

# Waseda University Innovation Ecosystem Program for Next-Generation AI Pioneering Research (W-SPRING-AI)

## AY2026 Application Guidelines (Spring)

**[Eligible Applicants: As of April 1, 2026]**

Doctoral program	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
5-year doctoral program	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> 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.**

**\*Due to the program period of JST-BOOST (the funding agency), the selection of new students for the W-SPRING-AI program is expected to conclude within the current academic year (Spring and Fall semesters).**

**\*There are no changes to the eligibility requirements or the details of the research incentives.**

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## 1. Aims and Outline

Waseda University (hereinafter, "the University") aims to achieve Next-Generation AI Innovation Ecosystem that continues to produce AI innovations across fields, aims to foster doctoral resources who leads research on global AI technologies and applications.

The "Waseda University Innovation Ecosystem Program for Next-Generation AI Pioneering Research (W-SPRING-AI) (hereinafter, "the Program")" provides financial support in terms of both living and research expenses for up to three years to doctoral students who have the ambition and ability to pioneer and lead the Next-Generation AI field, which is designated as a national strategic field in Japan, to help them promote and lead research in this field and become leading scientists. In addition, W-SPRING-AI will provide opportunities for students to acquire advanced expertise and research capabilities in the field of Next-Generation AI through various supports including training contents.

We hope young researcher who receive the Program to become very active in industry and eventually contribute to developing the University into a world-class research university, to the creation of innovations in the field of Next-Generation AI and strengthen Japanese industrial competitiveness.

Moreover, the Program is managed by the "Committee of the Waseda University Open Innovation Ecosystem Program for Pioneering Research (W-SPRING Committee)" and "Waseda University Talent Development Team for Next-Generation AI" those are part of the University's Global Research Center Head Office, with the support of the "Broadening Opportunities for Outstanding young researchers and doctoral students in STrategic areas (BOOST): Fostering Researchers in Emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) Program" conducted by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (hereinafter, "JST") .

## 2. Application Eligibility

Applicants must be **willing to promote and lead research in the field of Next-Generation AI and develop into leading scientists and must be willing to participate in the training content provided by the Program to acquire advanced expertise and research execution skills in the same field.** In addition to this, applicants must meet the following criteria (1) to (6), as well as either (7) or (8).

It is possible to apply for both the Program and "Pioneering Research Program for a Waseda Open Innovation Ecosystem (hereinafter, "W-SPRING")" which are recruited separately.

Students who are currently receiving W-SPRING support at the time of application for the Program, who have not applied to the Program and W-SPRING in the past, and who have applied to the Program and W-SPRING in the past but were not adopted may also apply to the Program if they meet the following requirements. However, since duplicate support for the Program and W-SPRING is not allowed, the treatment shall be as follows.

- Those who are supported by W-SPRING and are selected for the Program will be transferred to the Program (Supported by W-SPRING until March 31, 2026, and by the Program after April 1, 2026).
- Those who have been simultaneously accepted into both the Program and W-SPRING will receive support from the Program (and will decline W-SPRING adoption).

(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 April 1, 2026, including those who are scheduled to enroll in April 2026.

As of April 1, 2026, among those who enrolled in April 2025 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 years 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 current research theme in the Next-Generation AI field (AI and emerging/combined fields in AI) and intend to become a leading scientist who will promote and lead research in this field.

Examples of chief research themes
Next-Generation AI algorithm, Next-Generation AI agent, AGI, Quantum AI, Generative AI, Foundational model/Large language model, AI/Machine learning Engineering, AI security/safety, Human/society/AI alignment, AI sustainability (environmental AI, biological AI green AI etc.), AI digital transformation (language processing AI, image processing AI, media/communication AI, sound/dialogue AI, robot AI etc.) etc.

(3) Applicants who are willing to contribute to the creation of innovation and strengthening of industrial

competitiveness in Japan in the future.

