

TU-AGS LEAP Program Q&A

Updated: July 2026

1. About Eligibility and Procedures

1	Q: I am a working student. Am I eligible to apply? 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 JPY 1.8 million, you will not be eligible.
2	Q: Can students in a double degree program also apply for this support? A: Yes. Students in a double degree program are also eligible to apply. If this applies to you, please contact your Graduate School in advance.
3	Q: I am using the long-term study system. Can I apply? A: Yes. Students under the long-term study system are eligible to apply for this support. However, the support period is limited to the original standard period of study and will not be extended to cover the approved long-term study period. For details, please refer to Q4 in "3. About the Handling of Leave of Absence, Repeating a Year, Long-term Study, Early Completion, Withdrawal, etc." below.
4	Q: I currently have an annual income of JPY 1.8 million or more, but I will have no income after advancing to the doctoral course. Can I apply in this case? A: Applicants are eligible to apply if their expected income during the one-year period following acceptance into the Advanced Graduate School LEAP Program (hereinafter referred to as "this program") is less than JPY 1.8 million, excluding income from RA, TF, TA, and AA at Tohoku University.
5	Q: If I apply as a new D1 student, will the support continue until D3? Do I need to apply every academic year? 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.

6	Q: Are students other than D1 students also eligible? A: If they meet the eligibility requirements, D2, D3, and D4 students are also eligible. (D4 students must be enrolled in the medical, dental, or pharmaceutical sciences curricula.)
7	Q: If I meet the eligibility requirements and apply, will I be accepted without being rejected? Also, does my year of study affect the selection outcome? A: If you meet the requirements specified in the application guidelines, including restrictions on receiving multiple awards and income limits, you will in principle, be selected. In addition, your year of study (D1, D2, D3, etc.) does not affect the selection outcome.
8	Q: Are there any specified formats for the application documents (research plan, list of achievements, etc.)? A: There is a designated format, so please refer to the notification from your affiliated graduate school. The format also includes reference information on the achievements that should be listed.
9	Q: What is the purpose of submitting a research plan and a list of research achievements? A: We require this submission to understand your research plan and to ensure you have your academic advisor's consent and support. In addition, we will confirm your research achievements each year through the Research Progress Reports submitted at designated times.
10	Q: Should I apply for the LEAP program via a Google Form? Also, around when will the incentive stipend be paid? A: Please follow the instructions provided by your affiliated graduate school regarding application procedures and submission methods. The payment schedule is as follows. However, this schedule may vary depending on individual circumstances. April Admission: 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 late June). For students under the DP-Track (200,000 yen per month), two months' worth of stipend for April and May will be paid in late May. October Admission: For students under both the Standard Track and the DP-Track, two months' worth of stipend for October and November is scheduled to be paid in a lump sum at the time of the first payment (scheduled for late November).

11	Q: Where can I check the application guidelines? A: Please refer to the notification regarding the application guidelines sent by your affiliated graduate school. In addition, the information is also available on the website of the Advanced Graduate School, Center for Promoting Graduate Studies: https://pgd.tohoku.ac.jp/english/rpc/).
12	Q: I am an international student currently applying for a visa status change. At what point is my status determined as "Japanese students, etc."? 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.
13	Q: I am applying for the Division for Interdisciplinary Advanced Research and Education. Can I apply for the Standard Track concurrently? A: Yes, you can. 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.
14	Q: Can I apply for the LEAP program at any time? I am considering applying when I become a D2 student, due to income restrictions. A: Applications are accepted twice a year, in April and October. Please apply during the period when you meet the eligibility requirements, considering your individual income status, etc.
15	Q: I am entering a doctoral course. Since the RISE program has ended, is there any support program that provides 180,000 yen per month? A: There is no support program providing 180,000 yen per month. The successor to the RISE program is LEAP program (Standard Track: 106,000 yen per month). Please note that for students who have been continuously receiving support from the RISE program, the 180,000 yen per month (2,160,000 yen per year) is maintained as a transitional measure.
16	Q: I am currently employed and my annual income exceeds JPY 1.8 million, but my contract will change in May, and my annual income is expected to be less than JPY 1.8 million. Can I apply? A: The income restrictions are evaluated based on your total estimated income for the one-year period starting from your acceptance into this Program. You are eligible to apply if your total estimated income for that one-year period is expected to be under JPY 1.8 million due to contract changes or other reasons. Please note that you may be required

