

The Japanese version is the authoritative version, and this English translation is intended for reference purposes only. Should any discrepancies or doubt arise between the two versions, the Japanese version will prevail.

Hiroshima University Graduate School Research Fellowship Application Guideline (Additional Call for Applications) (Research Field - Information/AI; Support Starting from October 2022)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) promotes the "Project for Establishing University Fellowships for the Creation of Innovation in Science and Technology" with the aim of fostering and securing creative researchers who will assume essential roles for the future creation of science, technology and innovation in Japan.

Recently, MEXT selected Hiroshima University to establish Fellowships within the following four research categories: information/AI, quantum physics, materials, and sustainability science. As a result, Hiroshima University has established the Hiroshima University Graduate School Research Fellowship to train advanced research personnel who can lead the creation and utilization of new wisdom, create value that will tow the next generation, and bring science and technology innovation to society. The Fellowship will recruit and select Research Fellows from amongst 1st-year doctoral students of graduate schools and programs related to information/AI, quantum physics, materials, and sustainability science, and provide them with financial and career support so that they concentrate on their research. The program provides the Fellows with stipends and research expenses as financial support. Furthermore, the tuition fees of the Research Fellows will be waived from FY2022.

The additional call for applications for support starting from October 2022, has been updated below.

1. Number of Positions

Research Field	Major Subject (Program)	Number of Fellows to be Selected
Information/AI	Division of Advanced Science and Engineering (Mathematics Program / Electrical, Systems, and Control Engineering Program (including Smart Innovation Program (Electrical, Systems, and Control Engineering field)) / Informatics and Data Science Program) Division of Integrated Sciences for Life (program of Mathematical and Life Sciences)	1
	Division of Advanced Science and Engineering (programs other than those listed above) Division of Integrated Sciences for Life (programs other than those listed above) Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Division of Educational Sciences Division of Integrated Health Sciences	

* The upper part of the "Major Subject (Program)" column for each research field shows the major subjects (programs) that are mainly targeted for the respective research fields, and the lower part shows the other major subjects (programs) which are also eligible to apply.

2. Eligibility

The following (1) to (5) are the descriptions of the eligibility requirements applicable to this Research Fellowship.

(1) Applicants must be newly enrolled in a doctoral course in April 2022 as 1st-year students, or must be scheduled to enroll in a doctoral course in October 2022 as 1st-year students at Hiroshima University to study a major subject/program from the above listed table (including those who plan to complete the master's course early).

(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) At the start of the support, applicants must NOT be supported by the following fellowships or scholarships:

- Research Fellowships 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) At the start of the support, 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 Research 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).

3. Application Methods

Please access the online application form (Google Forms) from the following URL or QR code, enter each item, and submit it. The applicant's Google account details and password authentication are required for access.

<Online Application Form > <https://forms.gle/nXg7tQRsGY9jGZkf6>



* Please upload your application documents file saved in PDF format.

* If you have difficulty applying through the online application form, please attach and send the application documents below 1) and 2) to the e-mail address detailed within "8. Contact Information".

The subject of the e-mail should be "Graduate School Research Fellowship_Additional Call for Applications: Research Field - Information/AI".

Application Documents:

- 1) Application Form (specified format, Excel)
- 2) Application Documents (specified format, converted from Word into PDF)

4. Application Deadline

September 12 (Mon), 2022, 12:00 p.m. (noon, Japan Standard Time)

*The Fellowship office will not accept any submissions after the appropriate deadline has passed.

5. Selection Process and Notification of Results

The Screening Committee for the research field of the Research Fellowship will conduct the First Screening (screening of the submitted application documents) and the Second Screening (screening via an interview). Applicants will proceed to the Second Screening only if they successfully pass the First Screening. The Committee will announce the date and time of the interview to each applicant individually.

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" as of the purpose of this program. Please note that depending on the results of the First Screening, the Second Screening may not be undertaken.

- First Screening (planned): Mid-September, 2022
- Second Screening (planned): Late September, 2022
- Notification of Results (planned): Late October, 2022

All applicants will be notified of the screening results for the Fellowship by e-mail. Please note that individual inquiries regarding each decision will not be able to be responded to.

6. Outline of Support after Selection

Please refer to the attached "Outline of Support by Hiroshima University Graduate School Research Fellowship" for further details.

