Kumamoto University Health Life Science S-HIGO Professional Fellowship Program

Application Guidelines for AY2022

Kumamoto University's Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Graduate School of Health Sciences and Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences were selected by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for the "University Fellowship Establishment Project for the Creation of Science and Technology Innovation". With that support, a new fellowship program "Health Life Science S-HIGO Professional Training Fellowship (S-HIGO Fellowship)" has been started which will support students in Doctoral (PhD) courses by creating an environment in which students can devote themselves to their research and by helping to secure a career path after graduation. This fellowship support program aims to motivate students to enter in doctoral courses and it will offer advanced courses to nurture human resources with advanced research abilities.

Kumamoto University was previously selected for MEXT's Program for Leading Graduate Schools in 2012 and is actively involved in nurturing future health life science leaders through Health life science: Interdisciplinary and Glocal Oriented (HIGO) Program in close collaboration with governmental and business organizations.

The newly launched S-HIGO Fellowship will inherit the unique elements of the HIGO program and aims to produce doctoral course graduates who have advanced research capabilities in health and life sciences along with interdisciplinary mindset and practical skills.

As a general rule, students selected for the S-HIGO Fellowship will be provided with a Fellowship (research dedication stipend and research grant) until they complete the program, as well as training for research skills in health and life sciences, and interdisciplinary mindset and practical skills. An educational program (S-HIGO Professional Program) will be provided. (For details, please see https://higoprogram.jp/s-higo/)

1. Number of Students Accepted for Admission

Graduate School	1st year student of 3-year doctoral course or 2nd year student of 4-year doctoral course	1st year student of 4-year doctoral course
Graduate School of Medical Sciences	-	3
Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences	3	1
Graduate School of Health Sciences	1	-

2. Eligibility for Application

Students who fall under all of following categories (1) to (5) can apply for the S-HIGO Fellowship support. However, this excludes full-time employees* and students who have taken a leave or repeated a school year in the year of application.

(1) Students who are enrolled in the 1st year of 3-year doctoral course or 1st or 2nd year of 4-year doctoral course at Graduate Schools of Medical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences or Health Sciences in April 1, 2022.

(2) Students who are of following age in April 1, 2021. However, this limit will exclude those who have

experienced childbirth or child care.

Grade	Age requirement
1st year student of 3-year doctoral course or 2nd year student of 4-year doctoral course	Under 30 years old (Under 33 years old for those who were involved in clinical training)
1st year student of 4-year doctoral course	Under 29 years old (Under 32 years old for those who were involved in clinical training)

(3) Students who are not supported by JSPS special research fellowship or MEXT scholarship or foreign students who are not supported by the scholarship programs of their home country

(4) Students who have never received a disciplinary action based on the school regulations, etc.

(5) Students who can take the courses (S-HIGO Professional Program Course) provided by the Graduate Schools of Medical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Health Sciences throughout the duration of the fellowship support.

*Full-time employee refers to (1) those who have a job (those who are currently in a job that earns salary, wages, remuneration, and other ordinary income), (2) those who have retired from a job that provided salaries, wages, remuneration, and other ordinary income and (3) a housewife / househusband.
For example, those who have graduated from School of Medicine or School of Dentistry and worked as clinical trainee for more years than required by Medical Practitioners' Act / Dental Practitioners' Law or worked full time employee will be considered as full-time employees.
If you are uncertain whether your experience will be counted as full-time employee or not, please contact the S-HIGO Fellowship Program Office.

3. Support Amounts

Students selected for S-HIGO Fellowship will receive (1) Research dedication stipend and (2) Research grant for the standard course completion period of 3-year doctoral course or 4-year doctoral course.

(1) Research dedication stipend: 1,800,000 JPY/year（150,000 JPY/month）

Research dedication stipend（150,000 JPY/month）will be deposited directly to student's bank account from April, 2022.

(2) Research grant：200,000 JPY/year

Research grant (200,000 JPY/year) will be provided to the laboratory where student is affiliated)

(3) Tuition few support: Tuition few exemption support that will be equivalent to the half of annual tuition fee

Basically, tuition fee support will be provided to students who first apply for both tuition fee exemption and Kumamoto University Graduate School Doctoral Course Scholarship Program (KDS) and are not permitted for exception. The total support will be equivalent to the half of annual tuition fee (if student receives partial support from tuition fee exemption, support amount will be calculated based on that). This support may vary depending upon the university's regulation.

This program is operated with the financial support from the government. Thus, the actual amounts of supports

we provide in AY2022 may vary based on government's regulation.

