September 18, 2026
October 8, 2026 Revised

Program for Development of Co-creative Experts towards Top-level AI Research (for Science and Engineering fields)

Fall Enrollment FY 2026 Application Information

This program is for the students enrolled in or advancing to the doctoral program at Science Tokyo (Science and Engineering fields) in Fall 2026. For details on eligibility, please refer to "3. Eligibility." The support may be discontinued or the details of the support and obligations of the supported students may be changed due to budget constraints or review of the program.

1. Purpose of This Program

Since FY 2021, this Institute has supported doctoral students who will play a key role in the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan based on "Advanced Human Resource Development Fellowship for Doctoral Students" and "Cross the border! Pioneering doctoral research project" subsidized by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), respectively. These programs have sought to empower such students to pursue a doctorate without hesitation, financial burden, or career uncertainty, and to choose diverse career paths that maximize their potential.

From FY 2024, the Institute has continued the basic initiatives of these programs and integrated them into a new program, "Program for Development of Next-Generation Front-Runners with Comprehensive Knowledge and Humanity." Furthermore, the Institute has initiated a new program “Program for Development of Co-creative Experts towards Top-level AI Research”, which focuses on fostering human resources who specialize in the next-generation AI-related research.[1]

This program aims to cultivate top-level next-generation AI researchers with a broad perspective looking five to ten years into the future, and to integrate data science and AI education and advanced next-generation AI research activities under a university-wide system to develop co-creative experts who can (1) make full use of data science and AI, (2) interact with others in data science and AI, and (3) teach data science and AI. Through the development of human resources equipped with these three elements, the Institute hopes to contribute to solving social issues by fostering top-level experts in the fields of data science and AI and developing outstanding human resources capable of international leadership in these fields. Supported students will each receive a sufficient research incentive grant equivalent to living expenses and support for research expenses for up to three years, and will participate in various initiatives aimed at improving their research and teaching skills.

[1] While the "Program for Development of Next-Generation Front-Runners with Comprehensive Knowledge and Humanity" will continue to receive support under the Framework for Universities for International Research Excellence starting from FY2026, the "Program for Development of Co-creative Experts towards Top-level AI Research" will remain a support project under JST.

2. Expected Program Slots

2 slots (expected number)

This is the only opportunity for students enrolling in or advancing to doctoral studies at Science Tokyo (Science and Engineering fields) in September 2026 to apply for this program. In the event that a student withdraws after being selected, a previously unsuccessful applicant for this round may be moved up and selected.

3. Eligibility

Applicants must meet all the following requirements:

1. Students enrolling in or advancing to the following six schools of Science Tokyo in September 2026: School of Science, School of Engineering, School of Materials and Chemical Technology, School of Computing, School of Life Science and Technology and School of Environment and Society
2. Those whose standard study period ends in September 2029.
3. Those who live in Japan as of October 1, 2026 [2]
4. Those who have an account at a financial institution in Japan for money transfers [2].
5. Those who are willing to contribute to the creation of science, technology, and innovation in Japan even after completing the doctoral program
6. Those who are willing or are aiming to conduct top-level research in a wide area of research related to the field of next-generation AI that integrates different fields in a cross-disciplinary manner
7. Those who wish to devote themselves to research in the doctoral program and independently choose their own careers

Note: Students to whom any of the following conditions apply are not eligible:

a. Those who are currently receiving, or are scheduled to receive, (i) a scholarship or grant that restricts concurrent receipt of other scholarships (including the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists and JICA scholarships), or (ii) the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship for International Students, a scholarship from a foreign government, or similar [3]. For university-recommended private scholarships, etc. which restrict them from receiving funding from other sources such as this program, applicants who have applied for the private scholarships by themselves can apply for this program but must withdraw from this program if they are selected for the private scholarship. In addition, those who have registered for a university-recommended private

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[2] If, despite having completed the prescribed procedures without delay, the visa, COE, etc. cannot be issued in time to fulfill the conditions concerned, the application will be accepted with assumption that the following three conditions will be observed. Please note that the payment of the research incentives and the use of the research funds will be delayed depending on the date of entry.
1) Enter the details in the relevant fields of the application form and submit it. 2) Submit relevant documents as soon as the applicant enters Japan and opens an account. 3) If it turns out that the entry/submission date will be delayed from the date noted at the time of application, notify us immediately when it turns out through the inquiry form.

