

Tohoku University Advanced Graduate School LEAP Program October 2026: Application Guidelines (Standard Track)

Tohoku University launched the Tohoku University Advanced Graduate School LEAP Program in April 2026. This program aims to cultivate outstanding researchers who will lead next-generation innovation and play active roles globally, and to supply highly specialized human resources to diverse sectors. The core of this support is financial assistance for all students in the 1st through 3rd years of 3-year doctoral curricula, or the 1st through 4th years of medical, dental, or pharmaceutical curricula who meet the eligibility criteria. It also aims to comprehensively improve the research environment surrounding doctoral students by providing diverse educational content that contributes to strengthening research capabilities and supporting the acquisition of transferable skills.

Those who wish to receive this support should apply through their affiliated graduate school. (Students belonging to a Degree Program cannot apply through the Standard Track. Please follow the instructions from each Degree Program office.)

1. Eligible Students

1st through 4th years of medical, dental, or pharmaceutical curricula who meet the eligibility criteria

2. Eligibility

Applicants must fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) As of October 1, 2026, be enrolled in the 1st through 3rd years of 3-year doctoral curricula, or the 1st through 4th years of medical, dental, or pharmaceutical curricula
- 2) Not fall under the restrictions on simultaneous awards.
- 3) Not have exceeded the standard period of study.
- 4) Not be on a leave of absence.

3. Support Period

From October 2026 until the end of the standard period of study, in principle.

4. Support Details

Incentive Stipend: 106,000 Japanese yen per month

*A confirmation of attendance must be submitted every month.

*As the incentive stipend is treated as miscellaneous income under tax law, income tax must be paid through a final tax return.

*For students who are currently overseas and have never come to the university after admission, the payment of the Incentive stipend will start after they come to the university and complete the necessary procedures.

*In addition, support for competitive research grants (travel expenses, etc.) is implemented.

5. Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards

Those receiving the following types of financial support cannot receive this support:

1. Recipients of other scholarships from Tohoku University or public institutions such as the government.
2. Recipients of a JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists.
3. Recipients of the incentive stipend or other financial support from the Tohoku University Advanced Graduate School Pioneering Research Support Project.
4. Recipients of the incentive stipend or other financial support from the Tohoku University Advanced Graduate School Next-Generation AI Expert Development Project.
5. Recipients of a salary as per the Guidelines for the Japanese Government (MEXT) International Student Scholarship System (March 31, 1954, ruling by the Minister of Education).
6. Recipients of the JASSO Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students.
7. International students who are receiving a scholarship from their home countries.
8. Those receiving salary income, executive compensation, or stable non-repayable scholarship or other support equivalent to this program from a company, university, or private organization (the total of all income of 1.8 million yen per year or more (the total monthly amount of more than 150,000 yen equivalent), excluding this program).
9. Persons deemed equivalent to those listed in the preceding items.

*Even if you are receiving scholarships or income that fall under the above simultaneous awards restrictions at the time of application, you may apply for this program if you can decline them after being selected as a recipient of this program.

*If you are employed (regardless of whether their employment on a fixed term basis) or take hired part-time and your expected income for one year from that point exceeds 1.8 million yen, you must decline this program at the time of employment or adoption. Furthermore, regardless of annual income, if you become unable to concentrate on research activities, you must decline this program. Please note that in some cases, you may be required to return the incentive stipend retroactively.

*Remuneration received through appointments as a Research Assistant (RA), Teaching Fellow (TF), Teaching Assistant (TA), or Administrative Assistant (AA) at Tohoku University may be received regardless of the restrictions set forth in Item 8 above and the monetary limits specified therein.

*Where the host institution for overseas study, research, or training is a university or research institution (including the research and development division of a private company), salary, stipends, or internship compensation provided by the host institution for the purpose of supporting the student's study abroad may be received regardless of the restrictions set forth in Item 8 above and the monetary limits specified therein, provided that the student's academic advisor recognizes such support as necessary for the student's research.

