

Kobe University's  
'Next-Generation Outstanding Doctoral Human Development Project based on Co-  
creation in Different Fields'  
Academic Year 2026 Application Guidelines

About Technology Agency (JST)'s Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING) Program, Kobe University is inviting applications for this project for Kobe University's 'Next-Generation Outstanding Doctoral Human Development Project based on Co-creation in Different Fields.'

**1. Aim:**

This project aims to develop doctoral students from various fields enrolled in KOBE university's doctoral programs into outstanding doctoral talent equipped with mathematical and data science literacy, capable of excelling globally in interdisciplinary fields. Furthermore, through education and research that fosters transferable skills, we aim to cultivate highly specialized professionals demanded by society.

**2. Definition of Categories**

We are recruiting SPRING students for the following categories. For details on each category, please refer to Appendix 4.

**Category 1:** Japanese nationals who are not receiving sufficient income (2.4 million JPY or more per year) from their affiliated companies or organizations in the form of salary, executive compensation, or similar payments to cover living expenses.

**Category 2:** International student who is staying in Japan with a "Student" visa and who is not employed by, nor holds any official position in, any institution or organization in Japan or overseas.

**Category 3:** Persons who are recognized as having stable and fixed income, such as salary or remuneration for executive positions, at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (2.4 million yen or more per year) (so-called "working students"), and who are either employees or equivalent personnel of Japanese legal entities—including corporations, national government officials, local government officials, and employees of non-corporate organizations such as independent administrative institutions, foundations/associations, medical corporations, and non-profit organizations (NPOs)—or persons affiliated exclusively with overseas institutions or organizations, provided that such affiliation is with non-profit institutions or organizations such as overseas universities or public research institutions (regardless of whether they receive income), or international students who receive scholarships from the Government of Japan (students under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program) and are affiliated with the government (regardless of whether they receive income).

**3. Support Content**

Students selected for this project will receive the stipends listed in Table 1. Additionally, primarily for students in Categories 1 and 2, the Kobe University Doctoral Student Support Comprehensive Package will provide the support programs outlined in Appendix 1 to support their career paths.

Table1. Support Content

|     |  | Category 1                             | Category 2                            | Category 3                             |
|-----|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| (1) | Research Support Fund  | 2,300,000 JPY/year                     | None                                  | None                                   |
| (2) | Research Grant   | 250,000 JPY/year                       | 250,000 JPY/year                      | 250,000 JPY/year                       |
| (3) | Prioritized Research Funds<br>(Payment will be made after review following adoption)   | Approximately 100,000-450,000 JPY/year | Approximately 100,000-450,000JPY/year | Approximately 100,000-450,000 JPY/year |
| (4) | Study Abroad Expenses, Grant for Publication of Research Results, Career Development Subsidy Program<br>(Payment will be made after review following adoption) | Available                              | Available                             | Not Available                          |

In addition to the above, students wishing to be exempted from tuition fees will be exempted upon review.

#### 4. Support Period

From April 1, 2026, until the month and year of doctoral program completion (however, the standard program duration may not be exceeded)

\*Depending on the enrollment date and selection results, support may begin on October 1, 2026.

#### 5. Number of Positions Available

Approximately 70 people across all categories (a few positions for 2nd to 4th year students)

※ However, there is a possibility that no 2nd to 4th year students will be selected based on screening results.

※ Only students enrolled in the Graduate School of Medicine are eligible for the 4th year positions.

#### 6. Eligible Graduate School:

All graduate schools at Kobe University.

#### 7. Application Requirements:

The applicant must fall under all 1)~4).

- 1) The applicant will be enrolled as a doctoral student at one of Kobe University's graduate schools as of AY 2026 (Including prospects, 1st through 4th year students may apply, but fourth-year students are limited to the Graduate School of Medicine).
- 2) Those who are expected to complete their degree within the standard completion period.
- 3) The applicant should be affiliated with a laboratory that can manage the project's budget

(including a prospective laboratory).

- 4) Applicants must have the will and ability to be directly involved in science, technology, and innovation in Japan after completing the doctoral program, and their post-completion career paths must be in line with this.

