

**AY 2023 Summer**

**Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next  
Generation**

**Program for Developing Human Resource with  
Rhizome-based Research Approach**

**Student Application Guidelines**

For doctoral students enrolling in Fall 2023 (3-year course)

**Osaka Metropolitan University,  
Office of Support for  
Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation**

June 2023

# 1. Program Objective

This program actively supports students entering doctoral courses with the aim of helping them develop the ability to solve social issues, create leading research fields, and cultivate and realize a vision of the future for society. In this program, students will not only delve into the specialized knowledge they have cultivated through research and other activities up to the master's level, but will also be motivated to deeply explore and develop their own research by enthusiastically absorbing expertise from other fields and disciplines, and organically combining diverse and interdisciplinary expertise.

# 2. Details of Support

The following support is available for eligible students in this program (within a standard years of study).

- 1) Rhizome Research Incentive Payments: JPY 2.2 million yen per year (This includes JPY 2,000,000 for incentive payments (equivalent to living expenses) and JPY 200,000 for research funds)
- 2) Rhizome Activity Support Fund: application basis (with review)
  - 2)-1 Financial support for studying abroad or in Japan (approximately 3 to 6 months, up to JPY 1.5 million during support period)
  - 2)-2 Financial support for long-term internship (approximately 3 months)
  - 2)-3 Financial support for travel and participation expenses for international conferences and summer school overseas
  - 2)-4 Financial support for submitting research papers (includes translation costs)
  - 2)-5 Financial support for organizing and managing independent projects
  - 2)-6 Support for career and network development

[Notes]

- (1) The maximum period of support is 3 years. If you are enrolled in doctoral course for more than 3 years, including years before this support starts, you will not be eligible to receive supports after the end of standard years of study.  
If you take a leave of absence during the support period, supports may be terminated depending on the reasons.
- (2) Support starts in October 2023.
- (3) Support starts for those students who have passed this selection process and will be enrolled in the graduate school listed in “3. Application Requirements” and not in leave of absence as of the support starting date.

### 3. Application Requirements

Applicants must have excellent research abilities and a strong desire to dedicate themselves to research and meet any of the following requirements.

- 1) Persons who plan to apply or have applied for doctoral course (3-year doctoral course) at the Graduate School of Osaka Metropolitan University for admission in October 2023  
(Note: Medicine and Veterinary not included)

However, the following students (as of support starting date) are excluded:

- Students who have been selected as a Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- Foreign 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 such as a salary and/or executive compensation) from the company to which they belong.
- Students who have applied for the University Fellowship Founding Project for Innovation Creation in Science and Technology (Fellowship Program) and have been accepted as prospective students for FY 2023. Regardless of the preceding paragraph, this does not apply to those who have submitted a notification of withdrawal of acceptance by the time of application for this selection. The students who apply for this time selection without submitting a withdrawal notice will have their applications invalidated.

The understanding of your academic supervisor is essential for the promotion of this program. Before submitting your application, please obtain the consent of your prospective supervisor.

In addition, please make sure that you fully understand the objectives of this program by reviewing the “Program Descriptions” materials on the program’s website before applying.

Visit [https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/info/2023\\_recruitment/](https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/info/2023_recruitment/)

[Notes]

- (1) Other financial supports from such as scholarships of JASSO and other foundations

Since this program is targeting to "create an environment where students can concentrate on their research" and JASSO scholarships has the different nature, you may basically receive the support from this program and either of loan-type or benefit-type scholarships at the same time. However, JASSO may not allow you to receive scholarships at the same time. Please make sure to check with JASSO as well. Regarding scholarships from other foundations, those foundations may not allow you to receive scholarships together with this project. Please make sure to check with the foundations.

- (2) University Fellowship Founding Project for Innovation Creation in Science and Technology  
Applicants applying for this program may not apply for the University Fellowship Founding

Project for Innovation Creation in Science and Technology (Fellowship Program). If you apply for both programs, you must withdraw one of your applications prior to selection process.

## **4. Projected Number of Student to be Accepted**

1) Students enrolling in October 2023 (3-year course):      About 1 student

## **5. Schedule**

1) Application period

Application Form Submission: Friday, July 14 – Monday July 24, 2023, 12:00 JST

Essay and Photo Submission: Friday, July 14 – Monday July 24, 2023, 15:00 JST

2) Notification of interview date and time

Notification will be sent by Friday, July 28, 2023, to the email address provided on the application form.