*Scholarships intended to support travel expenses for studying abroad can be received regardless of the eighth item above or the amount. Please also check the simultaneous awards restrictions of the scholarship in question.

*Recipients of the Tohoku University Global Hagi Scholarship shall become ineligible to continue receiving the Global Hagi Scholarship if they become recipients of the incentive stipend under this program.

*If the other scholarship you are receiving does not allow concurrent receipt, you must follow the rules of that scholarship. Therefore, after being selected as a recipient of the incentive stipend under this program, please perform the appropriate procedures, such as declining the other scholarship.

*It is possible to receive loans from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

*When you are adopted for this program, be sure to check the "Handbook for Incentive Stipend Recipients" and "AGS LEAP Program Q&A."

6. Application Procedure

Applicants must upload the following documents to the designated Google Form by the deadline specified by their Graduate School. (1) Research plan

(2) Other documents specified by the affiliated graduate school.

*Applicants must follow the instructions provided by their Graduate School regarding the application form.

7. Announcement of Results

Successful applicants will be notified through their graduate school by the end of October 2026.

8. Obligations

- 1) Devote yourself to research activities based on your research plan and engage in your academic studies and research in a manner appropriate for an incentive stipend recipient.
- 2) Take the Advanced Graduate School Training Program conducted by the Center for Promoting Graduate Studies, Advanced Graduate School.
- 3) To receive the monthly incentive stipend, you must submit confirmation of monthly attendance during the designated period for that month. If the required procedures are not completed within the period, you will forfeit eligibility for that month's stipend payment, and neither retroactive payment nor deferral of payment to a subsequent month will be permitted. If you are unable to complete the procedures within the designated period due to unavoidable circumstances, you must consult your affiliated graduate school in advance.
- 4) Submit a report on the progress and outcomes of your academic studies and research twice a year.

- 5) Recipients may be requested to submit certificates that can confirm their income amount (tax certificate, pay slip, copy of passbook, etc.). In such cases, follow the instructions promptly and submit them.
- 6) As the incentive stipend is treated as "miscellaneous income" under tax law, income tax must be paid through a final tax return. Also, if you are a dependent (health insurance, dependency allowance, etc.) of a parent or relative, you may be removed from dependency. Please check with the parents/guardians or the parents/guardians' workplace and perform the necessary procedures.
- 7) Regarding the appropriate implementation of research and the utilization of research results, consult with your academic supervisor and pay sufficient attention to research ethics, the handling of intellectual property rights, and confidentiality.

9. Loss and Suspension of Eligibility

1. Eligibility for this program will be lost if any of the following apply:
 - 1) When a student loses status as a regular student of Tohoku University due to withdrawal, expulsion, transfer to another institution, or any other reason.
 - 2) When the standard period of study has been exceeded.
2. Recipients will lose their eligibility for this program if any of the following conditions apply. However, if the reason for the loss of eligibility is resolved, the recipient may apply again during the next application period.
 - 1) When falling under "5. Restrictions on Simultaneous Awards."
 - 2) When subjected to disciplinary suspension.
 - 3) When otherwise deemed inappropriate as a recipient of the incentive stipend.
3. Payment of this program will be suspended if any of the following apply. However, if the reason is resolved, this program will be resumed.
 - 1) When "8. Obligations" are not fulfilled without a rational reason.
 - 2) When a reason arises that makes the incentive stipend unnecessary.
 - 3) When taking a leave of absence.

10. Tuition Fee Waiver

Japanese students, etc., who are eligible for this program can receive tuition fee waiver support. For details, please refer to the following webpage and AGS LEAP Program Q&A.

<https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/gakusei-shien/menjo/yuusyusya/>

11. AGS LEAP Program Q&A

A Q&A regarding this program (updated as needed) is available on the following webpage. Please refer to it for further information.

<https://pgd.tohoku.ac.jp/english/rpc/LEAP.html>

*The support period and support details of this program may change depending on the budget situation, etc.