

# **Application Guideline for Sophia SPRING Project in the fall semester of 2024**

If you wish to apply for Sophia SPRING project starting in the fall semester of 2024, read this guideline carefully and submit the application documents within the application period.

## **1. Purpose and Outline:**

Sophia SPRING Project (hereinafter referred to as the “This project”) is funded by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JST”) under its "Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)", which aims to foster human resources who will contribute to the advancement of science, technology, and innovation in Japan.

This project will provide the following support to the selected students (hereinafter referred to as “SPRING students”) with the aim of fostering global doctoral students who, based on Christian humanism, will embody Sophia’s educational philosophy “For Others, With Others,” and open the path to the future of sustainable society through the power of science, technology, and innovation.

- ① Financial Support: Research incentive fee (equivalent to student living expenses) and Research allowance
- ② Capacity building support to enable the application of your expertise in the various settings
  - Interdisciplinarity: Fostering interdisciplinarity by establishing networks through a community of young researchers, such as SPRING students and Postdoctoral Fellows within the university.
  - Internationality: Providing international research exchange opportunities.
  - Humanity: Enhancing transferable skills, such as presentation and communication skills, that maximize your abilities to utilize one’s doctoral expertise in the society.
- ③ Career support tailored to each student to realize diverse career paths

## **2. Recruitment details:**

Recruitment numbers	Approximately 1 student (Only for students admitted in the fall semester of 2024)
Eligibility	• Students who are admission in a doctoral program at Sophia University in the fall semester of 2024.

	<p>•However, students who are affiliated with the following status after the beginning date of the support are excluded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Students who hold a status as a Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) * 1</li> <li>② Students receiving a scholarship from government of Japan (Monbukagakusho: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)</li> <li>③ International students who are receiving scholarships or other support from their home countries/ other foreign governments or international organizations</li> <li>④ Students who have a stable income as a form of scholarship or salary sufficient enough to cover the cost of living expenses (based on 2.4 million yen/year)</li> <li>⑤ Students who have been enrolled for longer than the standard period of the doctoral degree completion</li> <li>⑥ Students who are on a leave of absence</li> </ul> <p>•If you have any questions about the eligibility and requirements, please contact the SPRING Secretariat Office beforehand.</p> <p>* 1: Students who are currently applying for JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships are also eligible to apply, but will be asked to withdraw from this project if they are selected as Postdoctoral Fellows.</p>
Research incentive fees /Research allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Research incentive fees (equivalent to living expenses): 185,000 yen per month * 2</li> <li>② Research allowance : 180,000 yen per year (maximum)</li> </ul> <p>* 2: Research incentive fees are treated as "miscellaneous income" under tax law. Since it is subject to both Income tax and Resident tax, it is necessary to file a final income tax return with the tax office.</p>
Support period	Up to the end of standard term of completion for doctoral programs

### 3. Selection:

Method	A selection committee will be established within Sophia University to conduct the first selection (Document screening) and the second selection (Interview screening). Acceptance or rejection will be based on the results of the selection committee.
Perspectives	① Reasons for application (enthusiasm): The applicant must have the desire and enthusiasm to contribute to solving social issues

	<p>through research, in order to practice Sophia's founding spirit, "For others, with others.</p> <p>② Research execution ability: The research theme and content must be specific, the research methods and research plan must be valid, and the research must have potential for development. The applicant should have the necessary research skills and a clear vision.</p> <p>③ Consistency with the project objectives: The applicant should understand the purpose of this project and have a clear vision for leading the future of a sustainable society through the power of science, technology and innovation, based on Christian humanism and Sophia's philosophy "For Others, With Others".</p>
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#### 4. Recruitment and Selection Schedule:

Information session	September 2(Mon) from 12:40 to 13:20 online via Zoom (Check Loyola for Zoom information)
Application period	<b>August 30 (Fri) to September 9 (Mon) 13:00</b>
First selection (Document screening)	Applicants who pass the First selection will be contacted by September 19 (Thu for the Second selection.
Second selection (Interview screening)	September 25 (Wed),afternoon *Tentative
Notice of results	Late-September *Tentative * sent to the each student by E-mail.

- Applications past the deadline will not be accepted for any reasons. The date and time of application acceptance will be determined based on the log record of the time when the application was received at the designated email address. Even if there is a delay in application due to device malfunction, etc., the application will be judged based on the record of the application email's log only.
- Any changes in application procedures will be announced on Loyola bulletin board and download center.
- No changes are allowed on your application documents after the submission. And the documents will not be returned.
- If there is any discrepancy on your application documents, the application will not be considered. Make sure all the information and statements are true and correct.
- Any inquiries about the selection process and results will not be accepted.

#### 5. Documents to be submitted:

- ① Application form Sophia SPRING Project in the fall semester of 2024 (Form 1)

- ② Recommendation form Sophia SPRING Project in the fall semester of 2024 (Form 2) \* 3
- ③ Pledge form Sophia SPRING Project in the fall semester of 2024 (Form 3)  
\* 3: Please request your academic advisor (Prospective) to complete the form and submit it to you (see 6. How to submit the form below).

<Policy on use of personal information>

- Sophia University will not use the personal information on the application forms for any purpose other than the internal selection and necessary procedures of the Sophia SPRING Project.

## **6. Instructions for Submitting the Application Documents:**

Please send a set of application documents by email to the address below, with the subject line 「Application for SPRING Project in the fall semester of 2024 (Name of Graduate School \_Your Name)」 by the submission deadline.

Application documents are to be submitted in PDF format.

Email Address for Submission: sophia\_spring-co@sophia.ac.jp

## **7. Submission deadline:**

September 9, 2024(Mon) 13:00 (punctual)

## **8. Other/ Notes in case of adoption:**

SPRING students must:

- ① Concentrate on your research activities with self-awareness and responsibility as a SPRING student.
- ② Report the status of research activities to the project director by the designated deadline.
- ③ Actively participate in career development programs and any other events/seminars in this Project.
- ④ Complete the research ethics education provided by Sophia University.
- ⑤ Maintain high ethical standards in accordance with the Sophia University Guidelines for 'Academic Research Ethics' in order to facilitate honest and responsible research activities. Research misconduct is strictly prohibited.
- ⑥ Properly execute the research expenses in accordance with the Sophia University Guidelines for Appropriate Use and Management of Research Funds.
- ⑦ If selected, information of the selected students and this project will be announced to the public on the University's website. In addition, the submitted deliverables, reports, etc. may be made open to the public for the purpose of publicizing the University's research activities.

**9. Contact us:**

SPRING Secretariat Office (the Center for Research Promotion and Support)

Office : 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Building #13 (office hour: 9:30-11:30/12:30-17:00)

Email : sophia\_spring-co@sophia.ac.jp