

The Japanese version is the authoritative version, and this English translation is intended for reference purposes only. Should any discrepancies or doubt arise between the two versions, the Japanese version will prevail.

Hiroshima University has been selected as an implementing institution for "Challenging Research Program for Next-Generation Researchers" proceeded by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Hiroshima University has established the Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation of Innovative Researchers at Hiroshima University with the aim of creating an environment where doctoral students can concentrate on their research with peace of mind, and making them leap forward by support and foster so that they can contribute to the future of science, technology and innovation in Japan and who will be future leaders of the world. Therefore, we are calling for students who are eligible for support (hereinafter referred to as "Next-Generation Fellows").

This program seeks individuals who can contribute to Japan's future science, technology, and innovation and who can promote initiatives to make the world a better place through their comprehensive ability to have a broad perspective and knowledge, excellent judgment, and the acting power. **In particular, we are looking for applicants who have the intention to be directly involved in the creation of science, technology and innovation in Japan after obtaining their doctoral degrees at Hiroshima University, and we will emphasize this point in our screening process.**

The program will provide to adopted fellows the support grant which is an amount equivalent to living expense to devote their research as well as research funds and will refer the opportunity of study abroad for research to overseas institutes and the acquisition of transferable skills. Besides it will implement the various initiatives related to their career development and raising.

In addition, HU SPRING, an emergent scene for Next-Generation Fellows to interact and collaborate beyond their own areas of expertise, will be established to provide a forum for discussion on how to approach solving social problems and achieving world peace.

The call for applications for support starting from April 2025, has been shown below.

1. Number of Positions

*Current and prospective students of **the Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society** are also eligible to apply.

* The number of support quotas will fluctuate each year depending on the number of fellows who have declined.

2. Eligibility

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

3. Application Method

Please access the online application form (Google Forms) from the following URL, enter the required items, and

Frequently asked questions are listed below, so please check here first before contacting us.

<https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/fellowship/faq>

*Please note that the University will be closed from December 28(Sat.) to January 5(Sun.). Please note that we will not be able to respond to inquiries, etc.

5. Selection Process and Notification of Results

The selection process will be conducted through the First Screening (screening of the submitted application documents) and the Second Screening. In principle, the First Screening will be conducted by a single judge in a specialized field that is close to the application content and two judges from different research fields. The Second Screening will be conducted by the Integrated Screening Committee. However please note that depending on the results of the First Screening, the Second Screening may not be undertaken. The system of the Second Screening in detail will be announced to applicants who should go the Second Screening if it is undertaken.

All applicants will be notified of the screening results by e-mail during March, 2025. (Please note that applicants who were initially unsuccessful in their application may be selected at a later date, depending on the status of adoption. In such a case, we will contact you by e-mail separately.) In addition, regarding the evaluation of each applicant, an

And having the following two things will be highly valued as an applicant for the program.

- (1) There is a sub-supervisor who is affiliated with research institutions outside of Japan that have been notified to the Graduate School at Hiroshima University or is scheduled to have such an overseas sub-supervisor.
- (2) The applicant is planning a mid- to long-term overseas study program. (The term means more than one month at least.)

Please note that individual inquiries regarding each decision will not be able to be responded to.

6. Outline and important notes of Support after Selection

- (1) For further Support details, please refer to the attached "Outline of Support by the Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation of Innovative Researchers at Hiroshima University".
- (2) You must enroll at Hiroshima University to be officially selected. Check the requirements with your desired graduate school or department and complete the admission or advancement process.
- (3) If you postpone

1. Support to Next-Generation Fellows

(1) In order to support the Next-Generation Fellows and allow them to concentrate on their studies and/or research, stipends will be provided for up to three years (or four years for doctoral students of the 4-Year Ph.D. Programs) after their enrollment*. Based on the principle monthly amount of 190,000 JPY provided in May, July, September, November, January, and March. The detailed schedule of payment will be announced after adoption.

And fellows with outstanding academic performance in the initiative of New SPRING at Hiroshima University will be provided further 120,000 JPY as HU-SPRING Award in March of the year.

* If a Next-

However, if it becomes necessary for a Next-Generation Fellow to suspend or extend the period of support due to childbirth, childcare, illness, studying abroad, considered before a decision is made.

(2) The stipends are taxable as a miscellaneous income. Therefore, every Next-Generation Fellow is required to file an income tax return.

Furthermore, if a student with dependents (parents, etc.) is provided with this Program for Next-Generation, they may need to be excluded from their dependents. Therefore, if a student is selected as a Next-Generation Fellow, they should inform their dependents (parents, etc.) that the stipends they receive will be treated as a miscellaneous income under the Japanese tax law. For the procedures required to change your health insurance or dependents, please contact the person in charge at the workplace of your dependents (parents, etc.).

(3) For a period of up to three years (or four years for doctoral students of the 4-Year Ph.D. Programs) after a Next-Generation Fellow is selected, 190,000 JPY per year will be funded from the academic year in which they have been selected as a Next-Generation Fellow. And the maximum amount of research expenses for a fiscal year in which the period of support is six months or less is 200,000 JPY.

(4) For international students who are currently overseas and are selected for the Next-Generation Fellow, as a general rule, the stipends and research funds will begin to be provided starting from the month following the Fellow has entered Japan and is able to commute to the University campus. Additionally, after support begins, the stipends will not be provided for any month during which the student is entirely absent from Japan for personal reasons unrelated to study or research.

2. Next-Generation Fellow Obligations

Next-Generation Fellows shall fulfill the following obligations to receive support:

- (1) Develop a yearly research plan for each academic year and concentrate on research activities based on the plan.
- (2) Participate in programs offered by the University related to improving research capabilities.
- (3) Report the progress of research activities to the University regularly.
- (4) Cooperate in various surveys. In particular, it is essential to cooperate with follow-up surveys on the career for 10 years after completion of the program.
- (5) B (only available in Japanese),

- (3) he Next-Generation Fellow Obligations is deemed insufficient.
- (4) The Fellow requests to cancel their Fellowship.
- (5) The Fellow takes a leave of absence from the University. However, in the case of childbirth, childcare, illness, studying abroad, suspension and subsequent resumption of payments, and other such factors.
- (6) The Fellow withdraws from, or is removed from the University.
- (7) The Fellow does not meet the eligibility requirements. (In this case, full-repayment of stipends and research funds is claimed.)
- (8) The University decides that there is a valid reason to cancel the Fellowship.

4. Repayment of Excess Stipend Payments and Research Funds

If the period of support is shortened due to early completion, cancellation of support, etc., the payment of the stipends will be stopped at the end of the shortened support period, and any excess amount which has been paid will need to be returned. Also, in principle, the research funds will also need to be returned in proportion to the number of months the support period was shortened by.

5. Others

- (1) salary via a RA/TA position, etc., or work part-time.
- (2) The names of those who are selected as Next- .
- (3) Any personal information stated within the application documents, and any other necessary personal information provided by the graduate school to which an applicant belongs to, will be used only for the purposes of the selection of candidates, preparation for acceptance, education/research guidance, etc.