



Application Guideline for Sophia SPRING Project in the spring semester of 2026

【Support Category 3】

We have opened applications for Sophia SPRING project. If you want to apply for this project starting in the spring semester of 2026, read this guideline carefully and submit the application documents within the application period.

[Important Notice]

Due to a review of JST's operational policies, this call for proposals will be divided into three support categories. Please note that the eligible applicants and support details differ for each category. This call pertains to **【Support Category 3】**. Please refer to the table below for the main eligible applicants and support details for each category.

Support Category	Primary Support Recipients <small>*Be sure to check the application guidelines for details</small>	Financial Support	Research Fee	Various Capacity Development Programs <small>(Improving Interdisciplinarity, International, Humanity)</small>
Category 1	Primarily Japanese Students <small>(Those not falling under Categories 2 or 3)</small>	Eligible *Research Grant <small>(equivalent to living expenses)</small>	Eligible	Eligible
Category 2	Primarily International Students <small>(Those with “Student” residence status)</small>	NOT eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Category 3	Primarily Working adult Students <small>(Those with stable, fixed income equivalent to living expenses (¥2.4 million/year or more))</small>	NOT eligible	Eligible	NOT eligible *Participation in various programs is permitted

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 Research fee’s 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.

*The following “Capacity building programs” and “Career Support” services are primarily intended for students in [Support Categories 1 and 2]. While direct provision for students in [Support Category 3] (working adult students) is not planned, [Support Category 3] students may participate depending on the program content.

【Reference】

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.

2. Recruitment details:

Recruitment numbers	Approximately 6 students (DC1: Approximately 4 students, DC2: Approximately 2 students)
Eligibility	• Doctoral students enrolling in the Spring Semester of the 2026 academic year who meet one of the following categories ①-③ *1 ① Students who are receiving stable, fixed income (such as salary or executive compensation) at a level sufficient to cover living expenses (based on ¥2.4 million/year), and who is an employee or staff member of a Japanese corporation, a national public servant, a local public servant, or a member or staff member of a non-corporate legal entity other than a

	<p>business. * 2</p> <p>② Students who affiliated exclusively with overseas institutions or corporations, regardless of income, where such affiliation is with overseas universities, public research institutions, or other non-profit institutions or corporations.</p> <p>③ International students receiving scholarships from the Japanese government (students under the Government-sponsored International Student Program), who are affiliated with the government, regardless of income.</p> <p>* 1: Those who have previously applied for this program are not eligible to apply.</p> <p>* 2: Income from TA, RA, part-time jobs, etc. is not included in “stable income”.</p> <p>• Students who are affiliated with the following status after the beginning date of the support are excluded.</p> <p>① Students who have been enrolled for longer than the standard period of the doctoral degree completion</p> <p>② Students who are on a leave of absence</p> <p>• If you have any questions about the eligibility and requirements, please contact the SPRING Secretariat Office beforehand by e-mail.</p>
Research fees	<p>① Research fees : 200,000 yen per year (maximum) * 3</p> <p>* 3: Additional research funds may be allocated based on research performance.</p> <p>ex) FY 2025 results: maximum of approximately 500,000 yen</p>
Support period	Up to the end of standard term of completion for doctoral programs

3. Selection:

Method	A selection committee will be established to determine acceptance or rejection through document screening.
Perspectives	<p>① Reasons for application (enthusiasm): The applicant must have the 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>

	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”.
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4. Recruitment and Selection Schedule:

Information session	April 2 nd (Thu) from 13:00 to 13:30 online via Zoom (Check My Sophia or Sophia SPRING Web site for Zoom information) * On the day of the event, we will hold an information session regarding Category 2 and Category 3.
Application period	April 1st (Wed) to April 15th (Wed) 11:00
Notice of results	End of April *Tentative * sent to the each student by E-mail.
Orientation for candidates	May 1st (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 [Category 3] Application form Sophia SPRING Project in the spring semester of 2026 (Form 1)
 - ② [Category 3] Recommendation form Sophia SPRING Project in the spring semester of 2026 (Form 2) *4
 - ③ [Category 3] Pledge form Sophia SPRING Project in the spring semester of 2026 (Form 3)
- *4: The recommender should ask your academic advisor (Including the prospective) to complete the form and submit it from your academic advisor to the Center for Research Promotion and Support (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 2026 (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:

April 15th, 2026 (Wed) 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 Complete the research ethics education provided by Sophia University.
- ④ 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.
- ⑤ Properly execute the research expenses in accordance with the Sophia University Guidelines for Appropriate Use and Management of Research Funds.
- ⑥ 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