

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

### Q&A "For April 2026"

#### 1. About Eligibility and Procedures

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>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 accepted into 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>	
5	<p>Q5: If I apply as a new D1 student, will the support continue until D3? Do I need to apply every academic year?</p> <p>A: Once you submit the initial application and are accepted, the support will continue until the end of the standard period of study, provided that you continue to meet the eligibility requirements. The confirmation of support continuation will be conducted at the end of every academic year.</p>	Added on April 17
6	<p>Q6: Are students who will be new D2 students from April also eligible?</p>	

	<p>A: If they meet the eligibility requirements, students who will become new D2, new D3, and new D4 students in April 2026 are also eligible. (Please note that new D4 students are eligible only if they are enrolled in the medical, dental, or pharmaceutical sciences curricula.)</p>	Added on April 17
7	<p>Q7: If I meet the eligibility requirements and apply, will I be accepted without being rejected? Also, is there any advantage or disadvantage based on my grade?</p> <p>A: In principle, if you apply in accordance with the conditions specified in the application guidelines, such as restrictions on simultaneous awards and income limits, you will be accepted. In addition, there is no advantage or disadvantage based on your year of study (D1, D2, D3, etc.).</p>	Added on April 17
8	<p>Q8: Are there any specified formats for the application documents (research plan, list of achievements, etc.)?</p> <p>A: There is a specified format that will be notified by your affiliated graduate school. Reference information on achievements to be described is also included in the format, so please refer to the notification from your graduate school.</p>	Added on April 17
9	<p>Q9: You mentioned there is no screening, so for what purpose do we need to submit a research plan and a list of achievements?</p> <p>A: We require them to understand what kind of research you are planning and whether you have obtained the permission and understanding of your academic supervisor. Also, as you will submit a report every year, we will check your achievement status for each academic year.</p>	Added on April 17
10	<p>Q10: Should I apply for the LEAP program via a Google Form? Also, around when will the incentive stipend be paid?</p> <p>A: Please follow the instructions provided by your affiliated graduate school regarding application procedures and submission methods. For students under the Standard Track (106,000 yen per month), the stipend for the first three months, from April through June, will be paid in a lump sum at the time of the first payment (scheduled for June). Thereafter, payments will be made on a monthly basis. Please note that for students under the DP-Track (200,000 yen per month), payments will commence at the end of May.</p>	Added on April 17
11	<p>Q11: Where can I check the application guidelines?</p> <p>A: Please refer to the notification regarding the application guidelines sent by your affiliated graduate school. The information is also available on the website</p>	Added on April 17

	of the Advanced Graduate School, Center for Promoting Graduate Studies: <a href="https://pgd.tohoku.ac.jp/english/rpc/">https://pgd.tohoku.ac.jp/english/rpc/</a> ).	
12	<p>Q12: I am an international student currently applying for a visa switch that will be completed after April. At what point is my status determined as "Japanese students, etc."?</p> <p>A: In principle, it is determined based on your status at the time of application, as of April 1 (or October 1). For details, please contact the Financial Support Section, Student Services Division.</p>	Added on April 17
13	<p>Q13: I am applying for the Division for Interdisciplinary Advanced Research and Education. Can I apply for the Standard Track concurrently?</p> <p>A: As the Division for Interdisciplinary Advanced Research and Education conducts a screening process and there is a possibility of not being selected, applicants may also apply for the Standard Track as a precaution. If an applicant is selected for the Division for Interdisciplinary Advanced Research and Education, they will be accepted into the DP-Track, and any application submitted for the Standard Track will be automatically withdrawn.</p>	Added on April 17
14	<p>Q14: Can I apply for the LEAP program at any time? I plan to enroll in D1 in academic year 2026, but due to income restrictions, I am considering applying when I become a D2 student.</p> <p>A: Recruitment is conducted twice a year, in April and October. Please apply during a period when you meet the eligibility requirements, considering your individual income status, etc.</p>	Added on April 17
15	<p>Q15: I will enroll in the doctoral course from academic year 2026. I heard the RISE program is ending; is there a support program providing 180,000 yen per month?</p> <p>A: There is no new support program providing 180,000 yen per month. The successor to the RISE program is the LEAP program (Standard Track: 106,000 yen per month). Note that for students continuously receiving support from the RISE program in FY2025, the 180,000 yen per month (2,160,000 yen per year) will be maintained as a transitional measure.</p>	Added on April 17
16	<p>Q16: I am currently working at a university, etc., and my annual income exceeds 1.8 million yen, but my contract will change in May, and my annual income is expected to be less than 1.8 million yen. Can I apply?</p>	Added on April 17

