For
Prospective Enrollees in October 2024 and April 2025

Next Generation Researchers Challenging Research Programme

Development of Rhizome-Type Researchers for blooming of Interdisciplinary knowledge

Student Recruitment Guidelines

Osaka Metropolitan University
Doctoral Human Resource Development Support Office

2024 July.

1. Objectives of the Project

Osaka Metropolitan University aims to develop the doctoral course as a place for deepening and developing individual research into a "place for cultivating comprehensive knowledge" that actively absorbs expertise in other fields and disciplines, organically combines diverse expertise to solve social problems, create leading research fields and cultivate the ability to extract and realise an image of future society. The aim of the rhizome-type researcher human resource development is to develop the capacity to solve social problems, create leading research fields, and extract and realise a vision for the future of society.

With the aim of continuously producing talented individuals who can contribute to 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 support outstanding doctoral students striving to become broad-minded, rhizome-type researchers.

2. Eligibility Requirements

1) **Applicants for October 2024 Enrolment:** Individuals who are applying for a doctoral programme (3-year or 4-year) at Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School and intend to obtain their degree within the standard period (or within the approved period for long-term students). Please consult your prospective supervisor before applying.
2) **Applicants for April 2025 Enrolment:** Individuals who are applying or planning to apply for a doctoral programme (3-year or 4-year) at Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School and intend to obtain their degree within the standard period (or within the approved period for long-term students). Please consult your prospective supervisor before applying.

3. Support Details

Students selected for this programme will receive the following support:
1. **Research Encouragement Grant (equivalent to living expenses):** ¥2,100,000 per year.
2. **Research Funds:** ¥100,000 or ¥200,000 per year.
3. **Career Development and Training Content Costs:** Subject to application and review. This includes overseas study (1-3 months, once during the support period, up to ¥1,500,000), international conferences, internships, domestic study, independent project activities, and paper submission (submission fees, translation, and proofreading fees), and domestic conferences.

4. Support Period and Eligible Recipients

1. **Support Period:**

- **October 2024 Enrolment:** From 1 October 2024 until the standard period of study.
- **April 2025 Enrolment:** From 1 April 2025 until the standard period of study.

2.. **Eligible Recipients:**
- **October 2024 Enrolment:** Those who have passed the selection process and are enrolled in the programme mentioned in "2. Eligibility Requirements" as of 1 October 2024 and are not on leave.
- **April 2025 Enrolment:** Those who have passed the selection process and are enrolled in the programme mentioned in "2. Eligibility Requirements" as of 1 April 2025, and are not on leave.

Note: If a student takes a leave of absence during the support period, support may be terminated depending on the reason for the leave. Furthermore, 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 (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship.
- Receiving support from 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 the Next-Generation AI Human Resources Development Programme (BOOST).

Important Notes:
- Students selected for this programme 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 programme. However, it is necessary to confirm in advance with the supporting organisation whether there is any overlap with this programme.

5. Responsibilities of the supporting Student

The students supported by the project will be assigned certain responsibilities in terms of human resource development.
- Selection of sub-supervisors for secondary studies, etc.
- Participation in research ethics and compliance education.
- Research funding and implementation plans for career development and training content (overall support period plan and annual expense plan).
- Progress is reported at the semi-annual research progress report meetings.
- The student is required to make a plan for study abroad at home or abroad by the end of the academic year after the start of support (the end of the first semester for students entering in autumn) and to carry it out within the standard study year.
- Participation in interdisciplinary research exchanges (participation by supervisor and sub-supervisor optional).
- Receiving mentor consultations twice a year.
- Application to the Special Research Fellowships (DC) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) (mandatory for those who meet the eligibility criteria)
- Completion of certain courses.
- Cooperation with monitoring and follow-up surveys conducted by JST and this Programme

When applying, please refer to the programme description document https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/info/news1/entry-58886.html from https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/ to fully understand the purpose of the programme.

The understanding of your supervisor is essential to fulfil the above responsibilities. Before applying, please ensure that you have the approval of your prospective supervisor.

6. Number of recruits

- For October 2024 Enrollment (Support starts in October 2024): Approximately 5 candidates
- For April 2025 Enrollment (Support starts in April 2025): Approximately 20 candidates (tentative)

7. Main Schedule.

1) Application period.
Friday, 26 July - Friday, 9 August 2024, 12:00 (application form entry deadline)
Friday, 26 July - Friday, 9 August 2024, 15:00 (deadline for submission of essays and photographs)

2) Notification of interview date and time
   Notification by Friday 23 August 2024 to the e-mail address provided in the application form.
3) Interviews.
   Monday 26 August - Friday 6 September 2024, 9am - 5.30pm for 25 minutes to be specified.
4) Announcement of Selected Candidates
   30 September 2024 (Monday).
   Notification to informal applicants to the e-mail address provided in the application form.
   No enquiries by telephone or other means concerning the results of the selection process will be entertained.

