

No.	Question	Answer
1	Could you please provide a breakdown of the 16 replacement positions? Are they allocated by grade level in advance, or does the number of candidates selected per grade level vary depending on the number of applications received?	The latter applies. There are a total of 16 replacement positions, and they are allocated proportionally based on the number of applicants.
2	I understand that the Post-SPRING program is not limited to Japanese nationals. In effect, Japanese doctoral students are at a disadvantage due to the University for International Research Excellence, so why haven't measures such as increasing the number of adoptions been taken?	As part of national policy, starting this academic year, JST SPRING will no longer provide living expenses to international students; only research funds will be available (with a transition period). Meanwhile, as our university has been designated as a University for International Research Excellence, enhancing internationalization—including at the graduate level—has become a key priority. Consequently, we are currently reviewing how international students will be handled under our university's own support system. Since the 2026 academic year is a transitional phase, we have decided to maintain operations at the same scale and in the same manner as before to minimize disruption.
3	If I am accepted into the Post-SPRING program this year, will I be eligible to receive support from both the Post-SPRING program and the University for International Research Excellence's doctoral student support system starting in the 2028 academic year, when the latter's support begins? Or will I be eligible for only one of them?	The Post-SPRING program for this academic year and the next will serve as a transitional measure from the JST SPRING program to our university's own support system. The full-scale doctoral student support system to be implemented from fiscal year 2028 onward is currently under review. Support for students accepted into the current Post-SPRING program will continue until the standard period of study is completed.
4	Can this be combined with a tuition waiver?	Yes, that is possible. You are also welcome to apply for a tuition waiver.
5	Can I apply for this program at the same time as the university-recommended scholarship?	You can generally apply for private scholarships recommended by the university at the same time as other scholarships. Even if the grant-based scholarship is for 2.4 million yen or less, the scholarship foundation or other organization may not allow concurrent receipt of funds. Therefore, even if the scholarship is recommended by the university, be sure to confirm in advance whether concurrent receipt is permitted. Please note that if you are awarded a university-recommended private scholarship that does not allow concurrent receipt, you will be required to accept the private scholarship first.
6	I plan to apply for a private scholarship worth over 2.4 million yen per year. Is it possible to apply for both scholarships simultaneously? (If I am selected for the SPRING scholarship after applying for both, I plan to decline the private scholarship. I have confirmed that the private scholarship I intend to apply for allows for simultaneous applications.) Also, around when are SPRING selections typically announced each year? What is the typical competition ratio for filling replacement positions each year?	If you are selected for the SPRING program and decide to decline the scholarship you applied for directly, please inform the relevant party of your decision, accompanied by a polite expression of gratitude. Notification of selection for the SPRING program is expected in mid- to late June. Payment will be made sometime between July and August, retroactive to April. The number of replacements will vary slightly, but is generally several times the number of positions filled.
7	What are the typical number of applicants and acceptance rate for the SPRING program each year?	Although there are fluctuations, it's generally around double.
8	If there are no issues, could you please provide a breakdown of the new adoptions last spring?	The number of accepted applicants is higher in the dental sciences, in proportion to the number of applicants, while the numbers are slightly lower in the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering, Health Care Sciences. International students account for a certain percentage of the total.
9	Have you adopted anyone who didn't have any significant work experience in the past?	Yes. First-year students who have not completed a master's program may not have any research experience. In the past, there have been cases where applicants with very few research achievements were adopted because they compensated for this in other areas.

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10	Could you please tell me about the research supervisor?	The official supervisor refers to the formal, administrative supervisor listed on your admission documents when you enter graduate school. The actual supervisor is the department head of the laboratory where your primary research will take place. To be specific, if you enter a graduate program in surgery but wish to conduct specialized research on tumor cells—which cannot be done within the surgery department—your official supervisor would be the professor (department head) in the surgery department, while your actual supervisor would be the professor (department head) in the basic science laboratory where the research is conducted. For the purposes of managing research funds, the supervisor must be a department head within this university.
11	Is it okay if the research advisor isn't the department head?	Please list the research supervisor as the department head. For example, if the position of professor (department head) is currently under review, please note this in the "Special Notes" section. This will not put you at a disadvantage.
12	If I am a student in a partner graduate school program and receive regular research guidance from the department head, is it acceptable for the department head to provide the supervisor's comments?	If you are affiliated with a partner graduate school, please generally request the supervisor's comments from a professor (department head) at the partner graduate school. If a faculty member of the partner graduate school runs an independent laboratory within a large research institute, that individual may also provide the comments. However, for the management of research funds, please identify a department head from another department within our university.