	<p>A: Eligibility will be determined based on the total estimated income for the one-year period of the academic year in which you are accepted into this Program (from April 1 to March 31 of the following year). If, due to changes in your employment contract or similar circumstances, your total income for that one-year period is expected to be less than 1.8 million yen, you may apply. Please note that you may be required to submit documents certifying your income, such as a certificate of taxation or pay slips.</p>	
17	<p>Q17: I understand that those with an annual income of less than 1.8 million yen are eligible during the support period, but is it necessary to submit documents proving the previous year's income at the initial application stage? If my income exceeded 1.8 million yen last year, am I ineligible?</p> <p>A: For the first year's application, we may request the submission of documents regarding the previous year's income purely as reference information. However, you will not be deemed ineligible based on your previous year's income. For example, even if your income exceeded 1.8 million yen in the previous year, if your situation has changed (e.g., you resigned from your company) and your expected income for this academic year is less than 1.8 million yen, you will be eligible for the support.</p>	Added on April 17
18	<p>Q18: I plan to receive a scholarship of 1,200,000 yen per year from an external foundation. Am I ineligible for support? Also, can I not apply for travel expense support?</p> <p>A: If your total annual income, including the non-repayable scholarship from the private foundation, is less than 1.8 million yen, you are eligible to apply for the Standard Track. If you are accepted, you may also apply for the support for competitive research grants (travel expenses, etc.). However, some private scholarships have their own restrictions on concurrent receipt, so please be sure to check the foundation's rules yourself.</p>	Added on April 17
19	<p>Q19: I am a second-year doctoral student receiving no support other than a TA. Am I eligible to apply?</p> <p>A: You can apply. Income from TA, RA, etc., at Tohoku University is not included in the 1.8 million yen income limit. In addition, eligibility is not determined by grade; all applicants who meet the eligibility criteria are eligible to apply.</p>	Added on April 17
20	<p>Q20: Is the support amount from this program (1,272,000 yen per year) included in the 1.8 million yen income limit?</p>	Added on April

	A: No, it is not included. It is calculated based on income other than the incentive stipend from this program.	17
21	<p>Q21: I am scheduled to obtain my degree in September 2026 (half a year remaining). Can I apply and receive support? Also, what happens if I exceed the standard period of study?</p> <p>A: If you have not exceeded the standard period of study, you can receive support even if you are enrolled for only half a year. Note that support will terminate once you exceed the standard period of study.</p>	Added on April 17
22	<p>Q22: If my income is less than 1.8 million yen, can I receive the support even if I am a dependent of my parents?</p> <p>A: The application requirements are determined solely based on your own income. Whether you are a dependent of your parents does not affect your application requirements.</p>	Added on April 17
23	<p>Q23: I belong to a WISE program operated by other universities and plan to receive an incentive stipend. Can I apply for the Standard Track?</p> <p>A: Since we need to confirm the support details, etc., please contact us individually.</p>	Added on April 17
24	<p>Q24: I am receiving the JICA Agri-Net Scholarship and the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for international students. Can I apply?</p> <p>A: You cannot apply because you fall under the restrictions on simultaneous awards in the application guidelines: "1. Recipients of other scholarships from Tohoku University or public institutions such as the government" or "5. Recipients of a salary as per the Guidelines for the Japanese Government (MEXT) International Student Scholarship System." However, if your receiving period has ended (e.g., is not renewed) at the time of enrollment, you can apply.</p>	Added on April 17

## 2. About Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards and Income Limits

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</p>	
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	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.	
2	<p>Q2: I have applied for a scholarship to study abroad. Is it acceptable to receive that scholarship while also receiving the support from LEAP Program?</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</p>	

	<p>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 revoked, 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> <p>A: Bonuses are included in the total income of 1.8 million yen.</p>	
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 accepted into 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 who 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 who 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 the LEAP Program?</p> <p>A: You can apply, but if you are accepting into the LEAP 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. In addition, if you decline a private scholarship upon being accepted into this LEAP Program, please complete the prescribed procedures for declining the scholarship.</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 permit concurrent receipt, you must choose either LEAP program or the scholarship at your own discretion. If you decline this program due to the acceptance of the private scholarship, acceptance under LEAP program will be withdrawn retroactively to the start of the scholarship payment. In such case, the incentive stipend already received must be returned. In addition, the tuition fee waiver under the Standard Track will be revoked, 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 accepting into this program, the university will process the decline of the Global Hagi Scholarship, so no declining procedure is required.</p>	
16	<p>Q16: Regarding the annual limit of 1.8 million yen, is it acceptable as long as the total amount for the year does not exceed this limit?</p> <p>A: You are eligible as long as your annual income does not exceed 1.8 million yen, but those who earn a stable income, such as 160,000 yen every month, are not eligible. Please also refer to Q6 in "2. About Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards and Income Limits".</p>	Added on April 17
17	<p>Q17: How is the annual income of 1.8 million yen determined? Also, are there penalties if I exceed it?</p> <p>A: If there is an instruction from the office of the Advanced Graduate School, you will be requested to submit documents that can confirm your income</p>	Added on April 17

