

Q&A

◆ Application Requirements

No.	Question	Answer
1	I am currently enrolled in a master's program at another university, can I apply for the project? Also, is it possible to apply even if the application period for the project is before the entrance examination for Chiba University?	You may apply for the project. But you must be admitted to Chiba University to participate in the project. It is possible to apply even before the entrance exam for Chiba University.
2	Are there any restrictions on working students (including those who have had previous working experience) or age regarding participation in the project?	There are no such limitations for participating in the project. However, those who receive a stable income of 2.4 million yen or more per year in salaries and/or executive compensation are not eligible to apply.
3	My annual income is higher than 2,400,000 yen. May I receive only the research funds and not the financial support to cover living expenses?	You cannot receive only research funds.
4	Can United Graduate School students also apply for the project?	No. Only doctoral course students enrolled at Chiba University are eligible to apply for the project.
5	Are international students eligible to apply?	Although there are no nationality requirements for eligibility, applicants must understand that this program is designed to strengthen support for outstanding, aspiring doctoral students who will play a leading role in the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan. In addition, applicants must be able to take the selection examination at the test site.
6	Are graduate students who are currently applying for JSPS Fellowships eligible to apply for this project?	Students applying for JSPS fellowship are eligible for this project. However, if they are selected as JSPS research fellow, they must withdraw from this project.
7	If a project participant is also selected as a research fellow from the JSPS and withdraws from the project, do they need to continue carrying out the activities required under the project?	Even if a project participant is selected as a research fellow from the JSPS, they must carry out all of the activities required under the project.
8	Are scholarship recipients ineligible to apply for the project? If eligible, is it possible for such students to participate in the project while also receiving the scholarship?	Recipients of a scholarship that does not allow the recipient to receive another scholarship at the same time cannot apply for the project. Similarly, students who have applied for/been accepted for a scholarship that does not allow the recipient to receive another scholarship at the same time also cannot apply for the project. Please check the type of the scholarship you are receiving (applying for) before applying for the project.
9	Are recipients of JASSO loan-type scholarships ineligible? If they are eligible to apply, can they receive the scholarship in combination with the scholarship? If so, will they be able to participate in the project while also receiving the scholarship?	It is possible for recipients of JASSO loan-type scholarships to apply for the project. However, depending on the type of scholarship, you may not be possible to receive both scholarships. Please confirm the type of scholarship before applying for the project.
10	In “(3) An applicant who DOES NOT fall under any of the following conditions (A) to (G)” of “3. Application Requirements”, Item (A) is “A student who has exceeded the standard period of study of the doctoral course”. Does “exceeded the standard period of study” mean: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A period longer than three years including the period of absence from school; or • A period longer than three years excluding the period of absence from school? 	For students in the three-year doctoral course, it means “a period longer than three years excluding the period of absence from school”. For students in the four-year doctoral course, it means “a period longer than four years excluding the period of absence from school”.
11	Regarding the Grant Period, the Application Guidelines state that monthly financial support will be paid for a maximum of three years. If a student in the three-year doctoral course does not complete the course within three years, can they still receive the monthly financial support if they are within the three-year period stipulated for the grant payment?	In this case, the standard period for completion of the course will have been exceeded, and so payment of the monthly financial support will not be continued after a period of three years for students in the three-year doctoral course (four years for students in the four-year doctoral course).

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12	Can I apply for both the "Excellent International Student Scholarship for Chiba University Graduate Programs" and the project? And is it possible to receive support from both programs?	You can apply concurrently. However, if you receive support from ALDIC-PhD project, you will not be able to receive support from the excellent student program. For further information regarding the excellent student program, please consult the International Student Division.
13	Can I apply for both the "Graduate Partnership at Chiba University Program" and the project? And is it possible to receive support from both programs?	You can apply concurrently and receive support from both programs. For further information regarding the partnership program, please consult the International Student Division.

