

Ehime University Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (EU SPRING)

Application Guidelines for September/October 2025 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

2 Recipients

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 be scheduled to enroll in a doctoral program of the Graduate School of Science and Engineering at Ehime University (hereinafter referred to as “doctoral program”) in September 2025.
- ② Applicants must be scheduled to enroll in a doctoral program of the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences at Ehime University (hereinafter referred to as “doctoral program”) in October 2025.
- (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 non-repayable scholarship of 2.4 million yen or more per year intended for living expenses.
- (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 October 2025 to September 2028

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 month following 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 for 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

Applicants are required to communicate with their prospective supervisor regarding the application process. Applications must be submitted electronically in Japanese or English.

(1) Applicants must submit the following materials to their prospective supervisor.

Items	① Application Forms	② Academic Achievements Evaluation Form	③ Research Accomplishments Evaluation Form	④ Transcript
Forms	Forms 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3	Form 2	Form 3	official form issued by each university
File Formats	word file	word file filled out by the applicant by calculating the evaluation points based on the Ehime University Study Support System or ④ transcript	word file filled out by the applicant by calculating the evaluation points based on ① Application Forms (Form 1-3)	PDF file of the certificate issued by the university at the time of completion of the master’s program
Notes	Additional PDF files of academic papers must be submitted if available (only if applicable).	must be a final academic record that includes all grades at the time of completion of the master's program. (see ※ below)		must be a final academic record that includes all grades at the time of completion of the master's program. (see ※ below)

Due date for submission to the prospective supervisor	Please note that the deadline for submission to the SPRING Office from the prospective supervisor is Tuesday, August 5, so please consult with the supervisor beforehand and submit your application to the supervisor well in advance of the deadline. <u>At this time, please put the SPRING Office email address below in cc so that the office can also list the applicants.</u>
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(2) The prospective supervisor is requested to check the documents submitted by the applicant. In particular, please carefully check ② Academic Achievements Evaluation Form (Form 2) and ③ Research Accomplishments Evaluation Form (Form 3) for any errors in the scoring concept or calculation method, and correct them if necessary.

Based on the application forms, please prepare another file named “⑤ Evaluation of EU SPRING Applicant (Form 4)”.

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

- Email Address for Submission : SPRING Office, spapply@stu.ehime-u.ac.jp
- Submission Period: From Tuesday, July 1, 2025, to Tuesday, August 5, 2025. All documents must be received by 5:00 p.m. JST on the final day.

[※] Regarding ② Academic Achievements Evaluation Form (Form 2) and ④ Transcript, if a transcript containing the final academic record including all grades at the time of completion of the master's program cannot be obtained during the submission period, the prospective supervisor should submit only the electronic files of Application Forms ①, ③ and ⑤ by Tuesday, August 5, 5:00 p.m.

After that, please submit Application Forms ② and ④ by Thursday, September 18, 5:00 p.m.

(Note: This is for those who will complete their master's program at Ehime University in September 2025.)

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 prospective supervisors by email in late September 2025. The names and affiliations of the successful applicants will be announced later on the website of the Job Search Support Section of the University.

- (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. In such cases, some of the application and requirements and the support period, etc. are subject to change.

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) Prevent misconduct in research and take measures in case of problems arising from misconduct in accordance with the Regulations Concerning Prevention of Misconduct in Research of Ehime University.
- (8) 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 (7)” 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 career tracking survey to be conducted after the completion of SPRING will be provided to JST.

14. Contact Information

SPRING Office, Job Search Support Section, Student Life Support Division, Ehime University
(1st floor of the Ehime University Alumni Association Building)

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

Phone Number: 089-927-8850 (Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

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 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 and may switch to this program if selected.