Waseda University Open Innovation Ecosystem Program for Pioneering Research (W-SPRING)

AY2025 Application Guidelines (Fall)

[Eligible Applicants: as of September 21, 2025]

Doctoral program	1st-2nd year
5-year doctoral program	3rd-4th year

*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.

1. Aims and Outline

Waseda University (hereinafter, "the University") aims to foster PhD students who process a perspective on both social implementation and academia, knowledge within and beyond 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 Global Research Center 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 and duration of support from JST to the University are guaranteed until FY2025, subsequent support for FY2026 and beyond is contingent upon the approval of the University's future requests to JST.

Note: JST has informed the University that it is considering a revision of the SPRING's support program in the future. While a final decision has not yet been made, those considering applying for FY2026 or beyond should be aware that the support benefits and eligibility criteria may be changed significantly from the current program (For those whose support commences by FY2025, including those from the Fall 2025 application cycle, JST plans to continue support under the existing conditions during their support period). Once the support program for FY2026 and onward is finalized, a formal announcement will be made on the W-SPRING's websites (including Application Guidelines), etc.

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) as well as either (5) or (6).

(1) 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 September 21, 2025, including those who are scheduled to enroll in September 2025.

As of September 21, 2025, among those who enrolled in September 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**.

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.

(3) Applicants must be recommended by their PhD supervisor or a prospective PhD supervisor.

(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 later.

(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.

Those who meet any of the following criteria at the commencement of the support program are ineligible for W-SPRING.

- 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. If students supported by W-SPRING are selected for W-SPRING-AI, their support will be transferred to W-SPRING-AI.

- 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 other than the above may also apply for W-SPRING. However, depending on the terms of scholarships, 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 loans from JASSO recipients from 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	Support Duration (maximum)
Academic Year	**Enrollment Period**		
Doctoral program 1st year (D1)	0.0 year (Enrolled in September 2025)	Approximately 30 students	From October 1, 2025 To September 30, 2028
Doctoral program 1st year (D1)	0.5 year (Enrolled in April 2025)	Approximately 30 students	From October 1, 2025 To March 31, 2028
Doctoral program 2nd year (D2)	1.0 year (Enrolled in September 2024)	A few students	From October 1 2025 To September 30, 2027

*For students in 5-year doctoral program, convert 3rd year (D1) and 4th year (D2).

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

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

The support period concludes upon the completion of the standard D3 program. However, if you become employed as JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, work as an assistant at the University, or otherwise fail to meet the W-SPRING's eligibility criteria, the support will be terminated.

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 Under Japanese tax law, living expenses you received are considered miscellaneous income, meaning that it is subject to income and residence taxation and must be declared annually. Moreover, as living expenses also affect health insurance, dependent support, and other related matters, it is crucial to discuss these implications with your financial guarantors (e.g., parents) before submitting your application.

*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 varies based on your academic year and the period of enrollment when the support starts. The support duration may also be shortened if support is suspended.

International students who are unable to come to Japan 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) are 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	2025	2026		2027		2028
			Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
D1	0.0 year	Living expenses	1.2 million yen	2.4 million yen		2.4 million yen		1.2 million yen
		Research expenses	0.25 million yen	0.5 million yen		0.5 million yen		0.25 million yen
	0.5 year	Living expenses	1.2 million yen	2.4 million yen		2.4 million yen		-
		Research expenses	0.25 million yen	0.5 million yen		0.5 million yen		-
D2	1.0 year	Living expenses	1.2 million yen	2.4 million yen		1.2 million yen	-	-
		Research expenses	0.25 million yen	0.5 million yen		0.25 million yen	-	-

[A grade]

(Start of Support)		Type of Incentives	2025	2026		2027		2028
			Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
D1	0.0 year	Living expenses	1.1 million yen	2.2 million yen		2.2 million yen		1.1 million yen
		Research expenses	0.25 million yen	0.5 million yen		0.5 million yen		0.25 million yen
	0.5 year	Living expenses	1.1 million yen	2.2 million yen		2.2 million yen		-
		Research expenses	0.25 million yen	0.5 million yen		0.5 million yen		-
D2	1.0 year	Living expenses	1.1 million yen	2.2 million yen		1.1 million yen	-	-
		Research expenses	0.25 million yen	0.5 million yen		0.25 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 is 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 per support year. For FY2025, 0.25 million yen is scheduled to be paid at the end of October 2025.

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 Cooperative Education through Research Internships
   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 9 credits of coursework 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 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.

6. Suspension and Repayment of Support

Research incentives and other support will be suspended if any of the following apply.

(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, a spirit of progressivism to forge a path where there is none, inclusiveness 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

The remarks column in the table below shows the courses that need to be taken in AY2025, but if the contents of the courses change in the following year or later, participants will be notified of the required courses as needed for every new academic year.

Please note that the number of credits required differs depending on whether you are a D1 or D2 student at the time of adoption as shown in the table below (as of September 21, 2025, D1 students must obtain 9 credits during the support period and D2 students must obtain 6 credits during the support period).

