

Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion Application Guidelines, April 2026

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In accordance with the policy revision of the "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next-Generation (JST-SPRING)" conducted by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), the selection in April 2026 has been significantly revised from previous application cycles. The main changes are as follows. Applicants and their (prospective) primary supervisors must read the Application Guidelines carefully before applying.

● SPRING – Japanese Students:

Changes to application requirements (new limits on the number of months enrolled at the time of application and on the number of times one may apply)

● SPRING – International Students:

-Changes to application requirements (addition of MEXT scholarship students; restriction of application timing solely to the month of enrollment in a Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course (for the April 2026 recruitment period, this applies only to privately financed international students) ; application requirement regarding contributions to science, technology, and innovation in Japan)

-Changes to financial support (not eligible for the grant for living expenses or half tuition exemptions; RA salaries granted only to selected applicants recognized as truly outstanding)

● Preliminary Selection:

Changes to application requirements (addition of 4-year Doctoral Course as eligible advancement destinations for preliminary awardees; expanded eligibility for those who advance to or are enrolled in the 5th year, as well as those who advance to the 6th year of the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences)

The present call for HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING and HaKaSe⁺ Preliminary Selection is based on the assumption that the government will continue its doctoral student support programs beyond FY 2026. Please note in advance that, depending on future governmental system revisions or budgetary conditions, changes may occur—such as revisions to eligibility based on nationality or residence status, reductions in support levels, or modifications to the content.

Furthermore, all references in the Application Guidelines to "Japanese students" denote those who are marked with a ○ in the categorization titled "Students Eligible for Grant for living expenses under the New System" indicated in connection with the SPRING policy revision (see the URL below).



URL: <https://phd.w3.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/wp2022/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Eligible-Students.pdf>

Important Notes on Application

Doctoral talents are expected to contribute "Science, technology, and innovation in Japan."

Kanazawa University also focuses on fostering and producing doctoral talents with one of the significant missions for Kanazawa University to strengthen the functions of the graduate school, and thereby enhance its research capabilities.

The following projects implemented under the "Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (HaKaSe⁺)" are all carried out by Kanazawa University supported by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

[HaKaSe⁺ projects]

- SPRING Project for Doctoral Talents in Creating Novel Values (HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING)
- BOOST Project for Trailblazing AI Crossover Doctoral Talents (HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST)
- Preliminary Selection of Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe⁺)

These projects provide an environment where excellent students of the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course (hereinafter referred to as "doctoral students") being responsible for the future of science, technology, and innovation in Japan to concentrate on their research without financial worries, as well as various supports for career development as doctoral talents.

Therefore, applicants are to understand the following matters and carefully read and confirm this Application Guidelines before applying.

1. An awardee will be required to present research achievements in academic conferences and academic journals, complete doctoral course of Kanazawa University within standard period of course, and obtain a doctoral degree as a student supported by Japanese government funding to develop doctoral talents who will contribute to "Science, technology and innovation in Japan."
2. In order to increase independence and activeness in going on to doctoral course, and to increase responsibility for conducting research in doctoral course, HaKaSe⁺ have limited the application of admission fee waivers and tuition waivers for students selected for HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING and HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST from April 2024 onwards.
3. HaKaSe⁺ will take action such as suspending the support, cancelling the award or demanding the refund of all of the financial supports in the case that HaKaSe⁺ finds and confirms the fact that an awardee is in conflict with the Qualifications for application or Obligations of awardees.
4. Career of each awardee will be tracked for more than 10 years after completing the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course as a selected student supported by Japanese government funding.

Selection Schedule

Note: All dates and times in this Application Guidelines are Japan Standard Time (JST).

			Reference for details
Application period		December 24 (Wed), 2025 - Noon on January 14 (Wed), 2026 [Must arrive] Note: only applications submitted by both the applicant and (prospective) primary supervisor within the application period will be accepted.	p. 11
Notification of eligibility for Interview		By January 27 (Tue), 2026 Note: HaKaSe ⁺ will notify those eligible for Interview of the date and time as well as details of Interview.	
Deadline for submitting slide data for Interview		Noon on January 28 (Wed), 2026 [Must arrive] Note: If not submitted by the deadline, an applicant will be deemed to have declined Interview.	p. 11-12
Interview	-Japanese students -International students (Applicants to HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST)	Early to mid-February 2026 (including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) Note: Interview date and time for each applicant will be specified by HaKaSe ⁺ .	
	-International students (Applicants to HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING)	— (As a general rule, awardees are selected based on Document Screening)	
Announcement of the selection result		By the end of March, 2026	p. 12
Date of adoption of HaKaSe ⁺		April 1 (Wed), 2026	

0. Overview of HaKaSe⁺ Support System and Eligibility for Application

The project overviews, financial support details, eligible applicants, and eligibility criteria for each project under the “Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (HaKaSe⁺)” (hereinafter referred to as HaKaSe⁺) for the selection in April 2026 are as follows in the table below.

※Be sure to confirm the details of the support targets for each project in Section 2. Outline of the Support, 1) Eligible Graduate School/College, Course, and Division/School and Section 3. Application Requirements.

※Carefully read pages 3 and following before preparing the application documents.

