

**Advanced Human Resource Development Fellowship for Doctoral  
Students  
Q & A**

2021.4.30 (updated)

**Area of Specialization**

Q1-1. It states in the application guidelines that in order to be eligible, one must have "doctoral level education with the ability to create science and technology for the realization of a smart society based on the concept of cyber-physical-social systems". But since my field is completely different, am I eligible to apply?

A1-1. Yes. Students from all fields in all Schools and departments are eligible to apply. The focus is on motivation and the spirit of taking on challenges to create this " smart society" with originality, and applying characteristics of any fields of study without being bound by preconceived ideas.

Q1-2. What does a "super smart society" mean?

A1-2. In the 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan, a super smart society is defined as "one in which the various needs of people are met by providing necessary products and services to those who need them, when they need them, and as much as they need. It is a society in which all people can receive high-quality services and live a comfortable life, overcoming differences such as age, sex, region, or language," and aims to solve its social issues.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Q2-1. I received permission from the company I belong to and took unpaid leave and entered the doctoral program at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. Am I eligible to apply?

A2-1. No, unfortunately not. According to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, "those who have already earned a salary, wages, remuneration or other ordinary income and have stopped working"

are not eligible to apply.

Q2-2. Due to the transfer of my academic supervisor, I transferred from another university to the second year (equivalent) of a doctoral program at Tokyo Institute of Technology in April 2021. Am I eligible to apply?

A2-2. Since this fellowship project is intended for so-called "new students," you are not eligible to apply.

Q2-3. I entered in September 2020, and I am receiving the Tokyo Tech Tsubame Scholarship for Doctoral Students. Am I eligible to apply?

A2-3. Although you are eligible to apply, you cannot receive this fellowship in addition to the scholarship. So if you wish to receive this fellowship, you will be required to "decline" the receipt of the Tokyo Tech Tsubame Scholarship for Doctoral Students. If that is the case, you may wait until after the selection of fellowship students to do so.

Q2-4. I will enter university in April 2021 and have already received a *naitei* job offer as a scholarship recipient for the Tokyo Tech Tsubame Scholarship for Doctoral Students last year. Am I eligible to apply?

A2-4. As with A2-3, you will be required to "decline" the scholarship for the Tokyo Tech Tsubame Scholarship for Doctoral Students.

Q2-5. I am currently receiving a scholarship from a private funding organization. Am I eligible to apply?

A2-5. If the private funding organization for the scholarship you are receiving restricts you from receiving other scholarships, you are not eligible to apply for this fellowship.

However, some funding organizations do not limit the receipt of other scholarships, but it seems that some funding organizations provide reduced scholarships. In this case, you will be eligible to apply for this fellowship.

Please check the rules of the scholarship institutions such as funding organizations carefully.

Q2-6. I am receiving an honors scholarship. Am I eligible to apply?

A2-6. Yes. You may receive this fellowship together with an honors scholarship.

#### Research Dedication Support Funds

Q3-1. When is the transfer of research dedication support funds?

A3-1. The 21st of every month is the fixed payment date. However, if the fixed payment day falls on a holiday (Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday stipulated in the Law Concerning National Holidays (Law No. 178 of 1948)), it will be the day before the holiday.

In addition, please note that support funds for the number of months required until the review and decision of fellowship students will be paid together.

Q3-2. Is it prohibited to work part-time while receiving research dedication support funds as a fellowship student?

A3-2. This fellowship does not prevent students working part-time jobs, including research assistants (RA) and teaching assistants (TA), as stipulated in the Tokyo Institute of Technology Student Assistant Guidelines. However, based on the purpose of this fellowship project, please limit the amount of time spent on part-time work so that it does not affect your research activities.

Q3-3. I am planning to take a leave of absence for a certain period due to family circumstances. Will I be disqualified as a fellowship student?

A3-3. If you take a leave of absence for your own convenience, you will be disqualified. However, if it is found that it is difficult to continue research due to unavoidable circumstances such as childbirth, childcare, injury or illness, or long-term care, the payment may be suspended during the leave of absence and resumed after returning to the Institute.

Please consult with the Office for Advanced Human Resource Development

Fellowship for Doctoral Students in advance.