	to submit documents certifying your income, such as a certificate of taxation or pay slips.
17	Q: The program targets individuals whose annual income is under JPY 1.8 million during the support period. Do I need to submit documents proving my previous year's annual income at the initial application stage? If my previous year's income exceeds JPY 1.8 million, will I be ineligible? A: You will not be deemed ineligible based on your previous year's income. For example, even if your income exceeded JPY 1.8 million 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 JPY 1.8 million, you will be eligible for the support.
18	Q: I plan to receive a scholarship of JPY 1.2 million per year from an external foundation. Am I ineligible for support? Also, am I unable to apply for travel support? A: You are eligible to apply as long as your total annual income, including the non-repayable scholarship from the private foundation, is less than JPY 1.8 million. If you are accepted into this program, you may also apply for the International Conference Travel Expenses Support. However, some private scholarships have their own restrictions on receiving multiple sources of funding, so please be sure to check the foundation's rules yourself.
19	Q: I am a second-year doctoral student receiving no support other than a TA. Am I eligible to apply? A: Yes, you are eligible to apply. Income earned through positions at Tohoku University, such as RA, TF, TA, and AA, is not included in the JPY 1.8 million income limit. In addition, there is no distinction based on year of study. Any student who meets the eligibility requirements is eligible to apply.
20	Q: Is the support amount from this program (1,272,000 yen per year) included in the JPY 1.8 million income limit? A: No, it is not included. It is calculated based on income other than the incentive stipend from this program.
21	Q: I am scheduled to obtain my degree in six months. Am I eligible to apply? Also, what happens if I exceed the standard period of study? A: You are eligible to apply, even if you are enrolled for only half a year, provided that you have not exceeded the standard period of study. Please note that support will be terminated at the point you exceed the standard period of study.
22	Q: Am I eligible to apply if I am a dependent of my parents? 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.
23	Q: I am receiving the JICA Agri-Net Scholarship and the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for international students. Can I apply? 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, you may apply if your support period has ended by the time you are admitted to (or advance to) the doctoral program.

2. About Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards and Income Limits

1	Q: I have salary income from my company, which is about JPY 1.8 million per year (before deductions for insurance premiums, etc.). Does this conflict with the restrictions on simultaneous awards? A: If you are receiving salary income, executive compensation, pension, or financial support of JPY 1.8 million 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	Q: I have applied for a scholarship to study abroad. Would it be acceptable for me to receive this scholarship? A: Yes. Scholarships intended to support travel expenses, such as round-trip airfare and living expenses, can be received. Please be sure to check the simultaneous awards restrictions of the scholarship in question.
3	Q: 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? A: It is possible to receive a loan 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 that for those who are granted a Category 1 Scholarship in a doctoral course in or after the 2023 (R5) academic year, 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.