	amount (tax certificate, payslip, copy of passbook, etc.). If you have multiple sources of income, please prepare to submit them combined. If you exceed the limit, you will lose your eligibility due to the restrictions on simultaneous awards, but if the reason is resolved, you can apply again. However, if it is determined that you have a regular income, you may be required to return the incentive stipend and you may be excluded from the tuition fee waiver, requiring payment of tuition fees.	
18	<p>Q18: If there is a grant that prohibits concurrent receipt with other scholarships, can I treat the incentive stipend of this program as "not a scholarship" and receive them concurrently?</p> <p>A: The university positions it as an "incentive stipend," but it depends on how the private foundation interprets it. Please check with the respective foundation.</p>	Added on April 17
19	<p>Q19: Is income the amount transferred to the bank?</p> <p>A: For salary income, etc., it is the "total payment amount (gross amount)" before taxes and social insurance premiums are deducted.</p>	Added on April 17
20	<p>Q20: Are loans from JASSO included in the 1.8 million yen income?</p> <p>A: They are not included in the 1.8 million yen income limit. In addition, students in the Standard Track of this Program are eligible to apply for the JASSO Scholarship Repayment Exemption. (DP-Track students and those transitioning from the RISE program are not eligible to apply for Scholarship Repayment Exemption.) Please also refer to Q3 in "2. About Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards and Income Limits".</p>	Added on April 17
21	<p>Q21: Are there any incomes not included in the 1.8 million yen income limit other than RA, TF, TA, and AA?</p> <p>A: Only income earned through employment by Tohoku University and paid directly by the University as a Research Assistant (RA), Teaching Fellow (TF), Teaching Assistant (TA), Administrative Assistant (AA), Science Ambassador (SA), Student Learning Advisor (SLA), or Global Campus Supporter (GCS) is applicable.</p>	Added on April 17
22	<p>Q22: If I am employed by a collaborative course or project (X-nics, etc.) at Tohoku University, or employed under a title like "Technical Staff," is the salary included in the RA income?</p> <p>A: If it is paid by Tohoku University as a salary for student employment such as</p>	Added on April 17

	RA or TA (intended for financial support or educational consideration for students), it is not included in the 1.8 million yen income limit.	
23	<p>Q23: Are there time limits for RA, TA, etc., at Tohoku University? Also, what is the average monthly income?</p> <p>A: According to the revision of university regulations, the working hours for RA, TA, etc., at Tohoku University are capped at 30 hours per week. However, please consult with your academic supervisor regarding your working hours to ensure that they do not interfere with your research and studies. In addition, the monthly income varies depending on the type of work and the number of hours, so we cannot provide a general answer.</p>	Added on April 17
24	<p>Q24: Is income from medical practice at the university hospital included in the 1.8 million yen per year?</p> <p>A: Yes, it is included. (It is not treated as income from RA, TF, TA, or AA positions at Tohoku University.)</p>	Added on April 17
25	<p>Q25: Is income from the university's FOREST Program's RA (創発 RA) included in the 1.8 million yen?</p> <p>A: Since it is an RA at Tohoku University, it is not included in the 1.8 million yen income limit.</p>	Added on April 17
26	<p>Q26: Do recipients of the Global Hagi Scholarship need to apply for LEAP? Can it be continued?</p> <p>A: If you wish to apply for the LEAP program, the Global Hagi Scholarship will automatically become ineligible for payment upon acceptance into LEAP. If you wish to continue receiving the Global Hagi Scholarship, you do not need to apply for the LEAP program. Please note that the Global Hagi Scholarship system for doctoral students will transition to the LEAP program, but the Global Hagi Scholarship system for master's students will continue.</p>	Added on April 17
27	<p>Q27: I am a student in a collaborative course at Tohoku University. Should the income from the collaborative partner also be considered "Tohoku University RA income"?</p> <p>A: It is difficult to make a general judgment on the nature of the income from the collaborative partner, but if you are employed as an RA at Tohoku University and the salary is paid by Tohoku University for student employment such as RA or TA (intended for financial support or educational consideration for students), it is not included in the 1.8 million yen income limit regardless of the title. If the</p>	Added on April 17

