

## Application Guidelines for the 2024 Academic Year Program for Training the Knowledge Practitioners Who Will Create the Future

The University of Fukui has been selected by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) for adoption of Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING); the University is now receiving applications from excellent, ambitious doctoral students who intend on playing key roles in the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan.

The program provides research grants (equivalent to living expenses) and research expenses over a multi-year period for the students selected, in order to help them concentrate on their research. It also offers the Program for Training the Knowledge Practitioners Who Will Create the Future, through which students can study abroad, develop their career paths, take part in internships, and acquire transferable skills.

Through this, we aim to train students to become world-class researchers and engineers, ready to work in the occupations and positions they desire, across various fields.

### 1. Eligibility to Apply

Applicants must be currently enrolled in the University of Fukui Graduate School of Engineering doctoral program, and must have the qualifications listed below.

### 2. Number of Applicants Accepted

Six: two first-year students, two second-year students, and two third-year students.

### 3. Qualifications Necessary for Applicants

As of the time of application, applicants must have excellent research skills, and must show promise toward contributing to the development of science and technology and the creation of innovation within Japan in the future. Applicants must also be enrolled in the doctoral program at the Graduate School of Engineering as of April 1, 2024. Additionally, applicants must obtain approval from their (expected) academic advisors before applying.

Note, however, that anyone who falls within any of the following categories will not be eligible:

- (1) Research fellows of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- (2) International students who are recipients of financial support from the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship, or from scholarships from their home country
- (3) Recipients of other benefits equivalent to living expenses, or salaries from companies, etc., totaling ¥2,400,000 or more per year.
- (4) Students currently on a leave of absence
- (5) Students who have been enrolled for longer than the standard term of study (with an exception made for students who have taken a leave of absence, for whom the net length of “total enrollment period minus leave period” is less than the standard term of study).
- (6) Individuals who have been subject to disciplinary action under Article 64 of the University of Fukui Regulations (enacted April 1, 2004) (including application correspondingly under Article 43 of the University of Fukui Graduate School Regulations (April 1, 2004)).

#### 4. Support Period

Three years for first-year students, two years for second-year students, and one year for third-year students, starting April 2024.

#### 5. Specifics of Support

Support is provided for the following expenses within the standard term of study:

Research grant (equivalent to living expenses): ¥166,000 per month (paid to Program students, on the date determined by the University)

Research expenses: ¥300,000 per year (budgetary appropriations are managed by the University)

#### 6. Application Procedure

Application Document: Attached Application Form (Form 1)

Submit your filled-in Form 1 to the Administration Division for Engineering as an email attachment (kougakubu-jinjizaimu@ml.u-fukui.ac.jp) by the application deadline.

Notes:

- The application form (Form 1) can be downloaded at the following URL:  
[https://ufdeli.cii.u-fukui.ac.jp/public/XIo7geplc\\_xW7ZqJHte6uPDvcqbEGzip2V7xOJ\\_nwv2h](https://ufdeli.cii.u-fukui.ac.jp/public/XIo7geplc_xW7ZqJHte6uPDvcqbEGzip2V7xOJ_nwv2h)
- The subject line of your application submission email should be “【Application for program Support Project】” or “Support Program Application”.
- Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.
- After applications are received, a reply will be sent via email by the end of the next day (except Saturdays and Sundays). If you have not received a reply indicating that your application has been received within the expected period of time, contact the Administration Division for Engineering (kougakubu-jinjizaimu@ml.u-fukui.ac.jp) as soon as possible.

#### 7. Application Submission Deadline

Applications MUST be submitted by 15:00 on Monday, April 22, 2024. No exceptions will be made.

#### 8. Selection

Selections will be made by the University of Fukui’s selection committee for the Program for Training the Knowledge Practitioners Who Will Create the Future.

#### 9. Selection Method and Focuses

##### • Selection Method

The first round of selections will be made based on a screening of documents. The applicants will be informed via email of the results of this first round of selections.

The second round of selections will be made based on face-to-face presentations and question-and-answer sessions.

Applicants who will be starting the University’s doctoral program, but who do not currently live in Japan, are allowed to do their presentations and question-and-answer sessions online, rather than coming to the University in person.

- Focuses for Selections

The screening in the first round of selections will focus primarily on the appropriateness and feasibility of the research plans.

In the second round of selections, applicants will be asked about the specifics of their research plans, the state of their preparations, how they intend to collaborate with external organizations, and how they intend to apply the outcomes of their studies to research and/or job after completing the doctoral program.

