

**Application Guidelines for Support Starting in April 2025 (Draft):**  
**Next Generation Doctoral Human Resource Development Program Through Integration of Knowledge**  
**and Practice (TU-SPRING)**  
**Tottori University, 2025**

**1. Purpose of TU- SPRING**

Tottori University has been selected as an implementing institution for the Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING) of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). In response, the University has established the Next Generation Doctoral Human Resource Development Program Through Integration of Knowledge and Practice (TU-SPRING) to support and develop doctoral students who will lead Japan's scientific technology and innovation in the future. The program is now accepting applications from students who wish to receive the support (successful students will be referred to as "TU-SPRING students").

This program provides financial support to doctoral students to create an environment in which they can devote themselves to research. It also provides research funds to create an environment in which they can continue their research based on free thinking. The program is designed to develop a practical doctoral education system based on the needs and changes in society, to provide career and human resource development content, and to produce human resources with doctoral degrees who can work in various fields, not only in academia but also in industry, and solve diverse problems ranging from the local to the international arena.

**2. Total Number of Scholarship Recipients**

Approximately 30 students

**3. Eligibility Requirements**

Those who have a strong desire to solve problems with deep expertise and play an active role in various fields ranging from the local to the international arena in order to contribute to the creation of scientific technologies and innovation in Japan even after completing the doctoral program and who meet all of the following conditions from (1) to (6).

- (1) Those who are enrolled or plan to enroll in a doctoral program as of April 1, 2025
- (2) Those who have not been selected for the Research Fellowship for Young Scientists by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- (3) Those who do not receive a sufficient level of scholarship for living expenses (2.4 million yen per year) (excluding loan-type scholarships)
- (4) Those who do not receive a stable income, in other words, a sufficient level of salary or executive compensation for living expenses (2.4 million yen per year) from the university or company to which they belong
- (5) In the case of international students, those who do not receive support from the Japanese Government Scholarship Program or other scholarships or support from their home countries
- (6) Those who can participate in the projects conducted by TU-SPRING during the period of support.

#### **4. Support Details**

Research support scholarship and research funds will be paid.

- (1) Research support scholarship: 2.16 million yen/year (180,000 yen/month) as living expenses  
To enable students to concentrate on their research, an amount equivalent to living expenses is provided. It is usually paid into the student's bank account by the end of each month.
- (2) Research funds: Up to 300,000 yen/year

#### **5. Period of Support**

The period of support is, in principle, the period during which the student is enrolled in the Graduate School (within the standard course period).

#### **6. Application Documents**

- (1) Application form for the Next Generation Doctoral Human Resource Development Program Through Integration of Knowledge and Practice (TU-SPRING) (Form 1)
- (2) Letter of Recommendation from the (prospective) academic advisor (Form 2)

#### **7. Selection Method**

Screening of application documents and interview (Web-based). The interview is scheduled for late March 2025. Applicants will be notified of the results by the end of March 2025.

#### **8. Application Deadline and Procedure**

- (1) Application deadline: 17:00, Friday, March 7, 2025
- (2) Convert the application form (Form 1) into a PDF file and upload it from the TU-SPRING Application Form. Name the PDF file "your name\_application form 202504" (e.g., Toridai Hanako\_application form 202504)  
<https://forms.gle/QyAfmCZStD6JEAk39>
- (3) For the Letter of Recommendation (Form 2), ask your (prospective) academic advisor to submit it directly to the secretariat by email by the application deadline.
- (4) Fill out the applications in Japanese or English.

#### **9. Obligations of TU-SPRING Students**

In addition to the obligation to dedicate themselves to their research activities based on their plan after completing the research ethics education (eAPRIN) program designated by the University, TU-SPRING students are also obliged to carry out the following in order to form a clear career path after obtaining the degree. (Details will be provided to successful students at a later date.)

- (1) Submission of a research progress report (in the designated format) each academic year
- (2) Regular meetings with a mentor who has excellent education and research performance in a field different from the academic advisor (in principle, about four times a year)
- (3) Participation in programs for research skill improvement and career and human resource development

(internships, networking events with private companies, various seminars, etc.)

- (4) Registration on the system operated by the Coop-J Consortium
- (5) Registration on the Japan Graduates Database (JGRAD). This is because JST will conduct a follow-up survey on the students' careers after they complete the support period.
- (6) Registration on the database-type researcher directory operated by JST (researchmap)

## **10. Cancellation of Support**

If a TU-SPRING student falls under any of the following conditions, their eligibility for receiving support will be canceled, and payment of research support scholarship and research funds will be suspended.

