

OU-SPRING Application FAQ

Machine translation is used in this page so that this page does not provide 100% accurate information.

1. Planned Enrollment Capacity

Q1-1	I would like to know how many people are expected to be accepted in the future.
A1-1	The number of applicants will depend on the recruitment situation, so we cannot give you a definite number at this time. Basically, we are planning to recruit about 30 new applicants for the first year and a few for the second year and above every fiscal year. For details, please refer to the application qualifications listed in the application guidelines for the relevant fiscal year.
Q1-2	Is there a fixed number of positions per graduate school?
A1-2	The number of positions available for each graduate school is not determined.

2. Qualification Requirements

Q2-1	Is there any age limitation?
A2-1	There is no age limit. For example, students who entered the doctor's course after retirement also can apply, but we select the successful OU-SPRING applicants with the purpose of this project such as "promote the development of diverse carrier paths to be widely active.
Q2-2	Are people who come from the doctor's and master's course of other universities eligible to apply?
A2-2	Yes, they are eligible.
Q2-3	Are foreign students eligible to apply?
A2-3	Foreign students are eligible to apply. However, students from abroad receiving support through the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship or scholarships from their own countries are not eligible to apply. In addition, we will examine based on the "strengthening the support of students enrolling in the doctoral degree program who can play important roles in science, technology and innovation creation in Japan" which is the purpose of this project.
Q2-4	"Students who have stable income that is sufficient to live on" are not eligible, but can they apply if they earn more than the standard annual income through regular part-time work?
A2-4	There is no problem as long as it does not interfere with your work on research and career

	<p>development/training content. If you are engaged in part-time income (including RA/TA work) that does not fall under the category of stable and fixed income, you are eligible for support regardless of the amount of such income. However, if your income exceeds 2,400,000 yen/year, please submit a certificate of estimated income even if you work part-time.</p> <p>On the other hand, in cases where an employment contract is concluded with a clear post and fixed term, we may not be able to provide support, so please contact the OU-SPRING Office.</p>
Q2-5	Can I apply if I have income exceeding 2,400,000 yen at the time of application, but I do not expect to have income exceeding 2,400,000 yen in the fiscal year in which I start receiving the fellowship?
A2-5	You can apply. However, you will need to submit a certificate of estimated income.
Q2-6	Are working students who do not receive sufficient living expenses from their companies eligible for this program?
A2-6	The purpose of this project is to provide an environment where students can devote themselves to research by providing an amount equivalent to living expenses, so if your company has a system that allows you to receive an amount equivalent to living expenses (based on other programs, etc., the standard amount is 2,400,000 yen per year), you are not eligible for this program in principle. If there are any circumstances that should be taken into consideration, please contact the OU-SPRING Office.
Q2-7	Is the income for the application requirement either salary income or gross income?
A2-7	It is Salary income (face value, including various allowances).
Q2-8	Is it possible to apply for a Research Fellows (Young Scientists) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science in duplicate when applying for the OU-SPRING?
A2-8	It is possible. Please indicate this on the application form. However, it is not possible to receive them at the same time, so if you are selected for both, you will have to choose one of them. Please contact the OU-SPRING Office as soon as you find out whether you have been selected as a JSPS Research Fellows or not.
Q2-9	Is it possible to apply for a Research Fellows (Young Scientists) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science while receiving the OU-SPRING?
A2-9	It is possible. However, it is not possible to receive them at the same time, so if you are selected for both, you will have to decline the OU-SPRING. Please contact the OU-SPRING Office as soon as you find out whether you have been selected as a JSPS Research Fellows or not.
Q2-10	Is it possible to apply for other scholarships from outside the university at the same time?
A2-10	This program is designed to "create an environment in which doctoral students can devote

	themselves to research," and is different in nature from a scholarship, so it is possible to apply for both. Please indicate this in the application form as reference information. If you are in doubt about the decision, please contact the OU-SPRING Office.
Q2-11	Can students who are currently on a leave of absence apply?
A2-11	If you plan to return to school in the fiscal year in which you start receiving the OU-SPRING, you can apply. However, it will be paid after your return to school. Please note that the period of absence from school will be deducted from the standard period of study.
Q2-12	Is it possible to apply even if I have not yet taken the selection examination for the graduate school I wish to enter at the time of applying for OU-SPRING?
A2-12	Applicants who plan to take the selection examination are also eligible and may apply. However, please note that even if you are selected for OU-SPRING, you will lose your eligibility if you are not admitted to the graduate school.

3. Amount of Support

Q3-1	What is the amount of the research encouragement funding (equivalent to living expenses) and research budget?
A3-1	The research encouragement funding is 2,200,000 yen per year, and the research budget is 400,000 yen per year.
Q3-2	My income is over 2,400,000 yen. Is it possible for me to receive only the research budget and not the research encouragement funding?
A3-2	It is not possible to receive only either research budget or research encouragement funding.
Q3-3	Is the research encouragement funding (equivalent to living expenses) subject to income tax and inhabitant tax?
A3-3	The research encouragement funding is treated as miscellaneous income and is subject to income tax and inhabitant tax. Please note that you are required to file your own tax return. The OU-SPRING Office will prepare the payment record required for the tax return and send it to the recipient for the previous year in January in principle.
Q3-4	If I am selected for the OU-SPRING, do I need to be removed from the support of my dependent (parent, etc.)?
A3-4	Please inform your supporters (parents, etc.) that the research encouragement payment is treated as miscellaneous income for tax purposes, and contact the person in charge at their workplace, etc., regarding the treatment of dependents in health insurance, support allowance, etc. Also, please inquire at your local tax office regarding the treatment of dependents for income tax purposes.