	employment structure is unclear, such as direct payment from a collaborative partner, please check with your affiliated graduate school or department.	
28	<p>Q28: Is the 1.8 million yen income that makes one ineligible for the Standard Track the total gross sales from part-time jobs, etc., or the income after deducting expenses?</p> <p>A: For salary income, it is the "total payment amount (gross amount)." For personal business, etc., it is the "income amount" after deducting necessary expenses from the total income amount. However, the final decision on whether expenses are recognized as necessary is made by the tax office, so please contact your local tax office for details.</p>	Added on April 17
29	<p>Q29: If I apply for a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC) this May, can I not receive LEAP program support?</p> <p>A: Even if you apply for a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC) this May, actual acceptance and the start of support will be in April of the following year, so until then, you can receive support from the LEAP program. You will be asked to decline the LEAP program when you become a JSPS Research Fellow.</p>	Added on April 17
30	<p>Q30: Even if my spouse's annual income is 1.8 million yen or more, am I eligible if my own annual income is less than 1.8 million yen?</p> <p>A: Yes, you are eligible. The income limit is determined solely based on your own income.</p>	Added on April 17
31	<p>Q31: Are remittances from parents, etc. (so-called living allowances support) included in the 1.8 million yen?</p> <p>A: Living allowances support is not included.</p>	Added on April 17

### **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</p>	
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	during the first application period (April or October) after you return to school.																	
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 accepted into 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="width: 25%;">2024.Apr</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">2025.Apr</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">2026. Apr</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">2027. Apr</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enrollment</td> <td></td> <td>Leave of Absence</td> <td></td> <td>Enrollment / Accepted</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	2024.Apr		2025.Apr		2026. Apr		2027. Apr		Enrollment		Leave of Absence		Enrollment / Accepted				
2024.Apr		2025.Apr		2026. Apr		2027. Apr												
Enrollment		Leave of Absence		Enrollment / Accepted														
3	<p>Q3: What will happen if I take a leave of absence after being accepted into this program?</p> <p>A: If you take a leave of absence after being accepted into this program, the payment of the incentive stipend, etc., will be suspended during that period, and the support will be resumed after the prescribed procedures have been completed <a href="#">at your affiliated graduate school</a> prior to returning to school.</p>	<p>Revised on April 17</p>																
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 accepted in D1, the support will be until the 3rd year, and if accepted in D2, the support will be until the 2nd year. Students in their 4th year or later are not eligible to apply.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">D1</td> <td style="width: 33%;">D2</td> <td style="width: 33%;">D3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">End of the support period ↓</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="width: 16.6%;">D1</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">D2</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">D3</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">D4</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">D5</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">D6</td> </tr> </table>	D1	D2	D3	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 acceptance, 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</p>																	

	Track had a tuition fee waiver, the waiver for the period after the decline date will be revoked, 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).	
6	<p>Q6: If I withdraw during the doctoral course, will I be required to return the incentive stipend?</p> <p>A: If you lose your status as a regular student due to withdrawal, etc., you will lose your eligibility. If withdrawal, etc., is identified after the fact, you may be required to return the incentive stipend transferred on or after the date you lost your eligibility.</p>	Added on April 17

#### **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 in the master's course at Tohoku University, the same handling as above will apply if you reside overseas at the time of acceptance 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</p>	

	<p>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 Tohoku 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 of Recipients and Tax Matters

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 is a Google site limited to the university, so you need to log in with the Google account of your Tohoku University email address).</p>	
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>	