13	Does the JASSO loan-based scholarship count as part of my irregular income?	Loan-based scholarships are not counted as income. Please indicate that you receive a scholarship.
14	I understand that applications are accepted for both BOOST and Post-SPRING, but are PhD students in an AI lab who are aiming for Post-SPRING only eligible to apply for Post-SPRING?	Post-SPRING is intended for new applicants or those seeking to replace an existing position. Since BOOST provides funding for three years to new recipients, applicants in the medical and dental sciences may apply only during their second year, while those in the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering, Health Care Sciences may apply only during their first year.
15	I am a first-year doctoral student who started this year. Do you plan to accept applications for BOOST next year?	Since BOOST is a three-year program, we will no longer be accepting new applicants after the 2026 academic year. Plans for the following academic year and beyond are undecided.
16	Is it incorrect to understand that the Medical and Dental Sciences BOOST grant is applied for and adopted in D1, and then received in D2?	For students in the Medical and Dental Sciences, eligibility for the Medical and Dental Sciences BOOST program begins in the second year. Students must apply during their second year of the four-year program, and funding is provided from the second through the fourth year. For students in the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering and for Health Care Sciences, eligibility begins in the first year (or third year for the five-year integrated program).
17	I understand that the quotas are allocated by science, such as medicine and dentistry, but if there is a quota for only one person, will that person be selected? Or will the quota simply be eliminated?	If there are zero or only one applicant for a minor quota, the selection committee will, following deliberation, combine the quotas and determine the successful candidate. Please note that we use the Adams method rather than the D'Hondt method for the proportional allocation of positions.
18	Can international students apply? Is there a monthly living allowance?	At least for this year's recruitment, international students are eligible to apply, just as they were last year. Monthly living allowance subsidies are also available. However, plans for next year and beyond are completely up in the air; nothing has been decided yet.
19	Will there be any changes to Post-SPRING next year?	The details of the Post-SPRING program have been finalized only for this academic year. Details for next fiscal year and beyond have not yet been determined.
20	Does the scholarship have the equality between the Japanese students and international students during selection?	We do not discriminate between international students and Japanese students during the screening process; the selection process is conducted fairly.

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21	If a self-funded international student applies to BOOST, are they eligible to receive a living allowance?	Under this year's BOOST program, the support provided is the same for both Japanese students and international students, so you are eligible to receive the living allowance.
22	Are the selection committees for Post-SPRING and BOOST composed entirely of faculty members from within the university?	For both Post-SPRING and BOOST, the selection committees are composed of faculty members from various departments within the university as well as faculty members from outside the university.
23	May I ask who the judges are?	That information is not being disclosed.
24	For alumni of this university, is the admission decision based solely on GPA, regardless of the entrance exam?	Our university offers a variety of admission systems (some of which do not rank applicants), and while decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, we do not disclose specific selection criteria or methods.
25	What exactly does "diversity in evaluation" refer to?	We do not disclose specific details regarding diversity. However, gender balance is a factor we take into consideration, and it is discussed during deliberations by the selection committee.
26	I understand that for external applicants, entrance exam rankings are also taken into account—but are they given more weight than research achievements?	We do not disclose the scoring criteria (weighting).
27	Is it possible for multiple people from the same lab to be selected?	Yes, it is. We do not adjust the number of hires based on the lab.
28	I believe that real estate income is unstable due to the risk of vacancies. Is that a problem?	Real estate income, such as that from apartment management, is classified as a stable source of income.
29	Part-time work is generally considered to provide an unstable income, but if I am selected for the SPRING program, would I need to file any special tax returns in the unlikely event that my part-time income exceeds 2.4 million yen?	While you are adopted as SPRING, your irregular income may exceed 2.4 million yen. However, please be sure to file your tax return. On the other hand, if you have a stable annual income exceeding 2.4 million yen (e.g., as a staff physician at this university), you must declare it.
30	I'm a first-year doctoral student who started this year. Is BOOST scheduled to accept applications again next year?	Since BOOST is a three-year program, we will no longer be accepting new applicants after the 2026 academic year. Plans for the following academic year and beyond are undecided.
31	Are scores not disclosed after the after the admission decision has been made?	We do not disclose the details of the selection process, including the scoring criteria.
32	Which of all the performance metrics is the most important?	We do not disclose the details of our selection process. We evaluate candidates from a variety of perspectives.
33	Is this competition within our department, or is it university-wide?	This admission is limited to the Medical and Dental Sciences, which was formerly Tokyo Medical and Dental University. Quotas will be set by department and year, and the number of available spots will be determined in proportion to the number of applicants.
