

# Tohoku University Advanced Graduate School LEAP Program (Comprehensive Support Package)

## Q&A "For April 2026"

### 1. About Eligibility

1	<p>Q1: I am a working student. Am I eligible to apply?</p> <p>A: Yes, you are eligible to apply. There are no age limits or specified research fields. However, if your expected annual income from employment or part-time jobs (excluding Tohoku University's RA, TF, TA, and AA) exceeds 1.8 million yen, you will not be eligible.</p>
2	<p>Q2: Can students in a double degree program also apply for this support?</p> <p>A: Yes. Students in a double degree program are also eligible to apply.</p>
3	<p>Q Q3: I am using the long-term study system. Can I apply?</p> <p>A: Please refer to Q4 in "3. About the Handling of Leave of Absence, Repeating a Year, Long-term Study, Early Completion, Withdrawal, etc." below.</p>
4	<p>Q4: I currently have an annual income of 1.8 million yen or more, but I will have no income after advancing to the doctoral course. Can I apply in this case?</p> <p>A: Eligibility is determined by the expected income for the one year (from April 1 to March 31 of the following year) of the academic year in which you are adopted for the Advanced Graduate School LEAP Program (hereinafter referred to as "this program"). If your expected annual income is less than 1.8 million yen (excluding income from RA, TF, TA, and AA at Tohoku University), you can apply.</p>

### 2. About Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards

1	<p>Q1: I have salary income from my company, which is about 1.8 million yen per year (before deductions for insurance premiums, etc.). Does this conflict with the restrictions on simultaneous awards?</p> <p>A: If you are receiving salary income, executive compensation, pension, or financial support of 1.8 million yen or more per year (before deductions for insurance premiums, etc.), it conflicts with the restrictions on simultaneous awards, and you will not be eligible for the support.</p>
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2	<p>Q2: I have applied for a scholarship to study abroad. Is it acceptable to receive that scholarship while also receiving this support?</p> <p>A: Yes. Scholarships intended to support travel expenses, such as round-trip airfare and living expenses, can be received. Please also check the simultaneous awards restrictions of the scholarship in question.</p>
3	<p>Q3: Is it possible to receive loans from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) concurrently? Also, am I eligible to apply for the JASSO scholarship loan repayment exemption?</p> <p>A: It is possible to receive loans from JASSO concurrently. Furthermore, those in the Standard Track (1,272,000 yen per year) of this program can apply for the scholarship loan repayment exemption. Please note, however, that if you are granted a Category 1 Scholarship in a doctoral course in or after academic year 2023, those transitioning from the RISE Program to this LEAP Program and those in the DP-Track are not eligible for the scholarship loan repayment exemption.</p>
4	<p>Q4: Is income from working as a TA/RA included in the annual income of 1.8 million yen or more, which is restricted for simultaneous awards?</p> <p>A: Income from RA, TF, TA, and AA at Tohoku University is not included in the income restrictions.</p>
5	<p>Q5: I receive a scholarship of 100,000 yen per month (1.2 million yen per year) from a private organization. Is it possible to work a part-time job outside the university for about 50,000 yen per month (600,000 yen per year)?</p> <p>A: It is possible to work a part-time job outside the university for about 50,000 yen per month, but please note that if the total of your scholarship, other salary income, etc., exceeds 1.8 million yen per year, you will lose your eligibility for this support.</p>
6	<p>Q6: I have found employment and will earn a salary income. Do I not need to decline the support until my income exceeds 1.8 million yen?</p> <p>A: If your future salary income, etc. (including income other than your salary after employment) is expected to exceed 1.8 million yen per year, you must decline this program at the time of employment. The same applies even if it is a fixed-term position. In addition, if you do not decline this program at the time of employment and it is later found that you are employed, you will be required to return the incentive stipend for that period retroactively. Furthermore, the tuition fee waiver for the Standard Track will be canceled, and payment of tuition fees will be required.</p>
7	<p>Q7: Are bonuses from my company included in the annual income of 1.8 million yen?</p>