[3] Applicants who are scheduled to receive the Tsubame Scholarship for Doctoral Students, IIR New Research Fellow Program or School of Life Science and Technology Bio×Digital Financial Support Program can also apply. However, if you are selected for this program, those scholarships must be terminated. You cannot receive both. In principle, students enrolled in Academy of Leadership, Academy of Energy and Informatics, Graduate major in Materials and Information Science and Graduate major in Super Smart Society are eligible to receive the scholarship for this program. For details, please contact the administrative staff of each Academy or Graduate major, as there are differences between each Academy and Graduate major, such as conditions for concurrent pay, etc.

scholarship through the Registration Form for Privately Funded Scholarships and have been selected and have agreed to be a candidate for the scholarship which restricts them from receiving funding from other sources must withdraw from this program, even if they are still in the process of selection.

b. Those who are recognized as earning stable income such as salaries and executive compensation exceeding 2.4 million yen per year as living expenses from the university or company to which they belong, as of September 1, 2026. However, part-time jobs, RA/TA compensation, paid internships, etc. are not considered stable income and are not subject to the 2.4-million-yen annual income limit. Even in such cases, it is not acceptable if such activities affect the fulfillment of supported students' obligations.

c. Those who are currently on a leave of absence or plan to take a leave of absence.[4]

4. Support

4-1. Amount of support

Item of expenditure	Amount	Eligible persons	Payment method
a. Research Incentives (equivalent to living expenses)	3.60 million yen per year (300,000 yen per month)	All	Monthly remittance to the account specified by the student
b. Research Funds	300,000 yen per year (150,000 yen for the first year)	All	Budget execution management at the Institute
c. Off-Campus Study Plus	Varies by destination and period	Selected from applicants	Budget execution management at the Institute

a. Research Incentives (equivalent to living expenses)

- In principle, monthly payments are made to the account designated by the student. However, the first payment will be made in January 2027 for the months of October 2026 through January 2027 at a time.
- There are no restrictions on how the money is used, and unused portions are not subject to return. Reporting to the Institute is not necessary.
- Research incentives are treated as miscellaneous income under the tax law and are subject to income tax and resident tax.
  - In principle, you need to file a final tax return every year.
  - If you are regarded as a dependent for health insurance or dependent allowance purposes, be sure to contact

[4] If the leave of absence is for reasons such as study abroad, childbirth, childcare, or injury or illness, and the committee approves, selection of the student may not be cancelled. In this case, payment of the research incentives and research funds will be temporarily suspended during the period of the leave of absence, and will be resumed when the student returns to Science Tokyo. If you are planning to apply for this program, please consult with us in advance using the inquiry form (see "10. Contact") on our website.

the person who is obligated to support you (such as a parent) and the relevant person in charge at their workplace. (In principle, you need to be removed as a dependent.)

- You are required to complete and manage your own social insurance (pension, etc.) procedures.
- Please contact your local tax office for information on tax treatment and final tax returns.

b. Research Funds

- Expenses can be paid as long as they are necessary for conducting your own research. However, there are some expenses that cannot be included.
- Please use the funds responsibly and in accordance with the plan described in the application documents.
- The period of use is limited to the current fiscal year. In principle, unused funds cannot be carried over and must be returned.

c. Off-Campus Study Plus

- This program provides additional support for travel and other expenses (airfare, lodging, daily allowance, etc.) when conducting off-campus studies. Details will be provided again after you are selected.

4-2. Support Period

Up to 3 years (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2029)

This support is available only while enrolled in the doctoral program. If the period of enrollment is interrupted by a leave of absence, exceeds standard study period or the support period expires, support will not be available during the subsequent period. However, if the leave of absence is for reasons such as study abroad, childbirth, childcare, or injury or illness, the support may be temporarily suspended and then resumed or subsequently extended, depending on individual circumstances[4].