34	I was told that if I change my research topic while enrolled, I need to submit an application. Should I submit the application when I submit my annual report, or when I begin working on the new topic?	Please let us know as soon as you decide to change the title of your research project.
35	Have you ever taken measures such as suspending benefits for one year for students who take a leave of absence due to pregnancy or childbirth? Do you plan to implement such measures in the future?	If you take a leave of absence, your benefits will be suspended. They will resume once you return to the university. There are several such cases.
36	Due to the retirement of my research supervisor, the supervisor listed at the time of my admission has changed. In that case, is it acceptable to simply list the name of my current research supervisor instead of the one listed at the time of admission?	Please list your current research supervisor (department head). If you are unsure, please note this in the "Remarks" section and let the administrative office know.
37	Are applications reviewed in color?	Yes, in color is fine.
38	I have a question about applying for a replacement position. When applying, should I mention somewhere, for example, that I have already taken a one-year leave of absence and explain the reason for it?	There are many possible reasons for taking a leave of absence. Please include your reason in the "Remarks" or "Self-Appeal" section, etc.
39	Is there a specific order in which the student application form and the supervisor confirmation form must be submitted?	It doesn't matter which comes first.

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40	If I have a presentation scheduled for an academic conference, can I include it in my Research Achievement Report? Or should I only include presentations that have already taken place?	As noted in the guidelines, please list only conference presentations that have been officially accepted. Do not include presentations for which you have not yet submitted an application or received a notification of acceptance. For paper presentations, you may list "accepted" or "in press". Do not list "under revision (including minor revisions)" or "in preparation". However, preprints published without peer review, such as those on bioRxiv, may be listed separately.
41	How are papers Under Review treated?	These will not be counted as research achievements. However, papers published on preprint servers such as bioRxiv may be listed separately. Additionally, you may mention papers Under Review in your Research Plan or Self-Appeal.
42	If I want to submit my experience of having written a book as part of my portfolio, would it be sufficient to provide the cover, the sections I was responsible for, and the publication date— basically, the minimum information available? Would it be acceptable to include just the first page of the book, similar to how one would submit a research paper?	As long as the review committee can verify the status of your writing, there is no problem. You do not need to limit yourself to one page. Please submit documents such as the book cover or any other materials that clearly show the applicant's name and the publication date.
43	When it comes to Self-Appeal, are activities that aren't directly related to research not taken into account?	While it ultimately depends on the judges' discretion, we ask that you describe research or academic activities appropriate for the Post-SPRING program. For example, community cleanup activities or volunteer work will not be considered for evaluation.
44	Is there any disadvantage to submitting the entire paper?	While attaching all available materials will not immediately put you at a disadvantage, please keep in mind the effort required of the review committee. To avoid creating a negative impression, please take the time to learn how to prepare application materials that are neither excessive nor insufficient, and submit them after careful consideration.
45	Sometimes my publications are listed under my maiden name. In that case, should I simply write "Maiden name: ○△" in the name field of the Word file for the "Research Plan"? Or should I include my maiden name in some form within the PDF file containing the publications?	For example, please use a hyphen to connect the names, such as "Suzuki-Tanaka," so that they are clearly distinguishable. It would also be helpful if you could include your maiden name in the file name.
46	A colleague of mine mentioned that last year, after submitting the required documents, they felt uneasy because applicants were unable to confirm whether the materials had actually been reflected/uploaded on Box. Is there a system that allows applicants to verify, after submission, whether their documents have been received and are complete (not referring to the confirmation email sent after submitting the form)?	Please keep a record of the submission, such as a screenshot of the confirmation screen, as this is your responsibility. As a general rule, we do not respond to inquiries regarding the status of submissions at our service counter.
47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a second-year doctoral student applies to both BOOST and Post-SPRING, will they be at a disadvantage compared to someone who applies to only one? • Although BOOST and Post-SPRING use the same application form, I believe the former is specifically focused on AI research. For students whose research topics cover a wide range of fields, I feel it would be better to tailor the research plan to AI-specific content for BOOST, and to cover the overall scope of the research for Post-SPRING. If I must apply for both programs simultaneously using a single form, what approach should I take when writing the proposal? • Do more recent research achievements receive a higher rating? (For example, if a paper was published six months ago and another two years ago, and they are in the same language, would the more recent one be rated higher?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will not work against you. Each application is reviewed independently. • Since applications are already open for this round, please use the same form to submit your research plan and self-appeal for both opportunities. We will take your feedback into consideration for future reference. • Research achievements from within the past five years will be treated as equivalent.

