

Date: December 15, 2025

To: All Kyoto Institute of Technology Fellowship Program Applicants

From: Kyoto Institute of Technology

Re: FY 2026 Changes to the Kyoto Institute of Technology Fellowship Program

Implemented in connection with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)'s *"Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)"* initiative, Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT) offers a doctoral-level fellowship program. Applicable across a range of fields this program fosters cross-disciplinary doctoral talent capable of leading innovation. The program is grounded in KIT's interdisciplinary research environment, its graduate-level educational and research supervision framework, and its local industry–academia–government collaboration system.

Prior to the call for applications for the FY 2026 Fellowship Program, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and JST announced a revision to the SPRING initiative policy. As a result, certain aspects of eligibility and support for the FY 2026 program will differ from those of FY 2025 and previous years. The main changes are outlined below. Refer to the application guidelines for further information on the Fellowship Program.

Changes

Change 1: Eligibility for the Research Incentive Grant (Living Expense Support)

FY 2025 and earlier	FY 2026
Provided to all awardees	Provided only to awardees who meet one of the following conditions: ① Individuals with Japanese nationality ② Foreign nationals holding a visa status such as "Permanent Resident*" *For other applicable residence statuses, see p. 2, section 3 (1) of the relevant application guidelines.

Note: Students with "Student" residence status are **not eligible** to receive the research incentive grant (living expense equivalent).

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Change 2: Eligibility of Government-Sponsored International Students

FY 2025 and earlier	FY 2026
Applicants receiving support under the MEXT Japanese Government Scholarship or receiving scholarships from their home country were not eligible to apply.	Applicants who receive MEXT Scholarship Program support for International Students or scholarships from their home country are also eligible to apply. However, when such applicants are accepted into the Fellowship Program, they do not receive the Research Incentive Grant (equivalent to a living allowance).

Note: Applicants receiving any of the government-funded research support described below **are not eligible to apply**.

Examples:

- Students selected for the JST “*Next-Generation AI Talent Development Program (Doctoral Program Students)*”
- JSPS Research Fellows (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)
- JICA Scholarship Students supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Young researchers supported under the JST “*Japan-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Platform (NEXUS)*” program

Change 3: Adjustment of Research Funding

FY 2025 and earlier	FY 2026
No specific criteria regarding increases or decreases in research funding.	Clear criteria will be presented for research funding increases at the time of the new FY 2026 selection and for increases from FY 2027 onward (second year of support and beyond). *

*For further information, see pg.12, section 8 (2) of the relevant application guidelines.

Contact

Financial Support, Student Support and Community Outreach Office
Ph: 075-724-7150 E-mail: shogaku@jim.kit.ac.jp