However, students to whom the following applies at the time of application cannot apply:

- Students who have exceeded the standard course completion period.
- International students receiving scholarships or other support from their home country. However, SPRING support may be available depending on circumstances, so please contact the office.
- Students recognized as receiving sufficient income (at least 2.4 million JPY per year) from their affiliated company or organization in the form of salary, director's remuneration, etc., equivalent to living expenses (Categories 1 only)
- Persons who are not eligible for support as specified in Appendix 4

### **8. How to Apply:**

- 1) Application Deadline : 2026/2/27 (Friday) 12:00 noon
- 2) Please complete R8-SPRING Form 1 and convert it to a PDF file, and submit it using the application form.
  - \* When sending files, keep the total file size under 2MB.
  - \* You can write your answers to sections 2 ~ 4 of Form 1 in English.
  - \* Obtain approval to apply from your supervisor.
  - \* If you do not receive a confirmation email after submission, please contact the office.
  - \* If you are unable to submit an application using the application form, please contact the office.

Application Form:

<https://forms.gle/DZj6e8XPRChhjZoF9>

### **9. Selection Process**

- Candidates will be chosen by the project's steering committee.
- Selection will be conducted by evaluating R8-SPRING Form 1 against the assessment criteria in Appendix 2.
- Interviews will be carried out as required during the selection process.
- Selection results are due to be published on the Career Center website by around early April 2026.

### **10. Recipient's responsibilities**

#### **All Categories:**

- 1) Submit a research progress report every year  
For the year in which you complete your doctorate, you may use your degree thesis as the report.
- 2) Actively disseminate the research results via academic papers and/or academic conference presentations.
- 3) Attend events specified by the steering committee.

- 4) Respond to various surveys, such as a follow-up survey on your career 10 years after graduating.

**Category 1 only:**

- 1) The recipients are required to actively participate in the doctoral student support package programs (Appendix 1) and participate in the program equivalent to 2 credits of lessons (1 credit is 45 hours of study) per year. In particular, it is required that you make more than one presentation at the multidisciplinary joint research conference. However, the programs offered in this package may not be regular courses with credits.
- 2) Complete two credits of the mathematics and data science programs (Appendix 3) during the period.

**Categories 1 and 2 only**

- 1) Registration in the dedicated matching system for the job-based research internship program.

\*Please be aware that credit numbers and course names mentioned in this document are subject to change.

**11. Disqualification or suspension of support, and return of the grant fund**

If any of the following conditions apply, we may revoke or suspend the eligibility of the project participants or request the return of the grant funds.

- 1) The application requirements have not been met.
- 2) The execution of the research plan, or the funded student's performance of their duties, is deemed to be unsatisfactory.
- 3) The applicant submits a withdrawal notice.
- 4) The university president, the project director, or the project's steering committee determines that there is cause for disqualification, suspension, or repayment.

**11. Precautions:**

- Applicants who receive government-funded research support intended to enable students to devote themselves to independent, challenging, and interdisciplinary research—similar in purpose to SPRING (e.g., BOOST, DC, JICA, NEXUS, etc.)—are also eligible to apply; however, if selected, concurrent receipt of such funding is not permitted.
- A final income tax return where research support funds are taxed as miscellaneous income is required.
- Recipients are permitted to earn remuneration from teaching assistant/part-time job positions, internships, or prizes from academic societies, as long as these do not hinder their research activities.
- Your name will be published on the University homepage if your project is selected.

**12. Inquiries:**

Kobe University Main Office for Doctoral Student Support TEL: 078-803-5217  
Email Address : crct-hakase@edu.kobe-u.ac.jp

(Appendix 1)

‘Next-Generation Outstanding Doctoral Human Development Project based on Co-creation in  
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Comprehensive Support Package for Kobe University PhD students

- A. Global Education/Study Abroad Support Program
- B. Mid- to Long-term Internship Program
- C. Mathematics/Data Science Education Program
- D. Cross-disciplinary Co-creation Program
- E. Career Support Program for PhD
- F. International Student Support Program

(Appendix 2)

‘Next-Generation Outstanding Doctoral Human Development Project based on Co-creation in  
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Review criteria and contents

| Review criteria   | Contents   |
|---|--|
| Research Achievements                                   | Do the applicant’s research achievements show future potential?  |
| Positioning of Research                                 | Does the applicant explain the background behind their chosen research theme, and is the idea outstanding?   |
| Research aim/contents                                   | Are the research aim, methodology, and contents clearly indicated? Does the research method show originality, and does the applicant indicate how they will develop their research topic?  |
| Research Competency                                     | Are the applicant’s ‘strengths in relation to research’ and ‘factors considered necessary for further development’ concretely explained, and are they able to sufficiently self-analyze their own research performance? In addition, do they fully expect to become an outstanding researcher who bears responsibility for the future of academia? |
| Mathematics/Data Science                                | Does the applicant have a strong desire to acquire data science training?  |
| Development into multidisciplinary co-creation research | Does the research plan or future plan contain aspects that are expected to be developed into multidisciplinary co-creation research?   |
| Development of challenging research                     | Does the research plan or future plan contain aspects that are expected to be developed into pioneering/challenging research?  |
| Development of new research fields                      | Is the applicant not only eager to contribute towards the development of their current specialized field but also to break into and develop new research fields?   |
| Capacity to resolve social issues                       | Has the applicant paid attention to social issues? Have they acquired the skills via their doctoral research to contribute towards resolving these issues? How to contribute to science, technology, and innovation in Japan in the future.  |
| Future Plan   | How to contribute to science, technology, and innovation in Japan in the future  |

