

Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation of Innovative Researchers at Hiroshima University (Support Starting from April 2022) Application Guideline

Recently, JST selected Hiroshima University to promote the "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation" program. As a result, Hiroshima University established the Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation of Innovative Researchers at Hiroshima University (or the "Next-Generation Fellowship"), and subsequently, a call for applications for the targeted students (or the "Next-Generation Fellows") has been opened. This program aims to provide an environment where doctoral students can devote themselves to research without financial worries and grow as PhDs to bring scientific and technological innovations to society in the future and contribute to the sustainable development of the international community.

The program seeks to develop human resources who have a broad perspective and knowledge, and can contribute to the achievement of SDGs + Beyond and promote efforts to improve the world using their comprehensive power, consisting of excellent judgment and action.

To support the Next-Generation Fellows, the program will provide them with financial and career support to allow them to concentrate on their research. The financial support will consist of stipends and research expenses. As a career support measure, the program will provide them with opportunities to study abroad for research at overseas research institutes, improve their research capabilities, and provide various initiatives related to career development and human resource development. In addition, the Next-Generation Fellows will independently plan and manage the "Doctoral Students' Association" (tentative name) to deepen the exchanges amongst the Next-Generation Fellows and take the initiative in improving their research capabilities.

The call for applications for the Next-Generation Fellows is as follows.

1. Number of Positions

Graduate School	Course	Major Subject	Program	Number of the doctoral students to be selected
All the Graduate Schools of Hiroshima University	Doctoral Courses or 4-Year PhD Programs	All Major Subjects	All Programs	1) New 1st-year doctoral students (new D1): Dozens 2) 1st thru 4th year doctoral students (the rest D1 thru D4) (*) already enrolled in the Doctoral Courses at the time of application: A few

* Fourth-year students are only those enrolled in the 4-Year PhD Programs.

2. Eligibility

1) New 1st-year doctoral students

The following (1) to (5) describe the eligibility requirements applicable to this program.

(1) Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral course in April 2022 as 1st-year students at Hiroshima University (including those who will complete a master's course early and enroll in a doctoral course).

(2) Applicants must NOT receive an income that exceeds 2.4 million yen (for the period from January 2022 to December 2022). However, receiving a salary or working part-time in a job such as a TA or RA does not preclude the eligibility requirements.

(3) Applicants must NOT be supported by the following fellowships or scholarships:

- Research Fellowship for Young Scientists from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (including those JSPS has unofficially selected).

- Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships for international students.

- Any scholarship/s from the home countries of international students.

(4) Applicants must NOT be supported by any fellowships or scholarships offered by local public agencies/private organizations where recipients are not allowed to receive their current scholarship at the same time as the Next-Generation Fellowship.

(5) Applicants must NOT be supported by the Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation of Innovative Researchers at Hiroshima University or the Hiroshima University Fellowship for Female Graduate Students in Science and Technology (including those Hiroshima University has unofficially selected).

2) Doctoral students already enrolled in the Doctoral Courses or 4-Year PhD Programs

The following (1) to (5) describe the eligibility requirements applicable to this program.

(1) Be a doctoral student enrolled in the Doctoral Course or 4-Year PhD Program at Hiroshima University as of October 1, 2021 (However, those who are enrolled beyond the standard period of study and those on leave of absence are not eligible to apply.), who did not meet the application qualifications and could not apply at the time of the former recruitment for this program are eligible to apply.

(2) Applicants must NOT receive an income that exceeds 2.4 million yen (for the period from January 2022 to December 2022). However, receiving a salary or working part-time in a job such as a TA or RA does not preclude the eligibility requirements.

(3) Applicants must NOT be supported by the following fellowships or scholarships:

- Research Fellowship for Young Scientists from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (including those JSPS has unofficially selected).

- Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships for international students.

- Any scholarship/s from the home countries of international students.

(4) Applicants must NOT be supported by any fellowships or scholarships offered by local public agencies/private organizations where recipients are not allowed to receive their current scholarship at the same time as the Next-Generation Fellowship.

