AY 2026 Support Program for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation Researchers in Toyo University Doctoral Program

Capacity Development Project of Versatile Pioneering Philosophical Researchers for Health and Human Security

Application Guidelines for Students Eligible for Support

1. Purpose

Toyo University, established in 1887 as a private philosophy academy, aims to nurture "diverse challenging researchers with a philosophical mindset" who possess the ambition and excellence to lead the future, based on the principle that "The Basis of All Learning Lies in Philosophy."

In the "Capacity Development Project of Versatile Pioneering Philosophical Researchers for Health and Human Security" (hereinafter referred to as "this project") of the Support Program for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation Researchers in Toyo University Doctoral Program, we will aim to expand the purpose in the "Capacity Development Project towards Social Implementation of Academic Knowledge on Human Security" of the same program, which has been implemented since the academic year 2021 (focusing on SDG3: "Health and Well-being" in human security), and we will attempt to socially implement cutting-edge research in life sciences and medical engineering, among other fields."

Through the doctoral program, the university aims to cultivate autonomous and diverse doctoral human resources who will acquire advanced knowledge in their respective specialized fields and tackle various global issues from an international and broad perspective, contributing to innovation in Japan.

To nurture such talent, the project provides research funds and living expenses to supported students, creating an environment where they can focus on their research. In addition to fostering the basic qualities of internationally competent researchers, the project offers developmental content to realize diverse career paths, including transferable skills. Through this support, the project aims to produce diverse doctoral human resources who can excel not only in academia as outstanding researchers of international standard but also in various fields such as local governments and corporations.

In November 2024, the "INOCHI Research Institute" was established, originating from the "Toyo University Top Priority Research Program," an internal competitive funding initiative. This institute aims to promote research that seeks harmony among all forms of "life" based on the philosophy and thoughts of the university's founder, *Enryo Inoue*, and to contribute to the creation of an advanced future society by integrating and connecting various research fields. The participation of supported students in the "Toyo University Top Priority Research Program," which also has an aspect of fostering young researchers, is greatly anticipated.

2. Details of this Project

This Project has been adopted by the Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING) program of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and is implemented to reflect the purpose of the program.

https://www.jst.go.jp/jisedai/index.html

The particularly important point is the following actions taken to form a diverse career.:

(1) Fostering international-standard researchers

This Project aims to support the next generation of pioneering researchers based on philosophy education, which is the origin of the University, and to foster individuals who will become "pioneers with philosophy." It will provide various training content to develop the research competency (research literacy, internationality, people skills, researcher communication skills, influencing others/networking, and career development) required of international-standard researchers. This will enable researchers to acquire transferable skills (international awareness, language skills, negotiation skills, DX-readiness, understanding and knowledge of SDGs, contact with society, etc.) that will be useful throughout their future career.

(2) Cultivating cross-disciplinary skills

To seize opportunities to be active in the international community, it is advantageous to have multiple perspectives rather than being confined to one specialized field. To this end, this Project will train researchers with cross-disciplinary knowledge through guidance from faculty members of other graduate schools and participation in the Toyo University Top Priority Research Program https://www.toyo.ac.jp/contents/research/tprp/ (a program to promote advanced and original research that can become a brand of Toyo University), in addition to the existing academic fields of the graduate school to which the doctoral student eligible for support belongs. This research system also supports students who aim to obtain a double degree in two fields. The main research fields of the students to be supported are all those of the graduate schools of Toyo University.

3. Eligibility

Applicants must understand the purpose of this Project, have a strong desire to contribute to the realization of the purpose through their own activities, <u>include content that contributes to the realization of the SDGs in their own research or in the research for which they will receive additional guidance after acceptance</u>, and have the intention to continue to be involved in science, technology, and the creation of innovation in Japan after completing the doctoral program.
In addition, the applicant shall meet the following requirements.

(1) Applicants who are enrolled in the first, second and third (5th semester) year of the doctoral program in Spring 2026.

(2) Applicants must have a recommendation from their main academic supervisor on the doctoral program (For students to enroll in Spring 2026, a supervisor scheduled to be).

(3) If selected as a student eligible for this program, applicants must consult with their current main academic supervisor to decide on a co-supervisor from a faculty member of a graduate school, in Toyo University, other than their own, and obtain the informal consent of that faculty member.

(Students are required to receive guidance by at least 1 major academic supervisor and more than 2 co-supervisors (one of whom must be a faculty member of the student's own Course).)

(4) Applicants must have already taken or will take the APRIN e-learning course on research ethics conducted by the University by the end of April 2026, when payment of the research expenses will commence.

*Applicants who have not yet taken the course at the time of application will be contacted with information on how to take the course after they are selected.

Students who fall under the following categories on the support start date (April 1, 2026) are not eligible for support under this Project:

・Students who plan to take a leave of absence as of April 1, 2026.

・Students eligible for MEXT's "University Fellowship Creation Project for Innovation in Science and Technology"

・Students eligible for Next-generation AI Human Resource Development Program (Support for Doctoral Students)

・Research fellows of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

・Students who are receiving a sufficient level of scholarship for living expenses (2.4 million yen per year) (excluding loan-type scholarships).

