, you don't have to limit yourself to directly using your research theme but can do it in a variety of ways, such as getting involved in project outside your research theme or a participating in an internship program at an overseas company or international organization. You need to consult your supervisor before taking part in an internship. Applicants may also look for internships outside the curriculum in accordance with program policy.

*Reference: Job-type research internship outline

- ① <https://waseda.box.com/s/6ql7t936oz4c1wijyxqd011j593evwv>
- ② <https://waseda.box.com/s/nx3iplgj4lcz1zprmsthsnyy7mpzzgpn>

(2) Conditions

Program Name	Overview and Requirements
Participating in job-type research internships or other internships	To report about your internship status in your program progress report which needs to be approved by W-SPRING.

※Whether the content of the program matches W-SPRING will be judged based on the progress report

(3) Condition-based exemption

If joint research with a private company or a researcher from an off-campus institution is conducted during the period of adoption of this program, the program will be deemed to have been implemented after completing the prescribed procedures (report on the program progress report as specified in (2) Requirements and approval by W-SPRING).

10. Program Progress Report

(1) Submitting the Program Progress Report

You complete the Program Progress Report by submitting the following documents.

- Documents Submissions (Documents ① and ② are submitted annually, while Documents ③ and ④ are submitted immediately after each implementation.)
 - ① Program Progress Report
 - ② Documents showing courses taken in the career development and training program (transcripts, etc.)
 - ③ Documents showing participation in initiatives to cultivate international character (research guidance record, documents proving program participation or overseas travel, etc.)
 - ④ Documents showing participation in corporate internships (internship agreement with the host company.)
- Submission Deadlines (tentative)
 - Submit the above-mentioned documents by the following deadlines.
 - For April entrants: March 15 in the year after the support year.
 - For September entrants: September 15 in the year after the support year.

(2) Program Results Presentation

D3 students will have a presentation in their last semester of support (tentative).

11. Application Procedure

Before submitting your application documents

If you are applying, register your information using the form below.

Registration Form:

<https://my.waseda.jp/application/detail/application-detail?communityContentLinkId=618787390>

Registration Period

From 9 AM, Tuesday, April 1st, 2025 to 5 PM, Thursday, April 17th, 2025

AFTER registering in advance, follow the procedure below.

(1) Application Period

From 9 AM, Tuesday, April 1st, 2025 to 5 PM, Monday, April 21st, 2025

(2) Application Materials

① Application Form

Download the documents from the following website.

URL (Japanese): <https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/application>

URL (English): <https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/en>

Prior to submitting the application, gain approval from your supervisor.

② Presentation Video

Procedure: Use Zoom or other tools. Include the presenter and the presentation slides within the recording.

Length: about 3 minutes

Storage: No larger than 300 MB.

Format: mp4

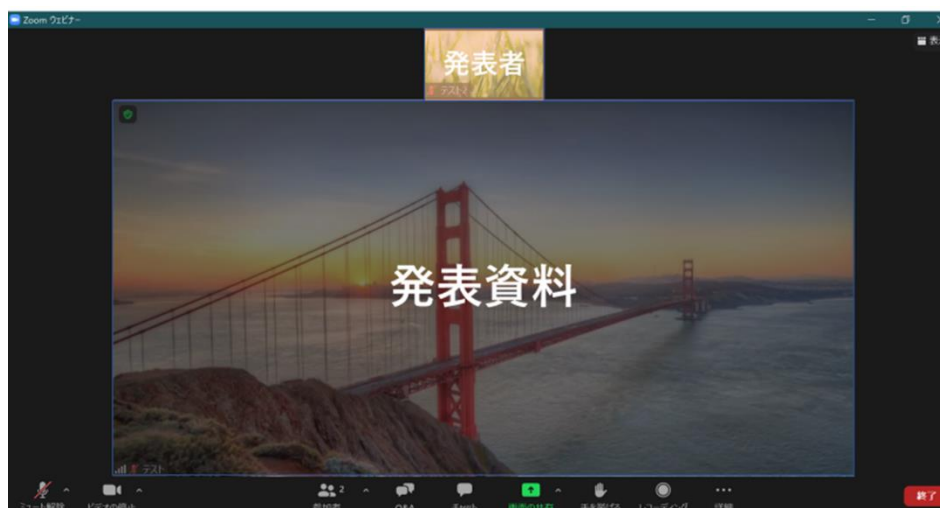
Details: Prepare a presentation (approximately 2 PowerPoint slides) to explain the following points within the time limit.