(5) Applicants must NOT be supported by the Hiroshima University Graduate School Research Fellowship or the Hiroshima University Fellowship for Female Graduate Students in Science and Technology (including those Hiroshima University has unofficially selected).

3. Application Method

(1) Please access the official application form (Google Forms) from the following URL or QR code, enter the following items, and submit it. The applicant's Google account details and password authentication are required for access. (In case an applicant cannot submit the form, please see 3. (2) below to apply by e-mail.

Also, please note that applicants are not allowed to apply for multiple research fields.

<URL>

<https://forms.gle/QeJsNDgK4LpE241C7>

<QR Code>



* You may also refer to this Fellowship's website to find the link for the official application form.

<Entry Items>

Full Name/Furigana for the Full Name/Student ID Number/Date of Birth/Affiliation as of April 2022 (Graduate School, Major Subject and Program)/Enrollment Date/Grade as of April 1, 2022/Reason why you were unable to apply for the former open call for the Next-Generation Fellowship/Leave of Absence Period from the Doctoral Course/E-mail Address/Phone Number/Academic Background/Name of the Worksite (if you are an employee)/Expected Income for this year/Status of JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (DC1 or DC2) Applications for FY2022/Status of Application for the Hiroshima University Graduate School Research Fellowship/Country or Region of Residence (at the time of application)/Academic Supervisors' Information/Research Title/Have you ever consulted with your academic supervisor about your research plan?/Are you applying for Doctoral Courses of Hiroshima University and another university at the same time?/Application Form or documents (specified format, converted from Word into PDF to be uploaded)

(2) Application via e-mail

Please attach and send the application documents below to the e-mail address detailed within "7. Contact Information". The subject of the e-mail should be "Next-Generation Fellowship Application".

Application Documents:

- ① Application Form for this Fellowship (specified format, Excel)
- ② Application documents (specified format, converted from Word into PDF)

4. Application Deadline

January 31 (Mon), 2021, 12:00 p.m. (noon, Japan Standard Time)

(The program office will not accept any submissions after the appropriate deadline has passed.)

5. Selection Process and Notification of Results

Selection will be conducted through the First Screening (screening of the submitted application documents) and the Second Screening (screening via an interview).

In principle, the First Screening will be conducted by one judge in a specialized field that is close to the application content and two judges in different research fields.

The Second Screening via the interview will be conducted by the Integrated Screening Committee. Please note that depending on the results of the First Screening, the Second Screening may not be undertaken.

All applicants will be notified of the screening results by e-mail around mid-March, 2022.

In addition, regarding the evaluation of each applicant, an emphasis is placed on the applicant's capability to "contribute to bring scientific and technological innovations to Japanese society in the future and contribute to the sustainable development of the international community" as of the purpose of this program.

Please note that we cannot respond to individual inquiries in regard to the screening results.

6. Outline of Support after Selection

For further details, please refer to the attached "Outline of Support by the Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation of Innovative Researchers at Hiroshima University".

7. Contact Information

Next-Generation Fellowship Application Office, Hiroshima University (Global Career Design Center)

E-mail : fellowship@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp

<Outline of Support by the Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation of Innovative Researchers at Hiroshima University>

1. Next-Generation Fellow Support

(1) To support the Next-Generation Fellows to concentrate on their studies and/or research, stipends will be provided for up to three years (or four years for the doctoral students of the 4-Year PhD Programs) after their enrollment (*). Based on the principle monthly amount of 150,000 yen, two months' worth of payments will be provided in May, July, September, November, January, and March.

*If a Next-Generation Fellow is enrolled beyond the standard study period, the stipends will not be provided anymore. However, if a Next-Generation Fellow must take a leave of absence from the University or extend the period of the stipends in the case of childbirth, childcare, illness, etc., the President of Hiroshima University will make a decision regarding the stipends according to the individual's situation.

(2) The stipends may be reduced and adjusted according to the President's discretion or at the timing of termination of a Next-Generation Fellowship.

(3) The stipends are taxable as a miscellaneous income. Therefore, every Next-Generation Fellow is required to file an income tax return.

