

**Support for Pioneering Research Initiated
by the Next Generation**

**Development of Rhizome-Type Researchers
for blooming of Interdisciplinary knowledge**

Student Recruitment Guidelines

For

Prospective Enrollees for April 2025 and October 2025

**Osaka Metropolitan University
Doctoral Human Resource Development
Support Office**

2025 January.

1. Objectives of the Project

Osaka Metropolitan University seeks to transform its doctoral program into a "hub for cultivating comprehensive knowledge," where individual research is deepened and expanded through active engagement with expertise from other fields and disciplines. This approach aims to organically integrate diverse areas of expertise to address social challenges, create pioneering research domains, and cultivate the ability to envision and realize future societal frameworks. The goal of rhizome-type researcher development is to nurture individuals capable of solving social problems, advancing cutting-edge research fields, and formulating and implementing visions for the future.

To ensure the continuous production of talented individuals aligned with the university's initiative under the *Regional Core and Unique Research University Enhancement Promotion Project*, titled "Building a Multiscale Think Tank Function for the Creation of Mature Urban Centers," we provide support to outstanding doctoral students. These students aspire to become broad-minded, rhizome-type researchers who contribute to this ambitious goal.

2. Eligibility Requirements

- 1) **Applicants for April 2025 Enrolment:** Individuals who are applying or planning to apply for a doctoral program (3-year or 4-year) at Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School and aim to complete their degree within the standard period (or within the approved period for long-term enrollment) are eligible. Prospective applicants are advised to consult their intended supervisor prior to applying.
- 2) **Applicants for October 2025 Enrolment:** Individuals who are applying or planning to apply for a doctoral program (3-year or 4-year) at Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School and intend to complete their degree within the standard period (or the approved period for long-term enrollment) must consult their prospective supervisor before applying.

** It is possible to apply for both the SPRING program and the BOOST program simultaneously. Doing so will neither advantage nor disadvantage you during the selection process.

3. Support Details

Students selected for this program will receive the following support:

1. **Research Encouragement Grant (equivalent to living expenses):**
¥2,100,000 per year.
(It will be treated as 'miscellaneous income' and will be subject to 'income tax' and 'resident tax'. Filing a 'tax return' is required.)

2. Research Funds:

¥100,000 or ¥200,000 per year.

3. Career Development and Training Content Costs:

Provided based on application and review. This includes:

- Overseas study (1–3 months, once during the support period, up to ¥1,500,000),
- Participation in international conferences,
- Internships,
- Domestic study opportunities,
- Independent project activities,
- Paper submission (including submission fees, translation, and proofreading fees),
- Attendance at domestic conferences.

4. Support Period and Eligible Recipients

1. Support Period:

- **April 2025 Enrolment:** From 1 April 2025 until the standard period of study.
- **October 2025 Enrolment:** From 1 October 2025 until the standard period of study.

2. Eligible Recipients:

- **April 2025 Enrolment:** Applicants who have passed the selection process and are enrolled in the program mentioned in "2. Eligibility Requirements" as of 1 April 2025 and are not on leave.
- **October 2025 Enrolment:** Applicants who have passed the selection process and are enrolled in the program mentioned in "2. Eligibility Requirements" as of 1 October 2025 and are not on leave.

** If a student takes a leave of absence during the support period, support may be terminated depending on the reason for the leave. Additionally, even if a student passes the selection process, they will be ineligible for support if they meet any of the following criteria at the start of the support period:

- ✓ Selected as a Special Research Fellow (DC) by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.
- ✓ Receiving support through the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship.
- ✓ JICA students supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency
- ✓ Receiving a scholarship from their home country.
- ✓ Receiving a sufficient level of scholarship for living expenses (¥2,400,000 per year).
- ✓ Receiving a stable and sufficient amount of living expenses (equivalent to ¥2,400,000 per year) from their affiliated university or company.

- ✓ Selected for BOOST, Broadening Opportunities for Outstanding young researchers and doctoral students in Strategic areas.

Important Notes:

- ✓ Students selected for this program will be excluded from the exemption from repayment of scholarships based on outstanding academic achievements provided by the Japan Student Services Organization.
- ✓ Doctoral students receiving support for research funds rather than living expenses may still be eligible for this program. However, it is necessary to confirm in advance with the supporting organization whether there is any overlap with this program.