- (4) Applicants who are willing to take the various training contents listed in the Program.
- (5) Applicants must be recommended by their PhD supervisor or a prospective PhD supervisor.
- (6) Applicants must have completed research ethics training (APRIN e-learning program (eAPRIN) "Responsible Research Activities") or must complete before the commencement of research expenses.  
Note: Details of how to take the program will be announced later.
- (7) 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).
- (8) 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 start of the support are ineligible for the Program.

- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellowship for Young Scientists
- Research Associate, Research Associate for a research project
- W-SPRING students (If W-SPRING students are selected for the Program, their support will be transferred to the 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 a full-time employee's salary, director's remuneration at a venture company, or payment for a part-time lecturer. Income from paid internships, TAs, RAs and part-time jobs, as well as support in the form of research funds, is 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 scheduled to receive scholarship may also apply for this Program. However, depending on the terms of scholarships, there is a possibility that you may be asked to cancel or refund the scholarship you have already received if you are selected for this Program.

(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 the Program support.

It is possible to receive a scholarship (loan type) from JASSO in addition to the Program support. However, for category 1 scholarship loan from JASSO recipients since AY2023, who also receive the Program 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*	Period of Enrollment		
D1	0.0 year (Enrolled in April 2026)	Approximately 6	From April 1, 2026 To March 31, 2029
	0.5 year (Enrolled in September 2025)		From April 1, 2026 To September 30, 2028
D2	1.0 Year (Enrolled in April 2025)	A few	From April 1, 2026 To March 31, 2028

\*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".

\*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.

The support period concludes upon the completion of standard D3. 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 Program’s eligibility criteria, the support will be terminated.

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

### 4. Research Incentives

The research incentives (living expenses\*1, research expenses\*2) are below.

Research Incentives
3.9 million yen a year (living expenses 3.0 million yen + research expenses 0.9 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 the Program.

(1) Support Duration and Payout Amounts

The following outlines the support duration and payout amounts. 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 Program 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.

(Start of Support)	Type of Incentives	2026		2027		2028	
		Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall
D1	0.0 year	Living expenses	3.0 million yen	3.0 million yen	3.0 million yen	3.0 million yen	
		Research expenses	0.9 million yen	0.9 million yen	0.9 million yen	0.9 million yen	
	0.5 year	Living expenses	3.0 million yen	3.0 million yen	3.0 million yen	1.5 million yen	-
		Research expenses	0.9 million yen	0.9 million yen	0.9 million yen	0.45 million yen	-
D2	1.0 year	Living expenses	3.0 million yen	3.0 million yen		-	-
		Research expenses	0.9 million yen	0.9 million yen		-	-

(2) Payout Times for Incentives (Living expenses, Research expenses)

Living Expenses	0.25 million yen per month will be paid to the student's personal account registered with the University once a month. Only Japanese bank account is acceptable.
Research Expenses	A lump sum of payment is distributed once a year. For AY2026, 0.9 million yen is scheduled to be distributed at the end of April 2026.

## 5. Obligations

- (1) Taking the training contents designated by the Program.
- (2) They are reviewed an interim review conducted at D1 and D2, final review conducted at support end.
- (3) They are strongly recommended to participate in medium-to long-term overseas internships at overseas AI-related research institutions.
- (4) They are recommended to participate in AI-related research with industry-academia collaboration or participating in corporate internships.
- (5) They should 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 should conduct research with a strong orientation toward generating innovation in industry.

- (7) If requested by the University, they should assist the program's PR and research activities as much as possible.
- (8) They should answer various surveys after the end of the Program. The Program is conducted with the support of the JST's "Broadening Opportunities for Outstanding young researchers and doctoral students in Strategic areas (BOOST): Fostering Researchers in Emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) Program", 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 expenses 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 for Young Scientists (DC2) for 2027. If you are selected as a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, you will not be eligible for the Program 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

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 funds, etc.
- (5) You were deemed to neglect your obligations after registering with the Program.
- (6) Your progress is deemed to be considerably insufficient based on the interim review conducted at D1 and D2, and 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 an overseas internship imposed by this Program.
- (9) You are found to be unsuitable for the Program, aside from (1) to (8) above.

