

"Global Doctoral Human Resource Development Program for Leading the AI Field through Interdisciplinary Integration (Guide4AI)"

Application Guidelines

Kumamoto University is implementing a program to support doctoral students with the aim of fostering outstanding doctoral talent in interdisciplinary fields centered on AI.

1. Support Details

Number of Students to be Accepted: Approximately 1 student

Living expenses: 250,000 JPY/month

Research grant: 900,000 JPY/year

* Living expenses and the research grant will be provided/allocated for the period of enrollment in the doctoral program (within the standard period of study).

2. Eligibility for Application

This program is open to students who meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Students who are actively engaged in research and development in AI or in emerging/converging fields related to AI (Next Generation AI), OR who are leveraging high-level expertise in fields such as biology, materials science, socioeconomics, or medicine to challenge and contribute to Next Generation AI fields.
- Students who possess the ambition and ability to pioneer and lead in Next Generation AI fields.
- Students in a doctoral program who enrolled in April 2025, OR students in a 4-year program who enrolled in April 2024 (i.e., students who will be in their 2nd year of a regular doctoral program or 3rd year of a 4-year doctoral program as of April 2026). Students who enrolled in October are excluded.
- Students who are NOT supported by JSPS Special Research Fellowship, government-sponsored international student scholarships, or scholarships from their home country.
- Students who are deemed to NOT be receiving a stable income sufficient to cover living expenses (approximately 2.4 million yen/year) from a university, company, or other organization, such as a salary or executive compensation.
- Students who have never received a disciplinary action as stipulated in Article 89 of the Kumamoto University Regulations (as applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to Article 55 of the Graduate School Regulations).

3. Expectations After Selection

- Present AI-related research at an international conference during the support period. (For peer-reviewed international conferences, acceptance of a paper may substitute for a presentation.)
- Participate in colloquia and reporting sessions held jointly with the Better Co-being Program.
- Students should focus on their research activities.
- Students should complete the research ethics and compliance training provided by the university.
- Students should have their enrollment confirmed every month.
- Students should submit a research plan and research report to the Program Supervisor each academic year.

4. Application Procedures

(1) Application Method

• Please access the website below, complete the required information in the application form, and submit.
Website link: https://higoprogram.jp/en/bettercobeing_english.

- Please download the required forms from the website, compile all submission documents into a single PDF file, and upload it to the File Submission Box.

When uploading the PDF file, please name the file using your graduate school abbreviation and full name (e.g., "D: Taro Kumadai").

* Use a capital letter (half-width) for the abbreviation.

Affiliation Sign	Graduate School
G	Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences
D	Graduate School of Science and Technology
R	Graduate School of Medical Sciences
Y	Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
W	Graduate School of Health Sciences

(2) Submission Documents

- Program Application Form (to be filled out directly in the application form)
- Statement of Purpose and Research Plan (to be uploaded as PDF)
- Document Confirmation Form (Checklist)
- English Proficiency Test Score (if available, attach after the Document Confirmation Form (Checklist); If not available, no attachment is necessary.)

(3) Application Period

Friday, May 1, 2026 – Friday, May 15, 2026

5. Selection Procedure and Notification of Results

(1) Selection will be based on submitted application documents (document review) and an interview.

(Points considered in the document review)

Reasons for application (clarity of motivation, vision for career path, motivation for research, aptitude and ambition for interdisciplinary learning and cross-disciplinary research, and career path realization, etc.)

Research plan (research contributions, clarity of objectives, specificity and feasibility of the plan, clarity of the application, social significance of the research, potential for interdisciplinary integration and creation of new academic fields, etc.)

English language score from an external examination

(Points considered in the interview)

Motivation, reasons for application, research plan, career vision, etc.

(2) The language used for the document review and interview shall be Japanese or English.

(3) Interviews will be conducted via Zoom. The interview dates are scheduled for mid-June (approximately June 9 (Tue) – June 10 (Wed)). Specific dates and times will be communicated via the email address provided in the application.

(4) The results of the selection process will be announced by the end of June.

6. Handling of Personal Information

(1) Personal information contained in the application documents will be used for the selection of program students and for other purposes related to the program.

(2) Personal information such as test results used in the selection of program students will be used for the compilation and analysis of selection results and for the investigation and study of selection methods.

(3) In carrying out the tasks described in (1) and (2) above, some work may be outsourced to an external provider. In such cases, after entering into an appropriate contract to ensure proper handling of personal information, all or part of the collected personal information may be provided to that provider.

7. Information Sessions

Information will be posted on the program website (https://higoprogram.jp/en/bettercobeing_english).

8. Important Notes

- The names of selected students will be posted on the university website.
- After submission, changes to the application are generally not permitted.
- Applications with deficiencies (e.g., exceeding the maximum page limit) will not be reviewed.
- Applications will not be returned.
- Applicants who provide false information will lose their eligibility and may be disqualified even after selection.
- A follow-up survey will be conducted. Students will be asked to participate in surveys for approximately 10 years after the end of support through this Program.
- After being selected for the program, students must submit a certificate of completion of the research ethics education (eAPRIN or eL CoRE) provided by the university. You will receive guidance from your graduate school, so please complete the training promptly.
- Concurrent application with the Better Co-being Program is not permitted.

9. Contact Information

Institute for Education and Student Affairs,
Graduate Program Education Promotion Division
Email: daigakuin-kyoiku@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp
※ Please direct all inquiries by email.