5. Responsibilities of Students Supported by the Project

Students selected for this project will be required to undertake the following responsibilities as part of their human resource development:

- Selection of Sub-Supervisors: Choose sub-supervisors for secondary studies and related activities.
- Participation in Ethics and Compliance Training: Attend research ethics and compliance education programs.
- Career Development and Funding Plans: Prepare detailed plans for career development and training activities, including an overall support period plan and an annual expense plan.
- Progress Reporting: Present updates at semi-annual research progress report meetings.
- Study Abroad Planning and Execution: Develop a plan for domestic or international study by the end of the academic year following the start of support (or by the end of the first semester for students enrolling in autumn) and complete it within the standard study period.
- Interdisciplinary Research Exchanges: Participate in interdisciplinary research exchange activities (optional participation for supervisors and sub-supervisors).
- Mentorship: Engage in mentor consultations twice a year.
- JSPS Fellowship Application: Apply for the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Special Research Fellowships (DC) if eligible (mandatory for those meeting the criteria).
- Course Completion: Successfully complete specific courses designated by the program.
- Monitoring and Follow-Up Surveys: Cooperate with surveys and follow-up studies conducted by JST and this program.

When applying, please refer to the [program description document](#) to fully understand the objectives and requirements of the SPRING program.

The approval of your supervisor is essential for fulfilling the above responsibilities. Ensure that you obtain consent from your prospective supervisor before applying

6. Number of Recruits

- For April 2025 Enrollment (Support starts in April 2025): Approximately 30 candidates (tentative)
- For October 2025 Enrollment (Support starts in October 2025): Approximately 5 candidates (tentative)

7. Main Schedule.

- 1) Application period.
Friday, 17 January - Friday, 31 January 2025, 12:00 pm (noon) (Deadline for submission of essays, photographs, and the application form)
- 2) Notification of interview date and time
Notification will be sent by Monday, 10 February 2025, to the e-mail address provided in the application form.
- 3) Interviews.
Wednesday, 12 February - Friday, 7 March 2025
Conducted between 9:00 am and 5:30 pm for 20 minutes, as specified.
- 4) Announcement of Selected Candidates
Scheduled for the end of March 2025
Notification will be sent to successful applicants via the e-mail address provided in the application form.
Please note that no enquiries by telephone or other means regarding the results of the selection process will be accepted.

8. How to apply

- 1) Where to apply
 - Access the PhD Student Support Project [Application Form](#).
 - Fill out the form with your information and upload Essay Form 1 and a photo.
- 2) Required Files
 - Essay
Prepare your essay using the SPRING application form (Form 1). You may use either the Japanese or English version.
The form can be downloaded from the URL above.
Name the file as follows:
"graduate_course_studentID_number_name.pdf"
(Ensure the file is in PDF format.)
 - Photo
A photograph of your face, showing above the shoulders.
Acceptable formats: JPG, BMP, or PNG.

Name the file as follows:

"studentID_number_name.jpg" (or .bmp or .png)

If you are not affiliated with our university at the time of application, you do not need to include a student ID number.

3) Submission Deadline: **12:00pm on Friday 31 January 2025.**

Note:

- ✓ Completing the application form may take longer than expected due to the large number of fields. Please allocate sufficient time to complete it before the deadline.
- ✓ Do not submit the application form more than once during the application period.

[Important Notes]

- (1) Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- (2) Submitted documents will not be returned.
- (3) No changes to the submitted documents are allowed after submission.
- (4) If any information provided is found to be inaccurate, the qualification to participate in the project may be revoked.
- (5) Personal data submitted with the application will be used solely for the selection process.
- (6) There is no examination fee for the selection process.