4	Q: Is income from working as a TA/RA included in the annual income of JPY 1.8 million, which is restricted for simultaneous awards? A: Income from RA, TF, TA, and AA at Tohoku University is not included in the income restrictions.
5	Q: I am receiving 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)? A: It is possible to work a part-time job outside the university. However, please note that if the total of your scholarship, other salary income, etc., exceeds JPY 1.8 million per year, you will lose your eligibility for this program.
6	Q: I have found employment and will earn a salary income. Can I remain in the program until my income exceeds JPY 1.8 million? A: If your expected future income, etc. (including income other than your salary after employment) is expected to exceed JPY 1.8 million per year, you must withdraw from this program at the time of employment. The same applies even if it is a fixed-term position. In addition, If you fail to withdraw upon employment and your employment is discovered later, you will be required to return the incentive stipend for that period retroactively. Furthermore, for the Standard Track students, your tuition waiver will be revoked, and you will have to pay the tuition.
7	Q: Are bonuses from my company included in the annual income of JPY 1.8 million? A: Bonuses are also included in the total income of JPY 1.8 million.
8	Q: What period is covered when determining whether an applicant has an annual income of JPY 1.8 million or more? A: It is the one year of the academic year in which you are accepted into this program.
9	Q: I am an international student from China. I am receiving the Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC). Am I eligible to apply? 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.
10	Q: I am receiving a scholarship from the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association. Am I eligible to apply? 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.
11	Q: Are non-repayable scholarships from private organizations included in the "annual income of JPY 1.8 million or more"? A: Non-repayable scholarships from private organizations are included in the "annual income of JPY 1.8 million or more".
12	Q: I am receiving a non-repayable scholarship from a private organization of JPY 1.8 million or more per year, or a non-repayable private scholarship that cannot be combined with other funding. Can I apply for this program? A: You can apply, but if you are accepting into 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. In addition, if you decline a private scholarship upon being accepted into this Program, please complete the prescribed procedures for declining the scholarship.
13	Q: After being accepted into this program, I was later awarded a scholarship from a private organization. How should I proceed? A: If the non-repayable scholarship from a private organization is JPY 1.8 million 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.
14	Q: 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? 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.
15	Q: How is the annual income of JPY 1.8 million determined? Also, are there penalties if I exceed it? A: Eligibility is primarily based on self-reporting; however, when necessary, the office of the Advanced Graduate School may request documents to verify your income (such as tax certificates, pay slips, or bank statement copies). If you are found to be in violation of the income restrictions, you may be required to return the incentive stipend and you may be excluded from the tuition fee waiver, requiring payment of tuition fees.

16	Q: I am receiving a grant from a private foundation that prohibits concurrent receipt with other scholarships, can I treat the incentive stipend of this program as "not a scholarship" and receive them concurrently? A: While the university positions it as an "incentive stipend" rather than a scholarship, it depends on how the private foundation interprets it. Please confirm this directly with the relevant foundation.
17	Q: Is income the amount transferred to the bank? A: For salary income, etc., it is the "total payment amount (gross amount)" before taxes and social insurance premiums are deducted.
18	Q: Are there any types of employment at Tohoku University that are excluded from the JPY 1.8 million income limit? A: The applicable positions are Research Assistant (RA), Teaching Fellow (TF), Teaching Assistant (TA), Administrative Assistant (AA), Science Ambassador (SA), Student Learning Advisor (SLA), and Global Campus Supporter (GCS).
19	Q: Does income from employment in research projects (e.g., X-nics), or employed under a title like "Technical Staff," count as RA income? A: If it is paid by Tohoku University as a salary for student employment such as RA, TF, TA, and AA (intended for financial support or educational consideration for students), it is not included in the JPY 1.8 million income limit.
20	Q: Are there time limits for RA, TA, etc., at Tohoku University? Also, what is the average monthly income? A: The working hours such as RA, TF, TA, and AA at Tohoku University are limited to no more than 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.
21	Q: Is income from medical practice at the university hospital included in the JPY 1.8 million per year? A: Yes, it is included. (It is not treated as income from RA, TF, TA, or AA positions at Tohoku University.)