## 10. Results of Selection

Successful applicants (hereafter “Program students”) and their (expected) academic advisors will be informed of the results of the selection in early June via email.

## 11. Obligations of Program Students

In order to achieve the Program’s objectives, the following obligations shall apply to Program students:

- (1) Program students are to dedicate themselves to their research, based on the research plan from when the application was submitted.
- (2) Program students are to make sure to carry out their overseas internship or international study plan from when the application was submitted.
- (3) Program students are to take at least one of the class subjects on career development training content offered by the University per year.
- (4) Program students are to join the Cooperative Education through Research Internships program conducted by the Coop-J Consortium.
- (5) Program students are to submit one paper, or take part in one international conference, per year (for second- and third-year students).
- (6) Program students are to actively take part in programs and other activities held by the University that are related to improving research skills and career support.
- (7) Program students are to give status reports on their research at the regularly scheduled debriefing sessions.
- (8) Program students are to regularly have direct talks with their (expected) academic advisors.
- (9) Program students are to comply with all relevant laws and regulations in their research activities, with full understanding that their research expenses are funded with public resources.
- (10) Program students are to attend and complete an educational program on research ethics and integrity (eAPRIN) held by the University.
- (11) Program students are to promptly report any decisions they make regarding their career paths after completion of the Program.
- (12) Program students are to cooperate in various surveys after completion of the Program, including follow-up questionnaires related to their careers.

## 12. Cancellation of Support

The research grants and research expenses provided may be cancelled, and the Program student may be required to repay the funds, in any of the following cases:

- (1) If the Program student loses their qualifications to apply as listed under Item 3. above
- (2) If the status of execution of the research plan or fulfillment of Program student obligations as listed under Item 11. above is deemed inadequate
- (3) If the Program student him-/herself requests to withdraw from the Program
- (4) If the University's president determines there is any other reason to cancel support

ii. The amount to be refunded (or amount by which support will be reduced) shall be as follows:

#### Research Grants

Category	Standard Reduction of Support
If eligibility is reached on or by the 15th day of the month	No reduction for the month in question
If eligibility is reached on the 16th day of the month or later	50% reduction for the month in question
If eligibility is cancelled on or by the 15th day of the month	100% reduction for the month in question
If eligibility is cancelled on the 16th day of the month or later	50% reduction for the month in question
If eligibility is cancelled on the last day of the month	No reduction for the month in question
If the Program student dies	No reduction for the month in question

#### Research Expenses

Any unused portion from the date of eligibility through the date of cancellation.

#### 13. Tax Law Procedures, etc.

Note that, while the relationship between Program students and the University is not considered employment, the research grant is considered miscellaneous income for tax purposes, and is subject to both income tax and local inhabitant tax. As a result, Program students are required to file a tax return for this income. If you are considered a dependent of someone who lives in Japan, please also make sure to inform the person responsible for supporting you (such as your parent or guardian) of this fact; for matters regarding support for health insurance, support allowance, etc. provided through the employer of the person supporting you, please contact the person responsible at their workplace.

#### 14. Handling of Personal Information

- (1) Names and other personal information provided on application forms are used for the purpose of document screenings, interviews, and other parts of the selection process, as well as for the purpose of performing duties related to this project.
- (2) In the interest of ensuring transparency, the names, affiliations, and other information related to students eligible for support will be used for publication on the website, as well as in reports and other printed materials.
- (3) The names, affiliations, and other information related to Program students will be used along with photos of classes, events, etc. publicized in reports or other printed materials, or on the website, as a record of program activities.
- (4) This project is operated through a subsidy from JST, who will follow up directly with students receiving support, regarding project implementation status, and will ensure that its relevant staff have access to

Program students, in order to directly receive students' opinions and other feedback. The results will be directly utilized in the results of this project. Names and other personal information written on application forms will be provided to JST, as well as email addresses and other contact information; your cooperation is appreciated for requests to participate in evaluations and other surveys.

#### 15. Additional Notes

- (1) If an applicant is already receiving other financial support of any kind, the applicant is to confirm with the other organization the conditions for receiving said financial support, and take action as appropriate, such as declining said financial support.
- (2) Regarding the “recipients of other benefits equivalent to living expenses, or salaries from companies, etc., totaling ¥2,400,000 or more per year” in Item 3(3) above, applicants may be asked to submit documents as evidence to confirm income status.

#### 16. Contact

Personnel and finance staff at Administration Division for Engineering — (0776) 27-9750

Email Address: [kougakubu-jinjizaimu@ml.u-fukui.ac.jp](mailto:kougakubu-jinjizaimu@ml.u-fukui.ac.jp)