

Keio-SPRING (JST Doctoral Program Student Support Project)
“Nurturing of doctoral students who will map the grand designs for future society”
Application Guidelines for the AY 2023 [The 3rd period]

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Doctoral Program Student Support Project

1. Purpose

Keio University will now implement a program for the “Nurturing of doctoral students who will map the grand designs for future society,” in doctoral programs using grants from the JST project “Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation.” The purpose of this program is to nurture the outstanding and highly-driven doctoral students who will be responsible for the future course of science, technology, and innovation in Japan.

As part of this program, we aim to nurture the doctoral student personnel who, in addition to advanced research prowess; the ability to create new values based in a profound understanding of human endeavor and the workings of society; the ability to identify the challenges requiring solutions; and the ability to appropriately allocate finite resources leading to these solutions, are possessed with the ability to put their original ideas into action in order to “map the grand designs for future society,” specifically the forthcoming society 50 years from now.

In order to achieve this, we will offer assistance in the form of research funding and living expense subsidies, while supporting pioneering, integrated research activities by highly-driven postdoctoral students. Recipients will proactively participate in initiatives which will allow them to develop the capacities required to play an active role in various career paths (career/professional development) while earnestly devoting themselves to tackling their particular research challenges irrespective of academic field.

2. Assistance period/details/amount

<Number of recipients to be selected for the 3rd period >

About 15 recipients

<Assistance period>

A maximum of three years (four years in the case of four-year courses) with the upper limit set at the minimum number of years required for completion.

A review of intention to continue, eligibility, and activities outcomes will be conducted for each academic year.

<Assistance details>

In addition to financial assistance we will provide ongoing career and professional development support for active engagement with the diverse career paths of doctoral students.

<Assistance amount>

We will pay an amount to cover living expenses in addition to subsidizing research expenses.

* The adopted applicants will receive half-yearly subsidies for living and research expenses, as the subsidy period during AY2023 is six months from October 2023 to March 2024.

- Amount to cover living expenses: 2.2 million yen per academic year

(The adopted applicants will receive 1,100,000 yen for the half year of AY2023.)

- Research funding: Base payment of 300,000 yen per academic year

(The adopted applicants will receive 150,000 yen for the half year of AY2023.)

- Assistance subsidies for pioneering initiatives:

An appropriate amount (up to 1 million yen) in addition to the above amount may be paid towards initiatives for career and professional development including overseas exchange, fieldwork (including domestic fieldwork), internships, or pioneering initiatives such as those involving the development of research based on new ideas. If you are currently able to provide a plan for such initiatives, please include this in Application Form ① and ②.

When applying, please refer to the pioneering initiative guidelines and application tips in the "Reference Materials" folder in the "[Forms for Students]" on p. 5, and make sure your application is in line with the objectives of the project.

<Bank account and management>

The amount to cover living expenses will be transferred to the bank accounts of successful applicants. Bank accounts are limited to those in Japan. If you do not currently have a bank account in Japan, please contact the secretariat in advance.

The assistance subsidy for research expenses and pioneering initiatives will be administered at respective bodies on affiliated campuses.

3. Application criteria *There is a change from the 1st period application.

- ✓ Outstanding doctoral students who will map out the grand designs for future society, and engage in the pioneering research which will make this a reality.
- ✓ Proactive participation in platforms, etc. for dialogue among different research domains, and highly-driven engagement in research.

1) Eligible Students

Applicants who have passed the entrance examination for the doctoral course at Keio University by August 25, 2023, and will be admitted in September 2023.

(If there is a deadline for the graduate school before the announcement of acceptance / rejection of entrance examination, it is possible to apply to the graduate school without waiting for the announcement. However, those who fails the entrance exam, declines enrollment, or does not enroll at the scheduled time, the application it will be rejected in this project.)

- * In principle, the applicant should be able to submit the necessary documents by the deadline at the time of application and after the decision of adoption, respectively, and should be in Japan at

the time of the start of the grant.

* However, if the applicant is unable to enter Japan due to unavoidable reasons, the applicant should notify the secretariat in advance.

*The application will be accepted from those who are already enrolled in the Keio Doctoral Program only when it is stated in the application acceptance procedure for each graduate school in "6. How to Apply".

2) Overlap with other initiatives

- Students participating in the Program for Leading Graduate Schools and are paid are not eligible.
- Students participating in the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists DC; or in receipt of Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarships are not eligible.

(Self-funded international students are eligible for this project, but not if it conflicts with the application requirements in 1) and 3)).

- Some scholarships cannot be jointly paid or applied for together with other projects. If it is unclear whether the scholarships that you receive or schedule to be applied for can be jointly paid or applied for together with this project, be sure to check with the source of funds before applying for this project.

3) Income limit

- Students who are considered to be receiving stable income such as salary or director's remuneration at a level sufficient for a living wage from their university or company are not eligible.
- The standard for stable income is not to exceed 2.4 million yen per year (1.2 million yen for six months if the student enters in September of the current year or completes the minimum period of study in September). Scholarships whose purpose can be clearly determined to be living expenses should be included in the standard amount.
- Even if they are not required to count toward the income limit, part-time work and other activities are allowed only to the extent that they do not interfere with their work on research or career development and training programs.