		SPRING Project for Doctoral Talents in Creating Novel Values (HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING)	BOOST Project for Trailblazing AI Crossover Doctoral Talents (HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST)	Preliminary Selection of Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe ⁺)
Funding Agency		Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	Unique system of Kanazawa University
Content of project		Support for research and career formation	Promoting cultivation of doctoral talents and cutting-edge research and development in both AI field and emerging/integrated areas in AI field (Next-generation AI field)	Financial support for those who pledge to advance to the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course of Kanazawa University
Final year of new recruitment		FY2026	FY2026	—
Capacity		169 (Total for the year)	3/fiscal year	ca. 25/fiscal year
Support period (in principle)		Within standard period of Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course	Within standard period of Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within standard period of Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course Within the standard period of study for the 5th and 6th years of the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences (two years)
Student category As of April 1, 2026		Japanese students	MEXT scholarship students / Privately financed international students with a student visa	Japanese students / Privately financed international students
Applicable course	Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course	NA	NA	NA
	6-year Bachelor's Program	NA	NA	NA
	Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course	Only for those enrolled for less than 12 months	Privately financed international students are limited to those enrolling in April, 2026	For those enrolling in April, 2026 / those enrolled in April 2025 and have been enrolled for 12 months
	4-year Doctoral Course	Re-applications from individuals previously rejected in HaKaSe ⁺ selections will be accepted only once (excluding rejections in Preliminary Selection)	For those enrolled in April, 2025 and have been enrolled for 12 months / those enrolled in 2024 April and have been enrolled for 24 months	NA
Outline of financial support contents	Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course / 5th and 6th in 6-year Bachelor's Program	Grant for living expenses per month	—	—
		RA salary	—	—
	Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course	Grant for living expenses per month	180,000 yen	250,000 yen
		Research fund per year	400,000 yen	900,000 yen
		RA salary per year	—	—
	Support for travel expenses, etc.	Support unique to the project available	Support unique to the project available	Support unique to the project available
Apply to FY2026	Exemption of Admission fee	—	—	—
	Exemption of Tuition fee	Half exemption	—	Half exemption
Application Requirements and Obligations of awardees		Confirm in [3. Application Requirements 2) Qualifications for application] and [7. Obligations of Awardees].		

[Application documents]

- Application Forms A-1, B-1, C-1
- Transcripts
- Recommendation letter of (prospective) primary supervisor

- Application Forms A-2, B-2, C-2
- Application Forms C-2-1 (if applicable)
- Transcripts
- Recommendation letter of (prospective) primary supervisor

Note 1: Only for those who earn income such as a salary and executive compensation from the company, etc., to which they belong, after April 1, 2026, Documents proving employment status, working conditions and income (excluding international students applying only for HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING)

Note 2: Only for those who are planning to enroll on April 1, 2026 Notification of acceptance (copy) or entrance examination ticket (copy) for the relevant division of the graduate school

Note 3: For HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING applicants: HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING Applicant Checklist (Application Form D)

Note 4: For foreign nationals: A copy of the Residence Status Card (front and back) (attach to Application Form E)

Student category		Project	Requirements			Judgment
			Receiving government-funded research support* for independent/challenging/interdisciplinary research?	Employed by an institution or company (domestic or overseas)?	Has sufficient income (≈2,400,000 yen/year) from salary, executive compensation, or scholarships (excluding TA/RA/part-time)?	Application Eligibility
Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course	Japanese students	HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING	Yes			No
			No	Employed	Yes	No
		HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST		Unemployed	Yes	Yes
					No	No
	International students	HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING	Yes			Yes
			No	Employed		No
		HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST		Unemployed		Yes
			Yes			No
			No	Employed	Yes	No
					No	Yes
				Unemployed	Yes	No
					No	Yes
Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course / 5th and 6th in 6-year Bachelor's Program	Japanese students	Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe ⁺				Yes
	International students	Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe ⁺				No

* Examples of the research support

- JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC)
- JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency) "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation Home (SPRING)"
- JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency) "Fostering Researchers in Emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) Program (Support for Doctoral Students) (BOOST)"
- JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) scholarship recipients
- JST "Japan-ASEAN Science, Technology, and Innovation Collaborative Program (NEXUS)" for young researcher development

1. Purpose and Outline of HaKaSe⁺

Kanazawa University is focusing on fostering and producing doctoral talents who will be the seed of innovation both in Japan and around the world, and be responsible for creating a future society.

The **HaKaSe⁺** has the following individual projects as major pillars of HaKaSe⁺, supported by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and reinforces support for doctoral students as well as encourages our students to advance to the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course.

- SPRING Project for Doctoral Talents in Creating Novel Values (HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING) [From FY2024]
- BOOST Project for Trailblazing AI Crossover Doctoral Talents (HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST) [From FY2024]

Each of these individual projects aims to nurture talented doctoral talents who can contribute to society, by reinforcing support such as financial support, enhancement of the environment for concentration on research, development of interdisciplinarity and internationality, career development after obtaining a doctoral degree, etc.

Doctoral students who apply to and are selected for HaKaSe⁺ will be supported by one of the projects based on the specific support provided by that project. This support may include grants for living expenses, research funds, travel subsidies, or other financial assistance. The goal is to create an environment conducive to dedicated research while requiring recipients to fulfill the obligations imposed by HaKaSe⁺ and the relevant project.

