

**Tohoku University will significantly expand its comprehensive support package for doctoral students starting in April 2026.** This initiative aims to cultivate outstanding researchers who will thrive on the global stage and produce next-generation highly specialized professionals who will drive social innovation, ensuring a promising career path for them.

## TU-AGS LEAP Program

*Tohoku University **A**dvanced **G**raduate **S**chool  
Leadership and **E**xcellence **A**dvancement **P**rofessionals **P**rogram*

*We will cultivate doctoral talents equipped not only with research capabilities, but also with an international perspective, creativity, and the ability to implement solutions in society. Furthermore, we will foster highly successful doctoral graduates who can create new value based on their research achievements.*

## Comprehensive Support Package For Doctoral Students

- ① **Incentive Stipend (Standard Track):** All eligible doctoral students (subject to conditions\*) receive **JPY 1,272,000** per year.
- ② **Incentive Stipend (DP-Track):** Exceptionally outstanding students affiliated with the graduate degree programs receive **JPY 2,400,000** per year.
- ③ **Full tuition waiver:** **Apply to all doctoral students enrolled in dedicated degree programs.** To significantly encourage Japanese students to pursue doctoral studies, **tuition and entrance fees will be fully waived for all Japanese doctoral students.**
- ④ **RAs, TFs, TAs, AAs:** **Expand opportunities for students to receive salaries.** Additionally, we remain committed to further enhancing student support.
- ⑤ **Research grant support:** Financial support for travel and related expenses is provided through a competitive selection process to enhance the global research output of doctoral students.
- ⑥ **Career Development & Research Excellence:** Enhanced programs to strengthen **research skills and transferable skills for diverse career paths.**

## Financial Supports

Note: These schemes and initiatives are subject to change according to the internal budget.

Eligible Track for comprehensive support package*1		① Incentive Stipend (annual amount)	② Tuition & Entrance Fee Waiver		③ Competitive Research Grant*4
			Tuition Fee Waiver (annual amount)	Entrance Fee Waiver	
<b>【DP-Track】</b> Doctoral students affiliated with degree programs*3	Japanese students, etc.*2	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>536,000</b>	<b>282,000</b>	
	International Students	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>536,000</b>	Not Available	
<b>【Standard Track】</b> Other doctoral students	Japanese students, etc.*2	<b>1,272,000</b>	<b>536,000</b>	<b>282,000</b>	
	International Students	<b>1,272,000</b>	Not Available	Not Available	

All amounts are indicated in Japanese Yen.

\*1 Ineligibility (The following students are NOT eligible for incentive stipend and fee waiver) : (i) Students on a leave of absence or those who have exceeded the standard program duration. (ii) Individuals with an annual income of JPY 1.8 million or more (DP-Track students are eligible for waivers.). (iii) JSPS Research Fellows (tuition fee will be fully waived), MEXT Scholarship students, and recipients of other scholarships that prohibit concurrent funding (double-dipping), etc.

\*2 The definition of Japanese students, etc., refers to individuals possessing Japanese citizenship (including foreigners who have been naturalized in Japan). Additionally, special permanent residents, permanent residents, spouses of Japanese nationals, spouses of permanent residents, and Long-term Residents are expected to be included in the definition of Japanese students, etc. (Webpage for tuition fee waivers: <https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/gakusei-shien/menjo/yyuusyusya/> )

\*3 The DP-Track is exclusively available to doctoral students enrolled in one of the following 16 degree programs: “Division for Interdisciplinary Advanced Research and Education,” “International Joint Graduate Programs,” or “Academia-Industry Collaborating Graduate Programs.” [Advanced Graduate School Website: <https://pgd.tohoku.ac.jp/english/>]

\*4 A competitive grant intended to enhance the international experience of doctoral students, covering the costs associated with travel and relate expenses. DP-Track students will also receive support from their respective degree programs for mandatory curriculum requirements, including study abroad and internships.

## Research Skills Enhancement Seminar Series

On-demand webinars focusing on academic writing, English skills, publishing, are available.