22	Q: Is income from the university's FOREST Program's RA (創発 RA) included in the JPY 1.8 million? A: Since it is an RA at Tohoku University, it is not included in the JPY 1.8 million income limit.
23	Q: Do recipients of the Global Hagi Scholarship need to apply for LEAP? Can it be continued? A: If you wish to receive support from the LEAP Program and apply, you will lose your eligibility for the Global Hagi Scholarship upon acceptance. If you wish to continue receiving the Global Hagi Scholarship (and do not wish to receive support from the LEAP Program), you do not need to apply for the LEAP Program.
24	Q: 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"? 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,TF, TA, and AA (intended for financial support or educational consideration for students), it is not included in the JPY 1.8 million income limit regardless of the title. If the nature of the employment is unclear, such as in cases where compensation is paid directly by a collaborative partner, please confirm the details with your affiliated graduate school or department.
25	Q: Is income earned from study abroad programs or overseas internships included in the JPY 1.8 million income limit? A: If you are dispatched to an overseas university or research institution (including research and development departments of private companies), income received as study abroad financial support or from internships will not be included in the JPY 1.8 million income limit, provided that your academic advisor recognizes it as necessary for your research.
26	Q: Is the income from a personal business the amount after deducting expenses? A: It is the amount after deducting necessary expenses from the total income amount (income amount).
27	Q: Does the JPY 1.8 million income limit refer to gross sales or net income after deducting expenses? 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.
28	Q: If I apply for a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC), can I not receive LEAP program support? A: Even if you apply for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC), the actual acceptance and the start of support will be in April of the following year. Therefore, you can receive support from the LEAP Program until that time. Since the renewal application for the following academic year will be conducted at the end of the current academic year, please submit a notification at that time indicating that you have been selected for the JSPS Fellowship and wish to withdraw from the LEAP Program.
29	Q: Even if my spouse's annual income is JPY 1.8 million or more, am I eligible if my own annual income is less than JPY 1.8 million? A: Yes, you are eligible. The income limit is determined solely based on your own income.
30	Q: Are remittances from parents, etc. (so-called living allowances support) included in the JPY 1.8 million? A: Living allowances support is not included.

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

1	Q: I am currently on a leave of absence. Am I eligible to apply? A: There are two opportunities to apply for this program per year (April and October). However, those who are on a leave of absence as of April 1 for the April intake, or as of October 1 for the October intake, are not eligible to apply. Even if you are currently on a leave of absence, you can apply during the first application period after you return to school.
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2	Q: I have taken a leave of absence before. Until when will the support period be? A: The support period is until the standard period of study, excluding the period of leave of absence already taken. 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. At time of application ↓ <table><tr><td>2024.Apr</td><td></td><td>2025.Apr</td><td></td><td>2026. Apr</td><td></td><td>2027. Apr</td><td></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	Q: What will happen if I take a leave of absence after being accepted into this program? 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 at your affiliated graduate school prior to returning to school.																
4	Q: I am approved for long-term study. Can I apply for this program? 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. <table><tr><td>D1</td><td>D2</td><td>D3</td></tr></table> End of the support period ↓ <table><tr><td>D1</td><td>D2</td><td>D3</td><td>D4</td><td>D5</td><td>D6</td></tr></table>	D1	D2	D3	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6							
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D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6												
5	Q: 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? 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 revoked, and tuition 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	Q: If I withdraw during the doctoral course, will I be required to return the incentive stipend? 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.
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4 . About the Handling When Outside the University, such as Studying Abroad or Doing an Internship

1	Q: Can I receive the incentive stipend during my study abroad period? A: You are eligible to receive the stipend on the condition that you submit a Monthly Attendance Report. Please note that all deadlines, including enrollment confirmation, are based on Japan Standard Time (JST).
2	Q: Can students who are currently overseas and have never come to the university after admission also apply? A: Application is possible, but the 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.
3	Q: I am studying at another institution due to the delegation of research supervision. Can I receive the incentive stipend? 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 Attendance Report. If you are receiving research supervision 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 payment of the incentive stipend will start after you enter Japan, come to the university, and complete the procedures.
4	Q: Can I receive the incentive stipend even during the internship period? Also, is it possible to receive remuneration from the internship host? A: It is possible to receive the incentive stipend even during the internship period. Additionally, you are permitted to receive compensation from the internship host, provided

	that it remains within the specified income limit. Please also refer to Q25 under "2. About Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards and Income Limits." Furthermore, do not forget to submit your Monthly Attendance Report during your internship period.
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5. About Obligations of Recipients and Tax Matters

1	Q: I am a recipient in the Standard Track. Is there anything the recipient should take other than their own research activities? 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. For more details, please visit 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).
2	Q: To what extent am I required to participate in the Advanced Graduate School Training Program? 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 or repayment of your incentive stipend, or the loss of your eligibility as a recipient, so please be mindful of this.
3	Q: In what cases will I be required to repay the incentive stipend? A: An obligation to repay the incentive stipend arises in the following cases: ● If fraud or false statements are identified (please pay close attention to the restrictions on simultaneous awards and compliance rules). ● If you fall under the restrictions on simultaneous awards and withdraw from this program retroactively (The incentive stipend must be repaid retroactively to the date of withdrawal.)
4	Q: Under what circumstances will the payment of the incentive stipend be suspended?

