

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

**Development of Rhizome-Type Researchers
for blooming of Interdisciplinary knowledge**

Application Guidelines

For prospective students enrolling in Fall 2025

**Osaka Metropolitan University
Doctoral Human Resource Development Support Office**

July 2025

1. Objectives of the Project

Osaka Metropolitan University has been selected for the Ministry of Education and JST's Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING) program, targeting doctoral students.

Our doctoral program aims to cultivate the Rhizome-Style Researchers by integrating diverse expertise from multiple fields to solve social challenges, create pioneering research areas, and envision future societies—transforming the program into a hub for comprehensive knowledge development. Building on this, we support outstanding doctoral students who aspire to become broad-minded the Rhizome-Style Researchers, contributing to the university's goal of establishing a multi-scale think tank for creating a mature, sustainable city.

International students are encouraged to apply after carefully considering how their research will contribute to Japan's science, technology, innovation, and global competitiveness.

2. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants planning to enroll in Fall 2025:

Individuals who are currently applying to a doctoral program (three-year Doctoral Program or four-year Doctoral Program) at the Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School and intend to complete their degree within the standard period of study (or within the approved period for those in an extended study program).

(Please consult with your prospective supervisor before applying.)

3. Support Details

Students selected for this program will receive the following support:

1. Research Incentive Fund (equivalent to living expenses):

¥2,100,000 per year

(This is treated as miscellaneous income and subject to income and resident taxes. Filing a tax return is required.)

2. Research Funding: ¥100,000 or ¥200,000 per year.

3. Career Development and Training Content Funding:

Application review required: This includes:

- Overseas study (1–3 months or longer, one time during the support period, up to ¥1,500,000),
- Participation in international conferences
- Internships
- Domestic study
- Independent project activities
- Paper submission (including submission fees, translation, and proofreading fees)
- Attendance at domestic conferences, etc
(partial support provided for all cases)

4. Support Period and Eligible Recipients

1. Support Period

For prospective students enrolling in Fall 2025: From October 1, 2025, until the end of the standard duration of study.

2. Eligible Recipients:

Fall 2025 enrollees: Selected in this screening process, enrolled in the doctoral program described in “2. Eligibility Requirements” as of October 1, 2025, and not on leave of absence.

Exclusions: Even if selected, the following are not eligible for support:

- ✓ Recipients of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) DC fellowships
- ✓ International students supported by the Government of Japan Scholarship Program
- ✓ JICA-sponsored international students
- ✓ International students receiving scholarships from their home countries
- ✓ Those receiving scholarships equivalent to or exceeding ¥2,400,000 per year for living expenses
- ✓ Those recognized as receiving stable living expenses equivalent to or exceeding ¥2,400,000 per year from their university or employer
- ✓ Recipients selected for the Next Generation AI Human Resources Development Program (BOOST)

[Important Notes]

- (1) Students selected for this SPRING program are excluded from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) special scholarship loan forgiveness program for outstanding achievement.
- (2) If support is provided only as research funding (not living expenses), doctoral students receiving such support can still be eligible for this SPRING program, but confirmation with the funding organization regarding overlap with SPRING is required.
- (3) Names, research topics and career paths of selected students may be shared internally and published on external websites.

5. Responsibilities of Supported Students

This SPRING initiative is promoted with the aim of fostering human resources who will contribute to “Japan’s science, technology, and innovation.” In line with this objective, students selected for the SPRING Program at Osaka Metropolitan University will be assigned certain responsibilities from the perspective of researcher development.

- Selecting a Sub-supervisor in addition to the main Supervisor
- Attending research ethics and compliance training
- Preparing a plan for Research Funding and Career Development Content (overall plan for the support period and annual budget plan)
- Reporting research progress at biannual Research Progress Meetings

- Developing a plan for domestic or international study abroad by the end of the fiscal year after support begins (for Fall enrollees, by the end of the first semester), and completing it within the standard period of study
- Participating in the Interdisciplinary Research Exchange (Supervisor and Sub-supervisor participation is optional)
- Holding two mentor consultations annually
- Applying for the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) DC fellowship (mandatory for eligible applicants)
- Completing designated coursework
- Participating in future panel discussions
- Cooperating with monitoring and follow-up surveys conducted by JST and this program (registration in JGRAD)

[Important Notes]

Before applying, please review <https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/> and fully understand the program's objectives.