4-3. Notes

- If doctoral students who are selected as JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization) Type 1 Scholarship recipients are selected for this program, they are not eligible for the scholarship return waiver certification under the "Scholarship Return Waiver Program for Outstanding Achievement".
- The program provides financial support for students' research, and no employment relationship will be established between the students and Science Tokyo. Therefore, it is necessary for students to take care of their own social insurance, pension, etc.
- The budgets of research funds and off-campus study plus will be managed by this Institute, and your academic supervisor will be the Budget Execution Manager. Science Tokyo will retain ownership of all items purchased.
- You cannot use this program's budget to pay for or request reimbursement for the following actions that took place before the start date of your support (date of employment).
  - Reimbursements
  - Ordering
  - Inspection (including delivery or completion of services)
  - Travel expense applications (including arranging air tickets, etc.)

- Even after a payment has been completed, any expenses deemed ineligible will be the responsibility of the laboratory or the individual.

5. Obligations

Students selected for this program will have the following obligations:

- Understanding the purpose of the program and striving to acquire skills
- Complete courses in accordance with the requirements for completion of a university-wide education program “Expert Level Plus” composed of Progressive Advanced Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Courses of the Center of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.
- Complete the TF (Teaching Fellow) training program established by the Center of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, which aims to provide young researchers with educational leadership skills in addition to advanced expertise.
- Participate in the Data Science and AI Doctoral Forum to do research exchange across disciplinary boundaries and to foster creative problem-solving ability
- Taking the designated research ethics and compliance training
- Indicating in acknowledgments that you have received a grant from this program
- Submitting a summary of the above performance and research achievements by the designated date
- Preparing an expenditure record that contains details of the use of research funds, etc.
- Filing a tax return every year
- Submitting a career path report to the Institute upon completion of your doctoral program or withdrawal from the Institute.
- Cooperating in career-related follow-up surveys when enrolled and for 10 years after completing the doctoral program (including withdrawal).

6. How to Apply

Applicants who have completed "6-1. Online application" within the following application period are eligible for screening. After the deadline, applications will not be accepted for any reason.

Application period: Thursday, October 1, 11:00 a.m. (JST) to Thursday, October ~~15~~ 22, 11:00 a.m. (JST) (strict deadline)

You may apply for “Program for Development of Next-Generation Front-Runners with Comprehensive Knowledge and Humanity” concurrently with this program. "6-1. Online application" is for both of the programs. Even if applying for both of the programs, the application process can be completed by online application simultaneously. Do not apply for each program separately.

6-1. Online application

- Applicants by themselves must fill out and submit the online application form.
- If the form is filled out and submitted by someone other than the applicants, the application will be disregarded.

- After the online submission, any corrections of the information or re-submissions will not be accepted. (In the event of multiple submissions, the one submitted earlier will be disregarded.) Please carefully check the information you have entered before clicking the submit button.
- Screening will be conducted based on the information provided at the time of online application. Any discrepancies, errors, or falsehoods may be disadvantageous in the screening process.
- A confirmation email will be sent to your email address which you enter in the online application form. Please check your email settings beforehand and make sure you are not blocking "@m.isct.ac.jp" domain.
- If no confirmation email is received after submission of your online application, please check spam folder. Incorrect email address in the online application form may result in failure of receiving confirmation email. In such case, you may submit the online application again if it is within the application period.

Online application form URL

https://www.spring-boost.i.isct.ac.jp/apply/spring_boost_application-form/

- Submission of the required documents are accepted only through the online application.
- Submission in any other way (e.g., email, post, in person, Slack, or your academic supervisor) will not be accepted.
- All the documents can be either in color or black and white.
- Illegible documents will not be accepted. It will be considered as failure of submission, and the application will be regarded as withdrawn.
- You will be asked to specify account information for the transfer of the research incentives in the application form. Please prepare a bank book or other documents in advance.
- At the time of online application, all the four documents (1) Application Form ~ (4) A copy of the relevant bankbook page are required to be submitted. If there are any cases where you cannot submit any of the documents, enter the reason and estimated date of submission in the corresponding "Reason for Non-Submission" section of the form. If you do not submit any of the documents without entering such information, your application will be withdrawn.
- Once submitted, changes to the documents, including Application Form and Transcripts of Master's degrees, will not be accepted.
- Those who make false statements in the application documents or fail to include information will be disqualified and their applications will be rejected. If such falsification is discovered after the selection has been made, the selection may be revoked and the applicant may be asked to return any research incentives already paid.
- Omission or inadequacy in the application documents may result in losing the eligibility. We will not contact you for that case.
- Following cases may cause disadvantage for the applicants such as ineligibility for screening.
  - Submission of wrong documents (e.g., uploading a wrong document in a wrong section)
  - Submission of blank/uncompleted documents
  - Submission using an outdated application form