Academic Writing & Publishing Seminars
Presentation Fundamentals
English Enhancement Seminars
English Speech Function-Based Learning-
From Academic Publishing Perspectives (Academic Writing)
From Academic Publishing Perspectives (OA & Gen-AI)

## nature masterclasses

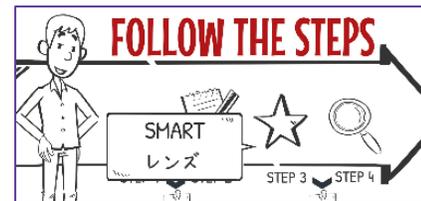
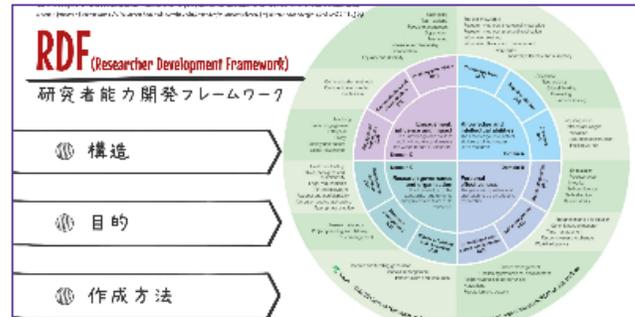


We are now offering "Nature Masterclasses On-demand" to all members of Tohoku University. These on-demand resources are designed for both the personal development of research skills and educational purposes in graduate schools, laboratories, and other academic activities.

## Transferable Skills Workshop

Our on-demand webinars and lecture clips are designed to help you understand why transferable skills are essential for doctoral students.

- In recent years, there has been a growing momentum among many companies to actively recruit and promote doctoral talent. Beyond their high level of expertise, employers highly value and expect great things from PhD holders who also possess strong transferable skills.



## Career Development

### ● PhD Career Development (Basic)

→ Importance of broad career perspectives for doctoral students

### ● Business Culture in Japan

→ Learn business culture in Japanese organization

### ● Prerequisites for Job Hunting in Japan

→ Golden rules for international students who wish to find their career in Japan

**GOLDEN RULE:** Be a Japanese when you are in Japan

**Punctuality** is a cornerstone of Japanese work culture, reflecting a deep respect for others' time and the importance of efficiency in all professional settings.

**Respect** is woven into the fabric of interactions, where hierarchy and seniority are acknowledged through polite language and gestures, fostering a harmonious work environment.

**Teamwork** is highly valued, with an emphasis on collective achievements. It's common for employees to meet the company's goals.

**Language proficiency** in Japanese, as well as a learning, are essential.

### The Key Role of the Japanese Language

#### Language as a Bridge

- Language is the key that unlocks real inclusion.
- Imagine trying to play a team sport without knowledge of the rules—that's what working in Japan without Japanese feels like.

#### Real-Life Impact of Language Proficiency

- Enables effective communication in meetings, research collaborations, and social situations.
- Improves access to technical materials, job postings, and grant applications.
- Allows deeper relationships with colleagues and mentors.



*Example of mastering the art of waiting for life unfolding a lesson of patience, discipline and cultural appreciation. Over time, it parallels resolution your growth connection to Japan.*

**"Transferable Skills Development Program" brings together these essential resources into one comprehensive program. Students are eligible to receive an Open Badge, a digital certificate that showcases their professional growth.**

## Continued Support

- ✓ Students currently supported by the AGS RISE Program will **continue to receive the same amount of incentive stipend under the new TU-AGS LEAP Program starting from April 2026.**
- ✓ Full tuition waivers for Japanese students, and international students enrolled in designated degree programs.

## Revision

- ✓ The AGS RISE Program will be integrated into the new TU-AGS LEAP Program.
- ✓ International students not enrolled in a designated Degree Program are responsible for their own tuition fees.
- ✓ Personal research grants will be restructured into a competitive funding system, providing research and travel support to all eligible doctoral students.

## Support from April 2026

Eligible students from RISE Program		①Incentive Stipend (annual amount)	②Tuition Fee waiver (annual amount)	③Competitive Research Grant*
【DP-Track】 Doctoral students affiliated with degree programs	Japanese students, etc.	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>536,000</b>	
	International Students	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>536,000</b>	
【Standard Track】 Other doctoral students	Japanese students, etc.	<b>2,160,000</b>	<b>536,000</b>	
	International Students	<b>2,160,000</b>	Not eligible	

\*DP-Track students will also receive support from their respective degree programs for mandatory curriculum requirements, including study abroad and internships.

## **Q What is the purpose of the new support system?**

- A**
- As a University for International Research Excellence, our institution is committed to fostering outstanding researchers who will lead future innovation on the global stage and providing highly skilled professionals to diverse sectors. To this end, we have established a new doctoral support system to enhance the cultivation of doctoral talent.
  - Through this system, we pursue openness and diversity, welcoming multifaceted talent from various social and cultural backgrounds. We aim to respect individual identities, create an attractive environment that encourages personal growth and self-realization, and contribute to the development of individuals who will shape a vibrant future society.

## **Q Can anyone receive the support upon application?**

- A** Starting from the April 2026, the system has been revised to provide support to all eligible doctoral students. However, you must follow the restriction on simultaneous awards and complete the application process to receive support. Furthermore, to continue receiving support, students must follow all the requirement. Please refer to the application guidelines for more details.

