

Ehime University Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (EU SPRING) Application Guidelines for April 2024 Enrollment

1. Purpose

Ehime University Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (EU SPRING) (hereinafter referred to as “SPRING”) provides financial support to outstanding doctoral students who play an important role in the creation of Japan’s science, technology, and innovation to help them devote themselves to creative and challenging research, as well as educational support such as career development and training programs to foster doctorate holders who can be active in diverse career paths.

2. Number of Recipients

10 Recipients

Recruitment of a few students for September 2024 enrollment (Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Science and Engineering) and October 2024 enrollment (Doctoral Program of the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science) will be conducted separately around July/August 2024.

3. Eligibility and Requirements

Those who apply for SPRING (hereinafter referred to as “applicant”) must hold a master’s degree from Ehime University (hereinafter referred to as “the University”) or any other university. Applicants must also fulfill the following eligibility and requirements.

- (1) ① Applicants must have been enrolled in a doctoral program of the Graduate School of Science and Engineering at Ehime University (hereinafter referred to as “doctoral program”) in April 2024
- ② Applicants must have been enrolled in a doctoral program of the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences at Ehime University (hereinafter referred to as “doctoral program”) in April 2024
- (2) Applicants must have excellent research skills and a strong intention to engage in research work.
- (3) Applicants must have excellent aspirations to play a key role for the future of Japan’s science, technology, and innovation.

However, those who fall under any of the following conditions are NOT eligible to apply.

- (1) Students who are recognized as receiving a stable income (2.4 million yen or more per year) from their company, university, etc., in the form of salary, wages, executive compensation, etc.
- (2) Students who receive a scholarship (2.4 million yen or more per year) for living expenses that does not have to be reimbursed
- (3) Students who are supported by Research Fellowships 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, or any other scholarships from the home countries of international students (it is possible to apply for these programs, but it is not possible to receive funding from either of these programs and SPRING at the same time.)
- (4) Students who have not yet received their master’s degree due to a delay or postponement because of their poor academic performance
- (5) Students on a leave of absence

4. Support Period

3 years from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2027

5. Research Support Grant and Research Funding

The students supported by SPRING (hereinafter referred to as “SPRING students”) will be provided with the Research Support Grant and Research Funding.

- (1) Research Support Grant (living expenses): 200,000 yen per month
 - (2) Research Funding: 280,000 yen per year
- The Research Support Grant is provided directly to the SPRING students by the University. There are no restrictions on the use of the grant, and unused portions are not subject to return. However, the grant amount may be reduced depending on the timing of the University’s decision to pay or cancel the grant. For the SPRING students residing outside of Japan on the support starting date, the grant period will start from the date of confirmation of their arrival in Japan by the University, and the grant period will not be extended. In addition, no retroactive payments will be made for the period prior to the date of arrival.
 - The Research Funding will be properly managed by the University on behalf of the SPRING students.

6. Educational Programs

SPRING offers the following 4 mandatory subjects, for 1 credit each. Except the Research Internship, all other subjects are available online.

- (1) Fundamental Academic Skills: English language skill enhancement
- (2) Advanced Academic Skills: Research related skills enhancement
- (3) Career Path Development: Career development skills enhancement
- (4) Research Internship: Workplace experience

7. Support for Overseas Activities, etc.

SPRING encourages the SPRING students to cultivate their international skills. For this purpose, SPRING will provide partial subsidies for travel expenses for short-term study abroad, overseas training, and overseas internships, etc. However, in principle, SPRING students’ travel expenses for their own research activities and participation in international conferences, etc., must be paid from their own research funding. In addition to this, SPRING provides various other supports such as generic skills assessment.

8. Application Procedure

All application documents must be submitted electronically and must be written in Japanese or English.

(1) Applicants are required to prepare the following materials in advance by contacting their supervisor and submit them to the supervisor in a timely manner.

- ① Application Forms (Forms 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3)
Word files with the required information entered and PDF file of the academic paper, if any
- ② Academic Performance Evaluation Form (Form 2)
Word file in which the applicant has calculated and filled in the evaluation points based on the transcript
- ③ Research Accomplishments Evaluation Form (Form 3)
Word file filled in by the applicant after calculating the evaluation points based on the application form (Form 1-3).
- ④ Transcript
Pdf file of the certificate issued by the university at the time of completion of the Master’s program

(2) The supervisor is requested to check the documents submitted by the applicant. About ②Academic Performance Evaluation Form (Form 2) and ③Research Accomplishments Evaluation Form (Form 3), please examine them closely for errors in the point scoring concept and calculations and make corrections

if necessary.

Based on the documents ① through ④, please prepare ⑤ Evaluation of EU SPRING Applicant (Form 4).

(3) The supervisor is requested to send the application documents ① through ⑤ to the following address by email during the submission period.

① Email address : spapply@stu.ehime-u.ac.jp

② Submission Period: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, to Tuesday, May 7, 2024, by 10:00 a.m.