3) Interview

Specific date and time between Monday July 31 and Friday August 18, 2023, 9:00-17:30.

The interview will take approximately 25 minutes.

4) Announcement of Acceptance

Friday, September 15, 2023: Successful applicants will be notified at the email address provided in the application form.

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

## 6. Application Process

### 1) Where to apply

Please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/aECVstE6dy> and submit the required information.

Submission deadline: 12:00 JST on the last day of the application period

Once you have successfully submitted it, you will receive an email to the email address you entered to confirm that your application has been received. Please submit the following two files in section 2) as follows by returning the email above:

Submission deadline: 15:00 JST on the last day of the application period

Email to: [gr-knky-rhizome-su@omu.ac.jp](mailto:gr-knky-rhizome-su@omu.ac.jp)

\*Receipt confirmation email for these files will not be sent out.

Please send the two files encrypted and send the password for decompression in a separate email. Once you submit these two files within the application period, your application will be complete.

\* The above form has many fields and may take longer time to complete than you imagine.

Please fill out the form well in advance so that you do not miss the deadline.

Please note that only the last completed form will be considered valid if you fill out the above form multiple times during the application period.

### 2) Files

#### 1. Essay using Form 1 (attached)

Please name the file "Student ID Number\_Name.pdf" (in .pdf format only).

#### 2. 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/spring/info/2023\\_recruitment/](https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/info/2023_recruitment/)

#### 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 project may be revoked.
- (5) Personal information provided by applicants will be used only for the purpose of selection.
- (6) No application fee is required for the selection process.

## 7. Selection Method

### 1) Examination contents

Subjects for examination	Scoring	Outline etc.
Essay	100 points	To be prepared accordance with Form 1.
Interview	100 points	This will be conducted online. You will have seven minutes at the beginning to present your essay (using power point slides allowed), 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](#).

## 8. Date and Place of Interview

- After the application documents are received, the date and time will be designated sometime between July 31 (Monday) and August 18 (Friday), 2023.
- If, during the abovementioned time periods, you are unable to attend an interview for legitimate reasons such as 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.
- The interview will take approximately 25 minutes.
- 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 4:30 p.m. on that day, please contact us by 5:00 p.m. on the same day at the e-mail address listed in “11. Contact Information.”

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 “11. Contact Information.”

## 9. Student Obligations

Students selected for this program are responsible for the following. Failure to adhere to these obligations may result in termination of support and a request for support funds to be returned.

1) **Determine associate supervisor and promote the research activities of complex (multidisciplinary) knowledge.**

It is possible to determine your associate supervisor by consulting your main academic supervisor or mentor after you have been accepted to the program.

- 2) Obtaining a certain number of credits from common education courses at graduate school
- 3) Study abroad or in Japan for approximately 3 to 6 months
- 4) Long-term internship (approximately 3 months): Recommended
- 5) Attend and report in research progress report meetings (held every six months)
- 6) Submission of research papers, presentation at international conferences
- 7) Attend JST research ethics training and compliance training courses dedicated by the university
- 8) Apply for JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC) every year
- 9) Respond to monitoring and follow-up surveys conducted by both JST and this Program

## 10. Notes

The purpose of this program is to support research after admission to the doctoral course of the graduate school. Even if you are accepted to this program before admission, you will not be exempted from the graduate school entrance examination. Acceptance or rejection of this program has nothing to do with the graduate school entrance examination. In addition, this program does not provide reduction, exemption, or assistance for entrance and tuition fees. (For information on other financial aid programs including entrance and tuition fees offered by OMU, please contact the respective section in charge of each program.)

## **11. Contact Information**

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 Offices.

We thank you in advance for your understanding.

Office of Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)

Email: [gr-knky-rezhome-su@omu.ac.jp](mailto:gr-knky-rezhome-su@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 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 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 should be maximum 3000 word long and up to 3 pages in A4 format including figures, tables and graphs (total up to 4 pages including this page). When describing achievements in your 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 more of the following: (1) solutions to social issues, (2) creating leading research areas, and/or (3) creating a future vision of society concretely.
  - 3) Describe what kind of "complex (multidisciplinary) knowledge" you think is necessary in accordance with the purpose of this Rhizome Program and how you plan to acquire it.
  - 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.