In addition, students who advance to or are enrolled in the Master's Level Section of the Integrated Course / Master's Course as well as those who advance to or are enrolled in the 5th year of the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences and those who advance to its 6th year, will be selected as "Preliminary Awardees" for HaKaSe⁺ on the condition that they pledge to further advance to the Doctoral Level Section of the Integrated Course / Doctoral Course at Kanazawa University. Preliminary Awardees are supported to reduce their financial burden during the enrollment in the Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course or during the enrollment in the 5th and 6th years in the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences.

HaKaSe⁺ recruits ambitious students who are willing to pursue challenging and interdisciplinary research that aims to create new knowledge based on their high level of expertise and research capability and to lead to create novel values in society.

The details of each project are as follows.

[SPRING Project for Doctoral Talents in Creating Novel Values (HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING)]

This project is designed to foster innovative doctoral talents in KU co-educational environment through co-creation and exchanges of knowledge, who can develop their advanced expertise in diverse sectors and fields of society, and create novel values for the future. HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING supports excellent and aspiring doctoral students with a wide view that transcends their own research field, as well as attitude and capability to take on challenges to face social issues. These doctoral talents are expected to contribute to the progress of science and technology, and the creation of innovations both in Japan and around the world.

[BOOST Project for Trailblazing AI Crossover Doctoral Talents (HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST)]

This project is designed to foster doctoral talents who promote cutting-edge AI theoretical research and AI applied research in various research fields, backed by advanced AI knowledge and skills, and lead next-generation AI research and development. HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST places emphasis on having the qualifications to take on challenges in the AI academic field with an inquisitive spirit and conduct creative AI research. Therefore, this project supports not only doctoral students who are promoting theoretical or applied AI research and already have knowledge, skills, and research experience related to AI research, but also those with a strong desire to incorporate AI in their own research field and promote research.

The students selected for HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST are to catch up on rapidly evolving AI technology, acquire skills as AI engineers or data scientists, and utilize these skills to reach the level where they can carry out AI research and development that is most optimal for their own research. Besides, selected students are required to present AI research in academic conferences and academic journals.

Therefore, selected students of HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST will be required to participate in "AI theoretical education", "AI lectures and practical training", "AI catch-up seminars", and "AI research exchanges" conducted by this project. Furthermore, in order to promote knowledge circulation and accelerate AI research at Kanazawa University, **HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST requests selected students and their supervisors to share the sample data, sample code, and know-how across Kanazawa University from their AI research when achieving research results in academic journals, in the case that this does not interfere with patent applications, preservation of security/privacy/confidentiality.**

[Preliminary Selection of Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe⁺)]

Note: Applications will only be open to Japanese students in accordance with the policy revision of the JST-SPRING.

This is a system that HaKaSe⁺ selects the following students as preliminary awardees, who pledge to go on to the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course of Kanazawa University and to play an active role after obtaining a doctoral degree. Preliminary Awardees are exempted from admission and tuition fees (as specified in 2. Outline of the Support 2) Contents of financial support), and allowed to participate in various programs within the research environment.

- Those who advance to or are currently enrolled in the Master's Level Section of the Integrated Course / Master's Course
- Those who advance to or are currently enrolled in the 5th year of the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences
- Those who advance to the 6th year of the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences

In order to be supported by HaKaSe⁺ in the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course, preliminary awardees are required to pass the selection screening of HaKaSe⁺ after they pass the entrance examination for the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course of the graduate school of Kanazawa University. As a result of the selection screening, those who pass will be selected students of "HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING", and supported under the project. **However, HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING from FY2026 onwards is based on the assumption that the support project to doctoral students by Japanese government will continue. Therefore, this is subject to change.**

At Kanazawa University, in principle, students who advance to the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course are to complete the Master's Level Section of Integrated Course with Qualifying Examination (QE). Therefore, obviously, this principle will apply to the Preliminary Awardees who are enrolled in the Master's Level Section of Integrated Course, making a commitment to advance to the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course (/ Doctoral Course).

2. Outline of the Support

1) Eligible Graduate School /College, Course, and Division/School

Project	Graduate school / College	Course	Division / School
SPRING Project for Doctoral Talents in Creating Novel Values (HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING)	All graduate schools	Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course	All divisions and schools
BOOST Project for Trailblazing AI Crossover Doctoral Talents (HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST)	All graduate schools	Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course	All divisions and schools
Preliminary Selection of Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe ⁺)	All graduate schools	Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course (those who advance to Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course)	All divisions and schools (Japanese students only)
	College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences	6-year Bachelor's Program (those who advance to 4-year Doctoral Course)	Fifth and sixth years of the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences (Japanese students only)

2) Contents of financial support

The financial support provided by each project is shown in the following table.