9. Selection process

1. Examination Contents

| Subject | Points | Description |
|-----------|--------|--|
| Essay | 100 | Create the essay according to Form 1. |
| Interview | 100 | Conducted online. Includes a 7-minute presentation on the essay's content (using PowerPoint or similar) followed by a 13-minute Q&A session. |

2. Evaluation Method

The evaluation will be based on the scores from the essay and the interview. Scoring will be conducted according to the criteria outlined in the rubric evaluation table. For details, please refer to the Rubric Evaluation Table:

Evaluating Rubric Table for Selection

| Evaluation Criteria | | Not rated | Unacceptable | Marginal | Acceptable | Proficient | Exceptional |
|---------------------|---|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | | 0 point | 1 point | 2 points | 3 points | 4 points | 5 points |
| 1 | The applicant understands the importance of transferable skills and is willing to acquire them. | Not at all. | Not much. | Understands, but lacking detail. | Understands and can explain well. | Understands well and has a concrete plan in mind. | Understands well and is already taking concrete actions. |
| 2 | The applicant is aware of his/her career path after completion of the course and how he/she wants to play an active role and contributes to society | Not at all. | Not much. | Thinks about it, but lacking detail. | Thinks and can explain. | Thinks about it and has a concrete plan. | Thinks about it and is already taking concrete actions. |
| 3 | The applicant has Interests in fields outside his/her own research and is strongly motivated to understand and incorporate them. | Not at all. | Not much. | Yes, but lacking detail. | Very motivated and can explain. | Highly motivated and has a concrete plan in mind. | Strongly motivated and is already taking concrete actions. |
| 4 | The applicant how to relate his/her research to solving social issues or creating innovative research areas. | Not at all. | Not much. | Understands, but lacking detail. | Understands and can explain. | Understands and has a concrete plan in mind. | Understands well and is already taking concrete actions. |

10. Interview Date and Venue (Online)

- After receiving the application documents, an interview will be scheduled between Wednesday, 12 February 2025 and Friday, 7 March 2025.
- If you have legitimate reasons (e.g., conference presentations) that prevent you from attending the interview during specific times within the above period, please specify the dates and reasons in the designated section of the application form. (You may be asked to provide proof later.) However, this does not guarantee an interview outside the specified times.
- The interview will last a maximum of 20 minutes.
- The interview date and Zoom URL will be sent to the email address provided in the application form by Monday, 10 February 2025. If you do not receive this information by 16:30 on that day, please contact the email address listed in section "12. Contact Information" by 17:00 on the same day.

[Notes]

1. If the interview cannot be conducted as scheduled due to natural disasters or other emergencies, an "Urgent Notice" will be sent via email. Please check for any updates.
2. The emergency contact for the interview day is the same as listed in "12. Contact Information."

11 Important Notes

The outcome of the selection process for this program is independent of the graduate school entrance examination. Even if you are selected for this program before admission, you will not be exempt from the entrance examination. Additionally, this program does not offer waivers or subsidies for admission or tuition fees. For information regarding admission, tuition fee waivers, or other financial support schemes provided by the university, please contact the relevant program offices.

12. Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the application for this program, please contact the following email address. Inquiries are accepted by email only.

Osaka Metropolitan University,
Research Promotion Division,
Doctoral Talent Development Support Office
Email: gr-knky-2024dss@omu.ac.jp

SPRING application form (Form1)

[Essay]

(1)-1 Describe your research, including the research purpose, methodology, content, and the characteristics and originality of your research (such as comparisons with previous studies, anticipated impact upon completion, and future prospects) in a concise and easily understandable manner. Use language that can be understood by individuals from different fields. (Approximately 800 words) If using figures or tables, please summarize them on page 5.

(Word Count).

(1)-2 Specifically describe what you aim to clarify and to what extent before obtaining your degree. (Approximately 400 words)

(Word Count).

(2) Specifically describe how your research is connected to the following items: (1) solving social issues, (2) creating pioneering research fields, (3) creating future society, or a combination of these. (Approximately 400 words)

(Word Count).

(3) Describe concisely and specifically which fields outside your research area you are interested in and how you plan to utilize them in your career. This is not merely about improving the efficiency or accuracy of your research. Explain how you intend to expand your research theme and incorporate interdisciplinary studies into your career. (Approximately 350 words)

(Word Count).

(4) Describe your thoughts on your career path after completing the doctoral program and how you wish to contribute and excel in future society. (Approximately 350 words)

(Word Count).

(5) Describe concisely and specifically which transferable skills you think are necessary to achieve the goals mentioned in (4) and how you plan to acquire them. (Approximately 350 words)

(Word Count).

If using figures or tables, please attach them to this page. Include figure/table numbers and captions to clearly indicate where they are referenced in the application.