8. How to apply

1) Where to apply
   PhD student support project application form **https://forms.of-fice.com/r/wed8M2DV9q** and fill in the required information.
   Input (transmission) deadline: **12:00 on Friday 9 August 2024, the last day of the application period.**

   In addition, please send the two files listed in 2) to the file address below.
   Deadline for sending files: **15:00 on the last day of the application period.**
   File destination : gr-knky-2024dss@omu.ac.jp
   *An email confirming receipt of the file will not be sent out.

   *Submit the two files in encrypted form and send the password for decompression in a separate email. The application is complete once the application form has been submitted and the two files have been submitted within the application period. The administrative office may contact you if there are any deficiencies in the information you have entered or the documents you have submitted.

   *The above application form may take longer time than expected due to the large number of fields to be filled in. Please allow plenty of time to complete the application so that the application period does not pass. Also, please do not fill in (submit) the above form more than once during the application period. In the unlikely event that you enter (submit) the form more than once, only the last completed entry (submission) will be accepted as valid.

2) Files
   · Essay prepared using (Form 1).
      Please name the file "student_number_name.pdf". (Please make sure that the file is in pdf format).
   · A photograph of the face above the shoulders (jpg, bmp or png format).
      Please name the file "student_name.jpg (or bmp or png)".
   *If you do not belong to our university at the time of application, you do not need to enter your student ID number.

(Form 1) is available at https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/assets/attachment-file/attachmentfile-file-49921.docx

[Notes]
    (1) Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
    (2) Documents submitted at the time of application will not be returned.
    (3) No changes to the documents are permitted after the application procedure.
    (4) If it becomes clear that the information entered or the information in the submitted documents is not in accordance with the facts, the qualification to participate in the project may be revoked.
    (5) Personal data associated with the application will only be used for selection purposes.
    (6) There is no examination fee for the selection process.

9. Selection process

1. Examination Contents

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

2. Evaluation Method
Evaluation will be based on the scoring results of the essay and the interview. Scoring will be conducted according to the criteria outlined in the rubric evaluation table. Please refer to the rubric evaluation table at Rubric Evaluation Table.

10. Interview Date and Venue (Online)

A Upon receipt of application documents, an interview date will be scheduled between Monday, 26 August 2024, and Friday, 6 September 2024.
- If there are legitimate reasons, such as conference presentations, that prevent you from attending the interview during specific times within the above period, please indicate these times and reasons in the designated section of the application form. (You may be asked to submit proof of the reasons later.) However, this does not guarantee an interview outside the specified times.
- The interview will last a maximum of approximately 25 minutes.
- The interview date and Zoom URL will be sent to the email address provided in the application form by Friday, 23 August 2024. 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 this information.
2. The emergency contact on the interview day is the same as listed in "12. Contact Information."

11 Important Notes

The outcome of the selection for this programme is independent of the graduate school entrance examination. Even if you pass this programme before admission, you will not be exempted from the entrance examination. Additionally, this programme does not provide waivers or subsidies for admission or tuition fees. For information on admission and tuition fee waivers or other financial support schemes offered by the university, please contact the respective programme offices.

12. Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this programme application, please contact the following email address. Please note that inquiries are accepted by email only.
Osaka Metropolitan University, Research Promotion Division, Doctoral Talent Development Support Office
Email: gr-knky-2024dss@omu.ac.jp

Essay

Name	
Affiliation	Graduate School Major
Supervisor	
Research Title	
Research keywords (approximately 5)	

* If not yet determined at the application stage, please be sure to include the name of the prospective person or the anticipated name of the graduate school, etc..

On the following pages, please write a short essay according to the guidelines below.
- Please use the attached format.
- Explain in a way that is easy for non-specialists to understand.
- You may use supplementary figures, tables, and graphs in your explanation. However, the entire essay should not exceed the attached format (4 pages). Including this page, it should be no more than 5 pages. For essays in English, the maximum word count is 3000 words. If you include achievements or similar information in the text, do not include your name; instead, refer to yourself as "the applicant."
- Indicate the word count in parentheses at the end of each section.
- The theme of the essay should address the following content:

1) Describe your <u>research purpose</u>, <u>methodology</u>, <u>content</u>, and the <u>originality and uniqueness of your research</u> (including comparisons with previous research, anticipated impact upon completion, and future prospects) in a concise and easily understandable manner. Additionally, specifically describe <u>what you aim to clarify and to what extent before obtaining your degree</u>. Applicants for the JSPS Special Research Fellowship may attach their application as supplementary material separate from this essay.
2) Specifically describe how your research is connected to the following items: <u>(1) solving social issues, (2) creating pioneering research fields, (3) creating future society, or a combination of these</u>.
3) Describe which fields outside your research area you are interested in and how you plan to incorporate them into your research.
4) Describe your career path thoughts after completing your doctoral program and how you wish to contribute and excel in society.
5) Describe what transferable skills you aim to acquire through this program, along with the reasons and methods for acquiring them.

(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 <u>what you aim to clarify and to what extent before obtaining your degree</u>. (Approximately 400 words)

(Word Count)

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