## **Q Are international students eligible?**

- A** Yes. Regardless of nationality, all eligible students can receive the incentive stipend. However, please note that for international students, the tuition fee waiver is limited to those enrolled in the "DP-Track."

## **Q Are working students eligible?**

- A** Yes. There are no age restrictions or specific field requirements. However, you will be ineligible if your expected annual income from employment or part-time work (excluding RA, TF, TA, AA positions) exceeds 1.8 million yen.

## Q What is the difference between the "Standard Track" and the "DP-Track"?

- A
- Standard Track: Provides an incentive stipend of 1.272 million yen per year to all eligible doctoral students. Japanese students in this track are also eligible for tuition fee waivers.
  - DP-Track: This track is for students belonging to specific programs (International Joint Graduate Programs, Academia-Industry Collaborating Graduate Programs, Division for Interdisciplinary Advanced Research and Education). It provides an incentive stipend of 2.4 million yen per year and includes a tuition fee waiver.

## Q What are the application procedures and timing?

- A
- Please submit the application form (including a research plan for your doctoral course and records of past achievements) along with any other documents required by your Graduate School by their specified deadline. While the deadline is expected to be between mid to late April, please follow the specific instructions provided by your Graduate School.

## Q I am a member of degree program. Do I need to apply separately for the tuition fee waiver?

- A
- No. All the doctoral students enrolled in degree programs are not required to apply for the tuition fee waiver. Additionally, Japanese students of the standard track are not required to apply. For further details, please refer to the Tuition Fee Waiver website: <https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/gakusei-shien/menjo/yuusyusya/>

## Q What is the calculation period for the "annual income of 1.8 million yen or more"?

- A
- Eligibility is determined based on your estimated income for the one-year period starting from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

## Q Are there any restrictions on how the incentive stipend can be used?

- A
- The incentive stipend is a stipend intended to encourage academic research and provide an environment where students can focus on their studies. It may be used for general living expenses as well as expenses required for research.
  - Please note that this is not merely financial aid; it is provided in exchange for your commitment to academic research and the fulfillment of obligations, such as participating in training programs provided by the Center for Promoting Graduate Studies.

## Q What does the "Competitive Research Grant(Travel Expenses, etc.)" cover?

- A
- The university expects doctoral students to gain international experience and share their research results with the world. This support provides up to 400,000 yen per application to cover expenses for presenting research (oral or poster presentations) at international conferences. Covered expenses include travel expenses (airfare, daily allowance, accommodation), conference registration fees, visa fees (for research purposes only), travel insurance, poster printing, and the purchase of items necessary for research activities related to the presentation.
  - The application is scheduled to occur approximately three times, starting from May 2026.
  - Note: This is an overview and details are subject to change. Please wait for the official guidelines to be released around May 2026.

## Q Is the incentive stipend taxable?

- A Yes. Since the incentive stipend is classified as "Miscellaneous Income", students are required to file their own tax returns (*Kakutei Shinkoku*).

## Q I am an international student, and it is difficult for me to pay the tuition by the deadline. Are there any deferment systems?

- A If you have difficulty paying tuition for financial reasons, you may apply for Deferment/ Monthly Installment of Tuition Fee Payment. Please consult with the relevant office as needed. utilize the Tuition Deferment

**Q I am currently receiving support from the AGS RISE Program. Will my incentive stipend amount decrease?**

**A** No. Students currently enrolled in the AGS RISE Program will continue to receive the same amount of incentive stipend until the end of their standard period of study, including the period after April 2026.

**Q What will happen to the “personal research grant” previously provided under the AGS RISE Program?**

**A** The personal research grant will be transitioned into the competitive research grant support (travel expenses, etc.), which is available to all eligible doctoral students. This shift emphasizes our policy to strongly support students' international activities. This system is designed to flexibly support ambitious challenges, such as presenting at international conferences, and current RISE students are also eligible to apply. A portion of the grant may also be used for general research expenses.

**Q Why is the AGS RISE Program ending and transitioning to a new support system?**

**A**

- Previously, our doctoral support, SPRING, was funded by subsidies from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Following the end of these subsidies, we established the AGS RISE Program as a provisional measure. However, a challenge of the SPRING and its successor, RISE Program, was that they could only support a limited number of students.
- As a University for International Research Excellence, we are dedicated to expanding doctoral talent development. Therefore, we have redesigned our framework to cover a broader range of students, leading to the creation of this new comprehensive support package. Since doctoral students contribute to the university's research strength regardless of nationality, we have decided to provide incentive stipends (1.272 million yen or 2.4 million yen) to all eligible doctoral students.