- Social significance
- Future plans
- Research method and schedule
- Characteristics, originality, creativity and challenges
- Connection with industry

Also, during the presentation, please be sure to address the following points in particular:

- The originality of your research
- Regarding your 'research plan for connection with industry,' your thoughts and plans for collaboration between your research and industry, and the realization of social implementation of your research.

(Example of screen layout)



(Reference : About Zoom's recording function)

[Japanese : ローカル レコーディングを有効にして開始する](#)

[English : Enabling and starting local recordings](#)

③ Reference Letter

Download the format from the following website.

URL (Japanese): <https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/application>

URL (English): <https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/en>

Applicants should request their supervisors to prepare and submit the Reference Letter well in advance. Current supervisors should prepare the letters according to the following items.

- A research progress of the applicant (student) and a mentorship plan for the research field with advancing to a doctoral program
- Guidance on Programs to Cultivate International Character (Research presentations at international conferences, Research guidance by foreign faculty members, Sending students to overseas universities and research institutions) and Internships within this program
- Expectations for applicants (students) with a view to completing the doctoral program, based on this program's purpose, which is expected to become very active in industry and eventually contribute to developing the University into a world-class research university and strengthen Japanese industrial competitiveness

(3) Application Procedure

①Application Form and ②Presentation Video **【For applicants】**

Applicants must complete the required fields in the application form on the website below, and submit "① the application form in PDF format" and "② the presentation video".

URL (Japanese): <https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/application>

URL (English): <https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/en>

Students applying through the CN Minor recommendation must indicate this on their application form and application form, and select their area based on their course, as follows.

Course	Area
Nano-energy Course	Green Innovation
Resources and Environment Course	
ICT and Robotics Course	Digital Innovation
Mathematical and Physical Sciences Course	
Life Science Course	Life Innovation
International Relations Course	Social Innovation
Economics and Management Course	
Humanities and Interdisciplinary Course	
Public Policy Course	

③Reference Letter **[For current applicant's supervisor]**

The applicant's current supervisor must complete the required fields in the application form on the website below, and submit the "Letter of Recommendation" as a PDF.

URL (Japanese): <https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/application>

URL (English): <https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/en>

- Make sure to name the ① to ③ files as follows.

① Application Form: ①Area_Academic Year_Waseda ID Number_Name

e.g.: An M2 student applying for Green Innovation area

①Green_M2_99999999_Waseda Taro.pdf

② Presentation Video: ②Area_Academic Year_Waseda ID Number_Name

e.g.: An M2 student applying for Green Innovation area

②Green_M2_99999999_Waseda Taro.mp4

③ Reference Letter: ③Area_applicant's Academic Year_Applicant's Waseda ID
Number_Applicant's Name_Supervisor Name

e.g.: An M2 student applying for Green Innovation area

③Green_M2_99999999_Waseda Taro_Prof. Okuma.pdf

Each area should be written as follows:

Green Innovation: Green

Life Innovation: Life

Digital Innovation: Digital

Social Innovation: Social

The academic year as of April 1, 2025 should be written as follows:

Academic Year	Master's Degree Professional Degree	5-year doctoral program
M1	Year 1	Year 1
M2	Year 2	Year 2

