

2022 THERS  
Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation  
Researcher  
Application Guidelines  
(for Nagoya University students)

○ Qualified Enrollment Year

Doctoral Course	Scheduled entrants in April 2022 Scheduled entrants in October 2022
Doctoral Course in Medicine	Scheduled second-year student in April 2022 Scheduled second-year student in October 2022

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

January 2022

(February, 8, 2022 revision)

2022 THERS Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher  
Application Guidelines

1. Purpose

The THERS Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher Program (hereinafter referred to as “the Program”) aims to resolve various issues facing Japan and the world, and to develop doctoral human resources who will lead a future knowledge-based society. Doctoral students are already at the forefront of research and supporting the foundation of university research. The Program will provide financial support to such excellent students, and provide 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 having to worry about employment.

In addition, by providing opportunities for interaction with doctoral students with different specialties, mentors with different values, and graduates of the program for leading graduate schools who serve as role models, the Program encourages the development of new research based on original ideas and the creation of interdisciplinary research.

The Program will be implemented by MEXT’s Challenging Research Program for Next Generation Researchers, and the Tokai National Higher Education and Research System (THERS).

2. Fields Open to Applications (Four (4) fields)

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

I: Bioscience, II: Interdisciplinary & Ground-breaking Sciences,  
III: Decarbonization & Environment, IV. Glocal Research

Points to Note

- You can apply for any field regardless of your graduate school or major.
- Select your first to third choice of application fields. (However, second and third choices are optional.)

3. Number of applicants to be accepted

Bioscience: Approximately 31

Interdisciplinary & Ground-breaking Sciences: Approximately 24

Decarbonization & Environment: Approximately 24

Glocal Research: Approximately 15

\* The numbers to be recruited in the various fields are estimates, and may be adjusted among fields depending on the state of applications.

#### 4. Application Qualifications

Applicants to the Program must be persons who meet (1) – (3) below (including international students).

**Doctoral Course—Expected to enroll in April 2022 or October 2022**

**Doctoral Course in Medicine—Scheduled second-year student in April 2022 or October 2022**

##### (1) Enrollment Required

Individuals who wish to enroll in the Doctoral Course of the University (Individuals enrolled in the first year of the Doctoral Course in Medicine) and who will be enrolled in the Doctoral Course in April 2022 or October 2022. (second year in the case of the Doctoral Course in Medicine)

##### (2) An individual who does not fall under any of the following at the time of admission to the Doctoral Course (second year in the case of the Doctoral Course in Medicine)

- (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 Monbukagakusho 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

##### (3) An individual who has not been authorized for the Nagoya University Interdisciplinary Frontier Fellowship.

#### **Points to Note**

- If you plan to receive support from another organizations during the support period of the Program, check with the office of the scholarship or the academic affairs officer of the graduate school to which you belong whether or not you can receive both.
- This recruitment is related to the Researcher Program, and in order to receive payments, you must pass the entrance examination separately conducted by each graduate school.

#### 5. Researcher Grant (hereinafter referred to as the “Grant”)

Researchers 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 research projects.

\* The University may increase the amount of both (1) the research support grant and (2) research expenses if the recipient is selected as an Excellent Next Generation Researcher based on the results of QE1 Note 1 and QE2 Note 2, etc. conducted in the 1st or 2nd year of the Doctoral Course (a year higher for the Doctor of Medicine Course.)

Note 1: Qualifying Examination 1 (Doctoral Course Year 1: Review of Potential to complete the standard term of study, planning status of international joint research and interdisciplinary research, and confirmation of at least IELTS 5.5 or equivalent)

Note 2: Qualifying Examination 2 (Doctoral Course Year 2: Review of Potential to complete the standard term of study, implementation status of international joint research and interdisciplinary research, and confirmation of at least IELTS 6.0 or equivalent (International students are required to pass at least Japanese Language Proficiency Test N2 or equivalent (N1 or equivalent for students from countries that use Chinese characters)))

6. Pay period

The grant payment period is three years maximum. (However, the payment period may be shortened if the payment suspension/stoppage requirement is met.)

7. Application documents

- (1) THERS Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher Application (Form 1)
- (2) Research Outline (Form 2)
- (3) Academic Advisor Evaluation (Form 3)
- (4) Application Outline Video (For details, see the attached "About Creating a Video")

8. Application process (For details, refer to separate manual for how to apply.)

Applications may be completed using the following process.

- (1) Registration of application information (registration of application information only).

You do not have to submit application documents at this stage.

