"Support Project for PhD Candidates in the VUCA Age" FY2021

Application Guidelines

1. Objectives

The main objective of this project was to cultivate motivated PhD candidates who can accept the challenge of creating new values for this era of volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA). For that purpose, this project provides educational programs that focus on development of the capacity for working cooperatively in addition to research skills and ability.

By providing an "open" educational environment and a support system extending across several departments, as well as directed guidance by external researchers/mentors other than advisory professors, and participatory events for all PhD candidates, we aimed to develop a vigorous PhD program with the goal of "collective education by all professors and friendly competition among all PhD students". In addition to developing a capacity for independent research, we aimed to encourage and support PhD candidates with the courage and executive ability to overcome the barriers that divide research fields and industries. This program is aimed at providing support for PhD students in developing their research capabilities and career paths.

2. Target of the program

Eligible students already enrolled in PhD programs within the Integrated Graduate School of Medicine, Engineering, and Agricultural Sciences, University of Yamanashi.

3. Number of awardees

Eleven students (expected) for FY2021

4. Qualifications

Applicants should be among the students indicated in Section 2 (above) at the time of the call for applications and are asked to have sufficient research capability for the program. In addition, they should have a strong interest in, and motivation for, participating in the career path support programs of this project. Applicants should meet the following requirements.

- (1) Students enrolled in PhD courses at the University of Yamanashi as of October 1 of this year. Working adult students and students on leave of absence will not be candidates for this project.
- (2) Students who are NOT awardees of JSPS fellowship, MEXT scholarships for international students, University Fellowship Program for Science and Technology Innovation grants, or

the "Co-no-hana" fellowship. International students who have scholarships from their home countries will not be candidates for this project.

(3) Students who receive recommendations from their primary supervisors.

5. Period of support

The maximum support period is the standard time required for graduation from a PhD program, which will depend upon each applicant's enrollment period at the time of application. However, support is subject to termination based on work quality and annual reports of each student's achievements. In addition, the project is subject to termination depending on the budget allocation from JST.

6. Contents of support

This project provides opportunities to participate in support programs for the development of independent research capabilities and career paths. To foster younger, creative students in the PhD course who will play important roles in our society, awardees will receive funds for living expenses and a research budget as follows:

- Living expenses 150,000 JPY/month

(paid every month at a date specified by the University)

- Research budget 400,000 JPY/year

7. Application procedures

Applicants: Complete Form 1 and submit it (as an e-mail attachment) to the Academic Planning Department, Section on Graduate Education Support: inshien-as@yamanashi.ac.jp
Academic supervisor: Complete Form 2 and submit it (as an e-mail attachment) to the Academic Planning Department, Section on Graduate Education Support:

inshien-as@yamanashi.ac.jp

* The application will not be accepted if Form 1 or Form 2 is not submitted on time.

8. Submission deadline

12:00 (noon), October 11, 2021

9. Selection process

Awardees will be chosen by the project's selection committee.

10. Selection method and policy

The selection will be based on the following criteria (1)–(4)

- (1) Awardees are expected to be excellent researchers who will play important roles in their research communities.
- (2) A clear pathway for the research plan and images of a future career should be presented in the proposal. Originality/novelty of methodology and future prospects for the research topic should also be shown in the proposal.
- (3) Awardees are expected to be capable of promoting both their research activities and future career plan.
- (4) Applicants' experiences/achievements in JSPS fellowship will be considered in the selection process.

Depending on the number of applicants, there may be a two-step selection process (a first screening based on application Form 1 and a second based on presentation of the research plan).

11. Selection results

Both applicants and supervisors will be notified of the selection results.

12. Responsibilities and obligations

- (1) Manage your PhD activities based on the plan proposed in this form except for the cases of interruption due to childbirth/childcare or injury/illness.
- (2) Actively participate in the UY programs supporting your research and career.
- (3) Entry the "Job-based Internship" organized by MEXT.
- (4) Report your participation in the programs mentioned above regularly.
- (5) See your mentor regularly.
- (6) Apply for JSPS Fellowship.
- (7) Note that this is public funding and comply with legislations to conduct your research correctly and efficiently.

13. Withdrawal of support

Support may be withdrawn and refunds requested from awardees under the following conditions.

- (1) Awardee fails to maintain the requirements shown in Section 4.
- (2) Progress on the research plan is inadequate or obligations are not well performed.
- (3) Awardee offers to resign from the project.
- (4) Other reasons based on the judgment of the university president or project leader.

2 Amount of refund

Cost of living

Categories	Reduction criteria
Qualified between the 1st and 15th of the month	No reduction
Qualified between the 16th and the end of the month	50% reduction
Becoming unqualified between the 1st and 15th of the month	100% reduction
Becoming unqualified between the 16 th and the end of the month	50% reduction
Becoming unqualified at the end of month	No reduction
In the case of death	No reduction for that month

Research budget

Unused portion of the budget for the period from the date of qualification to that of becoming unqualified.

14. Miscellaneous notes on application

The e-mail addresses of all awardees will be provided to JST for a direct monitoring survey. Requests for participation in JST-organized student exchange meetings may occur.

Contact: Academic Planning Department,
Section of Graduate Education Support,
University of Yamanashi

Ext. 8042、8271

e-mail: <u>inshien-as@yamanashi.ac.jp</u>