[A] Standard doctoral program

Competencies	Standard doctoral program		Remarks
	D1	D2	
①Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills	5 credits	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*	2 credits	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.
③Practical English proficiency	2 credits	1 credit	Select courses from (4) AY2025 Course List ③ Practical English proficiency courses.
Credits needed to pass	**9 credits**	**6 credits**	

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

Competencies	School of Advanced Science and Engineering		Remarks
	D1	D2	
①Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills	5 credits	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*	2 credits	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	Exempt	-
Credits needed to pass	**7 credits**	**5 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	PEP For all grade	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	Graduate Program for Embodiment Informatics		Remarks
	D1	D2	
①Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills	3 credits	1 credit	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	Exempt	-
③Practical English proficiency	2 credits	1 credit	Select courses from (4) AY2025 Course List ③ Practical English proficiency courses.
Credits needed to pass	**5 credits**	**2 credits**	

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

Competencies	Doctoral program		Remarks
	D1	D2	
①Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills	Exempt	Exempt	-
②Training in data science and information science to contribute to solving social issues*	Exempt	Exempt	-
③Practical English proficiency	2 credits	1 credit	Select courses from (4) AY2025 Course List ③ Practical English proficiency courses.
Credits needed to pass	**2 credits**	**1 credit**	

* Student who is expected to complete the minor program when entering a doctoral program, and who intends to continue with the minor program's coursework during their doctoral program will be considered a student enrolled in the minor.

(3) Credit exemptions
　　If you have already taken the courses designated before applying to W-SPRING
　　〈All students〉
　　　　You are not required to retake them, but you are only required to take the courses you have not taken yet. However, courses with similar content 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 for 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" (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
Note: The list is as of August 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

Students should register the courses during the registration period for "Courses offered at other graduate schools" except for students who are affiliated with Graduate 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: Students should register the courses during the registration period for "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 a 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 "③Participate 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 Cooperative Education through 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 a project outside your research theme or 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: Cooperative Education through Research Internships outline

① https://waseda.box.com/s/6ql7t936oz4c1wijqyxqd011j593evwv

② https://waseda.box.com/s/nx3iplgj4lcz1zprmsthsnyy7mpzzgpn

(2) Conditions

Program Name	Overview and Requirements
Participating in Cooperative Education through 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.

Example: In the case of starting support in Fall 2025

(Start of support)		2026		2027		2028	
Academic year	Period of enrollment	Mar.	Sep.	Mar.	Sep.	Mar.	Sep.
D1	0.0 year		★		★		★
	0.5 year	★		★		★	
D2	1.0 year		★		★		

(★=Submission Deadlines)

(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/noauth/application-detail-noauth?param=x7Brz3qXF0RouvjUf4__pQ
Registration Period
From 9 AM, Friday, August 1st, 2025 to 5 PM, Monday, August 18th, 2025

AFTER registering in advance, follow the procedure below.

(1) Application Period
From 9 AM, Friday, August 1st, 2025 to 5 PM, Tuesday, August 19th, 2025

(2) 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, please get approval from your supervisor.

(3) Application Procedure
● Complete the application on the following website and attach the "Application Form" in PDF format.

URL (Japanese): https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/application
URL (English): https://dpt-wspring.w.waseda.jp/en

● Make sure to name the files as follows.
Application Form: **Area_Academic Year_Family name, First name**
Each area should be written as follows:
Green Innovation: Green
Life Innovation: Life
Digital Innovation: Digital
Social Innovation: Social
The academic year should be written as follows:

Academic Year	PhD	5-year doctoral program
D1	Year 1	Year 3
D2	Year 2	Year 4

e.g.: If an applicant is in the 1st year of a doctoral program and applying for the Green Innovation, the Application Form should be written as follows:
Green_D1_Waseda Taro.pdf

(4) Notes
● **Be sure to follow the prescribed amount and instructions.**
● Application documents cannot be changed once submitted. Applications will be processed as submitted, even if the documents are missing or incomplete. All submitted documents are non-returnable.

- 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.
- In the document review and interview, 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 of the two stages of document review and interview (via Zoom). The interview will be conducted with applicants who have passed the document review.

<Interview Guidelines>
- The interview presentation will consist of a **3-minute (Punctuality required)** per candidate.
- The presentation should primarily focus on the "Social Significance" and your "Future Plans". Please ensure your explanation also covers the following points:
  ・ Research method and schedule
  ・ Characteristics, originality, creativity and challenges
  ・ Connection with industry
- Please prepare materials (e.g., **a maximum of three PowerPoint slides**) to ensure you complete your presentation within the allotted time. **The final slide must summarize and specifically address the "Originality of Your Research" and your plans for "Connection with Industry."**
- Please note that if your application was submitted in English, the interview will also be conducted in English.
- Please check in advance how to share documents on Zoom so that the interview can be conducted smoothly.

(2) Schedule

	Period	Remarks
Registration	From 9:00 AM, August 1 (Fri.) to 5:00 PM, August 18 (Mon.), 2025	Applicants are required to register before applying.
Application	From 9:00 AM, August 1 (Fri.) to 5:00 PM, August 19 (Tue.), 2025	-
Document Review	Late August, 2025	We will notify applicants of the result of the document review and the date of the interview by email on the following date: September 3 (Wed.), 2025 * No changes to the scheduled interview date and time will be accepted, regardless of the reason.
Interview (Zoom)	September 6 (Sat.) and 7 (Sun.), 2025 *Detailed schedule by areas is as follows: September 6: Green Innovation Life Innovation September 7: Social Innovation Digital Innovation	・The interview will be recorded for review purpose. ・We will notify applicants of the result of the interview by email after the following date: September 16 (Tue.), 2025 *Subject to change due to review schedule.
Registration Process & Submission of Oath	Middle to late September 2025	For those who do not pass the interview may be offered a position as an alternate candidate. Details including deadlines will be announced separately.

| Start of Support | October 1 (Wed.), 2025 | Start of research expenses utilization. *Orders can be started. |
| | End of October 2025 (tentative) | Remittance of living expenses for October. Execution of research expenses will start. |

13. Contact

W-SPRING Committee Secretariat
URL：https://bit.ly/2WiXuf4