**Application information registration period:**

~~Thursday, January 27, 2022 to Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 13:00~~

**※ Extend the period.**

**Thursday, January 27, 2022 to Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 13:00**

- Register your application information by the procedure below.

(i) Obtain the application information registration form URL

Register your email address at the following URL. The URL for the application information registration form will be sent to your registered email address.

URL:[https://dec.nagoya-u.ac.jp/inquiry/r\\_2022touroku](https://dec.nagoya-u.ac.jp/inquiry/r_2022touroku)

(ii) Registration of application information

Fill out the required items in the application information registration form sent to you.

- You must complete (i) and (ii) above by the deadline. Note that we will not accept applications under any circumstances after the registration period.

**Points to Note**

- The application information registration form is a required step to receive an application number. You must complete it by the deadline.
- The application number issued at the time of application information registration will be used in the subsequent screening procedure. Keep the number at hand. Share the application number with the person who prepared Form 3 (Academic Advisor Evaluation).
- The information registration procedure is the same for internal applicants (those who are enrolled at Nagoya University and have a Nagoya University ID) and external applicants (those other than internal applicants).

(2) Submitting your application

**Submission period:**

~~Monday, February 7 to Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 13:00~~

**※ Extend the period.**

**Monday, February 7 to Monday, February 21, 2022 at 13:00**

**Submission Documents and Submission Methods:**

Document Name	Submitted by	File Name	Submission Method		Remarks
			Internal Applicant	External Applicant	

<b>Form 1:</b> THERS Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher Application	Applicant	Form 1 (application number)	Submit using NUCT	Submit by NUSS *Check email for the submission URL	Submit Forms 1 and 2 as a single PDF file
<b>Form 2:</b> Research Outline					
<b>Form 3:</b> Academic Advisor Evaluation	Person Who Prepared the Recommen- dation	Form 3 (application number)	Submit using the Form 3 submission form: <a href="https://dec.nagoya-u.ac.jp/inquiry/researcher_form3">https://dec.nagoya-u.ac.jp/inquiry/researcher_form3</a> Submit using		Submit as a PDF file
<b>Application Outline Video</b>	Applicant	mov (application number)	Submit by NUCT	Submit by NUSS *Check email for the submission URL	See the attachment for how to create a video

### <Forms 1 and 2>

**Submission method:** - **The applicant** should submit by the following method.

- When submitting, make Forms 1 and 2 into a single PDF file and name it as "form 1 (application number)."

- (i) Internal applicants (Individuals enrolled at Nagoya University who have been issued a Nagoya University ID)

Submit your application using Nagoya University Collaboration and Course Tools (NUCT)

- If you complete the registration of (1), the site information for the application field will be displayed on NUCT. Download the application documents from the Doctoral Education Consortium website to prepare the application documents. Use the project submission function of the NUCT application field site, and submit your application within the above submission period.

- (ii) External applicants (Individuals not considered internal applicants)

Submitting application documents to NUSS

- After registering according to (1), download the application documents from the Doctoral Education Consortium website, prepare the application documents, and then

submit your application to NUSS within the above submission period. (Note that the time it is received\* is determined by when it is received by our server)

The submission URL will be sent to the e-mail address you registered in (1).

### <Form 3>

**Submission Method:** - **The person who prepared the evaluation should** directly submit the form by the following method.

- When submitting, make Form 3 into a PDF file and name it as "form 3 (application number)."

Submit using the Form 3 submission form:

[https://dec.nagoya-u.ac.jp/inquiry/researcher\\_form3](https://dec.nagoya-u.ac.jp/inquiry/researcher_form3)

- Download the application documents from the Doctoral Education Consortium website, fill out the Form 3 submission form, and submit Form 3 by uploading it within the above submission period.
- You need an application number of the applicant to submit the evaluation. Please check the application number with the applicant.

### <Application Outline Video>

**Contents - Prepare an Application Outline Video that includes (i) - (iii) below (The video shall be no more than 3 minutes long and not exceed 30Mb in size. Include a five-slide presentation (the first slide being the cover page.))**

- (i) Outline of your research and research plan  
(The value and positioning of your research, what you will actually do, and your plan for the next three years)
- (ii) Efforts to promote the development of your research (e.g., joint research, interdisciplinary research, and so forth.)
- (iii) Activities to help you reach your career goals

**Submission method: The applicant should submit the video by the following method.**

- When submitting a video, use mp4 format and **name the file mov (application number).**
- Refer to the attached "About Creating a Video" for the content, format, and method of creating a video.

- The Application Outline Video will also be used as the “Applicant's Briefing” at the interview.
- The internal applicants must submit the video within the above submission period using the assignment submission function of the NUCT application field site. The external applicants must follow the email instruction from the secretariat.

