

Interdisciplinary Frontier Fellowship Project and Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher Project FAQ

*For students on the medicine doctoral courses, please interpret "enrolling in a doctoral course" with "enrolling in the second year of a medicine doctoral course".

Questions and Answers

Q1001 In the previous recruitments, Interdisciplinary Frontier Fellowship had an "Appendix 2" that specified the fields of study in which applicants could apply for each graduate school and department.

A Starting with this recruitments for application, there is no such restriction. Applicants who wish to apply to Interdisciplinary Frontier Fellowship apply to the field in which your research suits best regardless of the graduate school or major which you belong

Q1002 I am planning to enroll in a doctoral course in AY2023. Will there be opportunities to apply in April 2023 or later?

A Those who plan to enroll in the course in AY2023 should apply now, regardless of whether they will enroll in their courses in April or October. There is a possibility that additional applications for AY2023 entrants will be made in April 2023 or later, depending on the number of the withdrawals after this, but this has yet to be decided.

Q1003 I plan to enroll in a doctoral course in October 2024. I am not eligible to make an application in the first round for AY2024. Will there be any later applications?

A Students who plan to enroll in a doctoral course in October 2024 (or who plan to enroll in D2 in the case of a medicine doctoral course) should apply in the 2nd recruitment round for AY2024, for which applications are expected to be accepted around January 2024.

Q1004 How is any increase in research support grants or research expenses decided?

A This is determined using the "Annual Activity Evaluation" (Interdisciplinary Frontier Fellowship Project) or the "QE (qualifying examination)" (Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher Project).

Q1005	Will the person who prepares the evaluation be my Academic Advisor? Is it possible to request a recommender other than my Academic Advisor? If so, are there any restrictions on who can make my recommendation?
A	Since it is possible that the Academic Advisor for your doctoral course might not have been selected at the time of application, it is permitted for a researcher who understands the content of your research so far to write the evaluation, and not just your Academic Advisor. If you are unable to ask your Academic Advisor to do this for any other reason, please consult the Doctoral Education Consortium individually. In principle, you should ask a faculty member to prepare the evaluation.
Q1006	Is it possible to apply even when I am receiving payments for other scholarships?
A	<p>Students who plan to receive other scholarships at the time support is scheduled to start should check with the office handling such scholarship for any restrictions on simultaneous payments.</p> <p>If you are required to devote yourself solely to a scholarship you are planning to receive, you may not be eligible to receive support, even if you are selected.</p> <p>Please refer to Q1019 regarding the treatment of government-sponsored international students and government-dispatched international students (CSC, etc.).</p>
Q1007	I haven't taken the entrance examination for my doctoral course yet. Can I apply?
A	Those who intend to enroll in a doctoral course at Nagoya University can apply. If you are selected for a scholarship but do not enroll in the doctoral course (or proceed to the 2nd year of the doctoral course in Medicine) at Nagoya University at the time indicated in the application form/documents (including failure in the entrance examination), you will lose your qualification as a fellow/researcher at that time. Please also refer to Q1033 concerning entrance to graduate schools.
Q1008	If a leave of absence is decided during the authorized support period, will there be any extension of the benefit period?
A	This will depend on the reason for the absence. It is difficult to extend the benefit period for personal reasons, but separate determinations are made in cases of childbirth, childcare, injury and disease, etc. based on individual circumstances.
Q1009	Are students from master's programs other than Nagoya University also eligible?
A	Yes.
Q1010	I enrolled in a doctoral course after retirement. Is there an age limit for applications?
A	There is no age limit. However, selection is based on the aims of the project, which include the development of a variety of career paths for a wide range of outstanding doctoral candidates.

Q1011	Are international students also eligible?
A	There are no nationality requirements for students to become eligible for support. However, international students who are expected to receive support through the Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Scholarship or those who are expected to receive support from their home countries are not eligible.
Q1012	What happens if you start a business during the support period?
A	Support will continue. However, a student who is deemed to be receiving stable income, such as a salary or executive remuneration, at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (based on 2.4 million yen per year, in reference to other projects) will not be eligible to receive funding.
Q1013	Is it possible to receive salaries for work as a TA, RA, or for joint research? Are there any time limits?
A	You can earn an income for things such as TA, RA, or part-time work as long as it does not interfere with your activities as a Fellow/Researcher.
Q1014	Would a student be eligible to receive funding if he or she had access to a system that allowed him or her as a mature student to receive benefits from a company, etc. sufficient to cover living costs (based on 2.4 million yen per year) but he or she chose not to receive such benefits?
A	The purpose of this project is to create an environment for students to concentrate on their research by providing enough funding to cover living expenses. For this reason, if there is a system through which a student could receive such funding from a company, etc., he or she would not be eligible to apply under this project.
Q1015	Is it possible to participate in a paid internship during the support period?
A	Yes.

