

**THERS Make New Standards Program
for the Next Generation Researchers
Application Guidelines
(for Gifu University students)
(Additional Recruitment)**

Qualified Enrollment Year

Recruitment for 3rd year students in Doctoral Course

(or 4th year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences)

Doctoral Course	Applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 3 rd year (or 25 th month) from their enrollment in April or October 2024
Graduate School of Medicine Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences	Applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 4 th year (or 37 th month) from their enrollment in April or October 2024

Recruitment for 2nd year students in Doctoral Course

(or 3rd year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences)

Doctoral Course	Applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 2 nd year (or 13 th month) from their enrollment in April or October 2024
Graduate School of Medicine Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences	Applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 3 rd year (or 25 th month) from their enrollment in April or October 2024

*Total enrollment periods are the periods excluding the period of academic leave.

*For details other than the above, refer to 4. Application Qualifications.

*This Program will be implemented as a successor program to follow on from THERS Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher Program.

As of the launch of the recruitment, the University is in the process of submitting a program application to the Japan Science Technology Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JST”). For this reason, the content of the application guidelines may change significantly depending on the result of the application to JST.

February 2024

THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers

Application Guidelines (Additional Recruitment)

【Recruitment for 3rd year students in Doctoral Course (or 4th year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences)/

Recruitment for 2nd year students in Doctoral Course (or 3rd year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences)】

1. Purpose

THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers (hereinafter referred to as the "Program") aims to develop doctoral human resources who will contribute to future society in various ways, such as taking leading roles in a knowledge-based society or resolving the issues facing the world and Japan. PhD students are already at the forefront of research and supporting the foundation for research at the University. The Program will provide financial support to such excellent students and thereby provide them with an environment in which they can devote themselves to their research. In addition, by providing various activities to help them acquire the skills required by companies, etc., and by providing opportunities to interact with graduates of Leading graduate schools and WISE program graduates who serve as role models, the Program seeks to dispel anxiety about employment, etc., and encourage participants to contribute to society by designing their own careers.

What's more, by interacting with PhD students with different specialties, overseas researchers, mentors with different values, etc., the participants will gain a multi-faceted perspective, expand their human networks, and encourage the development of new research based on original ideas and creation and progress of interdisciplinary research.

The students selected for this Program are to be called "RESEARDENTS" (RESEARcher + stuDENT) because they are both students and researchers. RESEARDENTS are expected to have the humble attitude of a student toward learning, while also possessing a sense of awareness and pride as a professional researcher.

There are also doctoral programs such as the WISE Program (in principle, a five-year integrated program that integrates master and doctoral programs) that conform to the above objectives. Experience of such programs will be established as one of the assessment criteria for the Program,

and selection will be carried out accordingly.

2. Fields Open to Applications (7 fields)

There are 7 fields. Each field has its own vision for the human resources it wishes to develop (See Appendix 1)

I: Accelerating Social Innovation Studies, II : Chem-Bio Integrated Studies

III: Informatics, Bio and Life Science Integrated Studies, IV: Lifestyle Revolution based on Transdisciplinary Studies, V : Creating the Future of Asia and Pan Pacific, VI: Glocal Problem Solving Studies, VII: Multi-disciplinary Fundamental Studies

Points to Note

- You can apply for any field regardless of your graduate school or major.
- Select one field and apply. (You can apply only one field.)

3. Number of applicants to be recruited.

The overall number of successful applicants will be determined after JST officially adopts the Program. (We plan to post the number on the website of the Doctoral Education Consortium around mid-March).

4. Application Qualifications

Applicants to the Program must be persons who meet (1) and (2) below (including international students).

Recruitment for 3rd year students in Doctoral Course

(or 4th year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences)

Doctoral Course Students

Applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 3rd year (or 25th month) from their enrollment in April or October 2024

Graduate School of Medicine and Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences Medicine Students

Applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 4th year (or 37th month) from their enrollment in April or October 2024

Recruitment for 2nd year students in Doctoral Course
(or 3rd year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences)

○ **Doctoral Course Students**

Applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 2nd year (or 13th month) from their enrollment in April or October 2024

○ **Graduate School of Medicine and Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences Medicine Students**

Applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 3rd year (or 25th month) from their enrollment in April or October 2024

(1) Enrollment Required

Recruitment for 3rd year students in Doctoral Course
(or 4th year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences)

Doctoral Course Students: applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 3rd year (or 25th month) (or 4th year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences) from their enrollment in April or October 2024.