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48	If you have assigned different weights to each section—such as achievements or self-appeal—please let us know that you have done so and the specific weightings.	The evaluation criteria (including the weighting of each item) have been formally approved by the selection committee and the steering committee of this program, and the selection process is conducted fairly. Please note that the evaluation criteria are not made public.
49	One of the selection criteria mentioned “international scope.” If my research can only be conducted within Japan, will it be considered as lacking international research activities, resulting in a lower evaluation of its international scope? Is there any consideration given to evaluating international scope based on the research’s broader impact?	One of the evaluation criteria for research proposals is internationality. This is because the JST SPRING program places a strong emphasis on internationality, and this emphasis remains even after receiving designation as a University for International Research Excellence. Please note, however, that internationality is not the sole criterion for evaluation; therefore, if your research plan is expected to have international impact, please be sure to highlight this in your Self-Appeal.
50	If I don’t have any research achievements, do I need to submit that document?	If you do not have a research record, you do not need to submit supporting documents such as a notification of acceptance. However, please be sure to submit the application form.
51	Do the income requirements include not only the applicant’s income but also the annual income of the head of the household?	Only the applicant’s annual income is included; family members’ income is not included. Also, please note that this refers to gross annual income (before tax deductions), not net income (after tax deductions).
52	I have a question regarding the section “Master’s degree course”. I am currently in my fifth year of a five-year integrated doctoral program in the Health Care Sciences. Which option should I select in this case?	For a five-year integrated graduate program, please assume that students have completed the master’s program.
53	In the role selection section of Form A, in what specific situations does the option “Equal contributor” apply?	The term “Equal contributor” refers to an author who is explicitly designated as an “equally corresponding author” in a paper. This means that the contributions of the first and second authors are considered equal, and they are therefore regarded as equal contributors.
54	When submitting an application, where should I submit the supervisor’s recommendation and comments?	Please have them fill out the Forms intended for research supervisors, as specified in the application guidelines.
55	Can the research title be changed at a later date?	First, please ensure that the research title is appropriate for your research plan—neither too broad nor too narrow. It is generally better to leave some flexibility in the title rather than making it too specific. However, if the title becomes unsuitable as your research progresses (for example, if you switch from animal experiments to human clinical trials), please submit a request to change the title as soon as possible.
56	It says that GPA will be evaluated, but do graduate students from other universities need to submit their undergraduate transcripts, diplomas, and other documents?	Not everyone needs to request their GPA or admission rankings. Academic transcripts and graduation certificates are also not required.
57	The limit is 10 publications for each category, but which is more highly regarded: Japanese publications where I am the first author, or English publications where I am a co-author? Should I prioritize the most recent ones?	We do not disclose the specific breakdown of the evaluation criteria. Furthermore, there is no system in place that places greater weight on recent performance.
58	If I have several research papers, which ones should I prioritize for submission? Should I focus on those with a high impact factor?	We do not disclose the specific weighting of evaluation criteria. There is no section for listing your impact factor. However, you are welcome to include your IF in your self-appeal.
59	Earlier, it was explained that I should fill in the remarks section if I have given birth or am raising children, but does this apply if I take a leave of absence? Will my situation be taken into consideration if I am raising children?	Please provide as much detail as possible regarding the reason for your leave of absence. This will allow the review committee to determine whether there are any circumstances that warrant consideration, such as life events. Even if you have not taken a leave of absence but have circumstances that warrant consideration, you may mention them in the remarks section or in your personal statement. While there are no explicit criteria for such consideration, this information may serve as a basis for the review committee’s overall assessment.

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60	I don't think I can include achievements from more than five years ago in my Excel spreadsheet, but would it be okay to include them in my self-appeal? (e.g., research publications)	Even if your achievements date back more than five years, it is perfectly acceptable to include them in your self-appeal.
61	If I have multiple papers or conference presentations, should I combine them into a single PDF?	If you have multiple publications, please do not combine them into a single PDF file. It would be easier for the review committee to review them and would leave a better impression if you save them as separate files named "Paper 1" and "Paper 2."
62	I serve as a reviewer (evaluating and assessing others' work) as part of my research activities. Does this count as a research achievement?	For the purpose of evaluating research capabilities, experience in peer-reviewing others' research findings does not count as research output.