9. Screening and results

(1) Screening

We will conduct a 1st screening (document screening) and a 2nd screening (interview screening). However, some applicants who pass the 1st screening may, depending on their 1st screening results, be exempted from the 2nd screening and be accepted based only on the 1st screening. The 2nd screening (interview screening) is conducted for those who pass the 1st screening (document screening), except for those who are exempted from the 2nd screening.

The screening will basically be conducted based on your first choice field, although this may be changed to your second or third choice field, depending on the state of applications.

**Points to Note**

- The 2nd screening (interview screening) will be conducted on the following dates and times. Note that we cannot accept any requests for a specific date and time.
- Interviewees will be notified in the same manner as in “(3) Notification of results”, “Notification methods”.

**Interview screening dates:**

Field	Candidate Dates
Bioscience	Thursday, March 24 or Friday, March 25
Interdisciplinary & Ground-breaking Sciences	Thursday, March 24 or Monday, March 28
Decarbonization & Environment	Friday, March 25
Glocal Research	Wednesday, March 23 or Thursday, March 24

- For fields with more than one candidate date, the date of the interview will be announced on the Doctoral Education Consortium website as soon as it is decided.



- Applicants will be notified about 2-3 days prior to the interview date.
- Conducted online

(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.

- (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 over the standard period of study.
- (v) Standard to be set in each field

(3) Notification of results

Successful candidates will be notified as follows. Only successful candidates will be notified.

**Notification of results**

**Thursday, April 14**

○ Notification methods

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

10. Obligations of Researchers

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

- (1) Submission of a report on research for the year and a research activity plan for the following year and thereafter.
- (2) Interview with an academic advisor, mentor, or career counselor.
- (3) Application to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science's Research Fellowship

for Young Scientists

- (4) QE1 and QE2 examination.
- (5) Participation in lectures, training, seminars, etc. certified by subject fields (See Appendix 1).
- (6) Training on the use of public funds and participation in research ethics education designated by the University.
- (7) Registration of data on the implementation status of obligations in designated systems.
- (8) Cooperation with inquiries after the Researcher period.
- (9) Other matters required by the University.

#### 11. Suspension of grant payments

Grant payments will be suspended 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 report research results for each year.
- (5) Existence of a reason why grant payments are deemed no longer necessary.
- (6) Application qualification (3) (i) – (iv) is met
- (7) Existence of facts other than (1) – (6) that are inappropriate for a Researcher.

#### 12. Returning grant funds

If there are grant funds that were received despite the individual being ineligible due to the suspension or stoppage of payment, the portion of the funds paid that the individual is not eligible to receive must be returned to the University.

#### 13. Obligation to cooperate with inquiries after the researchership ends

This system is operated with assistance from MEXT's Challenging Research Program for Next Generation Researchers. Therefore, surveys may be conducted on participants' current employment status etc. for 10 years following the end of the Program. The Researcher's name, graduate school, period of support, research theme, and contact information (e-mail address) will be provided to the Japan Science and Technology Agency.

Previous participants may be contacted even after the Researcher period has ended. If your address, place of employment, email address, and so on has changed, be sure to contact the relevant office at the University.

Inquiries regarding Interdisciplinary Frontier Next  
Generation Researcher

Education Planning Division, Education &  
International Affairs Department

Doctoral Education Consortium

E-mail: [nu-fellowship@adm.nagoya-u.ac.jp](mailto:nu-fellowship@adm.nagoya-u.ac.jp)

Inquiry Form

<https://dec.nagoya-u.ac.jp/inquiry/top>



THERS Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Research Program (Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher)

Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher							
	I. Bioscience	II. Interdisciplinary & Ground-breaking Sciences	III. Decarbonization & Environment	IV. Glocal Research			
Objectives of the program / Image of researchers to be fostered	This category covers all research fields related to life science and medical science. Life science and medical science research have provided various benefits to humankind. In order to solve more complex problems in the future, we need doctoral researchers who have the ability to think and act from a broader perspective. Utilizing the strengths of the THERS, which has a high level of research capability in this field, the Program aims to nurture doctoral human resources who will be at the forefront of solving various issues facing the world through challenging and international research.	The goal of this research category is to develop doctoral personnel who can go back to basic principles in order to grasp the essence of nature and society, redefine current issues into feasible research questions, and seek solutions through fresh ideas and logical thinking. We believe that true innovation begins with a return to these basic principles. The main target fields are basic sciences, especially mathematical and physical sciences, linguistics, and historical and cultural anthropology. The program expects researchers to work at resonance and fusion among mathematics, space, humanity, civilization, society, life, matter, and elementary particles studies.	The government of Japan set the target of "reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050." This target addresses global issues such as climate change including global warming, resource recycling to deal with waste management, and urban regeneration based on coexistence with nature. The program aims to foster doctoral students who can contribute to solving global-scale issues, including the realization of a decarbonized society. The Graduate School of Environmental Studies and the Future Earth Research Center at Nagoya University, the Research Center for Adaptation to Regional Environmental Changes and the Research Center for Watershed Science at Gifu University will support researchers through their advanced research. In particular, we expect researchers to be either specialists with an understanding of other fields or generalists with a strong expertise. The two universities participated in the "University Coalition to Achieving Carbon Neutrality" established on July 29, 2021. The THERS created the Carbon Neutral Promotion Office on November 1, 2021. These arrangements will enhance cooperation with universities and research institutes in Japan, the national government, local governments, and companies. The program expects researchers to exploit research opportunities coming out of this cooperation.	With the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mind, this research category aims to foster global leaders who can promote the development of sustainable local communities from an international perspective. The main targets are those who conduct research in the humanities with an awareness of policy frameworks that serve the regions, and those who can contribute to the development of local communities through applied research in the sciences. However, we expect contributions that are internationally versatile, not limited to Japan.			
Screening criteria	<p>&lt;Common to all fields&gt;</p> <p>(1) 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>(2) Applicants must be sufficiently expected to become capable doctoral human resources in the future.</p> <p>(3) Applicants must bring unique research methods, and research targets must be set appropriately within the standard period of study.</p> <p>(4) Applicants must be clearly aware of their career path after obtaining their doctorate and demonstrate the ability to cultivate the capabilities needed over the standard period of study.</p>						
	<p>&lt;Field-specific criteria&gt;</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p><b>I. Bioscience</b></p> <p>To have the ability to clarify the significance of one's own research in solving global social and scientific issues, and the ability to develop life science and medical science research from a broad perspective to achieve this</p> </td> <td> <p><b>II. Interdisciplinary &amp; Ground-breaking Sciences</b></p> <p>Consideration is given to the academic value of the applicant's research as basic research, and to the expansion to interdisciplinary research and international joint research based on it.</p> </td> <td> <p><b>III. Decarbonization &amp; Environment</b></p> <p>To achieve carbon neutrality in 2050 or to solve global environmental issues (climate change, resource recycling, coexistence with nature, urban and rural regeneration, etc.), we need research capabilities based on multiple perspectives. In other words, researchers should have the potential to become either a specialist with an understanding of other fields or a generalist with some expertise.</p> </td> <td> <p><b>IV. Glocal Research</b></p> <p>Researchers should be willing to realize a more diverse society through cross-cultural understanding and the promotion of SDGs, and be able to clarify their research initiatives that contribute to the development of local communities.</p> </td> </tr> </table>				<p><b>I. Bioscience</b></p> <p>To have the ability to clarify the significance of one's own research in solving global social and scientific issues, and the ability to develop life science and medical science research from a broad perspective to achieve this</p>	<p><b>II. Interdisciplinary &amp; Ground-breaking Sciences</b></p> <p>Consideration is given to the academic value of the applicant's research as basic research, and to the expansion to interdisciplinary research and international joint research based on it.</p>	<p><b>III. Decarbonization &amp; Environment</b></p> <p>To achieve carbon neutrality in 2050 or to solve global environmental issues (climate change, resource recycling, coexistence with nature, urban and rural regeneration, etc.), we need research capabilities based on multiple perspectives. In other words, researchers should have the potential to become either a specialist with an understanding of other fields or a generalist with some expertise.</p>
