

February 14, 2025

Application Guidelines

SGC-NEXUS Program

- Next Generation Researcher Development Program at Nara Women's University-

For Prospective Students Enrolled in April 2025 (A) and April 2026 (B)
For Students of all grades (C)

Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences,
Nara Women's University
Doctoral Degree Support SGC-NEXUS Committee,
Nara Women's University

1. Overview

Nara Women's University has been selected as an implementing institution for the Japan Science and Technology Agency's (JST) "Next-Generation Researchers Challenging Research Program (New SPRING)" starting from April 2024. In response, we have established the "SGC-NEXUS" as a succession of the previous "SGC" and "SGC+" initiatives program. The aim of this program is to establish a framework where competent female students can pursue research in the doctoral program without bearing excessive financial burdens or facing uncertainties about their career paths after obtaining their degrees.

The SGC-NEXUS program entails a comprehensive plan for a three-year standard study period (or within the applied study period for long-term students) to obtain a doctoral degree. The plan includes provisions for enhancing research capabilities and facilitating a smooth transition to post-degree careers, incorporating activities such as overseas assignments and internships in business institutions. Applicants are expected to carefully plan their research plan and devote themselves to self-improvement in consultation with their main and co-supervisors to ensure that the above objectives are achievable. Furthermore, we earnestly request the continued dedication of the supervising faculty in providing additional support for the attainment of degrees within the specified academic period.

Aligned with the university's educational and research philosophy of "cultivating female talents leading to a gender-equal society," we aim to nurture female talents capable of making proactive judgments, taking actions, and addressing and tackling with problems without apparent answers through the deepening of expertise and the cultivation of comprehensive knowledge. As an extension of this philosophy, we anticipate that the women enrolled in the SGC-NEXUS program will shatter the "glass ceiling" and connect with others as leaders in society.

In accordance with these principles, we here announce the recruitment details and call for candidates who join the SGC-NEXUS program as outlined below.

2. Application period

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 ~ Wednesday, March 12, 2025 *due by 12:00pm

3. Number of candidates

- (A) Prospective students in April 2025 (Spring): 2 students
- (B) Prospective students in April 2026 (Spring): 5 students
- (C) Filling vacancies: 2 students
Support from April 2025 to March 2026【longest period】

* Announcements for prospective students in October 2025 as well as additional recruitment for April 2026 will be conducted at a later date.

4. Application and eligibility

(A)(B) Prospective students who are scheduled to enroll in the doctoral program of our graduate school in April of 2025 and April of 2026, and have received confirmation (including the plans) from the prospective primary academic advisor regarding their application.

(C) Students who enroll in the doctoral program of our graduate school and have received confirmation from the prospective primary academic advisor regarding their application. The support period is up to the standard period of study.

Examples of eligible individuals*1:

- Students who are not employed in a job with regular income and can obtain a degree within the standard study period (including those with work experience)
- Working professionals with an annual income less than 2.4 million yen*2,*3
- Long-term research students (support is provided until the end of D3)
- Self-funded international students not receiving support such as scholarships from their home country

Examples of individuals not eligible*1:

- Individuals on a leave of absence during the period of receiving support
- Those who have been enrolled in the doctoral program for more than three years
- Those who have obtained a scholarship at a sufficient level for living expenses (more than 2.4 million yen per year).*3
- Those who receive a stable income, including salaries, executive compensation, etc., at a sufficient level (more than 2.4 million yen per year) as an equivalent amount for living expenses from universities, companies, etc.*3
- Government-sponsored international students and foreign students receiving support such as scholarships from their home countries
- Special research fellows of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

If an individual falls into any of the above "Examples of individuals not eligible" during the period of receiving support, they shall lose eligibility for the support.

