

Note: This English translation is provided for reference purposes only. The original Japanese version is the official draft and shall prevail in the event of any discrepancy between the two versions.

January 2026

Yamaguchi University Interdisciplinary Research Practical Doctoral Student Development Project (JST-SPRING) April 2026 Application Guidelines

1. Purpose

Doctoral students are vital human resources who will influence the future of Japan. They are the source of various technological developments and "comprehensive knowledge" (Sogo-chi) essential for realizing Society 5.0, as described in the 6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan. Furthermore, they are expected to play a crucial role in "innovation creation," a pillar of the same plan. To this end, doctoral students are required to cultivate necessary abilities and enter practical fields (e.g., internships, overseas training) to apply those skills.

This project selects outstanding doctoral students with a strong will to be directly involved in creating science, technology, and innovation in Japan, and provides support for research incentive grants (living expenses) and research expenses. Selected students, as members of the Yamaguchi Future Creation School (Yamaguchi Mirai Sohatsu Juku), are required to take various educational programs offered by the school and actively participate in Shin-Monju Group activities aimed at fostering interdisciplinary research and practical transferable skills (see the attachment for details).

This project is conducted with the support of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation" program.

2. Eligible Students

Applicants must be individuals scheduled to enroll in or proceed to the following at Yamaguchi University in April 2026: Graduate School of Medicine (Ph.D. or Doctoral Course), Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation (Doctoral Course), Graduate School of East Asian Studies, or the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine (collectively referred to as "Doctoral Courses"). Individuals meeting the requirements for vacancy recruitment are also eligible (*1). Applicants must possess a strong will to be directly involved in the creation of science, technology, and innovation in Japan after completing their doctoral course.

(*1) To fill vacancies left by students who have left the school's support, 2nd and 3rd-year doctoral students may also apply. In such cases, the support period will be the remaining period within the standard length of study. However, those with six months or less remaining in their standard duration of study (3 years for 3-year Ph. D.s, 4 years for 4-year Ph. D.s) are excluded.

For new students in FY2026, recruitment will be divided into three categories to ensure a smooth transition to the new system (hereinafter referred to as the "New System") planned for FY2027 and beyond:

- Category 1: Japanese students (excluding working professionals), etc.
- Category 2: International students
- Category 3: Working professional students

Note: Support details (such as the provision of research incentive grants and obligations for educational programs) differ significantly by category. Please use the Application Category Determination Chart* provided in the application forms to confirm your category before submission.

3. Expected Number of Recipients and Period

Total new recruits (Categories 1–3): Approximately 10–18 students

Category 1: Japanese students (excluding working professionals), etc. (Approx. 10 students)

Enrollment Date	April 2026	April 2025	April 2024	April 2023
3-Year Doctoral Course	3 years	2 years	1 year	(Ineligible)
4-Year Doctoral Course	4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year

1 Year: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027

2 Years: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2028

3 Years: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029

4 Years: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2030

Note 1: Those with 6 months or less of the standard duration of study remaining (e.g., 3rd-year students enrolled in October for 3-year courses) are ineligible.

Note 2: October enrollees (new or existing students other than those in Note 1) cannot apply this time; a recruitment round is planned for August–September.

Category 2: International students (Max. 4 students)

Support Period: 1 year (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027)

Excludes those with 6 months or less remaining in their standard duration.

October enrollees with 1 year or more remaining are eligible to apply.

Category 3: Working professional students (Max. 4 students)

Support Period: 1 year (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027)

Excludes those with 6 months or less remaining in their standard duration.

October enrollees with 1 year or more remaining are eligible to apply.

4. Support Details

Scheduled amounts for FY2026 are as follows:

Category 1: Japanese students (excluding working professionals), etc.

Research Incentive Grant (Stipend): 2.28 million yen/year

Research Fund: 300,000 yen/year

Other: Up to 300,000 yen/year per group for interdisciplinary research themes proposed by the Shin-Monju Group*.

Amounts may change based on budget conditions.

Category 2: International students

Research Incentive Grant: None

Research Fund: 300,000 yen/year

Other: Up to 300,000 yen/year per group for themes proposed by the Shin-Monju Group*.

Amounts may change based on budget conditions.

Category 3: Working professional students

Research Incentive Grant: None

Research Fund: 300,000 yen/year

Other: None

Amounts may change based on budget conditions.

Comparison of Support and Main Obligations

Item	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Research Incentive Grant	2.28 million yen/year	None	None
Research Fund	300,000 yen/year	300,000 yen/year	300,000 yen/year
Shin-Monju Group Activity Fund	Max 300,000 yen/group	Max 300,000 yen/group	N/A
Support Period	Until standard graduation	1 Year (Until Mar 2027)	1 Year (Until Mar 2027)
Educational Programs	Required	Required	Exempt
Shin-Monju Group Activities	Required	Required	Exempt
Internship Registration	Required	Required	Exempt

Category 3 recipients may be asked to speak at seminars for other students to share career experiences.

Promotion of their employer or recruiting activities is strictly prohibited.

5. Application Documents

Application Form (Form 1)

Completed Application Category Determination Chart*

6. Submission Method

1. Submit via email to the office of your respective research graduate school by **12:00 PM, Tuesday, February 17, 2026 (Strictly Enforced)**.
2. Email subject must be: **【申請】異分野融合プロジェクト(Your Name)**.
3. Attach as a **PDF**, named: **"Student ID Number (half-width) Your Name_01Application"**.
(If you do not have a Yamaguchi University ID: "Name_01Application") .

Graduate School Offices:

Medicine (Medical Science): me232@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp

Medicine (Health Sciences): me238@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp

Science & Tech (Science): hc135@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp

Science & Tech (Engineering): en303@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp

Science & Tech (Agriculture): ag295@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp

East Asian Studies: ec191@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp

Joint Veterinary Medicine: ve106@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp

7. Selection Method and Criteria

The Selection Committee will conduct a primary screening (document review) and a secondary screening (interview). Successful primary candidates will be notified of interview details via email. Depending on the primary results, final selections may be made without interviews.

Evaluation Criteria:

Research Plan: Clarity of background/purpose and autonomy of the applicant.

Ideas for Interdisciplinary Research: Excellence of the proposed theme and proactive stance (Not applicable for Category 3).

Self-Analysis: Clarity of future actions based on self-analysis.

Future Goals: Potential to contribute to Japan's research/innovation and strength of career path will (Not applicable for Category 3).

8. Schedule (Planned)

Primary Screening (Documents): Late Feb – Early March 2026

Secondary Screening (Interviews): March 17–19, 2026 (**Please keep these dates open**)

Final Decision: Late March 2026

9. Obligations of Selected Students

- Students must fulfill the following. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
- Participate in Yamaguchi Future Creation School* programs and Shin-Monju Group* activities (Exempt for Category 3).
- Comply with university regulations.
- Complete Research Ethics (eAPRIN) and public research fund fraud prevention training.
- Cooperate with career tracking surveys for 10 years after graduation, including registering with JGRAD

(Exempt for Category 3).

- Register with the Cooperative System for Job-type Research Internships* matching system, even if not currently seeking one (Exempt for Category 3).

10. Personal Information

Personal data will be used for selection and project implementation and may be shared with JST.

Selected students' names will be published on the university website.

11. Procedures for Research Incentive Grants (Category 1 only)

For this section, please consult the original Japanese version.

12. Other

Read the Q&A on the Career Center website (<https://ds0n.cc.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/~cpd/>).

This recruitment is not an entrance exam for the doctoral course. You must pass the separate university entrance exam to enroll.