63	An abstract of my presentation at an international conference has been published in an international academic journal. Should I include this in the "Presentations" section?	If the applicant's department of research has a culture where research findings should be published as original papers before or after being presented at international conferences (as is the case in most life sciences departments), please do not count the abstract of the conference presentation as a published paper, even if it appears in an academic journal. Only in very exceptional cases—such as certain engineering departments where the conference presentation is considered the final form, the review process is extremely rigorous, and there is a culture of not publishing separate original papers—may you include it in the "Original article" section (please include a note to that effect).
64	Is it acceptable to include figures, charts, and mathematical formulas in the research plan? Also, from the perspective of the reviewers, is the use of figures, charts, and mathematical formulas recommended?	That's fine. Please make good use of color charts and formulas to present your ideas effectively. However, please be careful not to make the file size too large.
65	Would receiving a grant from a private scholarship foundation during my master's program count as a point in my favor when promoting myself?	If the scholarship is awarded based on competitive evaluation of academic performance and other criteria, you may include it in your self-appeal. However, if it is awarded based on financial need, it would be difficult to include it in your self-appeal.
66	Would mentioning upcoming conference presentations in the "Self-Appeal" section be a disadvantage?	Please include any conference presentations that have been officially confirmed in your list of achievements. If a presentation has not been officially confirmed and is merely a tentative plan or verbal agreement, it is unclear how this will be perceived by the review committee. Please consult with your supervisor.
67	I plan to present at a conference this September. Will this count as a research achievement? If so, what kind of documentation should I submit (e.g., the email confirming my abstract acceptance)?	If you have a scheduled conference presentation in September and have received an email confirming your abstract submission or notifying you of the presentation date, please attach it. Mere intentions or verbal agreements do not count as research achievements.
68	Is it acceptable to include papers that are "Under review" even if I am a co-author?	Papers under review cannot be listed as research achievements. However, you may mention them in your self-appeal.
69	If there are multiple conference presentations, is it correct to assume that English is prioritized over Japanese, the first author is prioritized over non-first authors, and oral presentations are prioritized over poster presentations?	We do not disclose the point allocation (weighting) for each item.
70	Does a master's thesis count as a research achievement?	Theses and dissertations, which are required as part of your academic curriculum, do not count as research achievements. Additionally, please avoid listing awards or honors received at internal university or laboratory events. Please consult with your supervisor and compile a list of achievements within reasonable limits.
71	The journal I contributed to will be published at the end of April, so I won't be able to meet the deadline on the 21st. Can this still be counted toward my academic record? If so, what should I submit? Would a draft of the pages scheduled for publication be acceptable?	If the publication is in the "in press" stage at the time of application, please include it in your list of publications. Please attach documentation showing the journal title, article title, author names, and publication date.
72	In academic presentations, is there a difference in ratings between the second and third presentations?	For conference presentations, we do not distinguish between co-authors in terms of order of authorship.

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73	In the “Others” section (④) of the file for listing research achievements, there is a section for listing past awards and honors. I understand that awards received within the university and qualifications obtained are not included, but does this also apply to awards such as being elected as a student representative?	You may include awards and honors that you can confidently list on your resume, such as those received as a university valedictorian. However, please do not list awards or honors received at closed events or seminars within the university—such as those related to classes or research labs—or academic achievements that are expected as part of your academic background, such as undergraduate or master’s theses, degrees, or certifications.
74	I plan to present a poster at an upcoming conference and have already received notification of acceptance, but I haven’t received the abstract yet. In that case, what can I cite as proof of my achievement?	This is an email regarding your acceptance notification. Please send us a PDF of the relevant sections—such as the presentation title, your name, the date, and the conference name—that serve as proof. The abstract is not required.
75	If I have received awards at academic conferences, do I need to submit supporting documentation?	Yes, please attach the supporting documents.
76	I understand that admission rankings will be taken into account, but do you know what the approximate TOEFL scores and other criteria were for last year?	We don't know their TOEFL scores or anything like that.
77	We will be asking your research supervisor to provide “comments on the applicant's research activities.” If there are any guidelines regarding the length of the text, we would appreciate it if you could let us know.	We have not set recommended word count. Please note that the maximum character limit is 4,000 characters.
78	When listing research achievements, which should be given priority: co-authored papers presented at academic conferences or research meetings, or first-author presentations at seminars? Also, if the former is in English and the latter is in Japanese, does the order of priority change?	We do not disclose the weighting of the criteria. Please consider for yourself which factors best assess an applicant’s ability to conduct research.
79	Is it correct to understand that the most important factor is the track record of publishing papers in international journals? Also, is the quality of the journals in which the papers were published taken into consideration?	Details of the evaluation are not disclosed. While there is no field for indicating the impact factor, the reviewers may consider the quality of the journal when making their decision.