**If a student received research incentives despite being ineligible due to reasons such as suspension or cancellation of the support provision, they shall be required to repay the received amount to Waseda University. This includes cases where school registration is retroactively nullified, such as due to non-payment of tuition leading to expulsion.**

## 7. Taking training contents and other courses

### (1) Policy

Students supported by the Program must take the training contents and other courses provided by the Program due to acquire the "expertise" to cover all areas from theory to engineering and application in a cross-disciplinary manner, the "advanced expertise" to capture the direction of remarkable Next-Generation AI technologies and applications, as represented by generative AI, and to pioneer the Next-Generation AI field, and the "deploy ability" to grasp the needs and issues in various fields and create innovative technologies and applications as AI becomes the foundation of society and industry in the future, which are necessary for leading scientists who will pioneer and lead the Next-Generation AI field.

In addition to the required content common to all students, the Program also provides recommended content according to the specialty and current knowledge level of the supported students, who specialize in AI technology and applications, in other fields aiming to lead the Next-Generation AI field, so that aim all students can acquire the necessary knowledge equally through the three years of support.

Depending on each student's career plans, etc., they may also voluntarily take courses related to "Entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills" set in W-SPRING, which are supported by the JST doctoral support program and conducted at the University in the same way as this Program (Registration for the courses is mandatory, so please refer to "(2) conditions" below to confirm how to do so).

<Table\*: The Program's general picture including training contents and other courses>

Mandatory Item for W-SPRING-AI Students					
D3 Fall	Final Review				
D3 Spring	Next-Generation AI Research/Writing a Paper				
D2 Fall	Programs for Career Development and Training-W-SPRING	AI-Related Course at Smart SE	Certification Program in Data Science (Advanced)	Overseas Internships	Interim Review 2
D2 Spring			Certification Program in Data Science (Intermediate)	Team Workshop-Smart SE	Research
D1 Fall			Practice-Next-Generation AI (Summer School, etc.)	Interim Review 1	
D1 Spring			Advanced Course-Next-Generation AI	Research with Industry-Academia Collaboration	

\*A typical example of students enrolled in Spring. The actual timing for completing courses may vary.

### (2) Conditions

The training contents in AY2026 are shown in the table below. If there are any changes in the contents from the following academic year onward, we will notify supported students of the changes as appropriate. The students are required to take the "① Required contents" during the period of support.

① Required contents 【All students】

No.	Contents name	Overview	Registration, period, and requirement of taking the courses
1	Advanced course-Next-Generation AI	By taking the courses (non-degree courses) taught by on-campus faculty and external experts, the program aims to help students will acquire thorough mastery of the theory, structure, and prospects of Next-Generation AI.	We will provide Information after the support is decided.
2	Practice-Next-Generation AI	By participating in practices (summer school and other non-degree courses) accredited by the Program, the program aims to help students acquire thorough knowledge of Next-Generation AI practices.	We will provide Information after the support is decided.
3	Certification Program in Data Science Courses (Intermediate) *2	By taking the designated graduate student common courses (regular courses), the program aims to bring students to a level where they can apply data science to their own professional research and work (i.e., be able to apply data science to research in their own field of expertise).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register for the courses on web course registration system during the course registration period for the courses common to all graduate students.</li> <li>• The requirement is to take 3 credits from the intermediate courses of the "Certification Program in Data Science Courses" offered by Global Education Centre. We recommend taking "Intermediate" of the "Data Science Certification System".</li> </ul>

②-1 Recommended contents A 【All students】

No.	Contents name	Overview	Registration, period of taking the courses
4	W-SPRING courses*1	By taking the designated graduate student common courses (regular courses), the program aims to help students acquire entrepreneurship and communication/presentation skills, which are among the competencies that doctoral candidates will need to be active in diverse career paths in the future.	Register for the courses on web course registration system during the course registration period for the courses common to all graduate students
5	Certification Program in Data Science Courses (Advanced)*2	By taking the designated graduate student common courses (regular courses), the program aims to bring students to a level where they can also make data science their primary career (i.e., use data science in areas outside of their own specialty).	Register for the courses on web course registration system during the course registration period for the courses common to all graduate students