	A: The payment of the incentive stipend will be suspended in the following cases: ● If the Monthly Attendance Report is not submitted by the deadline: the stipend for that month will be suspended. ● If the Research Progress Report is not submitted by the deadline: the stipend will be suspended starting from the month following the deadline. ● If the compulsory courses for the Advanced Graduate School Training Program are not completed by the designated deadline each academic year: the stipend will be suspended starting from the month following the deadline.
5	Q: Is the incentive stipend subject to tax? 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. 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 should check with your supporter or their employer and complete any necessary procedures. For international students, the stipend may fall under a tax treaty. Please consult the administrative office of your affiliated graduate school.
6	Q: Is the submission of the Research Progress Report twice a year? A: Students under the Standard Track (receiving 106,000 yen per month) will be required to submit it twice a year. On the other hand, for students under the Standard Track (continued recipients from the former RISE Program: receiving 180,000 yen per month) and the DP-Track (receiving 200,000 yen per month), it is required once a year.
7	Q: Please tell me the details of the compulsory programs (compulsory courses) and when they must be completed. A: Compulsory courses for the Advanced Graduate School Training Program include on-demand Transferable Skills Training, etc. The completion deadline is 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 you have not completed the compulsory courses by the deadline, payment of the incentive stipend will be suspended.
8	Q: 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? 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. Further details will be provided separately to selected applicants.
9	Q: When should I complete the procedures to be removed from my dependent status? 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.
10	Q: The incentive stipend requires a tax return as "miscellaneous income". To what extent can I declare expenses (transportation, books, etc.)? How are income and necessary expenses handled? A: The tax office makes the final determination regarding the deductibility of expenses. As the University cannot make this determination, please contact your local tax office directly if you have any questions regarding deductible expenses.
11	Q: If I withdraw from the LEAP Program, will I still have any obligations under the program after the date of withdrawal? A: After the date of withdrawal, you will no longer have any obligations under the LEAP Program (such as taking compulsory courses).
12	Q: Is it possible to reduce the stipend amount of the Standard Track (receiving 106,000 yen per month) due to taxes or dependency? A: You cannot reduce the monthly stipend amount for personal reasons; however, you may select the option indicating that you do not wish to receive the incentive stipend for that month, when submitting the Monthly Attendance Report.
13	Q: Can I use university-only support (Nature Masterclasses) from outside the university? A: From April 2026, it can be accessed from outside networks by registering and authenticating using your Tohoku University email address (@tohoku.ac.jp or @dc.tohoku.ac.jp). For details, please visit the dedicated page. https://pgd.tohoku.ac.jp/english/rpc/Nature_Masterclasses.html

6. About Support for Competitive Research Grants (travel expenses, etc.)

1	Q: Please tell me about the support for competitive research grants (travel expenses, etc.). A: This program provides research grants for doctoral students to present their research results at international conferences, with the aim of offering opportunities for international experience. For details, please refer to the application guidelines. The outline is as follows. However, please note in advance that some parts may be changed. -Travel expenses: airfare, transportation, incidental travel expenses (daily allowance), and accommodation fees. -Miscellaneous Expenses: Conference registration fees, visa application fees (for research purposes only), overseas travel insurance, poster printing costs, and expenses for purchasing items necessary for research activities related to the presentation. -Support Amount: Up to 400,000 JPY per application. For further details, please refer to the Application Guidelines for International Conference Travel Expenses Support and the FAQ.
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7. About Tuition Fee Waiver

1	Q: I am not eligible for the Tohoku University Advanced Graduate School LEAP Program, but can I apply for a tuition fee waiver? 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 "Waivers for Exceptional Students".
2	Q: I am an international student, but it is difficult for me to pay the tuition fee by the deadline. 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 admission fee and tuition fee waivers.
3	Q: I am a Japanese student. Do I need to complete a separate procedure for the tuition fee waiver? A: The tuition fee waiver is granted upon acceptance into the LEAP Program, so no procedure for the tuition fee waiver is required. However, regarding the admission fee waiver, advance procedures are necessary, so please check the admission procedure instructions provided by your graduate school.