◆ Application Documents

1	Can applicants submit a completed application in English?	Applicants can submit a completed application form in English.
2	When applying, is it necessary to submit certification related to income?	There are no plans for requiring applicants to submit certification related to income at the time of application. However, those who receive a stable income of 2.4 million yen or more per year in salaries and/or executive compensation are not eligible to apply. If your income (excluding financial support from the project) becomes stable 2,400,000 yen or higher after you become a project participant, you will lose your eligibility to participate in the project, so please inform the Project Secretariat promptly.
3	The application guideline states that if applicants cannot submit copies of score reports from TOEIC, TOEFL, or other foreign language proficiency tests (including tests in languages other than English), they should submit documents that can verify their language proficiency. Can applicants submit a single-authored academic paper written in English?	Applicants may submit a single-authored academic paper in English as a reference to verify language proficiency. Applicants may also submit reprints of published papers that have been signed by the corresponding author to confirm that applicants wrote them, or items that prove that applicants presented at an international conference (e.g. the poster and program for the presentation). Please note that applicants who do not have documents confirming their language ability may still apply.
4	Is it necessary for international students to submit a copy of the score report for a foreign language proficiency test?	Please submit documentation confirming your language ability for a language other than your native language.
5	Can international students submit their JLPT score as a copy of their Foreign Language Proficiency Test score report? Also, I have made an oral presentation at an academic conference. Can I submit my paper as a document to show my language proficiency?	If you have the result of the JLPT, please submit it. You may also submit papers presented at academic conferences.
6	The Application Guidelines state that it is necessary for programs participants to also conduct research in a field different from their main major (secondary major). Is it necessary for applicants to have concretely decided on their secondary major at the time of application?	After being selected to participate in the project, this will be an activity that you carry out proactively, so please ensure that you have already considered your secondary major in detail and formulated a research plan at the time of application. It is possible to change your secondary major after you have been selected for the project.

◆ Selective Examination

1	Who is responsible for selection screening?	Regardless of your field of study, faculty members will be the primary reviewers. Therefore, when filling out the application form, please be sure to provide a clear explanation of your research field.
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◆ Procedures Following Selection

1	How do I carry out the required procedures after being selected to participate in the project?	After the announcement of successful applicants, guidance will be provided to new students in the “All Directional Innovation Creator Ph.D. Project”. Procedures and activities moving forward will be explained during the guidance meeting, so be sure to attend.
2	I have already taken the eAPRIN course for research ethics education; do I need to take the course over again?	It is mandatory for project participants to take the research ethics education (Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Digest Version) stipulated by the JST. After taking the course, project participants are required to submit a course completion report. [Reference URL] https://edu2.aprin.or.jp/ard/
3	How is the amount of research funding provided determined?	The committee established for this project determines the research grant amount based on the research project plans submitted each year. However, the research grant amount for the year of adoption is determined based on the results of the selection test for this project.
4	If I am selected as a project participant, is it permitted for me to continue working as a TA/RA?	You can continue working as a TA/RA. However, you are required to manage your effort so that it does not interfere with the activities to be conducted under this project.
5	If I am selected as a project participant, is it permitted for me to have a part-time job?	Yes, it is permitted for you to have a part-time job as long as it does not negatively affect your research activities or career development/training content implementation. However, if you become able to obtain a stable income of 2,400,000 yen or higher from your part-time work, you will lose your eligibility to participate in the program, so please inform the Project Secretariat promptly.
6	What is "Cooperative Education through Research Internships"(Item 10 of the Application Guidelines)?	This internship is a long-term, paid, job-based internship program. It is implemented through an employment contract with a company, and you can earn both a salary and academic credit. To receive support from ALDIC-PhD project, after being selected for the project, it is mandatory to register with the matching system for Coop-J consortium. When applying for a corporate internship using the system, please consult with your supervisor in advance. [Reference URL] https://coopj-intern.com/ For information on how to register with the matching system and about credits, please inquire with the academic affairs office of your graduate school after admission.
7	With regard to activities required for successful applicants (Item 13 of the Application Guidelines): (1) Is it required to carry out all of the listed activities from (1) through (5)? (2) The Application Guidelines state: “Besides your supervisor, choose other faculty members in different fields from your major. Under two supervisors, you are expected to attain research achievements in at least two fields.” What level of results am I required to attain? (3) What is the “Independent Research Challenge”? (4) What is “Self-development Overseas Study and Training”?	(1) Successful applicants are required to carry out all of the activities stipulated in the Application Guidelines. (2) Project participants are required to submit documentation showing the results of research in a field different from their doctoral thesis research (including, for example, journal publications, conference presentations, or other research results obtained prior to receiving support as a project participant). (3) Project participants plan and carrying out a research plan for their main major that emphasizes “challenge”. (4) Project participants independently plan and undertake training/internships/study abroad that is mainly for the purpose of their future career development. With regard to the costs involved with studying abroad, etc., it is possible for project participants to receive support for travel expenses after the committee has considered their plan; calls for the submission of plan applications are made on a regular basis.
8	Apart from the activities required for successful applicants, is there anything else that successful applicants are required to do?	In addition to various questionnaire surveys conducted by the university, successful applicants are required to participate in inter-university doctoral course student exchange meetings organized by the JST and cooperate with career surveys, monitoring surveys, etc.

