

Application Guidelines for the Project on Training of Doctoral Students at Yamaguchi University through Interdisciplinary Research Practice For FSY 2024

1. Purpose of the program

Doctoral students are important human resources who will determine the future of Japan, and are the source of various technological developments and comprehensive knowledge that are indispensable for the realization of Society 5.0 as stated in the 6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan. They are also expected to play an important role in "innovation creation," which is one of the pillars of the Basic Plan. To this end, doctoral students are required to cultivate the necessary skills and to go out to practice the acquired skills (e.g. internship, overseas training, etc.).

This project selects outstanding doctoral students who are willing to be directly involved in the creation of science, technology, and innovation in Japan, and supports their living and research expenses. Selected students are required to attend various educational programs offered by the Yamaguchi Future Creation School (YFCS, Yamaguchi Mirai Souhatsu Jyuku) as students of the YFCS, and actively participate in "Shin-Monju Group" activities, which aim to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research and cultivate transferable skills.

This project has been adopted by the program "*Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)*" of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

2. Eligible students

Those who will newly enter or advance to the Graduate School of Medicine (Doctoral Course or the Latter Period of Doctoral Course), Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation (the Latter Period of Doctoral Course), Graduate School of East Asian Studies, and Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine of Yamaguchi University (hereinafter referred to as "Doctoral Course") in April, 2024. And those who meet the requirements to fill the vacancy at the YFCS(*1). All the applicants should have a strong will to be directly involved in the creation of science, technology, and innovation in Japan after completing the doctoral program.

(*1) Second-year doctoral students and third-year doctoral students may also apply to fill the vacancies left by those who are no longer eligible for support from the program. In this case, the period of support will be the remaining period of enrollment. However, those whose remaining period of study is six months or less from the standard term of study (three years for a three-year doctoral course or four years for a four-year doctoral course) are excluded.

Those who fall under any of the following categories are not eligible.

- (1) Government-sponsored international students or international students receiving scholarships or other support from their home countries
- (2) Research Fellows of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- (3) Working students and others who have a stable income such as salary or executive compensation (estimated 2.4 million yen/year or more) at a level sufficient to cover living expenses
- (4) Others who are not eligible for support according to the regulations of JST or Yamaguchi University

3. Number of new selected students

The total number of new selected students will be approximately 12 in total.

Eligible students	Date of enrollment			
	April 2024	April 2023	April 2022	April 2021
	Years of support			
3-year doctoral programs	3 years	2 years	1 year	
4-year doctoral programs	4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year

※1 Due to the purpose of the program, students with six months remaining (3rd year students for 3-year doctoral programs entering in October, or 4th year students for 4-year doctoral programs entering in October) are not eligible for this scholarship.

※2 Those entering in October (new students, current students other than those in (*1) above) are not eligible to apply this time since the application period is scheduled to begin in August or September.

4. Adoption Period

Number of years of support in the above table

1 year :April 1, 2024~March 31, 2025

2 years :April 1, 2024~March 31, 2026

3 years :April 1, 2024~March 31, 2027

4 years :April 1, 2024~March 31, 2028

5. Amount equivalent to living expenses and research expenses

The estimated amounts to be paid in FY2024 are as follows.

(1) Living expenses: 2,280,000 yen/year

(2) Research expenses: 300,000 yen/year

※Additional allocations may be made based on a careful examination of the research content

of the application documents.

(3) Others

Up to 300,000 yen/year per project will be provided as project expenses for research themes that integrate different fields proposed by the Shin-Monju Group.

The amount may be increased or decreased depending on the budget situation.

6. Application Documents

Application form (Form 1)

7. Method of submission

(1) Application form (Form 1) must be submitted by e-mail to the section in charge of each graduate school by 12:00 p.m. on April 10 (Wed.), 2024. The file must be converted to a PDF file (make sure that the format is correct) and the file name must be "Student ID Number (one-byte number) Name_01 Application Form" (e.g., 2100010012 Taro Yamaguchi_01 Application Form). (If you do not have a Yamaguchi University student ID number, please use "Name_01 Application Form.")

【Section in charge of each graduate school】

- Graduate School of Medicine: Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Academic Affairs Section (me233@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp)
- Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation (Science course): Faculty of Science, Academic Affairs Section (hc135@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp)
- Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation (Engineering course): Faculty of Engineering, Academic Affairs Section (en303@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp)
- Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation (Agriculture course): Faculty of Agriculture, Academic Affairs Section (ag295@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp)
- Graduate School of East Asian Studies: Faculty of Economics, Graduate School Section (ec191@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp)
- Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine: Joint Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Graduate School Section (ve106@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp)

8. Selection Method and Viewpoints of Selection

The Selection Committee for Support Students will conduct the first round of selection (document review) and the second round of selection (interview).

Applicants who pass the first round of selection will be notified of the method of the second round of selection. Please note that depending on the results of the first round of selection, the selection of applicants may be made based on the results of the first round of selection, without conducting the second round of selection.

The main viewpoints of the screening process are as follows.

(1) Research plan in the doctoral program

- Is the applicant's research background, objectives, and research content explained in an easy-to-understand manner?
- Whether the applicant's independence and autonomy in setting the research theme are evident.
- Is the research plan appropriate?

(2) The applicant's ideas and perspectives on interdisciplinary fusion research

- Is the research theme proposed as an interdisciplinary fusion research excellent?
- Does the applicant have his/her own ideas about interdisciplinary fusion research?
- Does the applicant have a clear understanding (explanation) of what the applicant can contribute to the interdisciplinary fusion research?
- Does the applicant show enthusiasm for and willingness to participate in interdisciplinary fusion research?

(3) Self-analysis

- Does the applicant clearly know what he/she should do based on the self-analysis?

(4) Applicant's vision for the future

- Will the applicant be able to contribute to the development of research and innovation in Japan in the future?
- Does the applicant have a strong desire to contribute to the development of research and innovation in Japan in the future?
- Does the applicant have a strong desire to develop his/her own career path?

9. Schedule of this project (tentative)

- First round of selection (document review) : Mid-April 2024
- Second round selection (interview) : April 22 (Mon.) to 24 (Wed.), 2024 (To be conducted online; please secure a date. Details will be announced at a later date.)
- Selection decision : Late April 2024 (tentative)

The amount equivalent to living expenses will be paid retroactively from April 1, 2024. Please note that international students will be eligible for the payment from the date of their arrival in Japan.

10. Responsibilities of selected students

Selected students are responsible for the following

- (1) Attend the various programs offered by the Yamaguchi Future Creation School (YFCS) and participate in the activities of the Shin-Monju Group.
- (2) To comply with the rules and regulations set forth by Yamaguchi University when conducting research.
- (3) Attend the research ethics education e-learning (eAPRIN) and training sessions based on the Misconduct Prevention Plan for Public Research Funds.
- (4) Cooperate in career follow-up surveys conducted by JST and Yamaguchi University for about

10 years after graduation in order to verify the effectiveness of the YFCS program. For this purpose, the students must register with JGRAD as explained in (02_(attached)).

(5) Even if you do not wish to participate in an internship at present, you must register with the matching system of the "Cooperative Education through Research Internships Promotion Council" as explained in (02_(attached)).

11. Handling of personal information

Personal information contained in the application documents will be used for the purpose of this selection and program implementation, and may be provided to JST as necessary. The names of selected students will be published on the JST website.

12. others

In addition, carefully read the Q&A that will be posted on the website of the Career Path Design Promotion Office. (Please note that additions and changes may be made at any time.)