Q1016	Is it possible to conduct research using external funding during the support period?
A	This is permitted as long as it does not cause problems with activities as a Fellow/Researcher.
Q1017	Is it possible to receive academic awards and other monetary awards (including "cash vouchers" as additional benefits) from academic societies during the support period?
A	Yes.
Q1018	Is it possible for eligible students to receive scholarships from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)?
A	<p>This project aims to create an environment in which students can concentrate on their research. Because the nature of this project is different from JASSO scholarships, as a general rule it is possible to receive payments simultaneously in the case of both loan and benefits-based programs (please consult us separately in cases where a sufficient level of living expenses would be provided from a benefits-based scholarship).</p> <p>However, regarding AY2023 and after AY 2023 JASSO interest-free scholarship loan recipients, if they receive support from Interdisciplinary Frontier Fellowship Project and Interdisciplinary Frontier Next Generation Researcher Project, they can no longer receive a waiver of the JASSO scholarship loan return. [added 2023.2.1]</p> <p>Also, some scholarships by JASSO for international students have restrictions for students to receive scholarships simultaneously. Therefore, please check with the person in charge at your graduate school in advance.</p>
Q1019	I am currently enrolled in a master's program as a government-sponsored international student. Can I apply?
A	<p>Even if you are receiving the scholarship at the time of application, you can apply if you do not plan to receive these during the period of this project.</p> <p>If you are approved to receive support from a government-sponsored scholarship program or support from a foreign government which does not allow you to receive the support simultaneously at the time your support is scheduled to start, you should prioritize receiving support from the government-sponsored exchange program or support from the foreign government (such as CSC).</p> <p>Please note that the possibility of receiving or being refused simultaneous payments depends on the project, so please check with the department in charge of the scholarship in advance.</p>
Q1020	Can I apply under the tuition fee exemption system at Nagoya University during the support period?
A	Yes.

Q1021	Is it possible to receive research support grants or research expenses in the event that I am unable to enter Japan due to the impact of COVID-19?
A	Foreign students who have not yet traveled to Japan will start receiving payments after they arrive in Japan. We do not backdate support prior to students' arrival in Japan.
Q1022	The screening results will be announced on April 13. If I become eligible to receive support under the project from April, AY2023, when and how much will I be paid for research support grant of the month of April?
A	The full amount (180,000 yen) will be paid. We will pay you for both April and May at the end of May.
Q1023	The content of the applicant's information registration is supposed to match the content of the application form. What should I do if the research section title changes after registration of applicant information but before the application form is submitted?
A	If there are any changes, please notify the Doctoral Education Consortium in advance.
Q1024	What types of interdisciplinary research are being sought by the project?
A	Please see the reference material for examples of interdisciplinary research.
Q1025	Will Fellows/Researchers be employed by Nagoya University?
A	There will be no employment relationship between the University and the successful applicants. Since the research support grant is not a salary, it becomes "miscellaneous income" under tax law, and you will need to file a tax return by yourself every year. Please also handle social insurance and pension procedures by yourself.
Q1026	I was selected on the basis of entry in April 2023, but I then decided to take a leave of absence. I now plan to enroll in April 2024, one year later than initially planned. Is it possible to delay the start of support?
A	No. In principle, The status of Fellows/Researchers will be rejected if their enrollment is delayed from the time they were originally scheduled for selection. Please re-apply as a student in the applicable year and undertake screening again.
Q1027	How long is the support period if I am chosen in an additional recruitment round?
A	Support will be provided up to the completion date of your predecessor's support and up to the standard completion period. We will decided this at the time of authorization.

Q1028	I was not selected as an interviewee for secondary screening. Will I be notified of the results of primary screening (document-based selection)?
A	The results of primary screening (document-based selection) are not notified. The following are both possible: "Cases where the applicant is exempted from secondary screening and has passed primary screening" or "Cases where the candidate has not been selected in primary screening (document and video-based selection)". We will inform you of this on the notification date for the final result.
Q1029	Will there be an opportunities to apply after enrolling in a doctoral course?
A	As a general rule, we do not plan to select students after they have enrolled in a doctoral course. There is a possibility that additional applications will be accepted in the event of a vacancy due to resignation, etc., but this does not guarantee any additional rounds of applications.
Q1030	Can I use figures and formulas when submitting my application form? Do you carry out screening in color or black and white?
A	It is permitted to use diagrams or mathematical formulas if these are needed to explain the content of the study. However, please consider that the judges have different areas of specialization. Judges decide whether to judge applications in color, or in black and white, so please ensure that your application can be judged in either case.
Q1031	The video I used to apply exceeded the prescribed time. Can I edit it or submit it in double-speed mode?
A	Editing of video times for adjustment is not allowed. Please note that such an application could be deemed defective.
Q1032	I would like to receive feedback on the content of my screening.
A	We do not disclose the content of the screening.
Q1033	If I am selected for this application, will I be automatically admitted to a doctoral course?
A	This application is based on the assumption that you pass the entrance examination for the doctoral course at your graduate school and enter the University. If you wish to enroll in a doctoral course at our University, please be sure to take the entrance examination conducted by each graduate school separately from this application. Selection under this application does not guarantee admission to graduate schools.
Q1034	Are there any language requirements for applying?
A	No. However, your language level will be confirmed in the annual evaluation/QE conducted after certification.