(Apply to FY2026)

		SPRING Project for Doctoral Talents in Creating Novel Values (HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING)		BOOST Project for Trailblazing AI Crossover Doctoral Talents (HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST)	Preliminary Selection of Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe ⁺)
Support period (in principle)		Within standard period of Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course		Within standard period of Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course	Within standard period of Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course Within the standard period of study for the 5th and 6th years of the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences (two years)
Student category		Japanese students	MEXT scholarship students / Privately financed international students	Japanese students / Privately financed international students	Only Japanese students
Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course/ 5th and 6th in 6-year Bachelor's Program	Grant for living expenses per month				—
	RA salary				—
Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course	Grant for living expenses per month	180,000 yen	—	250,000 yen	
	Research fund per year	400,000 yen	400,000 yen	900,000 yen	
	RA salary per year	—	Max: 240,000 yen (privately financed international students); selected annually within budget for outstanding students	—	
Support for travel expenses, etc.		Support unique to the project available	Support unique to the project available	Support unique to the project available	—
Exemption of Admission fee		—	—	—	Full exemption ・ For those in the Master's Level Section of the Integrated Course / Master's Course, this applies only to those enrolling in the month of selection. ・ For those in the 6-year Bachelor's Program, applied to the admission fee upon enrollment in the 4-year Doctoral Course.
Exemption of Tuition fee		Half exemption	—	Half exemption	Full exemption

Financial support is a special case for awardees and preliminary awardees of HaKaSe⁺. Therefore, in the case where an awardee in HaKaSe⁺ declines the award or preliminary selection, or in other case, support may be stopped. Besides, in this case, refund of the grant for living expenses, research funds and all other financial support provided by HaKaSe⁺, payment of the exempted admission fee and the exempted tuition fee may be requested.

Please note that the contents of financial support may change depending on the situation of budget and system changes, etc.

For international students selected, if he/she cannot arrive in Japan by the date of adoption after the selection decision, the grant for living expenses for the month(s) that has/have the non-arrival day(s) will not be paid. In the case that international students arrive in Japan in the middle of a month, the payment of the grant for living expenses will start from the following month. Research funds can also be used from the month in which the payment of the grant for living expenses begins.

If an awardee of one of the projects in HaKaSe⁺ that offers a half-tuition fee exemption applies for our university's own tuition fee exemption, and the result of application is a half-tuition fee exemption, only the half-tuition fee exemption through HaKaSe⁺ will be available.

3. Application Requirements

1) Number of students to be selected

The number of students to be selected is described in the following table.

Applicants have to confirm their qualifications for application stipulated in 2) and choose the preferred project at the time of application. The project in which an applicant will be selected is decided by HaKaSe⁺ based on the selection result and the content of their research plan. Therefore, applicants should be aware that the applicant's wishes may not be met.

SPRING Project for Doctoral Talents in Creating Novel Values (HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING)	BOOST Project for Trailblazing AI Crossover Doctoral Talents (HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST)	Preliminary Selection of Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe ⁺)
ca. 45	3	ca. 25

2) Qualifications for application

We welcome applicants who understand the purpose of HaKaSe⁺, have a high motivation for research toward obtaining a doctoral degree within standard period, have an inquisitive spirit, and after obtaining a doctoral degree, wish to develop a profound academic expertise in various sectors of society, thus contribute to the advancement of Japanese science and technology, the creation of innovation, the realization of a better future society with. All of the following requirements must be met.

It should be noted that since the concept of Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe⁺ is to support those who pledge to play an active role after obtaining a doctoral degree, **those who advance to or are enrolled in the Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course, as well as those who advance to or are enrolled in the 5th year of the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences or who advance to its 6th year, but do not pledge to advance to the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course are not qualified.**

i) Those who are enrolled in the graduate school/college, course and division/school specified in the table below as of April 1, 2026.

			SPRING Project for Doctoral Talents in Creating Novel Values (HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING)	BOOST Project for Trailblazing AI Crossover Doctoral Talents (HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST)	Preliminary Selection of Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe ⁺)
Graduate School of Frontier Science Initiative	Master's Course	Division of Convergence Science	—	—	✓ Note3
	Master's Level Section of Integrated Course	Division of Transdisciplinary Sciences	—	—	✓ Note3
		Division of Nano Life Science			
	Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course	Division of Transdisciplinary Sciences Division of Nano Life Science	✓ Note1	✓ Note2	—
Graduate school of Human and Socio- Environmental Studies	Master's Level Section of Integrated Course	All divisions	—	—	✓ Note3
	Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course	Division of Human and Socio- Environmental Studies	✓ Note1	✓ Note2	—
Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology	Master's Level Section of Integrated Course	All divisions	—	—	✓ Note3
	Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course	All divisions	✓ Note1	✓ Note2	—
Graduate School of Medical Sciences	Master's Course	Division of Medical Science	—	—	✓ Note3
	4-year Doctoral Course	Division of Medicine	✓ Note1	✓ Note2	—
		Division of Pharmacy			
	Master's Level Section of Integrated Course	Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences	—	—	✓ Note3
		Division of Health Sciences			
	Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course	Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences Division of Health Sciences	✓ Note1	✓ Note2	—
Graduate School of Advanced Preventive Medical Sciences	4-year Doctoral Course	Division of Advanced Preventive Medical Sciences	✓ Note1	✓ Note2	—
Graduate school of Law	Master's Course	Division of Law and Politics	—	—	✓ Note3
College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences	6-year Bachelor's Program	School of Pharmacy	—	—	✓ Note4

Note1: For Japanese students, only for those enrolled for less than 12 months. Re-applications from those previously rejected in HaKaSe⁺ selections will be accepted only once (excluding rejections in Preliminary Selection). For privately-financed international students, limited to those enrolling in April 2026.

