2026
The University of Tokyo
Graduate School of Information Science and Technology
Doctoral Student Special Incentives Program (IST-RA)
Application Guidelines

This program aims to involve outstanding doctoral students in academic research conducted at the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "the Graduate School"), thereby promoting effective advancement of academic research, enhancing the research system, and fostering doctoral students as young researchers.

1. Eligibility

Applicants must satisfy either of the following conditions. (Note: For those planning to enroll in October 2025 or current students enrolled in October, "April 1, 2026" shall be read as "October 1, 2025" throughout this document.)

① Individuals who, at the time of application, are enrolled in the doctoral program of the Graduate School and will continue to be enrolled on or after April 1, 2026.

② Individuals who plan or intend to enroll in the doctoral program of the Graduate School on April 1, 2026.

However, the following individuals are NOT eligible:

- Those on a leave of absence as of April 1, 2026

- Those who will have received IST-RA payments for more than three years cumulatively

- Those who fall under the exclusion categories listed in Section 7 regarding other scholarships

- Students who remain employed and continue receiving a salary from their employer while enrolled in the Graduate School (unless employment ends before the payment period begins)

2. Number of Positions and Monthly Stipend

Number of positions: A limited number (within the scope of the available budget)

Monthly stipend:

Particularly outstanding individuals	Type A+	120,000 yen
Outstanding individuals	Type A	60,000 yen

3. Selection Process

Selection will be conducted by a selection committee based on the submitted documents (application form, evaluation form by prospective academic supervisor) and academic records. Interviews may be conducted if necessary.

4. Payment Period

(1) April admission (including expected admission):

April 2026 to March 2027 (the first payment will be made in May 2026)

(2) October admission (including expected admission):

October 2025 to September 2026 (the first payment will be made in November 2025)

Note: Total stipend period may not exceed three years.

5. Application Procedures

(1) How to apply

Upload the application documents (refer to "(2) Application Documents" below) on IST-RA Application System.

[Application period: **June 6 (Fri) - June 20 (Fri), 2025** (JST) **]**

For details of Application System and application procedures, refer to the following website.

> Website of Graduate School of Information Science and Technology:
> Doctoral Student Special Incentives Program (IST-RA)
>
> URL   https://www.i.u-tokyo.ac.jp/edu/financial-support/ist-ra/index_e.shtml

(2) Application Documents

*Download the format for Form1 and Form2 from the website above.

1. Application Form (Form 1)

   Fill out and upload the form on IST-RA Application System.

   *Neither seal nor signature is required.

2. Evaluation Form from expected academic supervisor (Form 2)

   Request the Evaluator (expected academic supervisor as of April 1, 2026) to fill out the form and to upload it following the instructions on IST-RA Application System.

   *Neither seal nor signature is required.

3. Academic Transcripts (in all **undergraduate, master's, and doctoral** programs)

   Upload electronic format of the transcript or scanned data of paper version on IST-RA Application System.

   If the applicant is unable to submit academic transcripts within the application period due to unavoidable circumstances, a document explaining the reason for this, or in the case that the transcript can be viewed online, a PDF version or a screenshot should be uploaded instead of the academic transcripts.

   *In order to prevent false applications, uploaded transcripts may be cross-checked with the academic records held by the University of Tokyo.

6. Notification of Results and Enrollment Procedures

(1) Results will be notified at the email address registered in the system between late July and early August 2025.

(2) Successful applicants must complete the required enrollment procedures within the designated period, following the instructions provided in the acceptance notification email. Failure to complete these procedures within the specified timeframe will be regarded as a withdrawal of acceptance.

7. Handling of Concurrent Fellowships and Other Financial Support

(1) Individuals who fall under any one or more of the following categories as of the start of IST-RA stipend disbursement shall not be eligible to receive IST-RA:

① Students receiving MEXT Scholarship for International Students

② Foreign government-sponsored students (including international students in the Chinese Government Graduate Student Overseas Study Program via the Chinese government)

③ Students receiving Scholarship from Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association

④ Students supported by JSPS Research Fellowships for Young Scientists (Tokubetsu Kenkyuin)

⑤ Students receiving Special Scholarship for International Student recipients, University of Tokyo (The University of Tokyo Fellowships)

⑥ Recipients of scholarships or RA for WINGS from "Program for Leading Graduate Schools" or "International Graduate Program for Excellence".

⑦ Fellowship students of "The University Fellowship Program for Science and Technology Innovations".

⑧ Recipients of SPRING GX or BOOST-NAIS grants

⑨ Recipients of other non-repayable scholarships exceeding 120,000 yen/month (if paid annually, divide by 12)

Note) MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology
JSPS: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Those who fall under these categories at the time of application but whose funding ends before the IST-RA payment period begins may still apply. Be sure to state this in the application form and report the status in the first month of payment.

(2) Individuals receiving the following types of financial support may concurrently receive IST-RA, unless otherwise prohibited by the rules of the respective programs:

① Students receiving JASSO loan,

② Students receiving JASSO Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students (Gakushu Shoureihi),

③ Students employed as technical or clerical assistants by the University of Tokyo,

④ Individuals working as RAs via the University of Tokyo's Research Assistant Implementation Guidelines

⑤ Persons who are exempt from full or half tuition based on paragraph 1, Article 39 of regulations at the University of Tokyo,

⑥ Recipients of any other type of scholarships or stipend in the monthly amount of 120,000 yen or below, for which there is no obligation to return, and student loan recipients.

Before applying for IST-RA, all conditions of each program should be verified. In particular, students with scholarships/fund sources from public service organizations should thoroughly examine conditions before applying.

For research assistants (RAs), the total salary in combination with IST-RA may not exceed 200,000 yen per month. If the total is in excess of 200,000 yen, IST-RA salary amount will be reduced.

8. Obligations of IST-RA Recipients

(1) Recipients of IST-RA program must apply for the JSPS (特別研究員) Research Fellowship for academic year 2027 in the spring of 2026. However, students who will complete a doctoral program between April 2026 and March 2027 (for individuals admitted in September or October, this period is between September 2025 and September 2026) are exempt from this rule.

Note: Individuals who neglect to complete this application may (upon failure to complete the application) have their acceptance to IST-RA program revoked and may be asked to return the salary they have received. In addition, they will no longer be eligible to apply for IST-RA.

(2) Recipients of IST-RA program must submit a monthly report in specified format regarding research progress and status of scholarships they receive every month. Additionally, if a recipient has decided to accept funds from another scholarship, RA program, etc., and thus must withdraw from IST-RA program, the department office must be informed as soon as possible, along with the monthly report.

9. Precautions and Notes

(1) If the necessary documents are not completed within the specified period, the application will not be accepted.

(2) Recipients must comply with the items stipulated in The University of Tokyo Graduate School of Information Science and Technology Doctoral Course Special Incentives Program (IST-RA) Guidelines.

(3) If a false application is found, acceptance to IST-RA program may be revoked or applicants may be asked to return the salary they have received.

(4) Even if an applicant scheduled to enroll in April or October is accepted to IST-RA program as a result of the selection, if the applicant fails to complete the admission procedures, acceptance to IST-RA program will be revoked.

(5) This guideline is based on the academic calendar in use at the time of drafting. If any changes should occur in the academic calendar, payment periods and the related information will be determined in accordance with those changes.

May 2025
Graduate School of Information Science and Technology
The University of Tokyo