

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.

## **Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation of Innovative Researchers at Hiroshima University Application Guideline (Support Starting from October 2023)**

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 funds. 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 "HU SPRING" to deepen the exchanges amongst the Next-Generation Fellows and take the initiative in improving their research capabilities.

The call for applications for support starting from October 2023, has been updated below.

### **1. Number of Positions**

Graduate School	Course	Major Subject	Program	Number of Fellows to be selected
				Support starting from October 2023
All the Graduate Schools of Hiroshima University	Doctoral Courses or 4-Year PhD Programs	All Major Subjects	All Programs	Approx. 15

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

\* Applicants who plan to enroll in the Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society (to be established in April 2023) are also eligible to apply.

### **2. Eligibility**

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

#### **Support starting from October 2023**

- (1) Applicants must either be enrolled in a doctoral course in April 2023 or be scheduled to enroll in a doctoral course in October 2023 as 1st year students at Hiroshima University (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 2023 to December 2023. (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 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) 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 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).

\*It is possible to apply for the Hiroshima University Graduate School Research Fellowship Program (support starting from October 2023), which is also conducting a call for applications at the same time. Applicants who apply for both Fellowships (the Research Fellowship and the Next-Generation Fellowship) will be asked which Fellowship they would like to prioritize, once the application deadline has passed. Please note that applicants may only be selected for one of the Fellowships and not both.

### 3. Application Method

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

<Online Application Form > <https://forms.gle/94XSbdNy46eJE6DcA>

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

\*The application documents may be either in color or black-and-white.

\*The application documents must be filled-out and submitted according to the program's specified format without modification. If you apply using documents which are different from the specified format, your application may not be screened.

\*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 "7. Contact Information".

The subject of the e-mail should be "Next-Generation Fellowship Application".

Application Documents:

1) Application Form (specified format, Excel)

2) Application Documents (specified format, converted from Word into PDF)

### 4. Application Deadline

May 23 (Tue), 2023, 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 selection process 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 a single judge in a specialized field that is close to the application content and two judges from 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 late-July, 2023. (Please note that applicants who were initially unsuccessful in their application may be selected at a later date, depending on the situation of available positions. In such a case, we will contact you by e-mail separately.)

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 individual inquiries regarding each decision will not be able to be responded to.

### 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".

Furthermore, it is highly recommended that students apply for the Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC1/DC2) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) as well, even if they are selected as Next-Generation Fellows.

## **7. Contact Information**

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

E-mail: [fellowship@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp](mailto: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) In order to support the Next-Generation Fellows and allow them to concentrate on their studies and/or research, stipends will be provided for up to three years (or four years for doctoral students of the 4-Year Ph.D. 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's enrollment exceeds the standard study period, the support will be discontinued.

However, if it becomes necessary for a Next-Generation 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.

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

Furthermore, 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.).

(3) For a period of up to three years (or four years for doctoral students of the 4-Year Ph.D. Programs) after a Next-Generation Fellow's enrollment, research funds of up to 400,000 yen per year will be funded from the academic year in which they have been selected as a Next-Generation Fellow.

Furthermore, the Highest-Ranking Fellows and the High-Ranking Fellows will be selected according to the screening results, with the Highest-Ranking Fellows being provided research funds of up to 700,000 yen per year, and the High-Ranking Fellows being provided research funds of up to 600,000 yen per year. The selection of the Highest-Ranking Fellows and the High-Ranking Fellows will be reviewed each fiscal year based on the research results, participation in HU SPRING initiatives, etc. Therefore, the same Fellows may not be selected as one of the Highest-Ranking Fellows or High-Ranking Fellows every year.

(4) For international students and others who are currently overseas and are provisionally selected for the Next-Generation 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.

### 2. Next-Generation Fellow Obligations

Next-Generation 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) Cooperate in various surveys, including follow-up surveys on careers after graduation.
- (5) Based upon the “広島大学における研究活動に係る研究倫理教育に関する細則” (only available in Japanese), make sure to undertake necessary research ethics education.
- (6) Actively participate in the initiatives, activities, etc. carried out by the “HU SPRING” to improve the research capabilities, etc. of the Next-Generation Fellows.

### 3. Next-Generation Fellow Cancellation

If a Next-Generation Fellow falls under any of the following cases, the Next-Generation 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 Next-Generation Fellow Obligations is deemed insufficient.
- (4) The Fellow requests to cancel their Fellowship.

- (5) 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.
- (6) The Fellow withdraws from, or is removed from the University.
- (7) The Fellow does not meet the original eligibility requirements.
- (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 Next-Generation 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.