Please remember that applicants are highly recommended to apply for the Research Fellowships for Young Scientists from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science as well, even if they are selected as a Research Fellow.

7. About the Research Field

<Information/AI>

The information/AI research field promotes the acquisition of technologies necessary for the realization of Society 5.0. Besides, we are developing leading human resources that can open up new possibilities and meet the needs of the international community. This research field aims to develop human resources with both AI/information expertise and application field expertise. Therefore, we will select and support excellent doctoral students motivated to match that direction.

8. Contact Information

Research Fellowship Application Office, Hiroshima University (Global Career Design Center)

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

<Outline of Support by Hiroshima University Graduate School Research Fellowship>

1. Research Fellow Support

(1) In order to support the Research Fellows and allow them to concentrate on their studies and/or research, stipends will be provided for up to three years 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 Research Fellow's enrollment exceeds the standard study period, the support will be discontinued.

However, if it becomes necessary for a Research Fellow to suspend or extend the period of support due to childbirth, childcare, illness, etc., the individual's particular circumstances will be considered before a decision is made.

Also, for those selected during a call undertaken to replace previously selected Research Fellows, their support period will be up until the end of the support period of the previous Research Fellow.

(2) The stipends are taxable as a miscellaneous income. Therefore, every Research Fellow is required to file an income tax return.

Furthermore, if a student with dependents (parents, etc.) is provided with a Research Fellowship, they may need to be excluded from their dependents. Therefore, if a student is selected as a Research 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.).

(3) For a period of up to three years after a Research Fellow's enrollment, research funds of up to 300,000 yen per year will be funded from the academic year in which they have been selected as a Research Fellow. Furthermore, the maximum amount of research funds for an academic year in which the period of support is six months or less shall be limited to 150,000 yen.

(4) For international students and others who are currently overseas and are provisionally selected for the Research Fellowship, as a general rule, the stipends and research funds will begin to be provided once the Fellow has entered Japan and is able to commute to the University campus (retroactive payments will not be provided for the period of non-entry). Furthermore, any period of non-entry will be treated as a period of suspension and subsequently, the outlined support will be provided for up to three years after entering Japan.

(5) In addition to the aforementioned stipends and research funds, due to a budgetary measure of the Japanese government, the tuition fees of the Research Fellows will be waived from FY2022 onwards.

2. Research Fellow Obligations

Research Fellows shall fulfill 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) Have regular meetings with mentors.

3. Research Fellow Cancellation

If a Research Fellow falls under any of the following cases, the Research Fellow will be withdrawn, and the provision of stipends and research funds shall be discontinued:

- (1) The Fellow's annual income, from January to December, exceeds a certain amount (2.4 million yen or more per year). Note that this annual income refers to stable incomes, such as standard salaries/remunerations, and does not include income received from paid internships, RA/TA, part-time work, etc.
- (2) The Fellow receives a Research Fellowship for Young Scientists from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for international students, or any other scholarship/s from their home country.
- (3) The Fellow's research plan progress and/or the fulfillment of the Research Fellow Obligations is deemed insufficient.
- (4) The Fellow does not meet the original eligibility requirements.
- (5) The Fellow requests to cancel their Fellowship.
- (6) The Fellow takes a leave of absence from the University. However, in the case of childbirth, childcare, illness, etc., the individual's particular circumstances will be considered before a decision is made on the suspension and subsequent resumption of payments, and other such factors.
- (7) The Fellow withdraws from, or is removed from the University.
- (8) The President of the University decides that there is a valid reason to cancel the Fellowship.

4. Repayment of Excess Stipend Payments and Research Funds

If the period of support is shortened due to early completion, cancellation of support, etc., the payment of the stipends will be stopped at the end of the shortened support period, and any excess amount which has been paid will need to be returned. Also, in principle, the research funds will also need to be returned in proportion to the number of months the support period was shortened by.

5. Others

- (1) As long as it does not interfere with a Fellow's research activities, it is possible to receive a salary via a RA/TA position, etc., or work part-time.
- (2) The names of those who are selected as Research Fellows will be published on the University's website.
- (3) Any personal information stated within the application documents, and any other necessary personal information provided by the graduate school to which an applicant belongs to, will be used only for the purposes of the selection of candidates, preparation for acceptance, education/research guidance, etc.