Recruitment for 2nd year students in Doctoral Course
(or 3rd year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences)

Doctoral Course Students: applicants whose total enrollment periods will become 2nd year (or 13th month) (or 3rd year in the Graduate School of Medicine and the Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences) from their enrollment in April or October 2024

【Note to students who took a leave of absence during the Doctoral Course】

Students who are on leave from the doctoral program in medicine must undergo a separate eligibility review. Please submit "Application for Application Eligibility Screening (Form A)" by the end of the application information registration period.

The following are examples of cases in which applications to the recruitments would be accepted in general:

- Leave of absence due to life events (childbirth, childcare, injury or illness, etc.)
- Leave of absence due to research or other reasons that will broaden the scope of

applicants' activities

- Leave of absence due to other unavoidable reasons

(2) An individual who meets any of the following at the time of admission to the Doctoral Course may not apply for this Program.

- (i) A student who is deemed to be receiving stable income from their university or company, such as a salary or executive remuneration, at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (approximately 2.4 million yen/year)
- (ii) International student receiving the MEXT Scholarship
- (iii) International student receiving scholarships from their home country
- (iv) An individual in the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science's Research Fellowship for Young Scientists

*If you are offered a position in a project (ii) to (iv) above, you must withdraw from this Program

*Among the students mentioned above, those who wish to apply for this Program due to special circumstances should inquire with the Student Affairs Division, Student Affairs Department, Gifu University before the application information registration deadline.

Points to Note

- If you plan to receive support from other organizations during the support period of the Program, check with the office of the scholarship or the Student Affairs Division, Student Affairs Department, Gifu University whether or not you can receive both.

5. RESEARDENT Grant (hereinafter referred to as the "Grant")

RESEARDENTs receive the following financial grants:

- (1) Research support grant: ¥180,000 per month

In principle, the grant is transferred to the individual's account by the end of each month. As this income is classified as miscellaneous income, a tax return* is required every year.

*International students may not be required to file a tax return by following tax treaty procedures.

- (2) Research expenses ¥250,000 annually

The University manages research expenses. Expenditures will be made in accordance with the University's accounting procedures and the student's research projects.

*Both (1) research support grant and (2) research expenses may be increased as a result of a separate evaluation. AY 2024 research expenses may be increased based on the application documents you submit this time (PS RESEARDENTs).

<PS RESEARDENTS>

In this Program, “PS RESEARDENT” is defined as a RESEARDENT who conducts pioneering studies and promotes free, challenging, and interdisciplinary research that is independent of existing frameworks. PS RESEARDENTS not only possess basic research skills, but also autonomy as a student, the ability to make proposals, and the ability to collaborate with others. They are selected annually based on applications for collaborative research with leading domestic and international research institutions and companies and/or interdisciplinary research. Students who are selected as PS RESEARDENTS receive an increase in research expenses for the academic year. See Appendix 2 for details.

6. Tuition fee exemptions

In addition to receiving "5. Grant," exemptions are given for part of RESEARDENTS' tuition fees. (AY2023; 60,000 JPY exemptions per semester, 120,000 JPY exemptions per year, the amount of exemptions may vary depending on the academic year.) In addition to the above, THERS has a separate tuition fee exemption system, and students are encouraged to make active efforts to apply to this too. See Appendix 3 for details.

7. Payment period

The grant payment period is three years maximum (four years maximum for doctoral course in medicine.) However, the payment period may be shortened if the payment suspension/stoppage requirement is met.

8. Application documents

- (1) THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers Application (Form 1)
- (2) Research Outline (Form 2)
- (3) Academic Advisor Evaluation (Form 3)

9. Application process

Please follow a separate document "A Guide to Application to THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers" to apply for the recruitment. Please note that we will not accept applications under any circumstances after the deadline of the application information registration period. Students who meet the conditions of "4.

Application Qualification" but wish to apply for this recruitment must follow the procedure outlined in the guide by the end of the application information registration period to undergo a separate eligibility review.