	For international students, the stipend may fall under a tax treaty. Please consult the administrative office of your affiliated graduate school.	
6	<p>Q6: Is the submission of the research progress report twice a year?</p> <p>A: Students newly accepted into the LEAP Program Standard Track (receiving 106,000 yen per month) will submit it twice a year. On the other hand, students newly accepted into the LEAP Program DP-Track (receiving 200,000 yen per month) will submit it once a year.</p>	Added on April 17
7	<p>Q7: Please tell me the details of the compulsory programs (compulsory courses) and when they must be completed. Do I need to finish them in April?</p> <p>A: For the Advanced Graduate School Training Program compulsory courses, we are considering on-demand Transferable Skills Training, etc. The deadline will be set, for example, at the end of January of the following year, and you will take them over several months after acceptance. There is no difference such as earlier deadlines depending on your grade. Please note that if they are not completed by the deadline, payment of the incentive stipend will be suspended.</p>	Added on April 17
8	<p>Q8: If I am selected for an International Joint Graduate Program, Academia-Industry Collaborating Graduate Program, or the Division for Interdisciplinary Advanced Research and Education, will I no longer need to take the LEAP program compulsory courses?</p> <p>A: Both DP-Track and Standard Track students receiving support under the LEAP program are obligated to take the Advanced Graduate School Training Program compulsory courses. On the other hand, since there are tasks assigned for each degree program, we will adjust the course content between the DP-Track and the Standard Track considering the students' workload. Details will be announced separately.</p>	Added on April 17
9	<p>Q9: The incentive stipend is said to be paid in May or June, but from what month should I perform the procedures to be removed from dependency?</p> <p>A: Regardless of the payment timing, please consult the health insurance association or similar organization at the workplace of your parent(s) with whom you are currently registered as a dependent.</p>	Added on April 17
10	<p>Q10: The incentive stipend is to be filed as "miscellaneous income" on a final tax return, but to what extent can I declare expenses (transportation, books, etc.)? How are income and necessary expenses handled?</p> <p>A: The tax office makes the final determination regarding the deductibility of</p>	Added on April 17

	expenses. As the University cannot make this determination, please contact your local tax office directly if you have any questions regarding deductible expenses.	
11	<p>Q11: If I am selected for a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists for the next academic year and decline the LEAP program while being a LEAP recipient, will the obligations of the LEAP program continue in the next academic year and beyond?</p> <p>A: If you withdraw from the LEAP Program due to appointment as a JSPS Research Fellow, etc., you will no longer be subject to any obligations under the LEAP Program (including compulsory courses) from the date of withdrawal.</p>	Added on April 17
12	<p>Q12: Is it possible to reduce the payment amount of the Standard Track (receiving 106,000 yen per month) due to taxes or dependency?</p> <p>A: You cannot reduce the payment amount in part at your own discretion; however, when submitting the confirmation of monthly attendance, you may select the option indicating that you do not wish to receive the incentive stipend for that month.</p>	Added on April 17
13	<p>Q13: I am a working student. Can I use university-only support (Nature Masterclasses, etc.) from outside the university?</p> <p>A: From April 2026, you will be able to access it from outside networks by registering and authenticating using your Tohoku University email address (@tohoku.ac.jp or @dc.tohoku.ac.jp). For details, please see the special page. <a href="https://pgd.tohoku.ac.jp/english/rpc/Nature_Masterclasses.html">https://pgd.tohoku.ac.jp/english/rpc/Nature_Masterclasses.html</a></p>	Added on April 17

## 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> </ul>	
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	<p>-Other expenses: registration fee, visa application fee (for research purposes only), travel insurance (<del>if enrollment is mandatory</del>), poster printing fee, expenses needed to conduct research activities, etc.</p> <p>-Upper limit of 400,000 yen per application.</p>	Revised on April 17
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 later.</p>	
3	<p>Q3: You mentioned that open call for the support for competitive research grants will be held about 3 times a year. Can I apply all 3 times? Also, is there a limit to the number of times per year?</p> <p>A: We do not plan to set a limit on the number of applications. However, each application will be limited to one conference itinerary. For example, we would like to avoid cases where a single student applies simultaneously to attend three different conferences in the first application round. Instead, we intend for applications to be submitted separately in each round, such as in the second and third rounds. Please refer to the application guidelines for further details.</p>	Added on April 17
4	<p>Q4: In the case of a post-application, should I apply for reimbursement based on the actual travel expenses? Also, does this mean that the trip should initially be covered by my laboratory's budget and later transferred to the approved budget?</p> <p>A: Yes. You should apply based on the actual travel expenses incurred, and the application will be reviewed accordingly. As it is necessary to prepare documents such as a travel plan in advance using your academic supervisor's or laboratory's budget, the expenses will be transferred to the approved budget after your application is adopted. The relevant procedures are expected to be handled by your graduate school.</p> <p>If your application is not adopted, or if the approved amount does not cover the full cost of airfare and transportation, please confirm in advance whether the remaining expenses can be covered by your laboratory's budget, etc. Be sure to consult with your academic supervisor and your laboratory in advance.</p>	Added on April 17
5	<p>Q5: The application condition mentioned "once the presentation at the international conference is confirmed." Is publication in the international conference program required?</p>	Added on April 17

