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.

Project for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation AI Researchers at Hiroshima University, Application Guideline
(Support Starting from April 2024 and from October 2024)

Hiroshima University has been selected as an implementing institution for "Program for Developing the Next-Generation AI Researchers" proceeded by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Hiroshima University has established the Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation AI Researchers at Hiroshima University with the aim of creating an environment where doctoral students acting well in the field of AI can concentrate on their research with peace of mind, and making them leap forward by support and foster so that they can contribute to the realization of Japan's target of future society (Society 5.0) due to overcoming social problems by AI technology expected further development in near future. Therefore, we are calling for students who are eligible for support (hereinafter referred to as "Next-Generation AI Fellows").

The aim of this program is not to utilize conventional AI technology just for research but to call for resources who can contribute to realization of Society5.0 with innovation to solve social problems through development of AI and original proposals to utilize AI as a technology which is foundation of Society5.0.
Next-Generation AI Fellows to be adopted need to belong to laboratory of AI division in "Education and Research Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Innovation at Hiroshima University" (hereinafter referred to as "AIDI Center"). The system of academic supervisor in this program consists of two supervisors that one is in the laboratory of research institute at doctoral course and another is in AI division of the AIDI Center. Therefore, the content of research for applicant has to match the research fields of the AIDI Center.

➔ Refer to below Home Page as for the research fields of AI division in the AIDI Center.
https://aidi.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/department/ai/ (only available in Japanese)

And as following obligations affecting academic supervisors of laboratory are essential to be executed, in-depth consultation with the academic supervisors is required for application.
- Frequent three-cornered discussion among Next-Generation AI Fellow and two academic supervisors.
- Participation in the presentation held by AIDI Center to confirm the progress of research.
- Conference presentations and papers on AI research during the period of support for Next-Generation AI Fellow.

The program will provide to adopted Next-Generation AI fellows the support grant which is an amount equivalent to living expense to devote their research as well as research funds. Besides it will implement the various initiatives related to their career development and raising, and the acquisition of transferable skills.
In addition, HU SPRING, an emergent scene for Next-Generation AI Fellows to interact and collaborate beyond their own areas of expertise, will be established to provide a forum for discussion on how to approach solving social problems and achieving world peace.
The call for applications for support starting from April 2024 and from October 2024, has been updated below.

1. Number of Positions

Graduate School	Course	Major Subject	Program	The number of Fellows to be selected at this time
All the Graduate Schools of Hiroshima University*	Doctoral Courses or 4-Year PhD Programs	All Major Subjects	All Programs	Totally **7** (Enrolled in April 2024 or Scheduled to enroll in October 2024)

*Current and prospective students of **the Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society** are also eligible to apply.
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2. Eligibility

The following (1) to (4) are the descriptions of the eligibility requirements applicable to this program.

(1) Applicants must either be enrolled in a doctoral course in April 2024 or be scheduled to enroll in Hiroshima University in October 2024 as 1st year doctoral course students (including those who plan to complete the master's course early).

(2) Applicants must NOT receive an income that exceeds 2.4 million JPY for the period from January 2024 to December 2024. (However, receiving a salary of 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 fellowship or scholarship offered by local public agencies/private organizations do not allow concurrent pay between scholarship from them and this program (Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation AI Researchers at Hiroshima University).

➢ [Note]: Concurrent applications for the "Project for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation of Innovative Researchers at Hiroshima University" which is separately accepting applications are acceptable. If selected for both programs, priority will be given to the "Program for Developing and Supporting the Next-Generation AI Researchers at Hiroshima University". Applicants will not be selected for both programs at the same time.

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.

https://forms.gle/p9Np2yPWnVFcW5Ap6
（We will begin accepting applications via form around April 18 (Thu.) after publishing an explanatory video on our website.）

*Please be sure to 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 AI Fellowship Application".
  Application Documents:
  1) Application Form (specified format, Excel)
  2) Application Documents (specified format, converted from Word into PDF)
  3)Video (specified format (MP4)) uploaded to the below cloud

<Next Cloud> (Cloud for submitting video)
https://fshare.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/nextcloud/index.php/s/a8AQzPJP6LQMJHR
∗　Be sure to upload videos saved in MP4 (.mp4) format.
∗　The file name must be "student ID number_Applicant's full name". (student ID number does not have to be indicated on the file name as for students who are scheduled to enroll from outside of Hiroshima University.)
∗　The volume of video needs up to 10 minutes and has to include following items.
  • Abstract of research (the content of research so far, and research plan in doctoral course)

- How to contribute to realization of Society5.0 with innovation to solve social problems through development of AI and original proposals to utilize AI.

* The video content should be composed in an easy-to-understand manner, using PowerPoint, etc.

4. Application Deadline

May.8th (Wednesday), 2024, 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 is implemented based on the application document and the video. Adoption is determined according to the consultation of the AI Talent Review Committee which consists of researchers of the AIDI Center and external experts.

All applicants will be notified of the screening results by e-mail during June, 2024. (Please note that applicants who were initially unsuccessful in their application may be selected at a later date, depending on the status of adoption. 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 realization of Society5.0 with innovation to solve social problems through developing and utilizing AI".

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 AI Researchers at Hiroshima University".

7. Contact Information

Next Generation AI Fellowship Application Office (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 AI Researchers at Hiroshima University>

1. Support to Next-Generation AI Fellows
(1) In order to support the Next-Generation AI 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 250,000 JPY, two months' worth of payments will be provided in May, July, September, November, January, and March.
Regardless of the timing of notification of the results of the adoption, the payment will be made retroactively from April for those adopted for the start of support in April 2024. (Those adopted for the start of support in October 2024 are applied from October). The detailed schedule of payment will be announced after adoption.

> * If a Next-Generation AI Fellow's tenure exceeds the standard study period, the support will be discontinued. However, if it becomes necessary for a Next-Generation AI 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 AI Fellow is required to file an income tax return.
Furthermore, if a student with dependents (parents, etc.) is provided with a Next-Generation AI Fellowship, they may need to be excluded from their dependents. Therefore, if a student is selected as a Next-Generation AI 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 AI Fellow's enrollment, research funds of up to 900,000 JPY per year will be funded from the academic year in which they have been selected as a Next-Generation AI Fellow. And the maximum amount of research expenses for a fiscal year in which the period of support is six months or less is 450,000 JPY.

(4) For international students and others who are currently overseas and are provisionally selected for the Next-Generation AI 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 AI Fellow Obligations
Next-Generation AI 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. In particular, it is essential to cooperate with follow-up surveys on the career for 10 years after completion of the program.
(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) To participate in the initiatives, activities, etc. which are carried out by the "HU SPRING" or are informed on the "HIRAKU-PF" for career development of the Next-Generation AI Fellows. In particular, to participate actively in the "HU SPRING 100 Thesis" and the "HIRAKU 3MT Competition".
(7) Register the account for the Cooperative Education through Research Internships is essential.
(8) To proceed the research with maintaining the balance between the applicant's expertise and the development and application of AI under the guidance of two supervisors that one is in the laboratory of research institute at doctoral course and another is in AI division of the AIDI Center.
(9) To participate in the presentation held by AIDI Center to confirm the progress of research
(10) Conference presentations and submitting papers on AI research during the period of support for Next-Generation AI Fellow

3. Next-Generation AI Fellow Cancellation
If a Next-Generation AI Fellow falls under any of the following cases, the Next-Generation AI 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 JPY 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 AI 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. (In this case, full-repayment of stipends and research funds is claimed.)

(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 AI 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.