

AY 2026

Application Guidelines

**JST Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation: SPRING
SU Capacity Building Project Towards a Sustainable Society (S-SPRING)**

○ Recruitment : Eligible Students (As of 1st April 2026)

Doctoral Course Students	Students who have been enrolled in the program for less than one year.
Doctoral Course Students of the Graduate School of Medical Research	Students who have been enrolled in the program for more than one year but less than two years.

- * The period of leave of absence shall not be included in the enrollment period.
- * Those who expect to have the result of admissions to the doctoral program, Shimane University on or after March 17, 2026 are not eligible.

February 2026

AY2026 Application Guidelines
SU Capacity Building Project Towards a Sustainable Society (S-SPRING)
Shimane University

1. Purpose

SU Capacity Building Project Towards a Sustainable Society (S-SPRING) (hereinafter referred to as “this project”) aims to resolve various issues of the region, Japan, and the world, and to foster doctoral students who will lead a future knowledge-based society towards the development of a sustainable society in Japan. This project provides financial support to such excellent students, and courses for them to acquire the skills required by companies, etc., thereby creating an environment in which they can devote themselves to their research without worrying about employment.

It also provides opportunities to enhance students’ research skills under the guidance of outstanding mentors in Japan and abroad, and to interact with doctoral students from different research fields, thereby encouraging the creation of interdisciplinary research and broad perspectives towards a sustainable society.

This project will be implemented by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (hereinafter referred to as "JST") SPRING "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation" and Shimane University.

2. Number of Successful Applicants

○ Recruitment : In ca. 1 student

3. Application Requirements

3-1) ○ Recruitment : Eligible Students (As of 1st April 2026)

Doctoral Course Students	Students who have been enrolled in the program for less than one year.
Doctoral Course Students of the Graduate School of Medical Research	Students who have been enrolled in the program for more than one year but less than two years.

* The period of leave of absence shall not be included in the enrollment period.

3-2) Those who understand the purpose of this project and cooperate with the activities of this project.

3-3) Those who are engaged in research related to the development of a sustainable society or are interested in such research.

3-4) Those who do not fall under any of the following as of April 1, 2026

- International students receiving scholarships from their home country or Japan including JSPS scholarships
- Those receiving financial support of JPY160,000 or more per month from any scholarship foundation.
- Those who are deemed to be receiving stable income (JPY2.4 million or more per year) from their university or company, such as a salary or executive remuneration, at a level sufficient to cover living expenses.

*Income from internship salaries/remuneration, RA/TA, part-time jobs, etc. is not included.

*Please note that if you are selected for this project, you will not be eligible for recommendation for the "Special Exemption System for Outstanding Achievements" of the first-class scholarship offered by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

- Those who have already applied for the FY2026 recruitment (limited to one application only).

4. Fellowship Grant (hereinafter referred to as the “Grant”)

Fellows receive the following grants:

1) Livelihood support grant: JPY150,000 per month

In principle, this is transferred to the individual’s account by the end of each month. As this grant is classified as miscellaneous income, a tax return application is required every year. International students may not be required to file a tax return by following tax treaty procedures.

2) Research grant:

From JPY 400,000 per year (For about 7 students).

From JPY 700,000 per year (For about 3 students)

The university manages research expenses. Expenditures shall be made in accordance with the university's accounting procedures and research projects.

Please note that for international students receiving support from the 2026 academic year onwards, the living support grant will only be provided for the 2026 academic year. It will not be provided from the 2027 academic year onwards.

The amounts of (2) research grant may be increased/decreased for the following year by the evaluation conducted at the end of the fiscal year.

5. Fellowship Period

○ Recruitment:

The fellowship period shall be within the standard term of study or until March 2028, whichever is shorter.

*The period may be shortened if you fall under any of the conditions specified in 10. Termination of Grant.

*If you are not residing in Japan when the support program begins, the support will start from the month after you begin residing in Japan after April 2026 (your nationality is not relevant).

6. Application Documents

1) Application (Form 1)

Please attach the your pledge.

2) Research outline (Form 2-A, 2-B, 2-C)

3) List of publications (Form 3)

Download the form here: https://www.shimane-u.ac.jp/education/school_info/dr_aid/

7. Application Procedure

To complete your application, please complete both steps (1) and (2) within the application period.

(1) Fill in the required information (name, affiliation, etc.) in the application form below and submit it.

(2) Create a single PDF file combining all application documents and send it to [dr-aid<AT>office.shimane-u.ac.jp] by email. *Please change <AT> to @

Application Period: From March 4th (Wed) to March 11th (Wed) 12:00 JST, 2026 (strict deadline)

Application Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/H2sqYMKeat>

Document Submission Address: [dr-aid<AT>office.shimane-u.ac.jp] *Please change <AT> to @

8. Screening and Result

1) Screening

All applicants will undergo a document screening process based on the submitted application materials, followed by an interview. Details of the interview are as follows:

1st screening: Forms described in '6. Application Documents' must be submitted following the instructions described in '7. Application Procedure'.