- * 1...For further details, please contact the office.
- * 2...Working professionals refer to individuals with regular income and homemakers.
- * 3...The 2.4 million yen is the total amount paid including income tax, social insurance premiums, overtime pay, bonuses, etc.
- * The duplication with tuition exemptions is allowed. Part-time employment (including RA/TA, etc.) within a range that does not interfere with research activities is also permitted. Part-time income does not qualify as stable or fixed income.
- * If accepted, you will no longer be eligible for exemption from repayment of scholarships based on outstanding achievements from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

5. The obligations of SGC-NEXUS grant recipients

- 1) Submission of current status report
Submit and receive evaluations on the progress of research activities every semester.
- 2) Enrollment in courses related to SGC-NEXUS
By the completion of the second year of the doctoral program, students are required to take at least one credit from the common courses of the doctoral program, including 'Self-Analysis and Work Style Seminars A and B,' 'Career Seminars (Business Skills, Internship, etc.) A and B,' 'Design and Programming of Information Systems,' and 'Fundamentals of Statistical Analysis.'
- 3) Meeting with the mentor team
Attend regular meetings with the mentor team every semester.
- 4) Presentation of research outcomes
Conduct public presentations of research outcomes by the end of the funding period.
- 5) Participation in the planning of SGC-NEXUS initiatives
Actively engage in initiatives implemented by this program, such as internships, overseas dispatch, and research exchange events.
- 6) Response to career path survey
For 10 years after the end of support, please respond to the career tracking survey.

Note that the fulfillment status of the above obligation terms will be confirmed and examined by the Nara Women's University Doctoral Degree Support SGC-NEXUS Operation Committee. If any term of the obligations turns out to be violated, the recipient will be considered to have lost eligibility for financial support, and a replacement will be sought through a new recruitment process.

6. Grant amount and details

If the application is accepted, a research incentive grant of 200,000 yen per month, as a general rule, will be provided from April until the acquisition of a doctoral degree within the standard acquisition period. Therefore, **the period eligible for disbursement will be a maximum of three years from the time of SGC-NEXUS acceptance (including a maximum of three years for long-term students). For international students, support begins upon their arrival in Japan.**

We will also provide an annual research grant of 180,000 yen (with the possibility of an additional increase up to 100,000 yen if necessary, with a proportional reduction depending on the acceptance timing). Regarding the accounting treatment of research grants, if there is any unspent amount at the end of each fiscal year, we will request the return of the unused funds.

*Note that the grant amount is subject to change depending on the national budget situation.

7. Application documents

Submit the application form (including resume, research achievements, research plan, etc. See Form 1) and an activity plan (See Form 2). Please contact the item 10 for request the application form template.

8. Selection Process

We request applicants to submit the application form (Form 1) and activity plan (Form 2), and join interviews, if necessary (Interviews include oral presentations and question-and-answer sessions by the applicants). The selection will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of these materials. If an interview is conducted, it is scheduled to take place during the period on **Monday March 31, Wednesday April 2, and Thursday April 3, 2025**. As the period until the interview is short, we kindly

ask applicants to prepare interview presentations, etc., in advance. Details will be provided after the acceptance of application documents. The results of the review will be communicated directly to the applicants via email.

9. The submission method and destination for the application documents

【Application Form】(Form 1)

- ・Please save the application documents in PDF format and electronically submit them to the following submission website.
- ・Please name the application form file as 'OOOO-202503NEXUS Application.'
- *OOOO represents the applicant's name.

【Activity Plan】(Form 2)

- ・Please name the activity plan file as 'OOOO-202503NEXUS Activity Plan.'
- *OOOO represents the applicant's name.
- ・Please upload it together with the application form

<Submission website >

<https://x.gd/vibrg>

・If we receive the submission of the application documents, we will send you a confirmation email acknowledging receipt on Friday March 14.

・If you do not receive the confirmation email by 5:00 PM on **Friday March 14**, please contact us by email or phone listed at the item 10 below as 'Contact Information' mentioned for confirmation.

10. Contact Information

【SGC-NEXUS Program; Next Generation Researcher Development Program at Nara Women's University】

Graduate School Section
Educational Affairs Division
Nara Women's University
Kitauoya-Nishimachi, Nara

630-8506

Tel/Fax 0742-20-3503

Email nwu-sgc@cc.nara-wu.ac.jp

URL <http://www.nara-wu.ac.jp/daigakuin/index.html>

https://sgcfs.nara-wu.ac.jp/sgc-nexus_202503_requirements/