	A: Bonuses are included in the total income of 1.8 million yen.
8	<p>Q8: What is the calculation period for the "annual income of 1.8 million yen or more"?</p> <p>A: It is the one year (from April 1 to March 31 of the following year) of the academic year in which you are adopted for this program.</p>
9	<p>Q9: Is the income from a personal business the amount after deducting expenses?</p> <p>A: It is the amount after deducting necessary expenses from the total income amount (income amount).</p>
10	<p>Q10: I am an international student from China. I am receiving the Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC). Am I eligible to apply?</p> <p>A: Those receiving the Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC) are not eligible to apply. Students receiving any other government-funded scholarships from their home country are also not eligible.</p>
11	<p>Q11: I am receiving a scholarship from the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association. Am I eligible to apply?</p> <p>A: Those receiving the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Scholarship are not eligible to apply. Students receiving any other government-funded scholarships from their home country are also not eligible.</p>
12	<p>Q12: Are non-repayable scholarships from private organizations included in the "annual income of 1.8 million yen or more"?</p> <p>A: Yes, they are included. Non-repayable scholarships from private organizations are counted towards the "annual income of 1.8 million yen or more".</p>
13	<p>Q13: I am receiving a non-repayable scholarship from a private organization of 1.8 million yen or more per year, or a non-repayable private scholarship that does not allow concurrent receipt. Can I apply for this program?</p> <p>A: You can apply, but if you are adopted for this program, you must decline the private scholarship. Regarding the decline of the private scholarship, be sure to confirm in advance with the relevant private organization whether it is possible to decline it. Also, if you decline the private scholarship upon adoption of this program, please perform the prescribed decline procedures.</p>
14	<p>Q14: After being accepted into this program, I was later awarded a scholarship from a private organization. How should I proceed?</p>

	<p>A: If the non-repayable scholarship from a private organization is 1.8 million yen or more per year, or if it is a scholarship that does not allow concurrent receipt, you must choose either this program or the scholarship at your own discretion. If you decline this program due to the adoption of the private scholarship, the adoption of this support will be withdrawn retroactively to the start of the scholarship payment. In that case, the incentive stipend already received must be returned. In addition, the tuition fee waiver for the Standard Track will be canceled, and payment of tuition fees will be required.</p>
15	<p>Q15: I am currently a recipient of the Global Hagi Scholarship. If I apply for this program, do I need to complete a separate procedure to decline the Global Hagi Scholarship?</p> <p>A: If you are adopted for this program, the university will process the decline of the Global Hagi Scholarship, so no declining procedure is required.</p>

**3. About the Handling of Leave of Absence, Repeating a Year, Long-term Study, Early Completion, Withdrawal, etc.**

1	<p>Q1: I am currently on a leave of absence. Am I eligible to apply?</p> <p>A: Those who are on a leave of absence as of April 1 are not eligible to apply. There are two opportunities to apply for this program per year (April and October). Even if you are currently on a leave of absence, you can apply again during the first application period (April or October) after you return to school.</p>																
2	<p>Q2: I have taken a leave of absence before. Until when will the support period be?</p> <p>A: The support period is until the standard period of study, excluding the period of leave of absence already taken.</p> <p>Example) 3-year doctoral curricula: If you enrolled in April 2024, took a leave of absence for one year starting April 1, 2025, then returned on April 1, 2026 and are adopted for this program, your support period will be the remaining two years (until March 2028) after excluding the period of leave of absence from the enrollment period.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">At time of application ↓</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">2024.Apr</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;"></td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">2025.Apr</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;"></td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">2026. Apr</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;"></td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">2027. Apr</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Enrollment</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;"></td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Leave of Absence</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;"></td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">Enrollment / Accepted</td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;"></td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;"></td> <td style="background-color: #e0f2f1;"></td> </tr> </table>	2024.Apr		2025.Apr		2026. Apr		2027. Apr		Enrollment		Leave of Absence		Enrollment / Accepted			
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3	<p>Q3: What will happen if I take a leave of absence after being adopted for this program?</p> <p>A: If you take a leave of absence after being adopted for this program, the payment of the incentive stipend, etc., will be suspended during that period, and the support will be</p>																