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Lectures, training, seminars, etc. common to all fields [Required]	<p>[1] QE1 and QE2 examinations</p> <p>[Screening items: Degree completion within the standard period of study/Interdisciplinary research &amp; international joint research/Language ability]</p> <p>[2] Preparation of PR video on research etc. [Japanese or English] (D2) (including taking guidance)</p> <p>[3] Preparation of PR video on research, etc. [Language other than in 2] (D3)</p> <p>[4] "Interdisciplinary Frontier Doctoral Human Resources Exchange Session (D1)" or "Business and Doctoral Human Resources Exchange Session" (D1-D3)</p> <p>[5] Interaction with mentor</p> <p>*For a four-year doctoral course, the year listed is one year higher.</p>						
	<p>[Treatment of applicants accepted in 2021]</p> <p>Applicants accepted in 2021 shall be treated as follows.</p> <p>Recruitment 1 (D1 (D2 for four-year doctoral course)): [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]</p> <p>Recruitment 2 (D2 (D3 for four-year doctoral course)): [1 (QE2 only)] [2] [3]</p> <p>Recruitment 3 (D3 (D4 for four-year doctoral course)): [2]</p> <p>*In the case of mid-year acceptance from 2022, it will depend on the year at the time of being accepted.</p>						
Elective requirements	Criteria	<p><b>*Students must gain at least 20 Research Points (RPs) during the research period, chosen from their elective requirements</b></p> <p>[Treatment of applicants accepted in 2021]</p> <p>Recruitment 1 (D1 (D2 for four-year doctoral course)): 15RPs</p> <p>Recruitment 2 (D2 (D3 for four-year doctoral course)): Required items only</p> <p>Recruitment 3 (D3 (D4 for four-year doctoral course)): Required items only</p> <p>*Students enrolled in the WISE Program or Leading Graduate School Program are also allowed to take these in their Master's Course.</p> <p>*In the case of mid-year acceptance from 2022, it will depend on the year at the time of being accepted.</p>			Maximum points		
	Seminars, etc.	<p>[1] Take professional literacy training (Transferable Skills Training) (2RPs) (May also be taken during the Master's Course.)</p> <p>[2] Take language training organized by the Doctoral Education Consortium (2RPs)</p> <p>[3] Take paper writing seminar organized by the Doctoral Education Consortium (2RPs)</p> <p>[4] Take application development seminar organized by the Doctoral Education Consortium (2RPs planned)</p> <p>[5] Take B-jin seminar, PhD career path webinar (career development seminar) (0.5RP per 90- to 120-minute session)</p> <p>[6] Seminars approved by the Subcommittee or the Doctoral Education Consortium (e.g. science communication lectures and exercises, PI training seminars, video viewing) (0.5RP per 90- to 120-minute session)</p>			6RPs		
	Internships	<p>Companies, other universities, research institutes, local governments, international organizations, NGOs &amp; NPOs, etc.</p> <p>Between 2 weeks and 2 months from the first time until completion, calculated roughly at 8 hours a day, between 80 and 320 hours (10RPs).</p> <p>For overseas, from 1 week is allowed.</p> <p>At least 2 months from the first time until completion (20RPs)</p>			20RPs		
	Study abroad, etc.	<p>[1] Academic conferences, joint research, laboratory meetings, overseas volunteer work, training and study abroad (10RPs)</p> <p>International students are recommended to travel outside their home country. If staying for a long time, you may count RPs under the abovementioned internships. For international conference presentations, you may count RPs under the following research presentations.</p>			20RPs		
	Research presentation, awards	<p>[1] First author's presentation at an international conference (5RPs) and first author's presentation at a domestic conference (2RPs)</p> <p>[2] Winning an award (1 to 5RPs: 3RPs for academic conference poster award etc., 5RPs for an application etc.)</p> <p>[3] First author's paper accepted in a peer-reviewed journal (10RPs, or 20RPs for Web of Science or Scopus Q1 journals), paper by author other than the first author accepted (4RPs, or 8RPs for Web of Science or Scopus Q1 journals), and other outcomes recognized by the Subcommittee (10RPs, or 2RPs if recognized as outstanding by the Subcommittee)</p>			10RPs (Special exception: 20RPs for Q1 journals, etc.)		
	Student team experiences	<p>[1] Planning and implementation of seminars (10RPs)</p> <p>[2] Presentation at idea/business contest (10RPs) If an award is won, points are also added for winning the abovementioned awards.</p> <p>[3] Planning and management of events conducted in this Program (15RPs)</p>			20RPs		
	Joint research, interdisciplinary research (Understanding of other fields, etc.)	<p>[1] 100-nin Rombun (5RPs), if proceeding to a meeting with the researcher (5RPs added)</p> <p>[2] If an exchange meeting between a company and a doctoral student leads to a company visit (3RPs added)</p> <p>[3] Exchange event held with the Subcommittee (max. 5RPs)</p> <p>[4] Credit earned from seminar course (Research discussion with other graduate schools, equivalent to 15 classes) (1 course, 5RPs)</p> <p>[5] Industry-Government-Academia- Finance collaboration session, organized by Gifu University (max. 5RPs)</p> <p>[6] Retreat training conducted for the WISE Program and the Leading Graduate School Program students (8RPs)</p> <p>[7] When a WISE Program student passes the WISE Program QE (RPs under review)</p>			20RPs		