6	Team Workshop-Smart SE*3	By taking the designated team workshop courses with workers from different fields (non-degree courses), the program aims to help students acquire knowledge and experience in different fields and emerging/integrated areas.	We will provide Information after the support is decided.
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②-2 Recommended contents B [students who specialize in other fields aiming to lead the Next-Generation AI field]

No.	Contents name	Overview	Registration, period of taking the courses
7	AI-related courses at Smart SE*3	By taking the designated courses (non-degree courses), the program aims to help students complement basic knowledge for Next-Generation AI.	We will provide Information after the support is decided.

**\*1 W-SPRING courses**

Confirm the courses and course registration method from the following.

- Global Education Center (GEC): Course Registration (Refer to “Common Courses among Different Graduate School”)  
URL: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/gec/en/graduate/registration/>
- The courses (Global Education Center “Business creation courses”: Refer to page 14)  
URL: <https://www.waseda.jp/wspring/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/0515799f1f4db4afe0cade94801c2be0-2.pdf>

**\*2 Certification Program in Data Science Courses**

Please review the eligible courses and registration process via the following.

- Global Education Center (GEC): Course Registration (Refer to “Courses Open to Graduate school students”)  
URL: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/gec/en/graduate/registration/>
- The eligible courses (Certification Program in Data Science: Refer to the section “第5章 データ科学認定制度” at the link below.)  
URL: <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/gec/undergraduate/registration-2/>  
\*The Guide is Japanese only. Students may not be allowed to take the advanced course “Comprehensive Exercise for Data Science” due to course enrollment limitations.  
\*Currently, a limited number of courses are offered in English. If you have difficulty taking Japanese language course and fulfilling the requirements, please contact us after you are accepted.

**\*3 AI-related courses at Smart SE**

Please review the aim and overview of the Smart SE (Curriculum IoT/AI). Regarding the eligible courses and the registration process, please follow the instructions provided separately.

- Smart SE website  
Curriculum IoT/AI URL (Japanese): [https://www.waseda.jp/inst/smartse/curriculum\\_iot-ai](https://www.waseda.jp/inst/smartse/curriculum_iot-ai)  
URL (English): <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/smartse/en>

## 8. Participating in Overseas Internships (Strongly Recommended)

### (1) Policy

To facilitate international career development, you are encouraged to participate in medium-to long-term overseas internships at overseas AI-related research institutions or similar organizations during the support period.

You need to consult your supervisor about internship corporates before participating in an internship.

### (2) Requirements

Program Title	Overview and Requirements
Participating in Overseas Internships (Strongly Recommended)	Report about your internship status in your Program Progress Report if you participate in an internship.

## 9. Conducting Research with Industry-Academia Collaboration or Participating in Corporate Internships (Recommended)

### (1) Policy

To ensure that you can play an active role in industry and other sectors, you are encouraged to conduct AI-related research with industry-academia collaboration or participate in corporate internships during the support period.

For corporate internships, we recommend utilizing the Cooperative Education through Research Internships program implemented by the government.

\*Reference: Overview of Cooperative Education through Research Internships

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

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

### (2) Requirements

Program Title	Overview and Requirements
Conducting AI-related Research with Industry-Academia Collaboration or Participating in Corporate Internships	Report about your internship status in your Program Progress Report if you participate in an internship.

## 10. Program Progress Report

### (1) Submission of the Program Progress Report

Program Progress must be reported once a year by submitting the documents listed below:

- Documents to be submitted
  - ① Program Progress Report
  - ② Documents related to ① (e.g. academic transcripts, the documents showing participation in research with industry-academia collaboration, overseas internships and corporate internships.)
- Deadlines (Tentative)
 

The required documents listed above must be submitted by the deadlines indicated below.

April Entrants: Submission by March 15 of the year following the support year.

September Entrants: Submission by September 15 of the year following the support year.

