

Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)
Gunma Induction Doctoral Programme for Social Innovation Relay (GIP)
Application Guidelines (October of FY2023)

Gunma University has been selected for the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING), and the "Gunma Induction Doctoral Programme for Social Innovation Relay" (hereinafter referred to as "GIP") will be launched in FY2021. In the GIP, selected excellent students enrolled in a doctoral course will financially receive support of research encouragement stipend and research expenses, and will be provided with opportunities for career development. If you wish to apply, please follow the instructions below.

Note: If there are any contradictions between the descriptions on the Japanese application guideline and English one, please prioritize the Japanese version.

1. Objective

The JST SPRING supports challenging and interdisciplinary research by doctoral students beyond the existing framework, and provides an environment where students can devote themselves to their research. The program also aims to lead outstanding doctoral students to become doctoral professionals who can play active roles in a variety of occupations by supporting their career paths.

In this program, we will work with the following objectives

- 1, Enhancement of Gunma University's research capabilities in "Next Generation Materials" and "Advanced Devices"
- 2, Maintenance of the research environment, and accumulation & development of the existing education contents & know-how
- 3, Training of the human resources who have practical social adaptability, and who can play an active part in academia & industry
- 4, Improvement of a research by the system construction, and industrial development through the collaboration with the local company
- 5, Establishment of education & research brand, and lasting securing of truly excellent students

2. Program Director

Osamu Hanaizumi (Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology)

3. Program Period

FY2021 - FY2026 scheduled

The maximum period of support is up to three years.

The payment period may be shortened in the case of suspension or revocation of the research grant.

4. Eligibility Requirements

Students recognized as excellent in any of the following categories who are expected to get the intentions and abilities directly relating to the creation of science, technology & innovation of Japan as future doctoral researchers through challenging & interdisciplinary research in the fields of "next-generation materials" and "advanced devices" at Gunma University. In addition, students who are able to complete the educational

program designated by Gunma University during the period supported by the GIP program. For international students, it is desirable to be at the N1 level in the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

- (1) Students who enrolled in the doctoral course of the Graduate School of Health Sciences in April 2023 OR who are expected to enter in October 2023.
- (2) Students who enrolled in the doctoral course of the Graduate School of Science and Technology in April 2023 OR who are expected to enter in October 2023.

However, those who in any of the following positions are not eligible.

- ① A person who is employed as the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellow (DC).
- ② International students who are supported by the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship Program.
- ③ International students who are receiving scholarships or other support from their home country.
- ④ Those who receive stable income such as salary or executive remuneration at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (2.4 million yen or more per year) from the company they belong to (including the salary by RA, the TA).
- ⑤ Student on leave of absence from the University.
- ⑥ Those who have been enrolled in longer than the standard study period (Long-term students whose period of enrollment minus the period of leave of absence does not reach the standard period of study are excluded).
- ⑦ Those who have disciplined in accordance with Article 56 of the Gunma University Academic Regulations (enacted on April 1, 2004).

5. Compliance of Program Students

- (1) To complete the educational program designated by Gunma University throughout the period of support under this GIP program.
- (2) To devote oneself to research activities.
- (3) To attend research ethics training and training on proper execution of funds designated by Gunma University.
- (4) To Receive monthly confirmation of enrollment.
- (5) To make necessary reports on the progress of the research and the use of research expense when requested by the Project Director.
- (6) In conducting research, comply with the rules and regulations established by Gunma University and carry out research activities that will meet the trust and expectations of society.
- (7) The program student must not get stable incomes such as a salary, the executive compensation more than a total of 2.4 million yen a year as the amount of cost of living equivalency other than the study encouragement costs of this program from this school or company (including the salary by RA, the TA).
- (8) The program student must not get economical support by Program for Cultivating Global Leaders in Heavy Ion Therapeutics and Engineering, after this program adoption
- (9) When presenting the results of your research, you must indicate that it was funded by this program.

This is an example of an Acknowledgment in the paper (Grant No. will be notified separately).

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- (10) The students must agree that Gunma University will provide JST with their email address in order for JST to follow up directly with them.
- (11) To cooperate with the career tracking survey conducted by Gunma University for about 10 years after completion of this program in order to verify the results of the career development and training contents.
- (12) To take opportunities for career development and training, such as participation in the followings.
 - ① To study abroad including opportunities equivalent to studying abroad
 - ② Long-term internship at a company, etc. or engage in research staff at a company, etc.
 - ③ To participate in the cross-University doctoral student exchange program organized by JST.
 - ④ Actively participate in other projects as instructed by the Project Director.

6. Adoption number of GIP students

Total: 1 (October 2023)

【Three years course】

Graduate School of Health Sciences or Graduate School of Science & Technology: 1

7. Scholarship, etc.

About 2.4 million yen per year in total

(1) Research Encouragement stipend: 165,000 yen (monthly)

(2) Research expenses: about 400,000 yen (per year)

※The amount of research expenses will be determined by the Project Director with taking the budget and the status of research, etc. for the fiscal year into consideration.

※The amount of support for research encouragement stipend, etc. may change depending on the status of budgetary measures from JST.

※In every next year, students are required to file a final income tax return of the stipend and pay taxes on it.