Be sure to check [the FAQ](#) for details on income limits. Applications that do not meet the income limits will be rejected. [The FAQ](#) is stored in the **【Format for students】 box instructed on p. 5.**

If you are unable to determine whether your income should be included in the standard amount as stable income after reading this document and [the FAQ](#), please check with the department in charge of accepting applications at the Graduate School in advance.

< Example of income to be included in the standard amount of income limit >

to be included	Stable income such as salary or directors' remuneration from your university, company, etc. Scholarships and grants that purpose can be clearly determined as living expenses
not to be included	Income earned from part-time jobs, part-time work, TA, and RA *However, there are exceptional cases such as physicians working part-time or part-time lecturers that require inclusion. Be sure to refer to the FAQ in advance to confirm that you are not violating any income restrictions.

< Confirmation of estimated income >

Adopters who have income that should be included in the standard amount of the income limit will be required to submit documents confirming their estimated income for academic year 2023 within two weeks of admission.

If it is found that the applicant does not meet the conditions even after the adoption decision has been made, the application will be rejected. In addition, in the case of late submission of documents, the transfer of the amount to cover living expenses will be withheld.

4. Duties, etc. of students eligible for assistance

Students eligible for assistance are required to fulfill certain obligations, comply with various conditions, and cooperate in given undertakings. Complete applications based on an understanding of the particulars given in [“Keio University Doctoral Program Student Support Project Protocols for the ‘Nurturing of doctoral students who will map the grand designs for future society’”](#)

5. Schedule for selection of candidates, start of assistance (planned)

June 5	Start the 3rd period recruitment (application acceptance period is set for each graduate school)
Late September	Notification on approval or non-approval of program candidacy and information on procedures to be followed by the adopter.
Early October	Beginning of research expenses expenditure (managed at affiliated sections) *Invoices after October 1st are valid

6. How to Apply

The flow of submitting documents differs depending on the graduate school. Please check the information of the graduate school you plan to enter (or currently enrolled) from the link list below.

Graduate school name	Link to information on how to apply
Graduate School of Letters	No applicants will be accepted for the third period.
Graduate School of Economics	https://keio.box.com/v/2023-3rd-keizai-boshu
Graduate School of Law	No applicants will be accepted for the third period.
Graduate School of Human Relations	No applicants will be accepted for the third period.

Graduate School of Business and Commerce	https://keio.box.com/v/2023-3rd-shogaku-boshu
Graduate School of Medicine	https://keio.box.com/v/2023-3rd-igaku-boshu
Graduate School of Science and Technology	https://keio.box.com/v/2023-3rd-rikogaku-boshu
Graduate School of Business Administration	No applicants will be accepted for the third period.
Graduate School of Media and Governance	https://keio.box.com/v/2023-3rd-seime-boshu
Graduate School of Health Management	No applicants will be accepted for the third period.
Graduate School of System Design and Management	https://keio.box.com/v/2023-3rd-sdm-boshu
Graduate School of Media Design	https://keio.box.com/v/2023-3rd-kmd-boshu
Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences	No applicants will be accepted for the third period.

If you have any inquiries to the Graduate School that does not accept applications in the third period, please ask the Secretariat for contact information.

7. Documents to be submitted

- (1) Application Form ① (fill in the designated Word form. follow the guidance from each graduate school for submitting documents.)
- (2) Application Form ② (answer the Google Form)
- (3) Statement of Support (prepared by academic advisor.)

※Who is your academic advisor

A faculty member who will become your academic advisor after enrolling in the doctoral program at Keio University

*If there are separate instructions on how to prepare the Statement of Support in the information on how to apply for each graduate school, please follow those instructions.

[Format for students] <https://keio.box.com/v/Keio-SPRING-for-Applicants>

[Format for Statement of Support] <https://keio.box.com/v/Keio-SPRING-syokensyo-jukunai>

8. Screening criteria

- Excellence, novelty, importance of research plan
- Desire and capability to pioneer to create new values across fields and disciplines (qualities as a researcher)
- Career and social impacts after degree acquisition and completion

9. Important notes

- In order to ensure the transparency of this project, your graduate school, academic year, name, and title of the research project will be made public on the Keio University Web site.
- Payments may be discontinued should the student fail to maintain application criteria, even midway through the academic year.
- Please consult with the person with jurisdiction over dependents (parents, etc.) at your workplace,

etc. about the handling of dependents in health insurance and dependents allowance, while letting this person know that the amount to cover living expenses is to be treated as miscellaneous income. In addition, please contact your local tax office about the handling of dependents in income tax.

- Since the amount to cover living expenses is treated as miscellaneous income, it will be subject to income tax and residence tax. Tax returns will be required.

Reference: National Tax Agency “Final tax return” <https://www.nta.go.jp/english/taxes/individual/12011.htm>

- Payment of the amount to cover living expenses is not principled on an employment relationship between the student and the university, as assistance is offered for autonomous, pioneering, integrated research by doctoral students, and is unconstrained by existing frameworks. For this reason, the students who are eligible for assistance must themselves manage and complete any procedures relating to social insurance or pensions (excluding cases where the university will undertake separate employment procedures)

◆Secretariat office for this project◆

Office of Research Development and Sponsored Projects, Keio University

Office hours: Weekdays, 8:30 to 17:00. (closed on weekends and public holidays)

E-mail: jst-doctoral_inquiry@adst.keio.ac.jp

* Please add “[Keio-SPRING]” to the subject field of the email.