Doctoral Student Support Program (Tentative name)

Student Application Guidelines

For prospective students to be admitted in April 2024

Osaka Metropolitan University
Doctoral Human Resource Development Support Office

June 2023

1. Program Objective

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has been conducting the "University Fellowship Founding Project" and "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation" since FY2021 to provide financial support for doctoral students, as well as research support and career path formation support. It is stated that the student support program will be succeeded by a new program that unifies both programs from FY2024. The University plans to continue to provide the same support programs as in the past, inheriting the main objectives of the above two programs.

> Since the details of the support for the new program have not been announced at this time, this call is based on the assumption that the support will be equivalent to the "University Fellowship Founding Project" and the "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation". The details of the support may be subject to change once the new program is officially confirmed.

2. Application Requirements

Persons who plan to apply or have applied for a doctoral course (3-year or 4-year doctoral course) at the Graduate School of Osaka Metropolitan University (OMU) for admission in April 2024

3. Details of Support

1) Incentive (support for living expenses): 2,000,000 yen per year (tentative)
2) Research support and career development support: TBD
   *Our current plan is to cover support for expenses for research activities, study abroad, conference presentations, and submission of papers. The amount of financial support is assumed to be 200,000-900,000 yen per year.

4. Period of Support and Eligibility

(1) Period of Support: From April 1, 2024 to the end of the standard period of enrollment
   Note: Supports may be terminated if you take a leave of absence during the support period depending on the reasons.
(2) Eligibility: Applicants who have passed this selection process and enrolled in the graduate school described in "2. Application Requirements" as of April 1, 2024.

   Students who fall under any of the following categories as of the support starting date will be excluded:

- Students who have been selected as a Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- International students supported by the Japanese Government (Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology [MEXT]) Scholarship Program
- International students who receive scholarships and/or other support from their home country
- Working students who have been eligible to receive a stable and enough amount of money as living expenses (2.4 million yen/year as a reference) from the company to which they belong.

[Note]

*About receiving other financial supports, such as scholarships from JASSO and other foundations

Since this program is targeting to "create an environment where students can concentrate on their research" and JASSO scholarships has a different nature, you may receive support from this program and either loan-type or benefit-type scholarships at the same time in principle. It is important to also check with JASSO to ensure there are no issues with receiving their scholarships along with the funding from this program. It goes the same with receiving scholarships from other foundations, so please consult with the foundations if they have any concerns.

5. Student Obligations

Students supported by this program will be assigned certain responsibilities from the perspective of human resource development.

Examples)

・Prepare a research plan and research progress report

・Regular meetings with a mentor

・Obtaining a certain number of credits from the graduate school's common education courses

・Participation in a job-based research internship

・Study in Japan or abroad

・Presentation at international academic conferences

・Participation in events sponsored by the program

In order to fulfill the above responsibilities, the understanding of your academic advisor is essential. Before applying, please be sure to obtain the consent of your prospective supervisor.

6. Number of Students to be accepted

40 Students

7. Schedule

(1) Application Period

Microsoft Forms submission: Friday, July 14, 2023– Monday, July 24, 2023, 12:00 JST

Submission of essay and face photo: Friday, July 14, 2023– Monday, July 24, 2023, 15:00 JST

(2) Notification of Interview Date and time

Notification is to be sent by Friday, July 28 to the e-mail address provided on the application form

(3) Interview

Monday, July 31, 2023 through Friday, August 18, 2023 between 9:00 JST and 17:30 JST

The interview will take approximately 25 minutes.

(4) Announcement of Acceptance

Friday, September 15, 2023: Successful applicants will be notified at the e-mail address that you provided on your application form.

＊We will not respond to any inquiries regarding acceptance or rejection by phone.

8. Application Process

Please visit https://forms.office.com/r/XXULniBDby and submit the required information.

*Submission deadline: Mon. July 24, 2023 12:00 JST

Also send the files listed in "(2) Files" below to the following address

by email: gr-knky-2024dss@omu.ac.jp

*Submission deadline: Mon. July 24, 2023 15:00 JST

*Notification of receipt will NOT be sent.

Please do not forget to encrypt the files, and send the password(s) in a separate email.

Your application will be received by completing the submission of both Microsoft Forms and the required files. Doctoral Human Resource Development Support Office will contact you only to inquire about your entry on Forms or request for re-submission of the files.

*The application on Microsoft Forms sets many sections for entry and it will take time for you to complete filling in. Please allow yourself sufficient time to proceed with the application. If you submit the application form multiple times, only the most recent submission will be considered valid and received.

(2) Files

・Essay using Form 1 (attached)

　Please name the file "Student ID Number_Name.pdf" (in .pdf format only).

・Face Photo (above shoulders) (jpg, bmp, png format).

　Please name the file "Student ID Number_name.jpg" (or bmp, png).

If you belong to another university at the time of application, you do not need to enter your student ID number.