- (1) If they are selected for the Research Fellowship for Young Scientists by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- (2) If they receive a sufficient level of other scholarships for living expenses (2.4 million yen per year) (excluding loan-type scholarships)
- (3) If they receive a stable income, in other words, a sufficient level of salary or executive compensation for living expenses (2.4 million yen per year) from the university or company to which they belong
- (4) If international students receive support from the Japanese Government Scholarship Program or other scholarships or support from their home countries
- (5) If the status of the execution of the research plan or the fulfillment of the obligations as a TU-SPRING student is considered insufficient.
- (6) When they complete, withdraw, or are expelled from the doctoral program.
- (7) If they request to withdraw from the support program.
- (8) If they have received disciplinary action under Article 68 of the Tottori University Graduate School Rules (No. 56 of the Tottori University Rules, 2004), or punishment under Article 4 of the Tottori University Student Disciplinary Action Regulations (No. 47 of the Tottori University Rules, April 8, 2009).
- (9) If they are found to have committed misconduct in research activities as stipulated in Article 2 of the Tottori University Regulations Concerning the Prevention of Misconduct in Research Activities (No. 27 of the Tottori University Rules, March 14, 2007).
- (10) If they are found to have misused public research funds as stipulated in Article 3 of the Tottori University Regulations Concerning the Prevention of Misuse of Public Research Funds (No. 129 of the Tottori University Rules, October 10, 2007).
- (11) When the standard course period is exceeded
- (12) When a student takes a leave of absence. However, if it is due to childbirth, childcare, injury/illness, or other reasons that make it difficult to continue research, the period of support may be suspended or extended, depending on each individual circumstances.
- (13) If the program director determines that there are grounds for cancellation

## **11. Return of Research Support Scholarship and Research Funds**

If, as a result of the cancellation, there are research support scholarship and research funds that were paid without

eligibility, the recipient must return to the University the amount paid for the ineligible period.

## 12. Handling of Personal Information

Personal information (name, date of birth, gender, etc.) provided in the application documents may be provided to JST in addition to use for selection and program implementation. In order to ensure the transparency of the program, the information of selected TU-SPRING students (name, graduate school, etc.) will be published on the University's website.

## 13. Other Points to Note

- (1) TU-SPRING students are required to submit a written oath to perform the activities specified in the TU-SPRING.
- (2) The research support scholarship is classified as “miscellaneous income” and is subject to income tax under the tax law. The University does not withhold taxes. Therefore, TU-SPRING students are responsible for filing their own income tax returns. Students must also inform their parents or other sustainers of their income and check with a responsible person at their parents' employer for any changes in the treatment of dependents for health insurance, family allowance, and other benefits received. In some cases, international students may be exempt from filing income tax returns if they follow the procedures set forth in tax treaties.
- (3) Since there is no employment relationship between the University and TU-SPRING students, the University is not in a position to handle the enrollment procedures for health and other social insurance for the students. It is the responsibility of each student to complete the enrollment procedures for national health insurance.
- (4) The University will manage the research funds. Under the supervision of the academic advisor, students are required to make expenditures according to the research plan by following the University's accounting procedures.
- (5) For international students who have not yet arrived in Japan, since it is difficult to directly confirm and evaluate their activities as doctoral students, the research support scholarship and research funds will be paid from the first day of the month following their arrival in Japan (or from the day of arrival if they arrive on the first day of the month).
- (6) When publishing the research results obtained with the support of TU-SPRING, clearly indicate that the student received funding from TU-SPRING. The following are the examples of acknowledgements in a paper.

### English:

This work was supported by JST SPRING, Grant Number JPMJSP2187

### Japanese:

本研究は、JST 次世代研究者挑戦的研究プログラム JPMJSP2187 の支援を受けたものです。

- (7) Be sure to check with the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) because JASSO may not allow students to receive two different nonrepayable scholarships. Students who are selected as a JASSO Type 1 Scholar in 2023 or later will no longer be eligible for the Exemption from Return for Particularly Outstanding Achievement. For details, visit the JASSO website.

JASSO website:

<https://www.jasso.go.jp/shogakukin/saiyochu/gyosekimenjo/seidogaiyo/index.html>

**14. Inquiry to / Letter of Recommendation (Form 2) Submitted to the following:**

Tottori University TU-SPRING Program Secretariat (General Affairs Section, Research Promotion Department, Research Promotion Division)

tu-spring@ml.adm.tottori-u.ac.jp (replace @ with @.)