Note2: For Doctoral Level Section of the Integrated Course, only those enrolling in April 2026 and those enrolled in April 2025 who have been enrolled for 12 months. For 4-year Doctoral Course, only those enrolled in April 2025 who have been enrolled for 12 months and those enrolled in April 2024 who have been enrolled for 24 months.

Note3: Only for those enrolled for less than 12 months. **Japanese students only.**

Note4: Only those who have advanced to the fifth or sixth year of the School of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences and have been enrolled for less than 12 months since advancing to the fifth year. **Japanese students only.**

ii) Those who can affirm compliance with the matters stipulated in 7. Obligations of Awardees.

iii) Those who have obtained the recommendation of the (prospective) primary supervisor.

iv) Those who register on the dedicated system for "Cooperative Education through Research Internships" in the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course. Besides, actively view job descriptions (job contents, required knowledge and capabilities, etc.) presented by companies, and consider to apply. (Reference) <https://career-support.adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/internship/jobtype/>

v) Those who register on "Japan Graduates Database (JGRAD)" operated by National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) in the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course, and register and update career information on JGRAD into the future if there is a change due to reassignment or job change, etc., even after graduation. (Reference) https://jgrad.nistep.go.jp/home_e.html

vi) Preliminary awardees who enroll in the Master's Level Section of Integrated Course are to complete the course with Qualifying Examination (QE) as a general rule and advance to the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course (/ Doctoral Course) of Kanazawa University.

vii) Japanese students selected for HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING, students selected for HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST, and HaKaSe⁺ Preliminary Awardees must apply at least once for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC1 or DC2), provided they meet the eligibility requirements. Those who did not succeed in the past must apply for DC2 in the next fiscal year if possible. DC1 and DC2 are awarded to outstanding doctoral students selected through rigorous screening process from among doctoral students nationwide, and will be advantageous for building their future career as doctoral talents. Therefore, if selected, it is strongly recommended that you concentrate on your research as DC1 or DC2.

viii) Those who engage in job-seeking activities in a planned manner during their enrollment so that they can secure employment promptly upon completion of the doctoral course, and contribute to science and technology and the creation of innovation in Japan with doctoral degree in their career path after completing the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course of Kanazawa University. In the case of international students selected for HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST, they must pledge that they are to be employed at a Japanese company, university, research entity, etc. (including overseas subsidiary) or an internationally affiliated company in Japan for 3 years or more after completing the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course of Kanazawa University.

Note: if you cannot complete the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course or if this condition is not found to be met at the time of completion, the grant for living expenses, research funds and all other financial support provided by HaKaSe⁺ will have to be refunded, and payment of the exempted admission fee and the exempted tuition fee will have to be requested in principle.

ix) Notwithstanding the above, those who fall under any of the following categories a) and b) are not qualified to apply.

a) Restrictions on double receipts

Those who receive the financial support from the following sources cannot receive support from HaKaSe⁺. Please note that the conditions differ between HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING, HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST and Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe⁺.

However, even if a potential applicant has an income from scholarships, etc., that fall under the restrictions on double receipts at the time of application, the application requirements may be met as of April 1, 2026 by declining the receipt of the said scholarships, etc., to enable him/her to apply for HaKaSe⁺.

Further, note that if a potential applicant receives or will receive a scholarship as financial support and if the said scholarship does not allow double receipt of financial support, the rules and regulations of the said scholarship will apply. Therefore, it is the responsibility of an applicant to check with the said scholarship concerned whether there are any restrictions regarding double receipt of financial support prior to applying for HaKaSe⁺. When HaKaSe⁺ selects such an applicant as a recipient of support of HaKaSe⁺, he/she must take appropriate action such as declining the said scholarship.

Apart from requirements for each project, for HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST, international students receiving support from the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships in the Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course are eligible to be accepted by HaKaSe⁺ when they advance to the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course of Kanazawa University only if the result of their application for extension under the MEXT Scholarships have not been approved, in principle.

If you have any questions about restrictions on double receipts, inquire with 9. Others, 2) Inquires.

[HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING]

(Japanese Students)

- Those who receive research incentives from the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC);
- Those who receive a scholarship, etc. (mainly for the purpose of support for living expenses);
- Adult students who fall under one of the followings:

Apart from the following income requirements, those who are judged by HaKaSe⁺ to be unable to fulfill

the obligation to devote themselves to research as a selected student, or not to be in a situation where they can devote themselves to the career development and nurturing content offered by HaKaSe⁺ are not qualified.

- Those who earn stable income such as a salary and executive compensation at a sufficient level (2.4 million yen/year) as living expenses from the university or company to which they belong;
- Those who do not receive a sufficient amount of living expenses (based on 2.4 million yen/year) even though there is a system that allows them to receive such an allowance from the company, etc., to which they belong.

Note: HaKaSe⁺ will not prevent applicants from receiving the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Graduate School Type 1 Scholarship. However those who are accepted as JASSO Graduate School Type 1 Scholarship recipients in a Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course from FY2023 onwards will not be eligible for candidates of the JASSO scholarship repayment exemption for outstanding achievements if they receive support from HaKaSe⁺ for SPRING.

