



Application Guideline for Sophia SPRING Project in the spring semester of 2025

If you wish to apply for Sophia SPRING project starting in the spring semester of 2025, read this guideline carefully and submit the application documents within the application period.

1. Purpose and Outline:

Sophia SPRING Project (hereinafter referred to as the “This project”) is funded by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JST”) under its “Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)”, which aims to foster human resources who will contribute to the advancement of science, technology, and innovation in Japan.

This project will provide the following support to the selected students (hereinafter referred to as “SPRING students”) with the aim of fostering global doctoral students who, based on Christian humanism, will embody Sophia’s educational philosophy “For Others, With Others,” and open the path to the future of sustainable society through the power of science, technology, and innovation.

- ① Financial Support: Research incentive fee (equivalent to student living expenses) and Research allowance
- ② Capacity building programs for doctoral students that enable them to apply their expertise in the various settings
 - Interdisciplinarity: Fostering interdisciplinarity by establishing networks through a community of young researchers, such as SPRING students and Postdoctoral Fellows within the university.
 - Internationality: Providing international research exchange opportunities.
 - Humanity: Enhancing transferable skills, such as presentation and communication skills, that maximize your abilities to utilize one’s doctoral expertise in the society.
- ③ Career support tailored to each student to realize diverse career paths

2. Recruitment details:

Recruitment numbers	Approximately 8 students * Only first year doctoral students can apply.
Eligibility	• Students who are enrolled in the first year of a doctoral program at Sophia University in the spring semester of 2025. (A separate call for applications will also be made for students enrolling in the fall semester of 2025)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, students who are affiliated with the following status after the beginning date of the support are excluded. ① Students who hold a status as a Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) *1 ② Students receiving a scholarship from government of Japan (Monbukagakusho: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) ③ International students who are receiving scholarships or other support from their home countries/ other foreign governments or international organizations ④ Students who have a stable income as a form of scholarship or salary sufficient enough to cover the cost of living expenses (based on 2.4 million yen/year) *2 ⑤ Students who have been enrolled for longer than the standard period of the doctoral degree completion ⑥ Students who are on a leave of absence • If you have any questions about the eligibility and requirements, please contact the SPRING Secretariat Office beforehand. * 1: Students who are currently applying for JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships are also eligible to apply, but will be asked to withdraw from this project if they are selected as Postdoctoral Fellows. *2: Income from TA, RA, part-time jobs, etc. is not included in “stable income”.
Research incentive fees /Research allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Research incentive fees (equivalent to living expenses): 185,000 yen per month *3 ② Research allowance : 180,000 yen per year (maximum) *4 *3: Research incentive fees are treated as "miscellaneous income" under tax law. Since it is subject to both Income tax and Resident tax, it is necessary to file a final income tax return with the tax office. *4: Additional research funds may be allocated based on research performance. ex) FY 2024 results: maximum of approximately 500,000 yen
Support period	Up to the end of standard term of completion for doctoral programs

3. Selection:

Method	A selection committee will be established within Sophia University to conduct the first selection (Document screening) and the second selection (Interview screening). Acceptance or rejection will be based on the results of the selection committee.
Perspectives	① Reasons for application (enthusiasm): The applicant must have the

	<p>desire and enthusiasm to contribute to solving social issues through research, in order to practice Sophia's founding spirit, "For others, with others.</p> <p>② Research execution ability: The research theme and content must be specific, the research methods and research plan must be valid, and the research must have potential for development. The applicant should have the necessary research skills and a clear vision.</p> <p>③ Consistency with the project objectives: The applicant should understand the purpose of this project and have a clear vision for leading the future of a sustainable society through the power of science, technology and innovation, based on Christian humanism and Sophia's philosophy "For Others, With Others".</p>
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4. Recruitment and Selection Schedule:

Information session	February 26 (Wed) and February 28 (Fri) from 13:00 to 13:30 online via Zoom (Check Loyola for Zoom information)
Application period	February 26 (Wed) to March 10 (Mon) 11:00
First selection (Document screening)	Applicants who pass the First selection will be contacted by March 21 (Fri) for the Second selection.
Second selection (Interview screening)	March 25 (Tue) *Tentative
Notice of results	End of March *Tentative *sent to the each student by E-mail.
Orientation for candidates	April 4 (Fri) *Tentative

-Applications past the deadline will not be accepted for any reasons. The date and time of application acceptance will be determined based on the log record of the time when the application was received at the designated email address. Even if there is a delay in application due to device malfunction, etc., the application will be judged based on the record of the application email's log only.

-No changes are allowed on your application documents after the submission. And the documents will not be returned.

-If there is any discrepancy on your application documents, the application will not be considered. Make sure all the information and statements are true and correct.

-Any inquiries about the selection process and results will not be accepted.

5. Documents to be submitted:

- ① Application form Sophia SPRING Project in the spring semester of 2025 (Form 1)
- ② Recommendation form Sophia SPRING Project in the spring semester of 2025 (Form 2) *5
- ③ Pledge form Sophia SPRING Project in the spring semester of 2025 (Form 3)

*5: The recommender should ask your academic advisor (Including the prospective) to complete the form and submit it to you (see 6. How to submit the form below).

<Policy on use of personal information>

•Sophia University will not use the personal information on the application forms for any purpose other than the internal selection and necessary procedures of the Sophia SPRING Project.

6. Instructions for Submitting the Application Documents:

Please send a set of application documents by email to the address below, with the subject line 「Application for SPRING Project in the spring semester of 2025 (Name of Graduate School_Your Name)」 by the submission deadline.

Application documents are to be submitted in PDF format.

Email Address for Submission: sophia_spring-co@sophia.ac.jp

7. Submission deadline:

March 10, 2025 (Mon) 11:00 (punctual)

8. Other/ Notes in case of adoption:

SPRING students must:

- ① Concentrate on your research activities with self-awareness and responsibility as a SPRING student.
- ② Report the status of research activities to the project director by the designated deadline.
- ③ Be sure to participate in career development programs and any other events/seminars in this Project (Absences for personal reasons will not be accepted).
- ④ Complete the research ethics education provided by Sophia University.
- ⑤ Maintain high ethical standards in accordance with the Sophia University Guidelines for 'Academic Research Ethics' in order to facilitate honest and responsible research activities. Research misconduct is strictly prohibited.
- ⑥ Properly execute the research expenses in accordance with the Sophia University Guidelines for Appropriate Use and Management of Research Funds.
- ⑦ If selected, information of the selected students and this project will be announced to the public on the University's website. In addition, the submitted deliverables, reports, etc. may be made open to the public for the purpose of publicizing the University's research activities.

9. Contact us:

SPRING Secretariat Office (the Center for Research Promotion and Support)

Office : 4th floor, Building #13 (office hour: 9:30-11:30/12:30-17:00)

Email : sophia_spring-co@sophia.ac.jp