(Appendix 3)

## Mathematics/Data Science Education Program

Mathematical and data science education programs must take at least 2 credits before completion. These programs will be provided by Kobe University's Center for Mathematical and Data Sciences. These may not be a regularly credited course, depending on the graduate school. The following programs were held in AY 2025.

| Course Title  | credit | Contents   |
|---|--------|--|
| Advanced Data Science 1   | 1      | In Advanced Data Science 1, students learn about the technical aspects of artificial intelligence and machine learning, which are the foundation of data science. In Advanced Data Science 2, problem-solving workshops are held on the practical applications of data science based on case reports from companies on the user side of artificial intelligence technology and companies that provide technology (companies on the seed side). |
| Advanced Data Science 2   | 1      |  |
| Exercise in Practical Data Science, A   | 1      | Learn data analysis methods and acquire basic knowledge to solve problems. Also, learn how to operate the system through hands-on exercises using actual data.   |
| Exercise in Practical Data Science, B   | 1      | PBL (Project Based Learning) through group work, in which data that may be relevant to actual issues is provided by the local government, with the aim of setting and solving issues through data analysis and analysis.   |
| PBL Exercises in Data Science (contest type)  | 1      | Practical learning of how to handle data, classification and regression problems using Python through PBL (Project Based Learning) exercises modeled after data science competitions.  |
| JRI-Kobe Open innovation Workshop Financial Business and Information System Engineering | 1      | Through PBL (Project Based Learning) group work, students will learn how the basic technologies of information systems engineering, such as algorithms, data structures, cyber security, information communication networks, and artificial intelligence, are used in actual financial businesses and how they are deeply related to each other.   |
| Theory of Stochastic Processes  | 2      | Students will understand the rudiments of stochastic analysis based on Brownian motion. Students will also be exposed to Black-Sholes theory, which has applications in financial engineering.<br>*Advanced knowledge of mathematics is required as the level is quite high.   |
| Topics in Applied Mathematics 3a  | 1      | Learn the basic concepts of various statistical methods and how they are used in real life.  |
| Topics in Applied Mathematics 3b  | 1      |  |

## (Appendix 4)

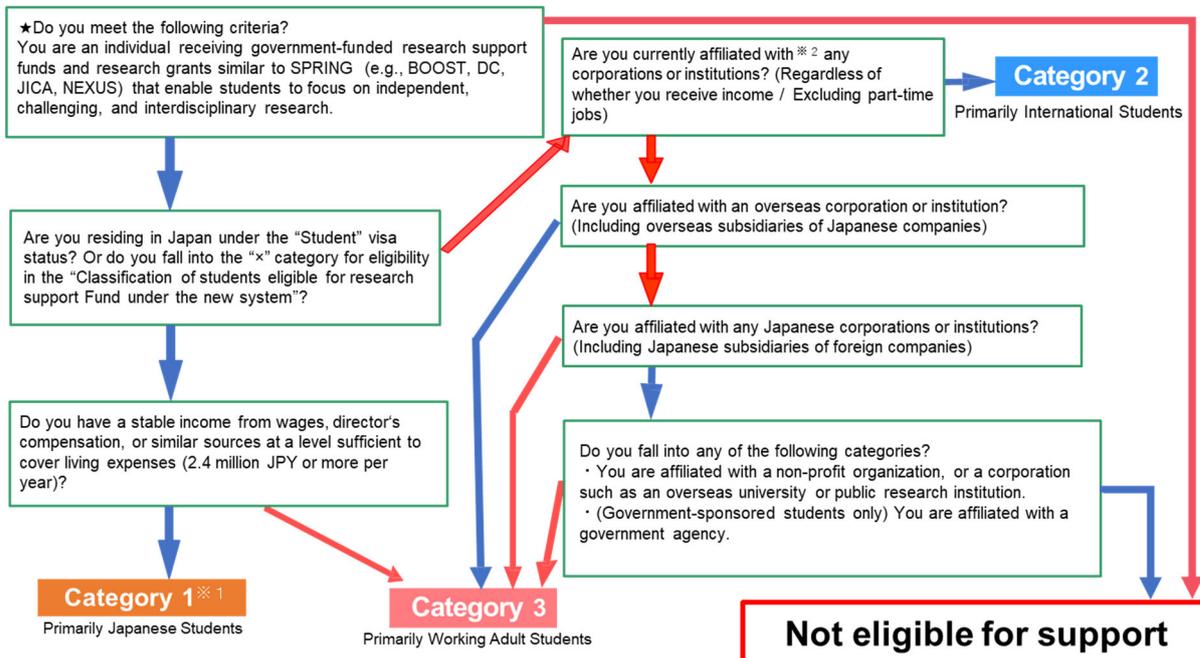
**Classification of Students Eligible for Research Support Fund Under the New System**