4. Obligations of Fellowship Recipients

Students receiving the S-HIGO Fellowship must comply with the following terms. If any students violate these terms, he/she might be suspended from receiving the fellowship.

(1) Students should focus on their research activities.
(2) Students should attend courses on research ethics and compliance organized by the program director.
(3) Students should get confirmation of enrollment every month.
(4) Students should submit a research plan and a research report every year to the program director.
(5) Students should take the courses (S-HIGO Professional Program courses) provided by the Graduate Schools of Medical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Health Sciences throughout the duration of the fellowship support.

5. Application Procedures

(1) Application Documents
1) Application form for S-HIGO fellowship program
2) Research plan
3) Written statement of reasons for application

＜Important points＞
- In general, the contents of application documents cannot be changed after submission.
- Application documents will not be returned to applicants.
- Applicants who make false statements in the application documents will be disqualified from taking the selection examination or will be disqualified to receive the fellowship even after selection.

(2) Application Period
From October 13, 2022 (Wed.) till October 20, 2022 (Wed.) 17:00

(3) Application Process
Application documents can directly be submitted or sent by postal mail (including inter-university postal service) to S-HIGO Fellowship Program Office.

6. Selection Procedures and Notification of Results

(1) Selection process
Selection will be based on the English Score, evaluation of application documents and evaluation interview. Evaluation interview will be based on the questions related to career vision, reasons for application, research activities till the time of interview and future research plans.

(2) Selection examination
Selection exam will be held on following date and time.
Date and Time: October 30, 2022 (Sat.)
9:00～11:20 English language test (TOEFL-ITP)*
12:30～ Evaluation interview (about 20 min. per student)
Venue: School of Medicine, Kumamoto University (Kumamoto city, Chuo Ku, Honjo 1-1-1)

(3) Handling of scores of English Language Tests

Approved English Language Tests

The English external tests that can be used the score for selection are TOEFL-iBT, TOEFL-PBT, TOEFL-ITP, TOEIC, TOEIC-IP and IELTS. However, TOEFL-ITP and TOEIC-IP are limited to those conducted at our university.

Scores to be used during selection:

For selection, one of the following (1) to (4) will be used. (for those who submitted multiple scores, the highest one)

(1) English language test score submitted during admission to doctoral course

(2) External English language test score taken during the entrance examination of doctoral course

(3) English language test score from any valid test taken within 2 years before application to S-HIGO Fellowship (excluding (1) and (2)

(4) English language test taken during selection exam for S-HIGO Fellowship

If applicants do not have scores from any of above from (1) to (3), they can take TOEFL-ITP test during selection exam for S-HIGO Fellowship

If students have scores from any of above from (1) to (3) and still willing to take TOEFL-ITP test during selection exam for S-HIGO Fellowship, they can do so.

(4) Notification of results

The selection results will be notified around mid-November, 2022.

7. Handling of Personal Information

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

(2) Personal information such as test results used for the selection of fellowship recipients will be used for the compilation and analysis of selection results and also for the investigation and analysis of selection method.

(3) For carrying out the above (1) and (2) operations, some operations may be outsourced to an external business form. In that case, all or part of the acquired personal information will be provided to external business form after making an appropriate contract for careful handling of personal information.

8. Orientation for Fellowship Program

Orientation programs for interested students will be organized as following schedule and through ZOOM (ZOOM session can be attended only by students affiliated to Kumamoto University). The recorded video will be later uploaded to S-HIGO Fellowship Website https://higoprogram.jp/s-higo/

Date and Time: September 16 (Thu.) 15:00-15:30 (Only in Japanese)

【Venue】Pharmacy Campus, Miyamoto Memorial Hall

※The details of ZOOM Meeting and recorded video can be accessed through following link.
https://md.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/course/view.php?id=94296

9. Points to be considered

(1) The research dedication stipend is treated as miscellaneous income under tax law and is subject to income tax. Students must file your tax return their self.

(2) If the program student has taken out the health insurance of his / her relatives as a dependent, he / she will be excluded from the dependents by receiving the research dedication stipend, and the program student must register in the the national health insurance by himself / herself.

(3) The names of the program students will be announced on the university website.

(4) Program students will be contacted for surveys on career paths, etc. during enrollment in program and after graduation.

10. Office for Submission of Application Documents/Inquiries

S-HIGO Fellowship Office（HIGO Program Office）
Phone：096-373-5006
Email: higo-program@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp
〒860-8556 Kumamoto City, Chuo-ku, Honjo 1-1-1
※Office is in the 2nd floor of Welfare Facilities
https://ewww.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/en/about/access/campus/　Building No. 7 in Campus Map

*If there are any unclear points, the content of the Japanese version of application guidelines should be followed.