(1) Application Form

- Please download the form from the following URL:
  https://science-tokyo.box.com/s/8zcjpl5b7k20v0y71meqk58s5zjg8lwc
- Please rename the file as; ***Student number[5]_Name_ Application category*_申請書***
  (e.g., 26D00000_Kagaku Taro_ SB_申請書)
  *Application category: Enter the following alphabet(s) depending on the program you are applying for.
  [B]: If applying for this "BOOST" program only; **[SB]**: If applying for both of this "BOOST" program and "Program for Development of Next-Generation Front-Runners with Comprehensive Knowledge and Humanity; Science and Engineering fields".
- Only pdf files will be accepted. Please convert the application form to a PDF file.
- The maximum file size is 10 MB. If the file size exceeds this limit, it cannot be submitted (uploaded).

Note: The signature of the academic supervisor

When applying for this program, please obtain approval from your academic supervisor to apply to this program and request that your academic supervisor fill out the signature line in his/her own handwriting. When it is difficult to obtain the signature of your academic supervisor, contact the administrative office via the website inquiry form (see "10. Contact") before the deadline. However, if it is difficult for the academic supervisor to fill in his/her signature by the submission deadline due to applicant's negligence, the applicant may be disadvantaged in the selection process, for example, being excluded from the selection process.

(2) Transcript of master's degree

- Please rename the file as; ***Student number_Name_ Application category*_成績証明書***
  (e.g., 26D00000_Kagaku Taro_ SB_*成績証明書*)

  *Application category: Enter the following alphabet(s) depending on the program you are applying for.
  [B]: If applying for this "BOOST" program only; **[SB]**: If applying for both of this "BOOST" program and "Program for Development of Next-Generation Front-Runners with Comprehensive Knowledge and Humanity; Science and Engineering fields".
- Only pdf, png, jpg, jpeg files are accepted.
- The maximum file size is 1 MB. If the file size exceeds this limit, it cannot be submitted (uploaded).

(3) A copy of the relevant bankbook page

- Any of the following is required to submit a copy of the relevant bankbook page.
  - Applicants wishing to receive research incentives to a Japan Post Bank account
  - Foreign nationals
  - International students
- Please submit a copy of your bankbook showing account details including the following items. For banks that

[5] This refers to the student ID number of Science Tokyo's doctoral program.

do not issue bankbooks, please provide data such as an online screen capture that shows the following items.

- Required information: Bank name, branch name, deposit type, account number, account name (kana or roman letters)
- Example of online screens capture
  - Japan Post Bank (Yucho Direct+): Passbook image
  - Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) Web Passbook: Account Number Notification
  - Rakuten Bank: Deposit methods

・ Please rename the file as; ***Student number_Name_ Application category*_通帳コピー***
(e.g., 26D00000_Kagaku Taro_ SB_***通帳コピー***)

*Application category: Enter the following alphabet(s) depending on the program you are applying for.

[B]: If applying for this "BOOST" program only; **[SB]**: If applying for both of this "BOOST" program and "Program for Development of Next-Generation Front-Runners with Comprehensive Knowledge and Humanity; Science and Engineering fields".

・ Only pdf, png, jpg, jpeg files are accepted.

・ The maximum file size is 1 MB. If the file size exceeds this limit, it cannot be submitted (uploaded).

(4) Document confirming entry into Japan

・ Any of the following is required to submit a copy of passport or residence card. (It affects the starting date of research incentives and research funds.)
(ア) Foreign nationals
(イ) International students

・ If you are submitting a copy of a passport, please submit a copy of following pages.