(International Students)

- Individuals receiving government-funded research grants to dedicate themselves to their own independent, challenging, and interdisciplinary research
Government-funded research grants refer to support programs such as the following:
 - JSPS "Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC)"
 - JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency) "Fostering Researchers in Emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) Program (Support for Doctoral Students) (BOOST)"
 - JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) scholarship recipients
 - JST "Networked Exchange, United Strength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN (NEXUS)" for young researcher development
- Individuals who are enrolled in the Doctoral Level Section of the Integrated Course / Doctoral Course at Kanazawa University while being employed by institutions or corporations in Japan or abroad.

[HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST]

- Those who receive research incentives from the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC);
- International students receiving support from the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships;
- International students receiving support such as a scholarship from their home countries;
- Those who receive a scholarship, etc. (mainly for the purpose of support for living expenses);
- Adult students who fall under one of the followings:

Apart from the following income requirements, those who are judged by HaKaSe⁺ to be unable to fulfill the obligation to devote themselves to research as a selected student, or not to be in a situation where they can devote themselves to the career development and nurturing content offered by HaKaSe⁺ are not qualified.

- Those who earn stable income such as a salary and executive compensation at a sufficient level (2.4 million yen/year) as living expenses from the university or company to which they belong;
- Those who do not receive a sufficient amount of living expenses (based on 2.4 million yen/year) even though there is a system that allows them to receive such an allowance from the company, etc., to which they belong.

Note: HaKaSe⁺ will not prevent applicants from receiving the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Graduate School Type 1 Scholarship. However, those who are accepted as JASSO Graduate School Type 1 Scholarship recipients in a Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course from FY2023 onwards will not be eligible for candidates of the JASSO scholarship repayment exemption for outstanding achievements if they receive support from HaKaSe⁺ for BOOST.

b) Those who will be on leave of absence from April 1, 2026.

4. Application Procedure

1) Application method

Both the applicant and the (prospective) primary supervisor must submit the prescribed Application documents listed in 2) within the application period in accordance with the following.

No changes will be allowed to the application documents once submitted. Applications with incomplete or deficient documentation will likewise be reviewed as submitted.

• Applicant:

Please submit 2) Application documents "a" to "c" and "e" to "i" by sending an e-mail with a set of (PDF file) documents attached.

- The file name should be the applicant's full name.
- The e-mail title (subject line) should be in half-width letters as "HaKaSe+ Application for Selection"
- All the documents should be combined into a single PDF file.
 - * Do not send separate document files to HaKaSe+.
- Submit the application documents from the email address provided in the "Contact Information" section of the 2) Application documents "a."

• (Prospective) primary supervisor:

Please submit 2) Application documents "d" in PDF file by sending an e-mail with the document attached.

- The file name should be "Recommendation letter for applicant's full name".
- The e-mail title (subject line) should be "HaKaSe+ Recommendation for applicant's full name".

2) Application documents

a. Application Form (Application Form A-1 or A-2);

b. Consent Form (Application Form B-1 or B-2);

Note: If the applicant does not agree with all of the items stated in the consent form, the application will not be accepted.

c. Research Proposal Document (Application Form C-1 or C-2, C-2-1);

*Applicants to HaKaSe+ for BOOST must submit C-2 and C-2-1.

d. Recommendation letter of (prospective) primary supervisor;

e. Transcripts; (for all courses completed or currently enrolled in since the Bachelor's Program; However, if there are subjects that have been accredited as a result of transfer, etc., the transcripts of the previous university etc. must also be submitted)

f. Documents proving employment status, working conditions and income, only for those who earn income such as a salary and executive compensation from the company, etc., to which they belong, after April 2026 (excluding international students applying only for HaKaSe+ for SPRING);

g. Notification of acceptance (copy) or Entrance examination ticket (copy) for the relevant division of the graduate school.

Note 1: Only for those who are planning to enroll on April 1, 2026.

Note 2: For those who have completed/will complete Master's Level Section of Integrated Course of Kanazawa University and who have completed/will complete the course by Qualifying Examination (QE), please note that this is not a copy of the notification of passing the QE.

Note 3: Those who plan to apply to or take an entrance examination hereafter and have not yet completed printing their entrance examination ticket at the time of application have to clearly state this in the text of the email when submitting the application documents, and afterward submit the entrance examination ticket (copy) as soon as you print it.

h. For HaKaSe+ for SPRING applicants: Checklist for HaKaSe+ for SPRING Applicants (Application Form D)

i. For foreign nationals: A copy of the Residence Status Card (front and back) (Application Form E).

3) Application period

December 24 (Wed), 2025 – Noon on January 14 (Wed), 2026 [Must arrive]

Note: Only those applications submitted by both the applicant and (prospective) primary supervisor within the application period will be accepted. Further, HaKaSe⁺ will not respond to inquiries regarding the arrival of application documents or inquiries whether or not the (prospective) primary supervisor has submitted “d. Recommendation letter of (prospective) primary supervisor”.

4) Submission destination

Educational and Student Affairs Division, Educational and Student Affairs Department

E-mail: jisedai[at]adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp *Please replace [at] with @.

Note: An automatic email acknowledging receipt of your application mail will be sent. Please note that this email does not indicate that your application has been accepted or approved.