・Applicants receiving a stable income of 2.4 million yen or more per year as living expenses from their university or company including salary, executive compensation, etc.

・International students who receive scholarships such as the *Monbukagakusho* Scholarship or other support from the Japanese government, or who receive other such support from the government of their home country. (It is possible to receive support under this Program together with a Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Scholarship.)

・Applicants who have received a scholarship or other financial support from an institution outside the University and who are not permitted to receive financial support other than that from the institution.

The applicant may be required to submit proof of income and other documents for the purpose of verifying eligibility.

4. Number of recipients

We are looking to hire around three students.

5. Selection period

Condition at start of support Years/Semesters	Support period (maximum)
1st year doctoral program, 1st semester	3 years (April 2026 - March 2029)
1st year doctoral program, 2nd semester (Fall 2025 admission)	2 years and 6 months (April 2026 – September 2028)
2nd year doctoral program, 3rd semester	2 years (April 2026 – March 2028)
2nd year doctoral program, 4th semester	1 years and 6 months (April 2026 – September 2027)
3rd year doctoral program, 5th semester	1 year (April 2026 – March 2027)

*The period of support is limited to the standard period of study. If a student is not enrolled in school due to a leave of absence after the start of support, support will be suspended for that period.

* The period of support will be notified along with the selection results.

6. Details of support (research stipend etc.)

Students eligible for support will receive 200,000 yen per month as a research stipend and 400,000 yen per year for research expenses in 2026. From 2027, the support content will change due to operational changes in this program system.

We will inform you of the details once it's been decided.

Notes:

Research stipend: 200,000 yen x 12 months = 2,400,000 yen, research expenses: 400,000 yen, total: 2,800,000 yen (2026)

*If the support period ends in the middle of an academic year, the amount paid will be reduced according to the support period of the academic year.

*The research stipend is treated as miscellaneous income under tax law, and is subject to income tax and inhabitant tax. Every year, each recipient is required to file his or her own tax return. In addition, since the treatment of dependents in terms of health insurance, dependent allowance, etc. is also relevant, please consult with your supporters (parents, etc.) in advance when applying for this Project.

*Research funds are managed by the University. In addition, research expenses are treated as public research expenses, and in principle follow the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) in terms of internal procedures. Specific procedures shall be in accordance with the Toyo University Guidelines for the Execution of Public Research Funds. However, the use of the funds may be determined separately to this Project.

*Research funds may be increased for publicly-offered research and overseas activities in this Project.

7. Obligations of students eligible for support

(1) Observe the guidelines for handling grants presented by JST.

(2) Observe the Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standards) and the Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research.

(3) Execute research expenses in accordance with the Toyo University Guidelines for the Execution of Public Research Funds and process them appropriately to ensure accountability. In addition, the student should make efforts toward systematic execution.

(4) Conduct research activities in compliance with the Toyo University Security Export Control Regulations in accordance with the Toyo University Security Export Control Guide (Security Export Control Procedures).

(5) Attend prescribed e-learning courses on research ethics, risk management, and other topics, and submit a certificate of completion, etc.

(6) Attend a compliance training session related to the Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standards) and submit a written pledge.

(7) Participate in the training content set out by this Project. In particular, participation in internships at companies and other organizations is strongly recommended.

(8) Conduct overseas activities planned by the student eligible for support and approved by Project supervision.

(9) Participate in prescribed research meetings, research symposiums, industry-government-academia collaboration events, etc.

(10) Register for Cooperative Education through Research Internships

(11) Submit a report of research results to the Project Management Committee at the end of each academic year.

(12) Cooperate in providing career information for a period of 10 years after the end of support.

(13) Include an acknowledgment of support from this Project when presenting research results obtained through this Project.

(14) Cooperate in publicity activities for this Project.

(15) Other matters deemed necessary by the University.

8. Cancellation of eligibility, etc.

(1) If the student loses his/her registration at the University due to withdrawal, etc., the research stipend etc. will be terminated.

(2) When the student is not enrolled in the University due to a leave of absence, the payment of the research stipend etc. will be suspended for the period of the absence.

(3) If the student is appointed as a JSPS Research Fellow during the period of Project support, his or her eligibility for this Project support will be cancelled. Those who are considering a career as a researcher should apply for the JSPS Research Fellow.

(4) If it is judged that the progression of research activities or the fulfillment of the obligations listed in 7. is inappropriate for a student eligible for support, if there is misconduct in research or misuse of research expenses, or if the student is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the graduate school regulations or other rules and regulations of the university, the provision of the research stipend etc. may be suspended and eligibility may be revoked.

(5) If the applicant is found to not meet qualifications, or to no longer meet qualifications after being selected, payment of the research stipend etc. will be suspended.

(6) If the applicant is found to be unsuitable for this Project, the research stipend etc. will be suspended.

(7) If an applicant receives a research stipend etc. despite not being eligible due to suspension or termination of the subsidy, the applicant shall return to the University the portion of the grant that he/she is not eligible to receive.