It is essential to obtain your supervisor's consent before application to fulfill these responsibilities.

Support may be suspended or required to be returned depending on your activities.

6. Number of Recruits

Fall 2025 enrollment (support starting in October 2025):
Approximately 3 candidates

7. Application and Selection Schedule

1. Application Period: From **July 2(Wed), 2025 to August 11(Mon), 2025**
(Deadline; 23:59 JST)

You are required to complete the application form and submit it along with uploads of your essay and a photo.

2. Interview Date Notification: **By August 15(Fri), 2025**

Notification will be sent to the email address provided in the application form.

3. Interview Period: **From August 18(Mon), 2025 to September 3(Wed), 2025.**
A 20-minute time slot will be assigned during this period.

4. Announcement of Successful Applicants: **September 30(Tue), 2025 (tentative)**

Notification will be sent to the email address provided in the application form.

Inquiries about the selection results by phone or other means will not be accepted.

8. How to apply

1. Preparation and Submission of Application Form :
<https://logoform.jp/form/JvkY/SPRING20250702>
2. Please **enter applicant information on the website** where the application guidelines for the SPRING program are posted, and upload and submit the **SPRING application form (Form 1) and a facial photograph**.
3. Application Submission Deadline: **August 11 (Mon), 2025, 23:59**
 ※You may use either the Japanese or English version of the application form. Please submit one of them in PDF format.
 ※ Name the submitted file as "StudentID_GraduateSchoolName_FullName.pdf." If you do not have a student ID at Osaka Metropolitan University, please leave the student ID field blank.
 ※Due to the large number of required fields in the application, it may take more time than expected. Please submit your application well before the deadline. Late submissions **will not be accepted** under any circumstances.
 ※Please refrain from multiple submissions during the application period.

[Important Notes]

- (1) Applications with incomplete or incorrect documents may not be accepted.
- (2) Submitted documents will not be returned.
- (3) Changes to documents are not permitted after submission.
- (4) If any discrepancies between the provided information and the facts are found, eligibility for participation in the SPRING program may be revoked.
- (5) Personal data submitted with the application will be used solely for the selection process.
- (6) There is no examination fee for this selection.

9. Selection process

1. Examination Details

Examination Subjects	Points	Description
Document Screening (Application Materials)	100	Prepare a short essay based on the items in the SPRING Application Form (Form 1).
Oral Examination (Interview)	100	Conducted online. The applicant will give a presentation (PowerPoint, etc. may be used) on the content of the short essay for approximately 7 minutes, followed by about 13 minutes of Q&A.

2. Evaluation Method

Evaluation will be based on the scoring results of both the document (written) screening and the oral (interview) examination.

Scoring will be conducted in accordance with the criteria outlined in the rubric evaluation sheet.

Please refer to the next page for details of the rubric.

Rubric Evaluation Sheet for the Selection of Candidates in the SPRING Program

Evaluation Criteria		Not rated	Unacceptable	Marginal	Acceptable	Proficient	Exceptional
		0 point	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
1	The applicant understands the importance of transferable skills and is willing to acquire them.	Not at all.	Not much.	Understands, but lacking detail.	Understands and can explain well.	Understands well and has a concrete plan in mind.	Understands well and is already taking concrete actions.
2	The applicant is aware of his/her career path after completion of the course and how he/she wants to play an active role and contributes to society	Not at all.	Not much.	Thinks about it, but lacking detail.	Thinks and can explain.	Thinks about it and has a concrete plan.	Thinks about it and is already taking concrete actions.
3	The applicant has Interests in fields outside his/her own research and is strongly motivated to understand and incorporate them.	Not at all.	Not much.	Yes, but lacking detail.	Very motivated and can explain.	Highly motivated and has a concrete plan in mind.	Strongly motivated and is already taking concrete actions.
4	The applicant how to relate his/her research to solving social issues or creating innovative research areas.	Not at all.	Not much.	Understands, but lacking detail.	Understands and can explain.	Understands and has a concrete plan in mind.	Understands well and is already taking concrete actions.