(★=Submission Deadline)

Start of Support		2026	2027		2028		2029
Academic Year	Period of Enrollment	Sep.	Mar.	Sep.	Mar.	Sep.	Mar.
D1	0.0 year		★		★		★
	0.5 year	★		★		★	
D2	1.0 year		★		★		

### (2) Program Results Presentation

The Program Results Presentation is scheduled to be held during the final semester of support for students in their D3 year.

### (3) Interim Review and Final Review

In order to ensure that Next-Generation AI research remains world-class, cutting-edge, and cross-disciplinary, research guidance will be provided by researchers and practitioners from the Waseda Next-Generation AI Human Resource Development Team (excluding W-SPRING-AI students' own academic supervisors) based on the W-SPRING-AI students' research and progress. To facilitate this, Interim Review will be conducted at the end of D1 and D2, and Final Review is scheduled to be conducted at the end of D3 (tentative).

## 11. Application Procedure

### **\*Before Submitting Your Application Documents\***

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

Pre-registration Form:

<https://my.waseda.jp/application/noauth/application-detail-noauth?param=5y1HuXCFUafaj2OVTFikww>

Pre-registration Period: From 9 AM, Friday, January 30, 2026 to 5 PM, Monday, February 9, 2026

Please proceed with the application process below **ONLY AFTER completing the above pre-registration.**

#### (1) Application Period

From 9 AM, Friday, January 30, 2026 to noon, Thursday, February 12, 2026

#### (2) Application Form

Download the documents from the following website.

URL (Japanese): <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/research/wspring-ai>

URL (English) : <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/research/en/wspring-ai>

Applicants must consult with their current supervisor prior to applying and obtain their approval.

#### (3) Application Procedure

- Complete the application on the following website and attach the “Application Form” in PDF format.

URL (Japanese): <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/research/wspring-ai>

URL (English) : <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/research/en/wspring-ai>

- Make sure to name the files as follows.

Application Form: **Academic year\_Family name, First name**

e.g.) D1\_Waseda Taro.pdf

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

#### (4) Precautions

- **Be sure to follow the prescribed amount and instructions.**
- You cannot change the application documents 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.
- 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/4cPGEr3>

## 12. Selection

(1) Selection Process

The selection process will be 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.

<Important Notes on Interview>

- Each applicant is allotted **6 minutes** for the presentation (**Punctuality required**).
- All Applicants must clarify the definition and positioning of Next-Generation AI within your own research. With primary focus on the “Social Significance” and “Future Plans” please also include explanation of the following points:
  - Validity of the research method and schedule
  - Characteristics, originality, creativity and challenges of research
  - Progressiveness as Next-Generation AI research, and prospects for deployment in society and various fields
- Please **prepare presentation materials (e.g., PowerPoint)** to ensure you complete your presentation within the allotted time.
- In principle, if your application documents were submitted in English, the interview will also be conducted in English.
- To ensure a smooth interview process, please check how to use screen sharing and other functions on Zoom in advance.

(2) Schedule (JST)

	Period	Remarks
Pre-Registration	From 9:00, January 30 (Fri.) to 17:00, February 9 (Mon.), 2026	All applicants are required to pre-register before applying.
Application	From 9:00, January 30 (Fri.) to noon, February 12 (Thu.), 2026	-
Document Review	Mid-February, 2026	We will notify applicants of the review results and the interview schedule via email on: February 26 (Thu.) or 27 (Fri.), 2026 Note: Request to reschedule the assigned interview date and time will not be accepted for any reason.
Interview (Zoom)	March 4 (Wed.), 2026 16:00-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interview session will be recorded for review purposes.</li> <li>• We will notify applicants of the interview result via email: On or after March 19 (Thu.), 2026</li> </ul> Note: This date is subject to change depending on the process of the review schedule.

Registration Process & Submission of Oath	Late March 2026	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	April 1 (Wed.), 2026	Start of research expenses utilization. Note: Orders can be started.
	End of April 2026 (Tentative)	Remittance of living expenses for April. Execution of research expenses will start.

### 13. Contact

W-SPRING-AI Committee Secretariat

URL: <https://bit.ly/4cPGEr3>