4	Q: I am a Japanese student. What happens to the tuition fee waiver if I decline this program midway? 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.
5	Q: If I extend the completion of my doctoral course, will the tuition fee for the extended period be waived? 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.
6	Q: I plan to pay the admission fee; will it be refunded later? Also, is the admission fee waived? 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 admission 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. 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.
7	Q: I receive a private scholarship of JPY 1.8 million or more per year and am ineligible for LEAP program support, but can I receive admission fee and tuition fee waiver support? 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. https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/gakusei-shien/menjo/yuusyusya-e/
8	Q: You mentioned that applicants under the Standard Track of the LEAP Program 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? 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.

9	Q: Why are international students no longer eligible for the tuition fee waiver? A: In principle, all students, regardless of nationality, are required to pay admission and tuition fees. 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. On the other hand, from the perspective of promoting Japanese students to advance to doctoral courses, tuition fee waivers are provided 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. You may make use of this system as needed.
10	Q: Are international students eligible for a tuition waiver if they apply to the LEAP Program? A: International students in the Standard Track of the LEAP Program are not eligible for tuition waivers and are required to pay tuition. However, students enrolled in Degree Program or selected as JSPS Research Fellows are eligible for a full tuition waiver, regardless of whether they are Japanese or international students.
11	Q: Are international students eligible for an admission fee waiver if they are enrolled in a degree program? A: No. International students are not eligible for an admission fee waiver, even if they are enrolled in a degree program.

8. Students who were supported by AGS RISE Program

1	Q: What support will be provided to students who were selected for the Pioneering Research Support Project in FY2024 and transferred to the RISE Program in FY2025? A: You will receive support from the LEAP Program. However, as a continuing recipient from the RISE Program, transitional measures will apply, and your incentive stipend will be maintained at the same amount as the RISE Program (180,000 yen per month). Please note that the personal research grants will no longer be provided, so please utilize the competitive research grants (travel expenses, etc.) as needed.
2	Q: In the RISE program, RA income from Tohoku University was included in the JPY 1.8 million limit. Does this mean it will no longer be included after transitioning to LEAP program? A: Income earned through positions at Tohoku University, such as RA, TF, TA, and AA, is not included in the JPY 1.8 million income limit. Under the LEAP Program, the policy has been revised to help students obtain further support through RA, TF, TA, and AA. For

	students transitioning from the RISE Program, this updated policy will apply equally, making their treatment consistent with that of newly accepted LEAP Program students. Please also refer to Q18 in "2. About Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards and Income Limits".
3	Q: Is the submission of the Research Progress Report twice a year? Or is it once a year like it was in RISE? 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.

9. Others and Overall Program

1	Q: Will students who are currently enrolled in a Degree Program ever be rejected from the LEAP Program? A: If you meet the eligibility requirements and receive a recommendation from your Degree Program, you will be accepted into the LEAP Program. By completing the required procedures in accordance with the instructions provided by your Degree Program office, you will be eligible for support under the DP-Track.
2	Q: 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? 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.
3	Q: 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? A: Eligibility requirements, application periods, and eligible academic years vary depending on the Degree Program. For details, please refer to the website of the Advanced Graduate School or the respective Degree Program.
4	Q: 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? 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.
5	Q: Is there any support available for applying to the JSPS Research Fellowship? A: Tohoku University Research Promotion Department offers recorded information sessions and individual consultations. 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. (Reference: https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/kensui-top/3jsps/support/) 【For internal use only】
6	Q: 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? 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.
7	Q: Will Tohoku University provide any guidance in the future regarding procedures for income tax, resident tax, National Health Insurance, the National Pension system, etc.? A: Basically, procedures that should be completed by individuals as members of society must be handled by the students themselves. Please follow the instructions in the LEAP Program Incentive Stipend Handbook and complete the necessary procedures independently.
8	Q: If I have any questions in the future, should I contact my affiliated graduate school or the office of Advanced Graduate School? 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.