- Page containing the applicant's name
- Page containing a stamp (seal) showing the date of entry into Japan

・ If you are submitting a copy of residence card, please submit both of front and back side of it. Note that the application will be considered incomplete if the period of stay or validity period has been exceeded.

・ Please rename the file as; ***Student number_Name_ Application category*_入国確認書類***
(e.g., 26D00000_Kagaku Taro_ SB_**入国確認書類**)

*Application category: Enter the following alphabet(s) depending on the program you are applying for.

[B]: If applying for this "BOOST" program only; **[SB]**: If applying for both of this "BOOST" program and "Program for Development of Next-Generation Front-Runners with Comprehensive Knowledge and Humanity; Science and Engineering fields".

・ Only pdf, png, jpg, jpeg files are accepted.

・ The maximum file size is 1 MB. If the file size exceeds this limit, it cannot be submitted (uploaded).

7. Evaluation

7-1. Points of assessment

Preliminary screening will be conducted based on the submitted documents (application form and transcript).

- Is the research plan top-level related in a wide area of research related to next-generation AI?
- Does the research plan include enough cross-disciplinary and integrative elements?
- Is the budget plan for the funds reasonable and based on the research plan? Is the budget plan well thought out?
- Is the student's career plan ambitious in terms of solving social problems or implementing strategies for solving them, based on their doctoral research and the potential it encompasses?
- Is the research and its social significance easily understood not only by those in the same field of specialization but also to those outside of the field?

7-2. Announcement of the results, etc.

In case of changes to the schedule below, they will be announced on the website.

Announcement of selection results: **Friday, November 27, 11:00 a.m. (JST)**

Names of successful applicants will be posted on the website. Please check for yourself.

Successful applicants must immediately fill out the designated form to indicate their acceptance or withdrawal.

Acceptance Deadline: **Tuesday, December 1, 11:00 a.m. (JST)**

Non-receipt of your form by the deadline may be considered as withdrawal.

Announcement of additional selection results: **Friday, November 27 (p.m. (JST)) to Thursday, December 3**

If any of the successful applicants withdraws from the program, alternative candidates will be selected from unsuccessful applicants. Only the relevant applicants will be contacted by administrative office by email (or phone if urgent). Please respond as soon as possible if contacted by the administrative office.

Announcement of supported student selection results: **Friday, December 4, 11:00 a.m. (JST)**

Names of supported students will be posted on the website.

If any of the supported students withdraws or is subject to revocation, a previously unsuccessful applicant may be moved up and selected. Only the relevant applicants will be contacted by administrative office via email or phone. Additionally selected students will receive funds from the date they are selected up until the originally scheduled end date for the student who withdrew, etc.

8. Revocation of Funding

After becoming a supported student, support from the program will be terminated if any of the following occurs:

- The student no longer meets the qualifying criteria for this program
- The student does not fulfill obligations without a valid reason
- The student takes a leave of absence [4]

- The student exceeds the standard period of study
- The student withdraws from the program
- The student withdraws, transfers out of, or is dismissed from Science Tokyo
- The student is subject to disciplinary action
- The student is otherwise found to be unsuitable for the program

9. Handling of Personal Information

The personal information contained in the application documents and various other documents to be submitted after the selection will be strictly managed in accordance with the "National University Corporation Science Tokyo Personal Information Protection Rules" and will be used only to carry out the work of this program. In addition, part of the personal information will be used for monitoring surveys conducted by public institutions such as Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and a follow-up surveys after completion of the doctoral course.

10. Contact

For inquiries, please use the "Inquiry Form" on our website (emails or phone calls are not accepted).
https://www.spring-boost.i.isct.ac.jp/en/contact/

- If you have not received a response or contact from us for more than 3 business days, it is possible that your inquiry has not been received.
- Please make sure if your e-mail address is entered correctly and contact us again.
- Exceeding the application deadline by reason of waiting for a response is not acceptable. For example, it is not allowed that you ask a question near the deadline, so that you could not get the answer before the deadline.
- We cannot answer any questions regarding the selection and screening methods or results.

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