8. Payment Period

【Three years course】 From FY 2023 to FY 2026

The maximum period of the scholarship is up to three years, and **it must be within the standard period of study.**

The payment period may be shortened in the case of suspension or revocation of the research grant.

9. Application procedures, selection, etc.

(1) Application dead line August 31, 2023 (must arrive)

- ① If the application does not arrive by the deadline, it will not be accepted.
- ② The information in the application documents cannot be changed after submission.
- ③ Application documents will not be returned.
- ④ Those who make false statements in the application documents will be disqualified from applying, and the application may be cancelled even after it has been accepted.

(2) Application Documents

① Application form

※ Please choose the mentor among the following teachers.

Hiroshi Sakurai, Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Masashi Sonoyama, Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Tomihiko Kamiya, Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Wataru Kada, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Yutaka shikano, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Kosuke Suzuki, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Hiroki Uehara, Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Naoki Asakawa, Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Hideki Amii, Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology
Kenichi Kasuya, Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Soshi Shiraishi, Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Tatsuya Ohno, Professor, Graduate School of Medicine,
Miyuki Sato, Professor, Institute for Molecular and Cellular Regulation

Click here to download the form → <https://research.opric.gunma-u.ac.jp/jisedai/>

(3) How to Apply

After accessing the following URL for submitting application documents, please enter the required information and upload application form ① as a PDF file. Please name the uploaded file "Form name_student ID Number_Applicant's name".

(4) URL for submitting application documents

<https://forms.gle/NPRX4TgX2rgLPSmPA>

(5) Selection Process

Selection will be made based on document review and interview screening.

In addition to the excellence of the research, consideration will be given to the cross-disciplinary perspective such as challenging, integrative, leading to the creation of new research areas, solutions to social issues, and industry-academia collaboration.

(6) Selection Schedule

Deadline for submission of application documents: August 31, 2023

Selection of candidates for document review: ~September 8, 2023

Interview screening & notification of acceptance: Middle ~ late of September, 2023

10. Suspension of adoption, cancellation, and suspension of payments

If the Project Director judges that any of the following cases applies, the Project Director will suspend or cancel the adoption of the program student, suspend the provision of the research stipend and research

expenses, or request the return of those scholarship already provided.

- (1) If the student has completed a doctoral course at Gunma University and received a degree.
- (2) If the student receives a scholarship from the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship Program, a research grant from JSPS, or a scholarship from a foreign government after being selected.
- (3) The student become to earns more than 2.4 million yen per year after employment, excluding the research stipend by this program.
- (4) When it is clear that the research cannot be continued due to childbirth, childcare, illness, etc.
- (5) When the student has taken a leave of absence or withdrawn from school, or has been expelled.
- (6) When disciplinary action is taken
- (7) When the student declines the request.
- (8) When the student violates the GIP compliance rules
- (9) In the event of poor academic performance or bad conduct.
- (10) When there is a significant problem with the progress of the research and it is judged that the desired research results cannot be achieved.
- (11) The documents for employment procedures are not submitted on time.
- (12) If any falsehoods are found in the information provided in the documents during the employment procedures.
- (13) In case of research misconduct
- (14) In case of misuse of research funds
- (15) When the Project Director determines that there are other reasons for cancellation.

11. Handling of Personal Information

- (1) Those who have been selected as eligible students will, in principle, be announced on Gunma University's website.
In addition, the results of monitoring and follow-up surveys conducted by JST will be published as statistical data by JST.
- (2) Personal information submitted in application will be used for selection, recruitment, and other operations related to this program.
- (3) Personal information, such as test scores in the selection will be used to compile and analyze the results of the selection process, as well as to study the selection method.

12. Handling of Intellectual Property Rights

In principle, the intellectual property rights arising from the implementation of research in this program will belong to Gunma University.

13. Notes

- (1) If you are currently receiving any scholarships (including unofficial offers), please be sure to confirm whether or not you can apply for the GIP program with the office in charge of scholarships, etc. before applying, regardless of whether or not you can receive both scholarships.
- (2) If you wish to withdraw from the program after submitting an application, please contact the GIP office as soon as possible.

14. Other

(1) Income tax

Under the Japanese tax law, if the amount of living expenses for the period from January to December, excluding necessary expenses, exceeds 380,000 yen, the parent cannot receive the deduction for dependents and is subject to income tax. The resident tax for the following year will be calculated according to the income of the current year.

(2) Dependents on health insurance or mutual aid associations

If the estimated annual amount of living expenses exceeds 1.3 million yen, the student cannot be a dependent. Since the amount equivalent to living expenses is determined from the beginning, if the student falls under the requirements for not being able to be a dependent, the student must enroll in the National Health Insurance by himself/herself.

(3) Exemption from tuition fees

Adoption in the GIP program does not preclude application for tuition waiver, but the calculation of the family budget standard differs depending on the household situation, so depending on your income, you may not be exempted.

15. Contact.

Gunma Induction Doctoral Programme for Social Innovation Relay (GIP office)

<https://forms.gle/rxu9zJKBxjZUcUsR8>

※Weekdays 09:00 - 17:00 (except Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and year-end and New Year holidays)

※If you do not receive a reply from the person in charge within two business days, please contact us again.