In addition, if a student with dependents (parents, etc.) is provided with a Next-Generation Fellowship, they may need to be excluded from their dependents. Therefore, if a student is selected as a Next-Generation Fellow, they should inform their dependents (parents, etc.) that the stipends they receive will be treated as a miscellaneous income under the Japanese tax law. For the procedures required to change your health insurance or dependents, please contact the person in charge at the workplace of your dependents (parents, etc.).

(4) Research expenses will be funded to the Next-Generation Fellows for up to three years (or four years for those in the 4-Year PhD Programs) after their enrollment. The maximum amount of the research expense is 400,000 yen per year (200,000 yen for FY2021).

Furthermore, two of the Next-Generation Fellows may be selected as the Best Fellow and the Second-Best Fellow, depending on the screening results. The Best Fellow will be allocated research expenses of up to 700,000 yen per year (up to 350,000 yen in FY2021), and for the Second-Best Fellow, up to 600,000 yen per year (up to 300,000 yen in FY2021). The selection of the Best and Second-Best Fellows will be reconsidered annually based on the latest research results of all the Next-Generation Fellows. Therefore, please note that the same Fellows may not be selected as the Best and Second-Best every year.

(5) If a Next-Generation Fellow is an international student who is currently overseas and is provisionally selected for the Next-Generation Fellowship, the Fellowship will only be formally confirmed once they arrive in Japan. Hiroshima University will begin providing the Fellow with the stipends and the research expenses from the month that they arrive on campus. Please note that if the Fellow cannot arrive in Japan within six months (or within one year if the Fellow cannot arrive in Japan due to the special handling of border measures due to the COVID-19.) after being provisionally selected for the Next-Generation Fellowship, Hiroshima University will revoke their provisional selection for the Next-Generation Fellowship, and they will not be provided with any stipends or research expenses.

2. Next-Generation Fellow Obligations

Next-Generation Fellows shall fulfil the following obligations to receive support:

- (1) Develop a yearly research plan for each academic year and concentrate on research activities based on the plan.
- (2) Participate in programs offered by the University related to improving research capabilities.
- (3) Report the progress of research activities to the University regularly.
- (4) Cooperate in various surveys, including follow-up surveys on careers after graduation.

3. Early Termination of Awards to Next-Generation Fellows

The assignment of Next-Generation Fellows will be appropriately terminated before the end of the formal award period for the cases mentioned below. In these cases, the provision of stipends and research expenses shall be terminated:

(1) When the Fellow's latest annual income from January to December exceeds a certain amount (2.4 million yen or more per year). However, receiving a salary or working part-time in a job such as a TA or RA does not preclude the Fellow's eligibility requirements.

(2) When the Fellow commences being supported by the following fellowships or scholarships:

- Research Fellowship for Young Scientists from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (including those unofficially selected by JSPS).
- Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships for international students.
- Any scholarship/s from the home countries of international students.

- (3) When the research progress or the fulfilment of the Next-Generation Fellow Obligations is insufficient.
- (4) When the Fellow requests to terminate the Next-Generation Fellowship.
- (5) When the Fellow takes a leave of absence from the University. However, in case of childbirth, childcare, illness, etc., the payments will be suspended during the leave period and resume with the return of the Fellow. (The timing and conditions of the suspension and subsequent payments will be decided according to the individual's situation).
- (6) When the Fellow withdraws from Hiroshima University or is removed from the University.
- (7) When it is found that after selection, the Fellow does not meet the eligibility requirements.
- (8) When the President of Hiroshima University decides that there is a valid reason to terminate the Next-Generation Fellowship.

4. Reimbursement of Excess Stipend Payments

In the case where a Next-Generation Fellowship is terminated before the end of the formal award period, a Fellow must reimburse any excess amount of the stipends deemed excessive at the period of termination.

5. Others

- (1) Receiving a salary or working part-time in a job such as a TA or RA does not preclude your eligibility for application as long as it does not interfere with your research activities.
- (2) The names of all the selected Next-Generation Fellows will be announced on the Hiroshima University website.
- (3) The personal information of the applicants stated in the Application Form and any necessary personal information of the applicants provided by the graduate school to which they belong to will be used only for purposes such as the selection of candidates, preparation for acceptance, and education/research guidance, etc.