

【Preliminary Selection for AY2026】

Kumamoto University Global PhD Program for Leading AI through Interdisciplinary
Integration Program

Guide4AI(Global University Interdisciplinary Doctoral Education for leading AI Field)

Application Guidelines

This program supports doctoral students, aiming to foster exceptional individuals who will lead interdisciplinary fields with AI at their core.

1. Support Details

Number of Students Accepted for Admission : We will be recruiting around 2~3 students

Living expenses : 250,000 yen per month

Research Grant : 900,000 yen per year

* Living expenses and research grant will be supported only for the official duration of respective courses in the university.

2. Eligibility for Application

This program is open to students who meet all of the following criteria. However, students on a leave of absence as of April 1, 2026 are excluded:

- Actively engaged in research and development within AI or emerging/converging fields related to AI (Next Generation AI). This includes those who leverage their high level of expertise in areas such as bio, materials, socioeconomics, or medicine to challenge and contribute to Next Generation AI fields.
- Possess the ambition and ability to pioneer and lead in Next Generation AI fields.
- Those who are expected to enroll on April 1, 2026 in the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences, Graduate School of Science and Technology, Graduate School of Health Sciences, or Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, or in the 4 year doctoral program of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences or Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at this university.

(This includes those who have taken the entrance examination for admission to these programs starting April 1, 2026, and are waiting for the results, as well as those who are planning to take the entrance examination.)

- Students who are NOT supported by the following may apply:
 - JSPS Special Research Fellowship
 - MEXT Scholarship
 - Foreign students who are supported by scholarship programs in their home country
- Students who are deemed to NOT be receiving a stable income which is sufficient to meet living expenses, such as an income from a company or university position may apply (a stable income

is classed as approximately 2.4 million yen/year)

- Students who have never received a disciplinary action stipulated in Kumamoto University's Regulations.

3. Expectations after selection

- To give a presentation on AI research at an international conference. However, if the international conference is a peer-reviewed, acceptance of the paper can be substituted for the presentation
- Participation in colloquiums and reporting sessions jointly held with the Better Co-being Program.
- Students should focus on their research activities.
- Students should attend the courses on research ethics and compliance provided by the university.
- Students should get confirmation of enrollment every month.
- Students should submit a research plan and a research report every year to the Program Supervisor
- Students should be able to participate in this program throughout the support period
- Register with the Cooperative Education through Research Internships Consortium system and JGRAD

4. Application Procedures

(1) Application Method

- Please register on and download the application forms from the website below
Website link : https://higoprogram.jp/en/bettercobeing_english/#link2
- Please fill out all required information and submit all forms as a single combined PDF file via the File Submission Box.

When uploading the PDF file, please name the file using your affiliation sign and full name.
(e.g., D : Full Name). *Make sure to enter the affiliation sign as a capital letter.

教育部記号	教育部名	
G	社会文化科学教育部	Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences
D	自然科学教育部	Graduate School of Science and Technology
R	医学教育部	Graduate School of Medical Sciences
Y	薬学教育部	Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
W	保健学教育部	Graduate School of Health Sciences

(2) Submission Documents

- Program Application Form (entered directly through Form)
- Written statement for reason of application (upload as PDF)
- Research Plan (upload as a PDF)
- Confirmation form (checklist) for application documents
- Scores of external English examinations such as TOEIC, etc.

* Only scores from external English proficiency tests taken within the two years prior to the application start date will be accepted

- If you have them, attach them to the back of the Confirmation form (checklist) for application documents. If you do not have them, you do not need to attach anything

(3) Application Period

September 22nd (Monday) – October 3rd (Friday), 2025

5. Selection Procedure and Notification of Results

- (1) Selection will be based on an applicant's submitted application and by interview.

(Points to consider in your application)

Reasons for application (clarity of motivation and ambition, vision for career path, motivation for research, abilities for cross-disciplinary training and research, and learning in different fields, training of cross-disciplinary research ability, and ambition and motivation for challenging career paths, etc.)

Research plan (scientific contribution, objectives and feasibility of research, clarity of application form, social impact, potential for integration with other fields, etc.)

English language score from an external examination

(Points to consider during your interview)

Motivation, reasons for one's application, research plan, career vision, etc.

- (2) The language used for the written examination and interview shall be Japanese or English.
- (3) Interviews will be conducted via Zoom, and they are planned to be held between October 20th (Mon) to October 22nd (Wed). We shall inform you about the exact date and time of the interview via the email address you provide in your application.
- (4) The results of the selection process shall be announced at the beginning of November.

6. Regarding Formal Adoption

If you are provisionally accepted into this program, after enrolling in your doctoral program you will be formally adopted as a student of this program. However, depending on your enrolment and registration status, your appointment may be revoked.

7. Handling of Personal Information

- (1) Personal information contained in the application documents will be used for selection of program students and other purposes related to the program.
- (2) Personal information such as test results used for the selection of program students will be used for the compilation and analysis of selection results and for the investigation and analysis of selection method.
- (3) In order to carry out (1) and (2), some aspects may be outsourced to an external company. In

such a case, after making an appropriate contract for careful handling of personal information, all or part of the acquired personal information will be provided to the company.

8. Orientation for the Program

Orientation video will be posted on the Better Co-being program website.

(https://higoprogram.jp/en/bettercobeing_english/#link2)

9. Caution

- The names of selected students will be posted on the university homepage.
- After submission, as a general rule you will not be allowed to make any changes to your application.
- Applications will not be returned.
- Applicants who include false information in their application will be rejected and may be rejected even after the selection process has finished.
- A follow-up survey of selected students will be conducted. Students will be asked to participate in these surveys for up to 10 years after completion of the program.
- After selection by the program, students must submit a certificate of completion of research ethics education (eAPRIN or eL CoRE) conducted by the university. You will receive information from your affiliated department, so please make sure to take the course as soon as possible.

10. Contact Information

Headquarters for Admissions and Education, Graduate Program Education Promotion Division

daigakuin-kyoiku@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

※Please send any inquiries by email