9. Selection and Notification of Results

(1) Selection

The SPRING Operating Committee (hereinafter referred to as “Operating Committee”) screens the application documents in line with the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation points
① The research work to be conducted during the doctoral program must clearly describe the research topic background and the research focus must be prominent. The research method must also be original, and the future vision of the research topic must be clearly described.	30 points
② Applicants who are expected to become outstanding researchers to play a significant role for the future of Japan’s science, technology, and innovation after the completion of the research work at Ehime University	20 points
③ Applicants with excellent academic performance in their master’s program	20 points
④ Applicants with outstanding research accomplishments for the past 3 years	30 points
Total	100 points

(2) Notification of Selection Result

Notifications of the selection result will be sent to all the applicants and their supervisors by email around June 2024. The names and affiliations of the successful applicants will be announced on the University website.

(3) If the number of selected students is less than the planned number, or if there are vacancies, a second recruitment or vacancy recruitment may be conducted.

10. Important Reminders regarding the Application Documents and Selection

(1) Any changes or additions to the application documents are not accepted once submitted.

(2) If false information is found in the application documents, even if it is after being selected, the student may be disqualified from SPRING and the student’s support from SPRING may be terminated, retroactive to the support period starting date.

11. SPRING Students Obligations

SPRING students have the following obligations.

(1) Commit to carrying out research in accordance with the submitted research plan

(2) Complete the required subjects designated by the University

- (3) Periodical reporting on research progress to their supervisor
- (4) Periodical meeting with their mentor
- (5) Give presentations outside the University on their research accomplishments as periodically set by their field
- (6) Take a research ethics education course
- (7) Cooperate in providing information about their career for at least 10 years after completing SPRING

12. Suspension or Termination of SPRING Student Status/ Return the Funds Provided by SPRING

The Operating Committee will suspend or terminate the status of SPRING students when they fall under the following conditions other than the terms as indicated in (1) to (5) after “However” in “3. Eligibility and Requirements”.

- (1) Proof that the SPRING student’s research plan progress or implementation as indicated in “11. SPRING Students Obligations (1) to (6)” is significantly inadequate
- (2) Withdrawal of the SPRING student
- (3) Proof that the Operating Committee deems valid for suspension or termination

If the suspended or terminated Research Support Grant and Research Funding have already been provided, they must be returned immediately.

For the SPRING students who have life events such as study abroad, leave of absence from school, or childbirth/childcare, the support period can be suspended or extended depending on individual circumstances. (in principle, for 2 years).

13. Handling of Personal Information

- The personal information contained in the application documents is used only for this selection and notification of the results.
- After the selection, the SPRING students’ personal information will be used to implement this project including provision of information to JST, the Japan Science and Technology Agency.
- Information on the results of the post-completion career follow-up survey will be provided to JST.

14. Contact Information

EU SPRING Office

Administration Division, Faculty of Engineering, Ehime University

Email address: spapply@stu.ehime-u.ac.jp

Phone Number: 089-927-8850 (Monday 9:30 - 12:00, Tuesday - Friday 9:30 - 15:30)

15. Special Remarks

- (1) About this project

Since this project is implemented with support from the Japanese government, the details of the project may be subject to change depending on the budgetary measures.

- (2) Research Support Grant under the Tax Laws

- The Research Support Grant is not a salary, but it is treated as “miscellaneous income” according to the tax laws. Since the Research Support Grant is subject to income tax and resident tax, every SPRING Student is required to declare their own income to the National Tax Agency. (Please note: some international students may not be required to declare their income if they follow the procedures under the tax conventions.)
- Applicants who are currently supported by a person who makes a living (parent, guardian, etc.) must inform the person responsible for their support (parent, etc.) that “the Research Support Grant is treated

as miscellaneous income under the tax laws”. They must also inquire at the workplace of the person responsible for their support (a person who makes a living) about the treatment of dependents regarding health insurance, support allowance, etc. For the treatment of dependents for income tax purposes, they may need to contact the local tax office. SPRING students must take the necessary steps to enroll in National Health Insurance, National Pension, etc. on their own by inquiring at the municipal office of the city, ward, town or village where they reside.

(3) Tuition Fee Waiver

Please note that there will be no tuition fee waiver for SPRING students under this project.

(4) JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization) Scholarship

SPRING students will not be eligible for “Exemption from Return of Scholarship for Particularly Outstanding Achievement”.

(5) Remarks about Human Rights Protection and Compliance with Laws and Guidelines

In the process of implementing the research plan, if the research activities require consent and/or collaboration of a third party, careful attention dealing with personal information, or appropriate actions to comply with bioethical and/or security measures; the kind of measures taken under the laws and guidelines must be described in concrete terms. For example, this applies to investigations, research, and experiments which need to obtain the approval from the Information Committee or the Ethics Committee inside and outside the University. And therefore, this applies to questionnaires/interviews including personal information, cultural assets inside and outside the country, usage of provided samples, invasive research, human genome, genetic modification, or animal experiments.

(6) Application for JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists

SPRING students may apply for this program even during their SPRING student period, however, if they are selected, their SPRING support period will end.