(Excerpt from briefing materials of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for universities, translated by Kobe University Main Office for Doctoral Student Support)

| Category   | Applicable Examples   | Period of Stay  | Eligibility                           |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| ① Japanese nationals   | Japanese citizens, foreign nationals naturalized as Japanese  | –   | ○                                     |
| ② Special Permanent Residents<br>(Article 3 of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Immigration Control for Persons Who Have Renounced Japanese Nationality Based on the Treaty of Peace with Japan) | Persons residing in Japan as Special Permanent Residents under Article 3 of the Immigration Special Measures Act  | Indefinite  | ○                                     |
| ③ Permanent Resident   | Permanent Resident  | A person who has obtained permission for permanent residence from the Minister of Justice                                 | ○                                     |
|  | Spouse or Child of Japanese National  | Spouse, child, or special adopted child of a Japanese national  | 5 years, 3 years, 1 year, or 6 months |
|  | Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident   | Spouse of a Permanent Resident or Special Permanent Resident, or a child born in Japan and continuously residing in Japan | 5 years, 3 years, 1 year, or 6 months |
| ④ Long-Term Resident   | Certain categories of Indochinese refugees, certain categories of Vietnamese refugees, third-generation Japanese descendants, spouses of permanent residents, biological children of naturalized Japanese citizens, permanent residents, special permanent residents, or long-term residents, Japanese nationals stranded in China and their children, foreign parents supporting biological children of Japanese nationals, etc.   | 5 years, 3 years, 1 year, or 6 months, or a period individually designated by the Minister of Justice (within 5 years)    | ×                                     |
|  | Those among the above who are deemed to have the intention of permanent residence in the future   |   | ○                                     |
| ⑤ Dependent  | Children dependent on individuals residing in Japan under the following status of residence: Professor, Artist, Religious Worker, Journalist, Highly Skilled Professional, Business Manager/Executive, Legal/Accounting Professional, Medical Practitioner, Researcher, Educator, Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services, Intra-company Transferee, Caregiver, Entertainer, Skilled Laborer, Specified Skilled Worker Type 2, Cultural Activities, or Persons residing in Japan under a student visa. | The period individually designated by the Minister of Justice (within five years)   | ×                                     |
|  | ① Individuals who meet all of the following criteria:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those born in Japan or who first entered Japan by the end of the school year in which they turned 12 years old</li> <li>• Those who graduated or completed elementary school through high school in Japan</li> <li>• Those who, after graduating or completing university or equivalent, are deemed to have the intention to work and settle in Japan</li> </ul>  |   | ○                                     |
|  | ② Persons deemed equivalent to those listed in ① based on a comprehensive consideration of their period of stay in Japan and other circumstances  |   |                                       |
| ⑥ Persons residing under the following status of residence (Items 1 through 5 of Appendix Table 1 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)  | (1) Diplomatic, Official, Professor, Artist, Religious, Journalist<br>(2) Highly Skilled Professionals, Business Management, Legal/Accounting Services, Medical, Research, Education, Technical/Humanities/International Services, Nursing Care, Intra-company Transferee, Entertainer, Skilled Labor, Technical Intern Training<br>(3) Cultural Activities, Short-term Stay<br>(4) Student, Trainee<br>(5) Designated Activities   | Depending on the category, the period ranges from 15 days to 5 years (some highly specialized occupations are unlimited)  | ×                                     |

# Category Determination Chart

→ Yes  
→ No



※1 Students who receive annual living expense support of 2.4 million JPY or more through private scholarships or similar grants are not prohibited from concurrent receipt. However, such students are not eligible for the research support fund.

※2 "Affiliation" refers to the status of being affiliated as an officer, staff member, etc., at an institution other than the university where the student is enrolled as a doctoral student.