	<p>A: We plan to make the acceptance of the presentation by the international conference the application condition. Also, if it is held in FY2026, we plan to allow post-applications for conferences held in April or May. In that case, you must appropriately create a travel plan, etc., in accordance with the university's business trip procedures.</p>	
6	<p>Q6: The application guidelines state "the business trip must be completed by March 14," but what about conferences held every year from March 16 to 31? Can anything be done?</p> <p>A: Although the details have not yet been finalized, deadlines are unavoidable due to internal university procedures, etc. We recognize individual circumstances as a future issue, but please check the application guidelines, understand the handling, and then apply.</p>	Added on April 17
7	<p>Q7: Are international conferences held in Japan (with overseas researchers participating and presentations in English) or domestic research meetings eligible for support?</p> <p>A: At this stage, we are primarily aiming to support actual presentations at international conferences held overseas and therefore are considering excluding conferences held in Japan from the scope of this support. We recognize support for international conferences held domestically as an issue to be addressed in the future.</p>	Added on April 17
8	<p>Q8: Is there a policy to prioritize students with no overseas travel experience or applicants for JSPS Research Fellowships?</p> <p>A: Although details are still under consideration, as a University for International Research Excellence, we aim to provide opportunities for many doctoral students to gain international experience as part of strengthening fundamental research. Accordingly, we particularly welcome active applications from students who have not yet had experience presenting overseas. In addition, regarding students who have applied for the FY2027 JSPS Research Fellowships, there is a possibility that this will be reflected in future application guidelines or related documents.</p>	Added on April 17
9	<p>Q9: Can students in Degree Programs also apply for the support for competitive research grants?</p> <p>A: Yes, students in Degree Programs can apply for it. However, support for study abroad undertaken as part of compulsory requirements under degree programs is provided separately through each respective program. Please note</p>	Added on April 17

	that even while studying abroad, it is still possible to apply for competitive research funding support when participating in international conferences or similar activities from your host institution.	
10	<p>Q10: Are there any preferential treatments, such as different acceptance rates for the support for competitive research grants between the DP-Track and the Standard Track?</p> <p>A: There are no preferential treatments between the DP-Track and the Standard Track.</p>	Added on April 17
11	<p>Q11: If enrollment in travel insurance is mandatory, can the insurance premium be paid from a research fund other than the support for competitive research grants?</p> <p>A: Basically, insurance is enrolled based on individual judgment, so payment is fundamentally made out-of-pocket, but payment is possible depending on the handling of your affiliated graduate school. For further details, please consult your affiliated graduate school (or research institute).</p>	Added on April 17
12	<p>Q12: Can JSPS Research Fellows or students who are ineligible for the LEAP program due to income limits also apply for the support for competitive research grants?</p> <p>A: The support for competitive research grants is available only to students who have been accepted into the LEAP Program (i.e., LEAP Program recipients).</p>	Added on April 17
13	<p>Q13: If I want to receive support for both travel expenses and the purchase of goods, do I have to make separate applications?</p> <p>A: We plan to consolidate the items into a single application. For details regarding the handling of specific expense categories, please refer to the application guidelines, which will be published later.</p>	Added on April 17
14	<p>Q14: Will the competitive travel expense support be transferred to a personal bank account, or will it be managed by the laboratory?</p> <p>A: The funds are not transferred directly to an individual's bank account; instead, the budget is allocated to your affiliated graduate school.</p>	Added on April 17
15	<p>Q15: What are the number of selected applicants and the competition ratio?</p> <p>A: Due to budget considerations, the acceptance rate changes depending on</p>	Added on April 17

	the number of applications. We cannot answer this at this time.	
16	<p>Q16: Does "reduced-amount adoption" mean a policy of uniformly reducing the amount to adopt everyone? Also, if I am not adopted or the amount is reduced, can it be combined with other research funds?</p> <p>A: It is not a policy of uniformly reducing the amount to adopt everyone. We will conduct screening and adoption based on the overall application situation, so that as many students as possible can gain experience at international conferences.</p> <p>If the amount is reduced, it is possible to combine it with other research funds that have no restrictions on use. In case of non-adoption, please check in advance whether the costs can be covered by the laboratory's budget, etc. Be sure to consult with your academic supervisor and laboratory in advance.</p>	Added on April 17
17	<p>Q17: You mentioned that the previous personal research grants in the RISE program (for purchasing goods, domestic business trips, etc.) have been abolished, and in the LEAP program, it will be limited to competitive grants for overseas travel. How should I cover the necessary expenses for my research?</p> <p>A: Under the support for competitive research grants (travel expenses, etc.), we also plan to allow the purchase of items that contribute to presentations at international conferences, etc. The financial support provided by LEAP program is intended to support students' basic living needs. Regarding research funds, students are expected to utilize the support for competitive research grants (travel expenses, etc.) and to consult with their affiliated laboratories or related units as necessary.</p>	Added on April 17