Screening scheduled dates: Either March 19th (Thu), 2026 or March 23th(Mon), 2026

(Specific dates will be announced separately) Platform for screening: Online (Zoom)

Presentation time: Total 11 minutes (6-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A session)

Presentation topics: Presentation based on the application forms 2-A, 2-B and 2-C

Deadline for presentation materials submission: March 17th (Tue), 2026, 12:00 PM (JST)

Submission destination: dr-aid<AT>office.shimane-u.ac.jp *Please change <AT> to @

Remarks: The Zoom URL for the interview and the specific interview schedule will be sent to the email address provided in the application documents by 18:00 JST on March 16th (Fri), 2026.

2) Screening policy

Evaluation items are as follows. Applicants will be evaluated based on individual factors.

i) Applicants must understand the purpose of this project and will be able to carry out active activities in

line with the purpose.

- ii) Applicants must have appropriate research targets to be completed within the standard period of study.
- iii) Applicants must have the potential ability to conduct joint research with leading research institutions and companies, including those overseas, or to conduct challenging research in interdisciplinary research areas.

3) Notification of result

All applicants will be notified of the results of the screening by 18:00 (JST) on March 26th (Thu) , 2026.

This project has been adopted by JST. To ensure transparency, information on the selected trainees (name, graduate school, etc.) will be posted on our university website.

9. Obligations of Fellow

Fellows must fulfill the following obligations.

- 1) Submission of a report on research for the academic year and a research activity plan for the following year and thereafter.
- 2) Interviews with mentors in a total of five times or more. Mentors are at least two mentors and more than two times a year with each mentor. The list of mentors is shown at the below URL. Additional mentors are acceptable.

List of mentors: https://www.shimane-u.ac.jp/intra/dr_aid/mentorlist_e.html (On-campus portal only)

3) Participation in career development and training

3-1) S-SPRING Camp and collaborative research among fellows (S-SPRING Camp: A two-or three-day camp for all fellows to acquire various skills such as presentation skills for people in other research fields and academic paper writing. First-year doctoral students from the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology and second-year doctoral students from the Graduate School of Medical Research will conduct collaborative research among fellows for about six months).

3-2) Corporate internship (60 hours or more) or job-based research internship (about 2 months).

- 4) Participation in at least one short-term study program or presentation at an overseas academic conference during the fellowship period (financial support provided up to JPY 500,000).
- 5) Taking lectures on sustainability science and SDGs (2 subjects)
- 6) Training on the use of public funds and participation in research ethics education designated by the university
- 7) Participation and voluntary management of the S-SPRING student activity (Shimane University Ikuseikai: SUI)
- 8) Cooperation with the survey after the fellowship period (Refer to "12. Obligation to cooperate with the survey after the fellowship period ends" below)
- 9) Other matters required by the University

10. Termination of Grant

Grant payments shall be terminated in the following cases.

- 1) Withdrawal, expulsion, or transfer from the University
- 2) Suspension from the University
- 3) Poor academic performance
- 4) Failure to report research results for every academic year
- 5) When the reason for not requiring the grant arises
- 6) When you come to meet any of the items listed at 3-4) of 3. Application Requirements.
- 7) When the fact that makes you unsuitable as a fellow is revealed.

11. Returning Grant

If a fellow receives the grant even though he/she is no longer eligible for a reason such as termination, he/she must return to the university the amount for which you are ineligible to receive.

12. Obligation to cooperate with the survey after the fellowship period ends.

This project is operated with the support by JST SPRING. Therefore, surveys may be conducted on participants' current employment status etc. for 10 years following the end of the fellowship.

Please be sure to inform the person in charge at the university of any changes in your contact address, place of employment, e-mail address, etc., as we may contact you even after the completion of your fellowship period.

13. Handling of Personal Information

The applicant's personal information shall be handled in the following ways.

Personal information on record in application documents (name, birthday, sex, etc.) will be used for matters related to screening, notification results, and fellow activities.

This program is supported by JST. In order to ensure transparency of the project, fellows name and their affiliation will be disclosed on the university website.

The university will also manage personal information for purposes related to the following: academic affairs of fellow (study guidance, improvement of curriculum, etc.), support (internship, etc.), and investigations and research (improvement of selection method, investigation and analysis of aspiration trends, etc.). This information shall not be used for other purposes or provided to anyone other than those involved in this project.

14. Contact Information

For inquiries about this project, contact the Research Promotion Division, Shimane University.

E-mail: [dr-aid<AT>office.shimane-u.ac.jp] *Please change <AT> to @