Form 1 can be downloaded from

https://www.omu.ac.jp/fellowship/info/2024dss/entry-30833.html

Notes for special caution

(1) Incomplete application documents will not be accepted.

(2) Documents submitted at the time of application will not be returned.

(3) No revisions of documents are allowed after the application procedure has been completed.

(4) If it is confirmed that the information entered in the application form, or the information contained in the submitted documents, is not true, the applicant's eligibility to participate in this program may be revoked.

(5) Personal information provided by applicants will be used for the selection purpose only.

(6) No application fee is required for the selection process.

9. Selection Method

1) Examination contents

Subjects for examination	Scoring	Outline etc.
Essay	100 points	To be prepared in accordance with Form 1.
Interview	100 points	This will be conducted online. You will have seven minutes in the beginning to present your essay (you may use PowerPoint slides for the presentation), followed by a thirteen-minute question-and-answer session.

2) Evaluation method

Evaluation (scoring) will be performed in accordance with the results of the essay and interview. Scoring will be based on the Rubric Evaluation Table

https://www.omu.ac.jp/fellowship/assets/en_rubric_2024dss_230704_2.pdf

10. Date and Place of Interview (online)

After the application documents are received, the date and time will be designated sometime between Mon. July 31, 2023 and Fri. August 18, 2023. The interview will take approximately 25 minutes. If, during the abovementioned time periods, you are unable to attend an interview for legitimate reasons such as the university entrance examination or presentations at academic conferences, please specify your unavailability for the interview with the reason in the designated column of the application form (you may be asked to submit documentation to verify the reason later). However, this does not guarantee that the interview will be held at a time other than the specified time slot.

We will inform you of the date and time of the interview and the URL for the Zoom meeting by Friday, July 28. If you do not hear from us by 16:30 JST on Friday, July 28, please contact us by 17:00 JST on the same day at the e-mail address listed in "13. Contact for Inquiries."

Notes:

(1) In the event that an interview cannot be conducted as scheduled due to a natural disaster, etc., an "emergency notice" will be sent out via e-mail, so please check.

(2) Emergency contact information on the day of the interview is the same as in "13. Contact for Inquiries."

11. Note

Acceptance or rejection of this program has nothing to do with the graduate school entrance examination. Even if you are selected for this program before admission, you will not be exempted from the graduate school entrance examination. In addition, this program does not provide reductions, exemptions, or assistance for entrance and tuition fees. (For information on reduction/exemption programs, or subsidies for entrance and tuition fees and other financial aid programs offered by the university, please contact the respective department in charge of the program.)

12. Others

In the fiscal year 2023, there are two application rounds for student entering in 2024. This is the first round, and the next call is scheduled for January 2024.

13. Contact for Inquiries

Please inquire at the Support Office below.
Please note that inquiries will be accepted only by email in order to avoid any discrepancies in the information shared by the Support Office.
We thank you in advance for your understanding.

Doctoral Human Resource Development Support Office, OMU
Email: gr-knky-2024dss@omu.ac.jp

Essay

Name	
Affiliation	Graduate school of _____ Major in _____
Academic supervisor	
Subject of research	
Research keywords (about 5)	
~~*Name of associate~~ supervisor and/or associate graduate school ~~(major)~~	

~~*If you have not decided on these at the application stage, be sure to enter the name of the expected~~
~~candidate associate supervisor or the name of the expected associate graduate school, etc.~~

This is the end of the information to be included on this page.
Please start your essay from the next page in accordance with the instructions below.

- There is no set format.
- Explain your research and thoughts described in 1) through 5) below in simple terms so that it is easy for people outside your area of expertise to understand.
- The essay must not be more than 3 pages long in A4 paper size when written in Japanese (approximately 45 characters a line and 40 lines on a page), including images, tables, and graphs. The maximum word count shall be 3000 words when written in English. When describing your achievements in the essay, please write "Applicant" to refer to yourself. Do not include your name.
- Please include the following five points in your essay.
  1) Describe your research in a concise and easy-to-understand manner, including the purpose of your research, research methods, research content, and the characteristics and originality of your research (comparison with previous research, expected impact upon completion of the research, future prospects, etc.). Then, please describe in detail what and to what extent you intend to clarify by the time you receive your degree. Those who have applied for JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC1) for FY2024 may attach the application form as supplemental materials in addition to your essay.
  2) Describe how you think the research results obtained through this program will result in one or two of the following: (1) solutions to social issues and/or (2) creating leading research areas, concretely.
  3) Describe what areas of interest you have outside of your research area and how you plan to incorporate them into your own research.
  4) Describe the transferable skills* you plan to acquire through this program and explain the reasons why you want to obtain these skills and how to acquire them.

     (*Transferable skills in this program include skills that can be widely transferred and applied, such as originality, flexible mindset, rising to challenges, ability to identify research needs, research management skills, data analysis skills, presentation ability, leadership skills to attract people, and other skills that are required in developing innovative human resources.)

  5) Describe your ideas about your career path after completing your doctoral course, and how you would like to be active and contribute to society.