## 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="#">"Waivers for Exceptional 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 “Deferment/Monthly Installment of Tuition Fee 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 fee waiver?</p> <p>A: The tuition fee waiver is granted upon acceptance 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>	
5	<p>Q5: If I extend the completion of my doctoral course, will the tuition fee for the extended period be waived?</p> <p>A: In principle, the support period under the LEAP Program is limited to the standard period of study. Any extended period is not eligible for support under the LEAP Program and, consequently, is also not eligible for a tuition fee waiver.</p>	Added on April 17
6	<p>Q6: I plan to pay the admission fee in March; will it be refunded later? Also, is the admission fee waived?</p> <p>A: In the case of internal advancement, no admission fee is required. For applicants (Japanese students, etc.) entering from outside the University, are required to apply for an admission fee waiver using the designated form during the enrollment procedures (for details on the application process, please contact your affiliated graduate school). If you are subsequently accepted into the LEAP Program, the admission fee will be officially waived.</p> <p>If you have paid the admission fee without applying for a waiver and are later accepted into the LEAP Program, the paid admission fee will be refunded later.</p> <p>Please note that admission fees already paid by students who enrolled in October 2025 are not eligible for a waiver under this scheme, which takes effect</p>	Added on April 17

	from April 2026.	
7	<p>Q7: I receive a private scholarship of 1.8 million yen or more per year and am ineligible for LEAP program support, but can I receive admission fee and tuition fee waiver support?</p> <p>A: Although support for admission fee and tuition fee waivers under the LEAP Program is not available, Japanese students, etc., may apply for admission fee and tuition fee waivers based on financial need. Please note, however, that waivers based on financial need are determined through a screening process and therefore may not necessarily be granted in all cases. International students are not eligible for such waivers. For further details, please refer to the website regarding waivers.</p> <p><a href="https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/gakusei-shien/menjo/yuusyusya-e/">https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/gakusei-shien/menjo/yuusyusya-e/</a></p>	Added on April 17
8	<p>Q8: You mentioned that applicants under the Standard Track who meet the eligibility requirements will be accepted once they apply. As a precaution, is it also possible to apply concurrently for a tuition fee waiver based on financial need?</p> <p>A: Yes. Japanese students, etc., may apply for a tuition fee waiver based on financial need as a precaution. For further details, please contact the Financial Support Section, Student Services Division.</p>	Added on April 17
9	<p>Q9: Why are international students no longer eligible for the tuition fee waiver?</p> <p>A: Basically, the principle is that both Japanese and international students pay the admission fee and tuition fee. Due to the review of the SPRING project, international students were excluded from living expense support, but Tohoku University decided to provide the incentive stipend (living expense support) regardless of nationality.</p> <p>On the other hand, from the perspective of promoting Japanese students to advance to doctoral courses, we are granting tuition fee waivers to Japanese students, etc. Exceptionally outstanding international students in Degree Programs or JSPS Research Fellows are eligible for tuition fee waivers. Please note that the "Deferment/Monthly Installment of Tuition Fee Payment" system is available. Please make use of this system as necessary.</p>	Added on April 17
10	<p>Q10: Will international students not be eligible for a tuition fee waiver unless they apply for the LEAP program?</p> <p>A: Regardless of whether they apply to this Program, international students</p>	Added on April 17

	under the Standard Track are not eligible for tuition fee waivers and are therefore required to pay tuition fees. Please note, however, that students who have been accepted into a Degree Program or selected as JSPS Research Fellows are eligible for a full tuition fee waiver, regardless of whether they are Japanese students or international students.	
11	<p>Q11: Is it correct to understand that if an international student belongs to a Degree Program, they cannot receive an admission fee waiver?</p> <p>A: Yes. International students are not eligible for an admission fee waiver, regardless of whether they are selected under the DP-Track or the Standard Track.</p>	Added on April 17