	resumed after the prescribed procedures taken before returning to school.																		
4	<p>Q4: I am approved for long-term study. Can I apply for this program?</p> <p>A: Long-term study students are also eligible to apply, but the support period is not the approved study period, but within the original standard period of study. For example, even if a 6-year study is approved instead of 3 years, if you are adopted in D1, the support will be until the 3rd year, and if adopted in D2, the support will be until the 2nd year. Students in their 4th year or later are not eligible to apply.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30px;">D1</td> <td style="width: 30px;">D2</td> <td style="width: 30px;">D3</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">End of the support period ↓</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">D1</td> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">D2</td> <td style="background-color: #ADD8E6;">D3</td> <td style="background-color: #D3D3D3;">D4</td> <td style="background-color: #D3D3D3;">D5</td> <td style="background-color: #D3D3D3;">D6</td> </tr> </table> </div>	D1	D2	D3				End of the support period ↓						D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
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5	<p>Q5: If I have to decline this program due to unavoidable circumstances after adoption, do I need to return the incentive stipend I have received so far?</p> <p>A: If the incentive stipend was transferred after the decline date due to a delay in notifying the decline, it must be returned. Also, if a student in the Standard Track had a tuition fee waiver, the waiver for the period after the decline date will be canceled, and payment will be required. When the possibility of declining arises, please promptly consult with your affiliated graduate school (for students belonging to a Degree Program, the Degree Program Office is a prior contact office).</p>																		

#### 4. About the Handling When Outside the University, such as Studying Abroad or Doing an Internship

1	<p>Q1: Can I receive the incentive stipend during my study abroad period?</p> <p>A: Yes, you can receive it. However, you must submit your monthly enrollment confirmation. Please note that all deadlines for enrollment confirmation, etc., are based on Japan Standard Time.</p>
2	<p>Q2: Can students who are currently overseas and have never come to the university after admission also apply?</p> <p>A: Application is possible, but the actual payment of the incentive stipend will start after entering Japan, coming to the university, and completing the procedures (the period before coming to Japan is not eligible for payment). In addition, even if you were enrolled</p>

	<p>in the master's course at this university, the same handling as above will apply if you reside overseas at the time of adoption of this support. Also, if you come to the university and complete the procedures by the deadline for the confirmation of monthly attendance, payment will start from that month.</p>
3	<p>Q3: I am studying at another institution due to the delegation of research supervision. Can I receive the incentive stipend?</p> <p>A: It is possible to receive the incentive stipend even if you are studying at other universities, research institutions, etc. in Japan. However, please note that you are required to submit your monthly enrollment confirmation. If you are receiving research guidance at a university, research institution, etc. overseas and have never come to the university after admission, you can apply for this support as in Q4-2, but the actual payment of the incentive stipend will start after you enter Japan, come to the university, and complete the procedures.</p>
4	<p>Q4: Can I receive the incentive stipend even during the internship period? Also, is it possible to receive remuneration from the internship host?</p> <p>A: It is possible to receive the incentive stipend even during the internship period. Also, regarding the remuneration from the internship host, it is considered remuneration for activities conducted as part of the research at this university, so it is possible to receive it. However, the remuneration is treated as equivalent to salary income and is included in the amount subject to the restriction on simultaneous awards (1.8 million yen per year). Furthermore, do not forget to submit the confirmation of monthly attendance even during the internship period.</p>