(4) Notes

- **Be sure to follow the prescribed amount and instructions.**
- You cannot change the materials once submitted. Applications will be processed as submitted, even if the documents are missing or incomplete. Submitted application documents will not be returned.
- The personal information collected at the time of application (address, name, birthdate, etc.) will only be used for reviewing applications, announcing the successful applicants, registration procedures, and any associated tasks. In doing so, we will take necessary and appropriate measures to prevent any leakage, loss or misuse of such information. We may also outsource all or part of the procedures. In such case, we will require the other party to manage the information as necessary and appropriate through an agreement.
- The reviewing area (e.g. Green, Life) for registration and application should be the same. If the criteria differ, the area for application will be used for reviewing.
- **Those who wish to apply through the CN Minor recommendation must indicate this preference at the time of application. Candidates for the CN Minor recommendation will be determined after checking the application documents and conditions.**
***Applicants not selected for the CN Minor recommendation will be reviewed through the general application process.**
- In the document review and presentation video review, describe and make a presentation in an easy-to-understand manner since the interviewers will be from diverse fields of expertise.

(5) Inquiries

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact us using the following inquiry form.

Inquiry Form URL: <https://bit.ly/2WiXuf4>

12. Selection

(1) Selection process

The selection process is conducted based on a comprehensive evaluation, which consist of a document review, a presentation video review, and interview (only for some candidates) via Zoom.

Interview candidates will be individually notified of their schedule. The interview will consist of a 3-minute presentation followed by a 4-minute Q&A session, for a total of 7 minutes per candidate. Please strictly adhere to these time limits. For the presentation, candidates are required to use the same materials as those in their previously submitted video and ensure the following information is covered within the allotted time.

- Social significance
- Future plans
- Research method and schedule
- Characteristics, originality, creativity and challenges
- Connection with industry

If you submit your application documents in English, the interview will be conducted in English.

(2) Schedule

	Period	Remarks
Registration	From 9:00 AM, April 1 (Tue.) to 5:00 PM, April 17 (Thu.), 2025	Applicants are required to register before applying.
Application	From 9:00 AM, April 1 (Tue.) to 5:00 PM, April 21 (Mon.), 2025	-
Document Review Presentation Video Review	Late April to Late May 2025	In addition to the document review and presentation video review, an interview (via Zoom) may be conducted only for some candidates. If applicable, we will notify selected individuals separately around May 27 (Tue.), 2025.
Interview (via Zoom) *Only for some applicants	Afternoon of May 31 (Sat.), 2025	<u>No changes to the scheduled interview date and time will be accepted, regardless of the reason.</u> The interview will be recorded for review purpose.
Notification of Results (For all applicants)	By mid-June	Notifications will be sent via email to all applicants, regardless of whether or not they were interviewed.
Registration Process & Submission of Oath	From Late March 2026	Submission deadlines, evaluations (S or A) and other details will be announced.
Start of Support	April 1 (Wed.), 2026	Start of research expenses utilization. *Orders can be started.
	End of April 2026 (tentative)	Remittance of living expenses for April. Execution of research expenses will start.

(3) Other

Students not selected through this Reserved Hiring System may still apply for the Regular Hiring, which is scheduled for approximately February 2026 for those entering the doctoral program in April 2026.

	Waseda Universities' Master's Students		Other Universities' Master's Students	
	Reserved Hiring	Regular Hiring	Reserved Hiring	Regular Hiring
W-SPRING	Available ^{*1}	Available ^{*2}	Unavailable	Available
W-SPRING-AI	Available	Available ^{*3}	Unavailable	Available

*1: Applicants selected for the Reserved Hiring of "W-SPRING-AI" cannot apply.

*2: Applicants selected for the Reserved Hiring of either "W-SPRING" or "W-SPRING-AI" cannot apply.

*3: Applicants selected for the Reserved Hiring of "W-SPRING-AI" cannot apply. Applicants selected for the Reserved Hiring of "W-SPRING" are eligible to apply and, if selected for the Regular Hiring of "W-SPRING-AI," the support program will be switched to "W-SPRING-AI" (support for "W-SPRING" will not be provided).

13. Contact

W-SPRING Committee Secretariat

URL : <https://bit.ly/2WiXuf4>