5. Selection Method

Selection of HaKaSe⁺ will be performed by Document Screening and Interview.

1) Screening Method

The screenings will be conducted as outlined in the table below. Pass/fail decisions will be made by comprehensive evaluation of the results of the document and Interview screenings, etc.

-Japanese students -International students (Applicants to HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST)	Document Screening and Interview will be conducted.
-International students (Applicants to HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING)	— (As a general rule, awardees are selected based on Document Screening)

• Document Screening

Document Screening will be reviewed based on the submitted application documents.

It should be noted that in Document Screening, for those enrolling on April 1, 2026, the results of the graduate school enrollment entrance examination for the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course or the Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course' conducted by the relevant division of the graduate school will be referred to. For those advancing to the 5th or 6th year of the 6-year Bachelor's Program, information regarding the advancement assessment conducted by the relevant school will be referred to.

• Interview

Eligibility for Interview will be notified to the applicants via the e-mail at the addresses stated in the application documents by January 27 (Tue), 2026. If an applicant does not receive the notification by the due date, please contact the e-mail address given in 4. Application Procedure, 4) Submission destination.

For those eligible for Interview, Interview will be conducted based on the Research Proposal Document (Application Form C-1 or C-2, C-2-1). Interview will be conducted as follows. Therefore, applicants are to prepare to strictly adhere to the submission deadline of presentation data.

- Interview consists of a presentation (no more than 10 minutes [strictly enforced, at least 8 minutes]) and a question-and-answer session for approximately 10 minutes. The languages to be used are Japanese or English.
- Applicants will be required to use slide data for presentation. Please make sure that your presentation is easy to understand for researchers with different specialties and research fields.
- Applicants who have received a notification of being eligible for Interview are required to submit presentation data (both PowerPoint file and PDF file with identical content) by noon on January 28 (Wed), 2026 [Must arrive]. If the file size is large, submit it using file transmission services, etc. on your own responsibility. **If an applicant does not submit them by the deadline, the applicant will be deemed to have declined Interview.** Details of Interview will be notified to the subjects.
- Interviews will be conducted in early to mid-February 2026 (including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays). Interview date and time for each applicant will be specified by HaKaSe⁺.

Note: Interview may be conducted using a Web communication tool when Kanazawa University determines it necessary, e.g. from a crisis management perspective.

2) Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

- Interest in societal challenges and the positioning of the applicant's own research as a HaKaSe+ selected student
- Research objectives, goals, significance, and the challenge and originality of the research content
- Research execution capability and potential for future development
- Alignment with the HaKaSe+ vision for the desired doctoral talent profile
- Career vision and contribution to Japan's science, technology, and innovation

For applicants to HaKaSe+ for BOOST, the following criteria are additionally applied:

- Knowledge, skills, research experience, and achievements in AI research
- Motivation and aptitude for conducting next-generation AI research

6. Announcement of the Selection Result and Date of Adoption

The result of the selection will be notified to the applicants via the e-mail at the addresses stated in the application documents by the end of March, 2026.

Date of Adoption of HaKaSe+ will be April 1, 2026.

7. Obligations of Awardees

Awardees are obliged to fulfil the following items. If HaKaSe+ finds that they have failed to fulfil obligations of awardees, or if HaKaSe+ finds that it is not appropriate to continue the support based on the report referred to in 4), HaKaSe+ will take action such as suspending the support, cancelling the award or demanding the refund of the financial support.

- 1) Awardees are to concentrate on their study and research, present research achievements in academic conferences and academic journals, and complete doctoral course of Kanazawa University within standard period of course, understanding the principle of HaKaSe+ and being fully aware that they will be supported by public funds.
- 2) Awardees are to participate in programs for improving research capability and career development conducted by Kanazawa University sponsored or co-sponsored with HaKaSe+ and to respond to participant surveys and follow-up. The selection of the program to participate and the number of times of participation must meet the requirements indicated separately by HaKaSe+.
- 3) For awardees of HaKaSe+ for BOOST, 2) is recommendation. However, awardees of HaKaSe+ for BOOST are to participate in "AI theoretical education", "AI lectures and practical training", "AI catch-up seminars", and "AI research exchanges" conducted by this project to enhance the knowledge and skills to promote research and development of AI, and are required to present AI research in academic conferences and academic journals during the support period.
- 4) Awardees are to report the progress and the results of the research every fiscal year in the prescribed format.
- 5) Awardees are to cooperate with various surveys, questionnaires, and follow-ups for supporting doctoral talents conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and Kanazawa University, not only while enrolled at Kanazawa University but also after graduation.
- 6) Awardees are to acknowledge the support, when they publish the research results obtained thanks to the support of HaKaSe+.
- 7) Awardees are to implement tax procedures related to the grant for living expenses and RA salaries (for eligible recipients only). **Under the Income Tax Act, a grant (such as a fellowship) for living expenses is taxable as "miscellaneous income" and a final tax return is required. If the awardee is dependent on a guardian (their parent, for example), etc., the treatment of dependent in health insurance, dependent allowance, etc. may change, so he/she should take appropriate measures himself/herself (inquiries to the appropriate person at the parent's or guardian's workplace may be necessary).**
- 8) In addition, awardees are to comply with various other matters stipulated by the relevant project.