4.Duration

Q4-1	Is the period of support until the completion of the doctoral course?
A4-1	In principle, it is from the time of OU-SPRING acceptance to the completion of the standard term of study. However, the period of leave of absence due to life events, etc., will be deducted from the standard term of study.

5. Application Procedure

Q5-1	How should application documents be submitted?
A5-1	Please send electronic data (PDF file) to the address of the OU-SPRING Office as stated in the application guidelines.
Q5-2	Can I fill out the application form in English?
A5-2	You may fill out the application form in English. We have prepared an English version of the application form, which you can download from the application page.
Q5-3	Is it acceptable to change the format (font, layout, etc.) of the application form?
A5-3	There are no specific requirements other than the number of points and pages. Please use figures and tables to describe your research in a way that is easy for non-specialists to understand.
Q5-4	Is it necessary to include the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) in the "Other Scholarships, etc." section of the application form?
A5-4	Please include this information as a reference. Please note that this information will not affect the screening process.
Q5-5	Is it necessary to include loan-type scholarships in the " Other Scholarships, etc." section of the application form?
A5-5	Please include the fact that it is a loan-type as reference information. Please note that this information will not affect the screening process.
Q5-6	How long is the research plan of the application form?
A5-6	Please describe your research plan during the period of your enrollment in the doctoral course.
Q5-7	How do I submit a certificate of estimated income?
A5-7	Please scan the certificate with your employer's signature and seal and send it together with the application form to the address of the OU-SPRING Office as indicated in the application guidelines.
Q5-8	Is it necessary for non-working students to submit a certificate of estimated income?
A5-8	Working students and those who have part-time income of 2,400,000 yen or more per year are required to submit this form. If you are in doubt about the decision, please contact

	the OU-SPRING Office.
Q5-9	I am currently employed, but will be unemployed at the end of this fiscal year, so what should I do if it is difficult to submit a certificate of estimated income?
A5-9	If you have already retired as of the start of support (April of the next fiscal year), you do not need to submit a certificate of estimated income. However, we may ask you to submit an income certificate or other documents to verify your income.
Q5-10	What should I do if there is a possibility that the research plan may change between the time of application and the start of the research (April of the next fiscal year)?
A5-10	Please include this possibility in your application. If the research content changes after the acceptance, please contact the OU-SPRING Office to submit a change request form.

6. Selection Process

Q6-1	Will the screening be conducted by a person specializing in each field?
A6-1	Written and interview screening will be conducted for persons outside of the area of expertise. Please write your research in a clear and concise manner on the assumption that people outside your field of expertise will also read your application.
Q6-2	Is the interview conducted in person or online?
A6-2	It will be conducted online in principle
Q6-3	For the interview screening, is it possible to have an interview in English?
A6-3	Yes, it is possible.
Q6-4	What is the content of the interview screening process?
A6-4	Each person will have approximately 10 minutes to give a 3 minutes presentation and Q&A session. Please note that we will not be able to answer specific questions.
Q6-5	Is the income of the person with whom you share a living arrangement (parents, spouse, etc.) relevant to the screening process?
A6-5	Income of persons other than the applicant will not be considered.

7. Other

Q7-1	If I am selected for the OU-SPRING, can I work part-time for a short period of time or do TA/RA?
A7-1	There is no problem as long as it does not interfere with your work on research and career development/training content.
Q7-2	Will there be an employment relationship between the OU-SPRING recipients and the university?
A7-2	There is no employment relationship. For this reason, you will need to manage your own

	social insurance, pension, etc.
Q7-3	Are there any restrictions on career paths after graduation? For example, is it possible to work at a research institute or at a Japanese company outside Japan?
A7-3	There is no restriction on career paths, as long as it is consistent with the purpose of OU-SPRING, which is "to cultivate young researchers capable of playing important roles in science, technology and innovation creation in Japan".
Q7-4	When presenting research results obtained using research budget of OU-SPRING, how should the acknowledgements be worded?
A7-4	When presenting research results obtained through this project in a paper, conference, etc., please be sure to clearly state that the research was subsidized by this project. An example is shown below. 【Example】 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese : 本研究は、JST 次世代研究者挑戦的研究プログラム JPMJSP2126 の支援を受けたものです。 • English : This work was supported by JST SPRING, Japan Grant Number JPMJSP2126.
Q7-5	Is it possible to change the research content during the OU-SPRING adoption period?
A7-5	Please contact the OU-SPRING Office to submit a change request form.
Q7-6	Is it necessary to attend the Program on Research Ethics Education?
A7-6	The OU-SPRING recipients are required to attend and complete the "eAPRIN (formerly CITI)" program on research ethics education. The OU-SPRING Office will inform you of this matter separately at the time of adoption, so please be sure to respond to the request.
Q7-7	Is it necessary to register on researchmap?
A7-7	Doctoral students at Okayama University are required to register on researchmap. The OU-SPRING Office will inform you of this matter separately at the time of adoption, so please be sure to respond to the request.