#### Research Funds

Q4-1. I am thinking of applying for a research grant from a foundation. If I become a grant recipient of this program, is it possible to continue receiving research funds from this fellowship?

A4-1. It is possible as long as the research grant system of the foundation does not prohibit you from receiving a scholarship at the same time.

Q4-2. How will research funds be distributed and how will they be managed?

A4-2. Currently, we are coordinating with related internal departments. We will inform the fellowship students and their academic supervisors as soon as the internal rules are decided.

#### Obligations of Fellowship Students

Q5-1. It is obligatory to apply for a Research Fellow (DC2) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), however as a result of applying, will the fellowship payment be discontinued if I am not hired as a research fellow?

A5-1. If you are not chosen as a research fellow, you can continue to receive the fellowship payment as a fellowship student.

On the other hand, if you are chosen as a research fellow, you will be asked to decline the fellowship because you are not able to receive more than one government fund at the same time.

Q5-2. When should I apply for the mandatory DC2 – Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science?

A5-2. Please apply for the DC2 soon after being accepted to the fellowship.

Q5-3. In regards to evaluation of progress, it says in the application guidelines, "Focus on research activities based on the research plan (research progress will be evaluated with reference to the research plan at the time of application)." How exactly will it be evaluated?

A5-3. Details will be announced after selection.

Q5-4. Regarding the educational and research performance reports regularly submitted to the committee, is there a specific format they need to be in and/or a fixed time during which they must be submitted?

A5-4. Details will be announced after selection.

Q5-5. It says in the guidelines that chosen fellows must "participate in the study groups and seminars designated by this fellowship". What kind of activities will these be?

A5-5: At the moment, we are considering the following three contents.

- Participate in a study group or seminar designated by your school at least once while you are a doctor.
- Participate in an academic presentation-related educational program designated by your school at least once while you are a doctor.
- Participate in a round-table conference with a young assistant professor of the Institute of Innovative Research Organization for Fundamental Research at least once while attending a doctoral course. (Under consideration)

Q5-6. It says in the guidelines to take a Progressive Graduate Minor in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence for the doctoral program. What exactly is this?

A5-6: It is assumed that you will take the " Data Science and Artificial Intelligence for the doctoral program ", which is scheduled to be expanded to 600 series courses, while you are a doctoral student.

Q5-7. What does "Hold study groups and seminars and make presentations for students in master's courses at least once a year " mean in the application guidelines?

A5-7: It is assumed that research introductions for students with a master's degree or lower will be conducted at study groups and seminars held in the laboratory, department, or course to which you belong at least once a year.

Q5-8. It says in the guidelines that chosen fellows must " Take the career path support education program designated by this project". What exactly is this?

A5-8: At the moment, we are assuming the following three contents.

- Participate in at least one of the Doctor's Career Forum, Dr's K-meet, and the Career Forum designated by the academy at least once while

attending the doctor's school.

- Participate in an internship-related educational program designated by your school
- Take one or more credits of either the 600-series career course or "Practical AI Data Science A to D" (career course).

Q5-9: It says "to receive regular interviews with mentors for research support and career path support". What is the specific content?

A5-9: It is assumed that interviews with the main and deputy academic advisor faculty members will be held at least twice a year.

Note: Please contact the following faculty members for more information about your school.

School of Sciences

Professor Masahiro Kuze  
kuze@phys.titech.ac.jp

School of Engineering

Professor Masahiro Yamaguchi  
yamaguchi.m.aa@m.titech.ac.jp

School of Materials and Chemical Technology

Professor Yoshitaka Kitamoto  
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School of Computing

Professor Yoshihiro Miyake  
miyake@c.titech.ac.jp

School of Life Science and Technology

Professor Takehiko Itoh  
takehiko@bio.titech.ac.jp

School of Environment and Society

Professor Manabu Kanda  
kanda.m.aa@m.titech.ac.jp

Other Matters

Q9-1. Is it okay to complete the application form for this fellowship in English?

A9-1. Yes. Applications will be accepted in both Japanese and English.

Q9-2. I would like to receive more detailed explanations about the obligations of fellowship students. Are there any plans for a briefing session for those who have become fellowship students?

A9-2. We are planning a briefing session, the details of which we will inform those who have become fellowship students.