10. Interview Date and Venue (Online)

- After accepting your application documents, an interview date and time will be assigned between August 18 (Mon), 2025, and September 3 (Wed), 2025.
- If you have legitimate reasons (e.g., conference presentations) that prevent you from attending the interview during specific times within the above period, please specify the dates and reasons in the designated section of the application form. (You may be asked to provide proof later.) However, this does not guarantee an interview outside the specified times.
- The interview will take up to approximately 20 minutes. At the beginning, you will give a presentation (using PowerPoint or similar tools) on the content of your Essay for approximately 7 minutes, followed by a Q&A session lasting around 13 minutes.
- The interview date, time, and Zoom URL will be notified by August 15 (Fri), 2025, via the email address provided in the application form. If you have not received any notification by 4:30 p.m. on the interview day, please contact the email address listed under "12. Contact Information" by 5:00 p.m. on the same day.

[Important Notes]

- (1) If the interview cannot be conducted as scheduled due to natural disasters or other emergencies, an "Urgent Notice" will be sent via email. Please check for any updates.
- (2) The emergency contact for the interview day is the same as listed in "12. Contact Information."

11. Important Notes

The results of the SPRING program selection have no relation to the graduate school admission process. Even if you pass the SPRING program selection before enrollment, you are not exempt from the graduate school entrance examination. Furthermore, the SPRING program does not offer any exemptions or reductions in admission or tuition fees. For information regarding exemptions, reductions, or other financial support programs provided by Osaka Metropolitan University, please contact the respective offices responsible for each program.

In addition, please note that the support content, duration, and other details may be subject to change in accordance with government policies and other relevant factors.

12. Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the application for this program, please contact the following email address. Inquiries are accepted by email only.

Osaka Metropolitan University, Research Promotion Department,
Doctoral Talent Development Support Office

Email: gr-knky-2024dss@omu.ac.jp

SPRING application form (Form1)

(1)-1 Describe your research, including the purpose, methodology, content, and the characteristics and originality of your research (such as comparisons with previous studies, anticipated impact upon completion, and future prospects) in a concise and easily understandable manner. Use language that can be understood by individuals from different fields. (Approximately 800 words) If using figures or tables, please summarize them on a single final page.

(Word Count)

(1)-2 Specifically describe what you aim to clarify and to what extent before obtaining your degree. (Approximately 400 words)

(Word Count)

(2) Specifically describe how your research is connected to the following items:
(1) solving social issues, (2) creating pioneering research fields, (3) creating future society, or a combination of these. (Approximately 400 words)

(Word Count)

(3) Describe concisely and specifically which fields outside your research area interest you, in relation to your future career, the social implementation of your research, and the development of broad, interdisciplinary knowledge. This is not merely about improving the efficiency or accuracy of your research. Explain how you intend to expand your research theme and incorporate interdisciplinary studies into your career. (Approximately 350 words)

(Word Count)

(4) Describe your thoughts on your career path after completing the doctoral program and how you hope to contribute and play an active role in society in the future, from the perspective of “how you can contribute to Japan’s science, technology, and innovation”. (Approximately 350 words)

Reference: *The Basic Plan on Science and Technology and the Basic Plan on Science, Technology and Innovation – Science and Technology Policy* – Cabinet Office, Government of Japan <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/kihonkeikaku/index6.html>

(Word Count)

(5) Describe concisely and specifically which transferable skills you think are necessary to achieve the goals mentioned in (4) and how you plan to acquire them. (Approximately 350 words)

(Word Count)

If using figures or tables, please attach them to this page. Include figure/table numbers and captions to clearly indicate where they are referenced in the application.