

Ehime University Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (EU SPRING) Application Guidelines (Category 3: Working Professionals April 2026 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 independent and pioneering 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

11 Recipients

3. Eligibility

Applicants eligible to apply for SPRING must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- (1) Applicants who are scheduled to enroll or advance in one of the following doctoral programs at Ehime University in April 2026:
 - ① Graduate School of Science and Engineering
 - ② United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences
 - ③ Graduate School of Medicine (Program for Medical Sciences)
 - ④ Graduate School of Medicine (Program for Nursing and Health Sciences)
- (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.
- (4) Applicants must fall under one of the following categories:
 - ① Applicants who are recognized as having a stable and fixed income, such as a salary or executive compensation, of at least JPY 2.4 million per year, and who fall under one of the following categories: officers or employees of organizations with Japanese legal status, including companies, national government employees, local government employees, independent administrative institutions, foundations, incorporated associations, medical corporations, or non-profit organizations (NPOs), etc. (hereinafter referred to as “Japanese corporations”).
 - ② Applicants who are affiliated exclusively with overseas institutions or organizations, and whose affiliation is with non-profit institutions or organizations, such as overseas universities or public research institutions.
 - ③ Applicants who are government officials among Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship international students.
 - ④ Applicants who specified in Appendix 1 who are affiliated with a Japanese corporation.

However, applicants who receive government-funded research support with a purpose similar to SPRING, to devote themselves to independent, pioneering and interdisciplinary research, are not eligible to apply.

4. Support Period

Program for Medical Sciences: April 2026 to March 2030 (four years)

Programs other than Medical Sciences: April 2026 to March 2029 (three years)

- For students supported by the SPRING program (hereinafter referred to as “SPRING Students”) who are residing outside Japan on the start date of the support period, the support period shall commence from the month following the month in which Ehime University confirms their arrival in Japan. The support period shall not be extended, and no retroactive payments shall be made for any period prior to their arrival in Japan.

5. Research Funding

Among the SPRING Students, research funding will be provided to those under Category 3: Working Professionals.

Research funding: JPY 400,000 or JPY 250,000 per year

- The research funding will be properly managed by Ehime University on behalf of the SPRING students.

6. 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
Forms	Forms 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3
File Formats	Word file
Notes	● Attach Appendix 1 (if applicable). If you have academic papers, also submit their PDF files (if applicable).
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, February 17, so please consult with your supervisor(s) 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>

(2) The prospective supervisor is requested to check the documents submitted by the applicant.

Based on the application forms, please prepare another file named “② Evaluation of EU SPRING Applicant (Form 2)”.

(3) The prospective supervisor is requested to send the application documents ① and ② to the following email address during the submission period.

- Email Address for Submission : SPRING Office, spapply@stu.ehime-u.ac.jp
- Submission Period: Monday, January 19, 2026, to Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m.

7. 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 The applicant is expected to become an outstanding researcher 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 The applicant has outstanding research accomplishments over the past three years, as well as outstanding professional accomplishments to date.	30 points
Total	80 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 March 2026. The names and affiliations of the successful applicants will be announced on Ehime University website at a later date.

(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.

8. 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.

9. SPRING Students Obligations

SPRING students have the following obligations.

- (1) Commit to carrying out research in accordance with the submitted research plan
- (2) Participate in the educational programs designated by Ehime University
- (3) Periodical reporting on research progress to their supervisor
- (4) Give presentations outside Ehime University on their research accomplishments as periodically set by their field
- (5) Take a research ethics education course
- (6) 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.
- (7) In principle, cooperate in providing information about their career for ten years after leaving Ehime University.

10. 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 “3. Eligibility”.

- (1) Proof that the SPRING student's research plan progress or implementation as indicated in "9. 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 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 two years).

11. Handling of Personal Information

- (1) The personal information contained in the application documents is used only for this selection and notification of the results.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Information on the results of the career tracking survey to be conducted after the completion of SPRING will be provided to JST.

12. Contact Information

SPRING Office, Job Search Support Section, Student Life Support Division, Ehime University
(1st floor of the library building)

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

Phone Number: 089-927-8850 (Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

13. Important Notes

- (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 situation.

- (2) **Protection of Human Rights and Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

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 research institution. 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.

- (3) 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.