8. Personal Information

- All personal information that HaKaSe⁺ obtains during the selection process, adoption procedures, and post-adoption activities will be used for tasks related to selection process and overall operations of HaKaSe⁺. In these processes, HaKaSe⁺ may outsource tasks involving the handling of retained personal information to outside parties in accordance with Kanazawa University's Personal Information Management Regulations within the scope necessary for HaKaSe⁺ to carry out its tasks.
- Personal information such as examination results used for the selection will be used for aggregation and analysis of selection results and for research on the student selection method to the extent that individuals are not identified.
- When selecting applicants to HaKaSe⁺, the materials submitted for the entrance examination at the graduate school or materials for promotion decisions within the school of Pharmacy in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences will be used.
- The names and affiliations of the students selected may be announced on the websites and in printed materials such as various reports.
- Photographs of classes, events, etc., may be published in printed materials such as various reports and on websites as a record of HaKaSe⁺ activities.

9. Others

1) Application for exemption from admission fee (deferral of payment) and tuition fee

For awardees, admission fee exemption and tuition fee exemption will be offered as stipulated in 2. Outline of the Support, 2) Contents of financial support. Therefore, applicants should follow the procedure as specified in the following table according to the project for which each applicant is eligible to apply based on the description in 3. Application Requirements, 2) Qualifications for application, i).

[Required procedures according to the project for which each applicant is eligible to apply]

	SPRING Project for Doctoral Talents in Creating Novel Values (HaKaSe ⁺ for SPRING)	BOOST Project for Trailblazing AI Crossover Doctoral Talents (HaKaSe ⁺ for BOOST)	Preliminary Selection of Kanazawa University Strategic Project for Development of Doctoral Students and Research Promotion (Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe ⁺)
Admission fee (for those who plan to enroll on April 1, 2026) *Excluding those who advance to the Doctoral Level Section of Integrated Course / Doctoral Course after completing the Master's Level Section of Integrated Course / Master's Course of Kanazawa University in March, 2026.	Applicants are not prevented from applying for exemption from admission fee (deferral of payment).		<u>Be sure to follow the procedure for exemption from admission fee (deferral of payment) and do not pay the admission fee until the selection result is disclosed.</u> <u>Those who have applied for exemption from admission fee (deferral of payment) must notify the withdrawal as soon as they are notified that they are successfully selected for Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe⁺.</u>
Tuition fee (for those who plan to enroll on April 1, 2026 and those who are currently enrolled at Kanazawa University)	Applicants are not prevented from applying for exemption from tuition fee.		Applicants are not prevented from applying for exemption from tuition fee. <u>Those who have applied for exemption from tuition fee must notify the withdrawal as soon as they are notified that they are successfully selected for Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe⁺.</u>

[Application method]

Those who wish to be eligible for the exemption from admission fee (deferral of payment) and tuition fee regardless of the selection result of HaKaSe⁺ should confirm the following Kanazawa University website and complete the application procedures in accordance with the application guidelines.

However, applicants who are target of Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe⁺ will be eligible for the full exemption from admission fee and tuition fee if they are successfully selected for Preliminary Selection of HaKaSe⁺. Therefore, when they apply to the exemption from admission fee (deferral of payment) and tuition fee, they only need to submit 'Applicant Form' (Forms 1-1 and 1-2) stating "Applied for HaKaSe⁺ for April 2026" at the top of the form. Those who are not selected but still wish to apply for an exemption from the admission fee (or deferral) or tuition fee, they must prepare the complete set of application documents and

apply according to application guidelines for admission fee exemption (deferral) or tuition fee exemption.

- Admission fee exemption/admission fee payment deferral webpage
https://www.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/students/economic/exemption_grace
- Tuition fee exemption webpage
https://www.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/students/economic/tuition_waiver/graduate_students

For awardees, the Educational and Student Affairs Division will proceed with procedures for admission fee exemption and tuition fee exemption stipulated in 2. Outline of the Support, 2) Contents of financial support. If the applicant is not selected, the prescribed admission fee or tuition fee will be collected during the period specified by Kanazawa University. However, for those applying for the university's own exemption system of admission fee/tuition fee, these fees will be collected based on the screening results.

2) Inquires

Educational and Student Affairs Division, Educational and Student Affairs Department
2nd floor of the Administration Office, Kanazawa University Kakuma Campus
Postal Code: 920-1192

Kakuma-machi, Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan

E-mail: [jisedai\[at\]adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp](mailto:jisedai[at]adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp) *Please replace [at] with @.

Website: <https://phd.w3.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/en/>

Note1: All inquiries must be made directly by the applicant.

Note2: HaKaSe+ will not respond to individual inquiries regarding receiving the application or the selection result, etc..

3) Others

- Application documents will not be returned.
- If any of the contents of the submitted documents is revealed to be false, the award may be canceled even after the selection is finalized. In such a case, a full refund of the financial support provided and payment of the exempted admission fee and the exempted tuition fee will be imposed.
- Correspondence to the applicant is done via e-mail at the address stated in the application documents. Therefore, the e-mail address must be an address that can reliably receive e-mails from Kanazawa University (kanazawa-u.ac.jp). Mobile phone addresses are not accepted since attachments may be sent.