## 5. About Obligations

1	<p>Q1: I am a recipient in the Standard Track. Is there anything the recipient should take other than their own research activities?</p> <p>A: This program is not just financial support, but comprehensive support including strengthening research capabilities and supporting career development for doctoral students. Therefore, we will implement webinars and online learning platforms (Nature Masterclasses, etc.) that contribute to strengthening research capabilities, acquisition of transferable skills, and career development tailored to both Japanese and international students. In this program, these are collectively referred to as the "Advanced Graduate School Training Program" and will be provided to all recipients. Compulsory courses are set in the Advanced Graduate School Training Program, and it is necessary to take the courses set for each grade every year. Details will be posted on the recipient-only page (it</p>
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	is a Google site limited to the university, so you need to log in with the Google account of your Tohoku University email address).
2	<p>Q2: To what extent am I required to participate in the Advanced Graduate School Training Program?</p> <p>A: A list of compulsory and elective courses will be provided each academic year. For compulsory courses, you must complete the designated components by the specified deadlines each year. Please note that failure to complete them by the deadline will result in the suspension of the incentive stipend.</p>
3	<p>Q3: Under what circumstances will the return of the incentive stipend be required?</p> <p>A: An obligation to return the incentive stipend will arise in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When misconduct or false declarations are identified (please pay close attention to the restrictions on concurrent support and compliance requirements).</li> <li>● When you fall under the restrictions on concurrent support and are required to decline this support retroactively (the incentive stipend must be returned for the entire period subject to retroactive withdrawal).</li> </ul>
4	<p>Q4: Under what circumstances will the payment of the incentive stipend be suspended?</p> <p>A: The payment of the incentive stipend will be suspended in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When the monthly enrollment confirmation is not submitted by the deadline: the stipend for that month will be suspended.</li> <li>● When the research progress report, which must be submitted every six months, is not submitted by the deadline: payment will be suspended.</li> <li>● When the compulsory courses of the Advanced Graduate School Training Program are not completed by the deadline specified every academic year: Payment will be suspended.</li> </ul>
5	<p>Q5: Is the incentive stipend subject to tax?</p> <p>A: As the incentive stipend is treated as "miscellaneous income", you are required to pay income tax by filing an annual tax return. In addition, once you file a tax return, you will also become liable for resident tax from the following year.</p> <p>Please also note that if you are currently claimed as a dependent (for health insurance, dependency allowance, etc.) by a parent or relative, you may lose your dependent status. Therefore, you must check with your parents/guardians or with the workplace that handles their employment and complete any necessary procedures.</p> <p>For international students, the stipend may fall under a tax treaty. Please consult the</p>

	administrative office of your affiliated graduate school.
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## 6. About Support for Competitive Research Grants (travel expenses, etc.)

1	<p>Q1: Please tell me about the support for competitive research grants (travel expenses, etc.).</p> <p>A: In order to provide opportunities for international experience for doctoral students, it is planned to be implemented as research grant support for presenting research results at international conferences. For details, please check after the application guidelines are published. The outline is as follows. However, please note in advance that some parts may be changed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Travel expenses: airfare, transportation, daily allowance, and accommodation fees.</li> <li>-Other expenses: registration fee, visa application fee (for research purposes only), travel insurance (if enrollment is mandatory), poster printing fee, expenses needed to conduct research activities, etc.</li> <li>-Upper limit of 400,000 yen per application.</li> </ul>
2	<p>Q2: How many times will recruitment for the support for competitive research grants (travel expenses, etc.) be held?</p> <p>A: We plan to hold three application periods in academic year 2026. For the specific periods, please check the application guidelines that will be published at a later date.</p>

## 7. About Tuition Fee Waiver

1	<p>Q1: I am not eligible for the Tohoku University Advanced Graduate School LEAP Program (Comprehensive Support Package), but can I apply for a tuition fee waiver?</p> <p>A: If you are a Japanese student, etc., you can apply for a waiver due to financial reasons. For the application procedures, please check the website regarding <a href="#">"Tuition Fee Waiver Support for Outstanding Doctoral Students"</a>.</p>
2	<p>Q2: I am an international student, but it is difficult for me to pay the tuition fee by the deadline.</p> <p>A: If it is difficult to pay the tuition fee for financial reasons, you can use the payment deferral or monthly installment payment system. For the application procedures, please check the website for <a href="#">admission fee and tuition fee waivers</a>.</p>
3	<p>Q3: I am a Japanese student. Do I need to complete a separate procedure for the tuition</p>

	<p>fee waiver?</p> <p>A: The tuition fee waiver is granted upon adoption into the Tohoku University Advanced Graduate School LEAP Program (Comprehensive Support Package), so no procedure for the tuition fee waiver is required. However, regarding the admission fee waiver, advance procedures are necessary, so please check the enrollment procedure guide of your graduate school.</p>
4	<p>Q4: I am a Japanese student. What happens to the tuition fee waiver if I decline this program midway?</p> <p>A: After declining, you will no longer be eligible for the tuition fee waiver, so an obligation to pay the tuition fee will arise. For example, if you decline in June, you will need to pay the tuition fee from July onwards.</p>