Application Information Registration Period: from February 28 (Wed) to 14:00, March 8 (Fri) 2024

Upload Application Document Period: from March 15 (Fri) to 14:00, April 2 (Tue) 2024

10. Screening and results

(1) Screening

The screening will be basically conducted based on the application documents mentioned in 8. (1) – (4). There is a possibility we will conduct a 2nd screening (online interview screening). The dates of the 2nd screening will be announced on the homepage of Gifu University around early March.

(2) Screening policy

Evaluation items are as follows and will be evaluated based on individual factors. Refer to the Appendix 1 for the screening criteria for each field. Please note that faculty with different specialties from the applicant's will be involved in the review process. Please use easy-to-understand contents and expressions that can be understood by non-specialist faculty.

- (i) Applicants have the ability to conduct joint research with leading research institutions and companies, including those overseas, or to conduct challenging research in interdisciplinary research areas.
- (ii) Applicants must be sufficiently expected to become capable doctoral human resources in the future.
- (iii) Applicants must bring unique research methods, and research targets must be set appropriately within the standard period of study.
- (iv) Applicants must be clearly aware of their career path after obtaining their doctorate and demonstrate the ability to cultivate the capabilities needed **within** the standard period of study.
- (v) Standard to be set in each field (Appendix 1)

(3) Notification of results

Successful candidates will be notified as follows.

Notification of results: Friday, June 28

*We will notice provisional acceptance late May or early June.

○ Notification methods

Notification via the email address registered at the time of application.

11. Obligations of RESEARDENT

As recipients of financial grants, RESEARDENTs assume the following obligations.

- (1) Submission of a research activity plan for the following year and thereafter.
- (2) Application for the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science's Research Fellowship for Young Scientists
- (3) Conducting mandatory activities mentioned in Appendix 4.
- (4) Achievement of the requirements of QE1 and QE2 mentioned in Appendix 4.
- (5) Training on the use of public funds and participation in research ethics education designated by the University.
- (6) Registration in Cooperative Education through Research Internships
- (7) Cooperation with inquiries after the RESEARDENT period. (Registration in JGRAD)
- (8) Other matters required by the University.

12. Termination of grant payments (Termination of the authorization as RESEARDENT)

Grant payments will be terminated if any of the following apply.

- (1) Withdrawal, expulsion, or transfer from the University.
- (2) Suspension from the University.
- (3) Poor academic performance.
- (4) Failure to conduct any of 11. Obligations of RESEARDENT without legitimate reasons
- (5) Existence of a reason why grant payments are deemed no longer necessary.
- (6) Any of Application qualification 4. (2) (i) – (iv) conditions is met.
- (7) Existence of facts other than (1) – (6) that are inappropriate for a RESEARDENT.

13. Suspension of grant payments

When taking a leave of absence during the support period, qualifications will be suspended.

Depending on the reason for the leave of absence, support may be extended even after the support

period has ended.

14. Returning grant funds

If there are grant funds that were received despite the individual being unqualified, the portion of the funds paid that the individual is not eligible to receive must be returned to the University.

15. Obligation to cooperate with inquiries after the support ends.

This Program is operated with assistance from JST's Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING). Therefore, surveys may be conducted on participants' current employment status etc. for 10 years following the end of the Program. The RESEARDENT's name, graduate school, period of support, research theme, and contact information (e-mail address) will be provided to JST.

In addition, University may contact after the support ends. If your address, place of employment, email address, and so on has changed, be sure to contact to the Student Affairs Division, Student Affairs Department, Gifu University.

16. Obligation to cooperate with efforts to improve the quality of doctoral education at Gifu University

After the support by this Program is completed, you are invited to take part in various events organized by the University as role models. You are expected to contribute to improvements of the quality of doctoral education at the University by cooperating in exchange activities with current doctoral students. Your active participate in these activities is highly needed.