(8) In the event of cancellation of the eligibility, the applicant may be required to return all or part of the research stipend and research expenses.

9. Concurrent receipt of TA/RA, scholarships, etc.

Payment of the following in conjunction with this Project is allowed:

However, the maximum limit for receiving multiple merit-based scholarships is less than a total of 2.4 million yen per year.

(1) The following payments to the extent that they do not interfere with research, career development, and training content:
- Receipt of salary, etc. as compensation for TA, RA, etc.
- Part-time work (this may not be a stable income of more than 2.4 million yen/year, which is a condition for exclusion from the support in 3. Eligibility)
- Paid internships
- Conducting research funded by external research expenses

(2) Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Scholarship
  *Exclude students eligible for Exemption from Return for Particularly Outstanding Achievement.

(3) Toyo University Graduate School Scholarship

(4) Toyo University Graduate School Research Presentation Grant

(5) Toyo University Graduate School Doctoral Program Incentive Grant

(6) Toyo University Tuition Reduction Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

(7) Toyo University Alumni Association Grant

(8) Toyo University Alumni Association Encouragement Award

(9) *INOUE ENRYO* Memorial Research Grant

(10) Other scholarships that are allocated for tuition fees

10. Application procedure

(1) Application deadline: JST 12:00 Noon, 6th March (Fri), 2026 (strictly observed)

(2) Application documents (Japanese or English)

① Application form (complete the prescribed form (Google form))

② Statement of Purpose and Research Plan (prescribed form)

*Text should be written in 10.5 point font and should be no longer than three A4 pages.

Entries:

・Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this Project is to support free, pioneering, and interdisciplinary research unconstrained by existing frameworks. Please describe the researcher you are aiming to become, and outline your statement of purpose from the perspective of how you aim to take advantage of this Project and how you will work to achieve this goal.

・Overseas activity and internship plan

In this Project, applicants are asked to propose an activity plan on how they will develop their research as a pioneer with a philosophy. Describe in detail how you envision your research from an interdisciplinary and integrative perspective, including activities that contribute to society through your research outcomes, as well as internships, international activities, study abroad, or research activities abroad, keeping in mind your career after obtaining your degree.

・Research plan

・Describe the status of your research to date, the position of the research in relation to the SDGs, and the social implementation of your research.

・Describe the research purpose, method, and content (how research expenses will be used and how research will be developed) in the research plan.

・Touch on the characteristics and originality of your research (including a comparison with previous research, the expected impact of your research upon completion, future prospects, etc.)

・Describe how you would like to conduct your research from an interdisciplinary and integrative perspective in collaboration with the research of the faculty member who will provide you with additional guidance after selection and with the research of the Toyo University Top Priority Research Program.

・If you have any research achievements to date (papers, conference presentations, etc.), include them in the text and underline the achievements that you have

written or presented as an author.

・Provide a record of your competitive funding achievements, including those within the university (excluding this project). Clearly distinguish between the ones that have been accepted and those currently under application.

③ **Supervisor Recommendation** (prescribed form)

(3) Submission method

Please submit your application electronically using the prescribed form (Google form) below.

Fill out the necessary sections of the prescribed forms and upload (2) Statement of Purpose and Research Plan, and (3) Supervisor Recommendation as converted PDF files.

The file size of (2) Statement of Purpose and Research Plan, and (3) Supervisor Recommendation should not exceed 10 MB, and the format of the file name should be [Form name_graduate school name_applicant name.pdf].

(e.g., Statement of Purpose and Research Plan_Graduate School of Letters_Hanako Toyo.pdf)

Application submission form (Google form) => https://forms.gle/tiCX4dZYFqT5zsQU6

(You can also access the form using the QR code above)

11. Selection

(1) Selection method

Selection will be conducted in two stages: a written screening and an interview screening (scheduled in late March, 2026 via Google Meet), and judged comprehensively. Interview screening will be conducted for those who pass the written screening.

Each applicant will be given 15 minutes for the interview (strictly 10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions). In the interview screening, focus on the selection criteria, and prepare materials (about 2 PowerPoint slides) so that you can complete your explanation within the time limit, including: consistency between your research and the purpose of this Project, your career after obtaining your degree, contribution to society, and your appeal as a pioneering researcher, etc.

(If the application documents are submitted in English, the interview screening will also be conducted in English in principle.)

Selection process

・As a perspective by which to judge whether your research is pioneering, which is the main focus of this Project, we will examine whether it is <u>cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary rather than bound by the frameworks of existing academic fields</u>.

・Does the research plan include specific plans for <u>internships</u> and activities to return the results of research to society?

・Does the research plan include <u>international activities</u> (e.g., dissemination of research results in English, study or research activities abroad, or obtaining a <u>double degree</u> at a foreign university)?

・Is your career after obtaining your degree clear?

12. Inquiries

Education Affairs Section for Graduate Schools, Toyo University <u>mldaig@toyo.jp</u>

*Please submit inquiries by email.

*Please title the email "[Program for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation Researchers]."