### **8. Students who were supported by AGS RISE Program**

1	<p>Q1: I was selected for the RISE program in FY2025. Do I need to complete any procedures when transitioning to the LEAP program?</p> <p>A: For RISE program students, the continuation confirmation procedure has already been completed. Therefore, no additional procedures are required, and you will transition directly to the LEAP program. Please refer to the LEAP Program Incentive Stipend Handbook for details.</p>	Added on April 17
2	<p>Q2: What support will students who were selected for SPRING in FY2024 and transitioned to the RISE program in FY2025 receive after transitioning to the LEAP program?</p> <p>A: After transitioning to the LEAP Program, you will receive support under the LEAP Program. For students who have continued from the RISE Program, the incentive stipend will be maintained at the same level as under the RISE Program as a transitional measure. However, personal research grants will be abolished. Please make use of the support for competitive research grants as necessary.</p>	Added on April 17
3	<p>Q3: In the RISE program, RA income from Tohoku University was included in the 1.8 million yen limit. Does this mean it will no longer be included after transitioning to LEAP program?</p> <p>A: Yes, that is correct. Under the LEAP Program, the policy has been revised to allow students to obtain additional support through RA positions, etc. For students transitioning from the RISE Program, the handling will also be changed</p>	Added on April 17

	to be consistent with that of newly accepted LEAP Program students. Please also refer to Q21 in "2. About Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards and Income Limits".	
4	<p>Q4: Is the submission of the research progress report twice a year? Or is it once a year like it was in RISE?</p> <p>A: Students who received support under the RISE Program in FY2025 (receiving 180,000 yen or 200,000 yen per month) will continue to submit the required report once a year, as before. We will separately notify each recipient of the submission deadline, submission method, and other relevant details.</p>	Added on April 17

## 9. Others and Overall Program

1	<p>Q1: Will students who are currently enrolled in a Degree Program ever be rejected from the LEAP Program?</p> <p>A: If you meet the eligibility requirements and receive a recommendation from your Degree Program, you will be accepted into the LEAP Program. There will be no rejections. By completing the required procedures in accordance with the instructions provided by each program office, you will automatically become eligible for support as a DP-Track student.</p>	Added on April 17
2	<p>Q2: I have been enrolled in a Degree Program and receiving support since my master's course, and I will continue after advancing to the doctoral course. Do I need to apply for the LEAP Program?</p> <p>A: If you continue in the Degree Program, you will be supported as a DP-Track student and therefore do not need to apply for the Standard Track. Regarding procedures for the DP-Track, please follow the instructions provided by your Degree Program Office.</p>	Added on April 17
3	<p>Q3: I am planning to enroll in a doctoral course. Am I eligible to apply for a Degree Program? In addition, is it possible to join a Degree Program when advancing from outside the University or midway through the academic year?</p> <p>A: Eligibility requirements, application periods, and the academic year(s) in which participation is permitted vary depending on each Degree Program. For details, please refer to the website of the Advanced Graduate School or the respective Degree Program.</p>	Added on April 17

4	<p>Q4: I am currently supported under the Next-Generation AI Expert Development Project. Am I eligible to apply for the LEAP Program's support for competitive research grants?</p> <p>A: As the Next-Generation AI Expert Development Project does not fall under the LEAP Program, students in this project are not eligible to apply for the LEAP Program's support for competitive research grants.</p>	Added on April 17
5	<p>Q5: Is there any support available for applying to the JSPS Research Fellowship?</p> <p>A: Yes. We offer recorded information sessions and online individual consultation session. In the recorded information sessions, we provide an overview of the program as well as guidance on how to prepare the application documents, so we encourage you to make use of these resources. In addition, we provide tips that can significantly improve the likelihood of selection, checkpoints and checklists for preparing application documents, and a service that allows applicants to view application materials submitted by past successful candidates. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources as well.</p> <p>(Reference: <a href="https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/kensui-top/3jsps/support/">https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/kensui-top/3jsps/support/</a>) 【For internal use only】</p>	Added on April 17
6	<p>Q6: When applying for a COE (Certificate of Eligibility) or renewing a student visa at the Immigration Bureau, will a document be issued that can be used as proof of financial support?</p> <p>A: Yes. A "Certificate of Incentive Stipend" will be issued as proof of financial support at the time the selection results are announced. Please retain the original document and submit copies as required.</p>	Added on April 17
7	<p>Q7: Will the University provide any guidance in the future regarding procedures for income tax, resident tax, National Health Insurance, the National Pension system, etc.?</p> <p>A: Basically, procedures that should be completed by individuals as members of society must be handled by the students themselves. Please refer to the LEAP Program Incentive Stipend Handbook and complete the necessary procedures accordingly.</p>	Added on April 17
8	<p>Q8: If I have any questions in the future, should I contact my affiliated graduate school or the office of Advanced Graduate School?</p>	

Date Created: March 12, 2026

Update: April 17, 2026

	<p>A: For inquiries regarding application deadlines and application procedures, please contact your affiliated graduate school. For questions related to the content of this program, please contact the Advanced Graduate School or the Center for Promoting Graduate Studies.</p>	<p>Added on April 17</p>
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