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9	Must the secondary major be in a completely different field from the main major?	The secondary major for this project requires results done in a different laboratory than the one where the doctoral dissertation research is being conducted.

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10	Are there any procedures that must be carried out when publishing research results obtained through the project?	When publishing research results obtained through the project, please state that you received research funds under the project. When mentioning that you received funding support in the “Acknowledgments” section of the paper, please include: “JST SPRING, Grant Number [10-digit systematic number]”. The same applies when submitting manuscripts for publication. The 10-digit systematic number is “JPMJSP2109”. Below is an example of how to state this information in the “Acknowledgments” section of an academic paper. [English] This work was supported by JST SPRING, Grant Number JPMJSP2109. [Japanese] 本研究は、JST 次世代研究者挑戦的研究プログラム JPMJSP2109 の支援を受けたものです。 *If the paper involves two or more projects, please list the projects and their systematic numbers.
11	As a project participant, what other matters do I need to take especial care with?	Please refer to Item “3. Eligible Students” in the FAQ section of the JST “Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation” program. [Reference URL (Japanese only)] https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/dl/faq-2024SPRINGr2.pdf
12	The Application Guidelines state that financial support to cover living expenses is subject to taxation, but is the tax amount withheld at source?	Financial support to cover living expenses is classified as miscellaneous income for taxation purposes, so the tax amount is not withheld at source. Accordingly, it is necessary for you to file a tax return yourself the year following receipt of the payment for financial support to cover living expenses. You are also required to pay resident tax.
13	I am currently a dependent of my parent/guardian; will this status change if I receive financial support to cover living expenses?	If you are a dependent of your parent/guardian, you will be required to enroll in National Health Insurance on your own, which may result in a change in the treatment of your dependent care allowance, etc. Please inquire with the person in charge at your parent/guardian's workplace.
14	When does payment of financial support to cover living expenses begin?	Payment will begin after project procedures have been completed, and so the payment for the first month will be paid together with the payment for the second month around the 25th of the second month of your participation in the project. From then on, payments for each month will be paid around the 25th of that month. However, if procedures are delayed because of incomplete documentation, etc., the initial payment may be paid in the third month of your participation in the project.
15	Is there anything else that I am required to do as a project participant even after completing my doctoral course?	For 10 years after the completion of your doctoral course, the JST will conduct surveys about project participants’ employment status and research results, so please cooperate with these surveys.
16	Is it eligible to receive support under the project even while taking a leave of absence from the university?	While you are on a leave of absence, your participation in the project is also suspended, and so financial support to cover living expenses is not paid during this period. Furthermore, if your leave of absence exceeds two years, you will lose your eligibility to participate in the program. It is important that we know the period and reason of your leave of absence, so please inform the Project Secretariat promptly.

◆Other

1	Will the project be continuing in the future?	This project is being run with a grant from the JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency). Please note that the content of the support may change, including in the case of you taking a leave of absence, due to a review being carried out depending on the situation of the government budget, etc.
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