Inquiries regarding this program
Student Affairs Division,
Student Affairs Department
Gifu University
<gufellow@t.gifu-u.ac.jp>

THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers - Application Guidelines (Appendix 1)

Name of research field	(i) Accelerating Social Innovation Studies	(ii) Chem-Bio Integrated Studies	(iii) Informatics, Bio and Life Science Integrated Studies	(iv) Lifestyle Revolution based on Transdisciplinary Studies	(v) Creating the Future of Asia and Pan Pacific	(vi) Glocal Problem Solving Studies	(vii) Multi-disciplinary Fundamental Studies
Aims within research field, and description of doctoral human resources to be developed	<p>The aim is to cultivate doctoral human resources who can accelerate innovation in future societies from a global perspective by opening up academic research that is integrated across a wide range of research strata, from basic research through to application and social implementation, and contributing to solutions; ultimately, this shall lead to solutions to global issues, including the likes of resource recycling in response to climate change and other global warming-related issues, waste disposal, urban regeneration based on the premise of coexisting with nature, and building peace through the resolution of social inequalities and adjusting conflicts of values.</p> <p>This covers all research fields necessary for social implementation, from basic sciences such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, earth and planetary science, through to informatics and applied engineering research, including prototypes and devices, as well as economic aspects, ethics and law, folklore, language and psychology.</p>	<p>The aim is to cultivate doctoral human resources who can carve out their own careers by cultivating interdisciplinary fields spanning materials and life sciences, in response to common human challenges, such as environmental issues, decarbonization, declining birthrates and aging populations.</p> <p>Specifically, candidates will actively engage with Japanese universities, research institutions, national governments, local governments, and companies and develop the motivation and ability to contribute to solving common human issues, either as a specialist who can understand other fields, or as a generalist who also possesses specialist skills.</p> <p>The aim is to resolve issues by creating innovative products from a higher perspective, covering upstream through to downstream fields, from basic sciences through to application, with a focus on multidiscipline such as electricity and electronics, machinery, informatics, energy, biology, medicine, and agriculture, with a focus on materials science and life science.</p>	<p>Life science and medical science research has brought various benefits to humanity. However, in order to resolve issues that will become more complex in the future, we will need to have doctoral human resources with the ability to think and act from broader perspectives. In particular, knowledge of informatics, such as genetic analysis, interpretation of medical data, and digitalized medical information management, will be increasingly required in the future. To achieve this, we aim to develop doctoral human resources who will be at the forefront of solving various challenges facing the world, based on pioneering and international research.</p> <p>All research fields related to bioscience are covered, such as informatics, life sciences and medicine.</p>	<p>The aim is to “update lifestyles” for humanity in areas such as mobility, communications, energy & resources, drug discovery, medicine & health, food, education, economics, and policy & politics, based on the development of IT and AI technologies. Doctoral human resources will be developed who will continuously create the knowledge of the future, implement it in society, and play active roles globally.</p> <p>The aim is to nurture doctoral human resources who will lead and develop a wide range of fields in addition to informatics and engineering, including medicine, environmental studies, humanities & social science, and agricultural sciences, as well as science and mathematical sciences.</p>	<p>The aim is to contribute to the SDGs and efforts to build a prosperous and vibrant society by nurturing global doctoral human resources who will continuously create the knowledge of the future and implement it in society, with a view to coexistence and development with the countries of Asia and the Pan Pacific.</p> <p>The aim of this field is to develop doctoral human resources who aspire to solve practical issues in Asia and the Pan Pacific, including global issues such as climate change and food security, population growth, economic development, problems associated with social change, development of social infrastructure, and academic fields that contribute to health, welfare, and peace building, such as humanities, sociology, education, economics, legal systems, science, agriculture, engineering, environment, informatics, medicine, regional development, and international development.</p>	<p>The aim is to develop glocal leaders who can promote the development of sustainable local communities from an international perspective, with the SDGs in mind.</p> <p>This includes: humanities fields, such as economics and law, with an awareness of the economic and policy frameworks for regional contribution; education fields for nurturing regional human resources; and agriculture, engineering, informatics, environmental studies, and medicine, which contribute to the development of local communities through applied research in science fields. However, the doctoral candidates to be trained will not be limited to Japan alone, but will be oriented toward personnel with versatile abilities that can contribute internationally.</p>	<p>The aim is to nurture doctoral human resources who can return to fundamental principles, grasp the essence of nature, humanity, and society, redefine current problems as problems that can be solved, and seek solutions through innovative and logical thinking. This is based on the belief that real innovation begins by returning to such fundamental principles.</p> <p>The field is one of basic science with a focus on physics, mathematical science, linguistics, history and cultural anthropology, and the aim is to establish resonance and interdisciplinary research in mathematical theory, space, humanity, civilization, society, life, matter and elementary particles.</p>
Review criteria	<p><Common to all fields></p> <p>(i) Applicants have the ability to conduct joint research with leading research institutions and companies, including those overseas, or to conduct challenging research in interdisciplinary research areas.</p> <p>(ii) Applicants must be sufficiently expected to become capable doctoral human resources in the future.</p> <p>(iii) Applicants must bring unique research methods, and research targets must be set appropriately within the standard period of study.</p> <p>(iv) Applicants must be clearly aware of their career path after obtaining their doctorate and demonstrate the ability to cultivate the capabilities needed within the standard period of study.</p>						
	<p>The candidate has an aspiration to integrate a wide range of research strata, from basic research through to application and social implementation, and accelerate innovation in future society from a global perspective, in order to solve global issues.</p>	<p>Candidates will understand the research process from multi-faceted and higher perspectives, from basic principles through to application, and have the attitude of wanting to tackle issues autonomously in order to solve common human issues.</p>	<p>Candidates will be able to clarify the significance of their research in terms of solutions to global social and scientific issues, and as part of efforts to realize it, they will be able to develop comprehensive and multi-faceted research from a broad perspective in bioscience fields, such as informatics, life science and medicine.</p>	<p>Candidates will have a strong aspiration to design research plans and conduct research based on the development of information and AI technologies in a wide range of fields, including humanities and social science, science, mathematical science, and agriculture, with a focus on medical fields such as informatics and AI, mobility, drug discovery, medicine, and precision prevention, as well as basic medicine.</p>	<p>There must be a high level of awareness of seeking to engage in research on interdisciplinary fields, with a view to promoting development in cooperation with the Asian region, particularly ASEAN countries, and Pan Pacific region, for example by promoting coexistence with the countries of Asia and the Pan Pacific.</p>	<p>Candidates will possess the aspiration to promote the SDGs and realize a diverse society through cross-cultural understanding, and be able to clarify research initiatives that will take the lead and contribute to the development of society by solving local issues.</p>	<p>Consideration will be given to the interdisciplinary value of the basic research submitted for the application and the resulting dissemination of interdisciplinary research and international collaborative research, as well as to the potential benefits for society.</p>

THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers

Application Guidelines (Appendix 2)

Selection of PS RESEARDENTS

<What are PS RESEARDENTS?>

In this Program, “PS RESEARDENT” is defined as a RESEARDENT who conducts pioneering studies and promotes free, challenging, and interdisciplinary research that is independent of existing frameworks. PS RESEARDENTS not only possess basic research skills, but also autonomy as a student, the ability to make proposals, and the ability to collaborate with others. They are selected annually based on applications for collaborative research with leading domestic and international research institutions and companies and/or interdisciplinary research. Only students who have applied to PS RESEARDENT themselves are considered for review from among RESEARDENTS, and applications are accepted every academic year.

<Additional support for PS RESEARDENTS>

Those selected as PS RESEARDENTS receive the following increase in research expenses for the academic year in question.

- Students who enroll in April: research expenses for the one-year period from April to March of the following year shall be 500,000 yen (usually 250,000 yen).
- Students who enroll in October: research expenses for the six-month period from October to March of the following year shall be 250,000 yen (usually 125,000 yen).

* Regardless of the month in which you enroll, all applicants may apply to become PS RESEARDENTS in the following academic year.

<Assessment perspective>

- Does the applicant have a track record or a willingness to engage in the future of the followings?
 - Joint research with international organizations or research institutions, companies, nonprofit organizations or public organizations, including those overseas.
 - Interdisciplinary research areas that are independent of existing frameworks.
 - Starting a business based on innovative research.

* The application form must be as specific as possible, including the sections of track record and willingness to engage in future activities.

<Documents for submission>

All students who apply for the Program should answer about whether they want to apply to become PS RESEARDENTS for AY2024 by ticking “Form 2-E” and submit it along with the other forms. If you do choose to apply to become a PS RESEARDENT, please note that you must complete the necessary information on the “Form 2-E”..

<Assessment method >

Several examiners, including faculty with different specialties from the applicant's, will review the application based on the above perspective. In addition to specific details, it is important to use easy-to-understand content and expressions. PS RESEARDENT assessment are based solely on the written content of Form 2-E.

<Notification of results>

Students selected as PS RESEARDENTs will be notified at the end of June.

THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers - Application Guidelines (Appendix 3)

Applications for Gifu University Tuition Fee Exemption System

Gifu University provides **substantial support, including a tuition fee exemption system for students who have difficulty paying tuition fees due to economic reasons and who are academically excellent.** This tuition fee exemption can be **applied in addition to the tuition fee exemptions of the “THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers” described below,** so please check the details on the following website and actively seek to apply.

Tuition fee exemption website: [Gifu University <gifu-u.ac.jp>](http://gifu-u.ac.jp)

For students selected by the THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers (hereinafter referred to as “RESEARDENTs”), in addition to providing financial incentives, we plan to provide tuition fee exemptions (60,000 JPY per semester, 120,000 JPY per year¹) as part of our efforts to build an environment in which they can devote themselves to research without feeling financial anxiety during the program support period.

On the other hand, if you are supported as a RESEARDENT, you are not eligible for JASSO Scholarship Loans Category 1 (interest-free) for “exemptions in return for excellence in graduate school doctoral programs”². There are also cases in which you would not be allowed to receive the other scholarships during the period in which you are supported as a RESEARDENT. For this reason, in addition to support through RESEARDENT activities, students should **actively utilize the tuition fee reduction and exemption systems** offered at Gifu University to create an environment in which they can devote more attention to research in their doctoral and medical doctoral programs.

System name	Eligible applicants	Remarks
Gifu University Tuition Fee Exemption System	Gifu University students	The tuition fee exemption amount is determined based on a review carried out under the Gifu University selection criteria.(Please refer to the “tuition fee exemption website” for deadlines, etc.)
Tuition fee exemptions for students of educational programs at Gifu University graduate schools	Authorized prospective RESEARDENTs and RESEARDENTs	Support during RESEARDENT activities (Separate procedures to be followed after selection as a RESEARDENT)

¹ Record in AY2023 (this can change depending on the academic year)

² Students who have been accepted as Category I scholars in doctoral course since AY2023

THERS Make New Standards Program for the Next Generation Researchers - Application Guidelines (Appendix 4)

*For PhD students in the Graduate School of Medicine, Joint Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences, when students are newly selected from D2, please add one year to the following years (with the exception of “1)-3”).

1 Mandatory activities as a RESEARDENT

1)	Participating in “Industry and Doctoral Human Resources Exchange Session” or equivalent events	Once between D1 and D3
2)	Participating in the boot camp (training for two days/one night)	Once between D1 and D2
3)	Creating a video to introduce own laboratory and research	D3 (all graduate students)
4)	Taking the professional literacy course (on-demand)	Those who have not taken the course must take it within one year from the start of support.

2 About the Qualifying Examination (QE)

The QE is carried out to check progress in research with a view to completion within the standard term of study. In addition, RESEARDENTs are obliged to acquire at least IELTS 6.0 equivalent in English by the end of D2 as a base to become global human resources. Moreover, international students are required to acquire a certain level of Japanese language proficiency because after completing their doctoral courses, they are expected to contribute to the development of science and technology innovation in Japan. It is also compulsory for RESEARDENTs to select various activities other than their own research activities for the purpose of cultivating global mind and building diverse careers. In order to confirm the fulfilment of these obligations, the following QE shall be imposed at the end of D1 and D2:

<QE1> (at the end of D1)

- Submission of activities report
- Submission of research progress report by supervisor
- English requirement: IELTS 5.5 equivalent (see score table below) *
- Performing the activities of elective requirements (earning required points) **

<QE2> (at the end of D2)

- Submission of activities report
- Submission of research progress report by supervisor
- English requirement: IELTS 6.0 equivalent (see score table below) *
- Performing the activities of elective requirements (earning required points) **
- (International students) Japanese Language Proficiency Test N2 or higher

*** English test scores are to be submitted at the beginning of the D1 and D2 academic years. If the English language requirements have not been met, English language tests must be taken and the scores be submitted promptly after selection.**

** Elective Requirements

Points specified by the Doctoral Education Consortium will be obtained for “overseas activities,” “internship and other career-building activities,” and “transferable skills acquisition activities” that RESEARDENTs have taken the initiative to undertake during the authorized period. Specific activities will be detailed in the guidance handed over after selection.

<Score Table>

	Score Comparison	
IELTS	5.5	6
TOEFL iBT	61	80
TOEIC S&W + L&R	1560	1654
EIKEN CSE	2304	2400
Cambridge English Test	160	167
Duolingo Test	95	105