

Application Guidelines (April 2025 Enrollment) for the Forefront Physics and Mathematics Program to Drive Transformation (FoPM), a World-leading Innovative Graduate Study (WINGS) Program [For Prospective Students Entering the Master's Course in April, 2025]

Educational and research goals of FoPM

FoPM is an international integrated Masters-Doctoral program that aims to maximize the potential and competitiveness of basic science specialists on the world stage. The program provides exceptional students with the skills needed to exert a wide influence on scientific and social innovation, and thus prepares them to play leading roles as Doctoral graduates in the future of academia and all other business sectors.

To promote the development of the above skills, FoPM accepts students from a variety of backgrounds, including international students and students with full-time work experience.

*For more details of the program, refer to the following FoPM website:

<https://www.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/FoPM/>

1. Application requirements

To apply for this program, you must be a prospective student at the University of Tokyo planning to enroll **in the Master's course** of one of the following departments **in April, 2025** (*1).

- Department of Physics, Astronomy, Earth and Planetary Science, or Chemistry in the Graduate School of Science
- Department of Applied Physics, Graduate School of Engineering
- Department of Mathematical Sciences, Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences

You must also fulfill all of the requirements below:

- You intend to enroll in the Doctoral program at one of the above-listed departments and aim to acquire a PhD degree in the department above (*2)
- You are interested in broadening your horizons and working with researchers outside of your specialist field
- You are interested in the influence of basic science on social innovation, and are eager to actively learn about this topic
- You fully understand the purpose of FoPM, as well as the course requirements and other rules, and will cooperate with activities related to FoPM
- You agree to apply for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, and should you be accepted, you also agree to stay in FoPM (This requirement does not apply for students awarded Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarships)
- You are eager to gain experience abroad and to apply for external funding ([JSPS Overseas Challenge Program for Young Researchers](#) or other relevant programs)
- You understand and agree to the fact that your PhD diploma will bear a note saying that you have completed FoPM

(*1) In principle, you may not simultaneously apply for FoPM and another WINGS program. However, students from the Graduate School of Science may apply for both FoPM and the International Graduate Program for Excellence in Earth-Space Science (IGPEES), and students from the Graduate School of

Mathematical Sciences may apply for both FoPM and World-leading Innovative Graduate Study for Frontiers of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (WINGS-FMSP).

(*2) You must not apply for FoPM if you are planning to find business employment when you finish your Master's degree.

2. Selection method

Selection will be based on the prospective students' application documents (Applications Form, Application Essays, and Supervisor's Letter of Opinion), and their scores in the graduate school entrance examination.

3. Number of students to be admitted

Graduate School	Department	Number of students to be admitted
Graduate School of Science Graduate School of Science Graduate School of Science Graduate School of Science Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences	Dept. of Physics Dept. of Chemistry Dept. of Astronomy Dept. of Earth and Planetary Science Dept. of Mathematical Sciences	34

(*1) Students who enroll in the Master's course at the Dept. of Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, Earth and Planetary Science, and Mathematical Sciences in April 2025 may also apply for October 2025 enrollment. Applications from them will be accepted around June 2025 and a few students are to be admitted.

(*2) Students who enroll in the Master's course at the Dept. of Applied Physics, the Graduate School of Engineering in April 2025 can apply for October 2025 enrollment. Applications from them will be accepted around June 2025 and 6 students are to be admitted.

(*3) Note that if you apply this time, you cannot apply for October 2025 enrollment again.

4. Selection announcement and enrollment procedures

(1) The Applicant ID of successful applicants will be sent to all applicants by email (sent to the email address on their application form) on **Thursday, March 6th, 2025** around 1 pm. You will receive an Applicant ID when you submit your application.

(2) Enrollment documents will be emailed to successful applicants with the selection results. Those who have been accepted must finish the necessary procedures (submitting the enrollment documents) by **Thursday, March 13th, 2025**.

5. Application procedures

(1) Application documents

a. Application Form

Fill out the form directly on the website indicated in (2).

b. Application Essays

Fill out the form provided on the website indicated in (3), convert the file to a PDF, and upload the PDF file to the website in (2) as designated.

c. Supervisor's Letter of Opinion (*1)

Enter your supervisor's name, affiliation, title, and email address on the website indicated in (2). As

soon as you submit your application, an automated email asking them to fill out an online form will be sent to your supervisor at the email address that you entered. Your supervisor will then have to fill out the form directly on the designated website (*2 and *3).

(*1) The Letter of Opinion should be submitted by your prospective supervisor in the Master's course. **However, if the supervisor at the master's degree has not been determined, the applicant could write the information of the supervisor from bachelor's degree.**

(*2) Note that it is not until you submit your application that the email asking your supervisor to fill out our form is sent to them.

(*3) Confirm that your supervisor has submitted the form during the application period. Your application will not be considered unless all of the necessary documents (including the supervisor's letter of opinion) are submitted by the deadline. An automated email will be sent to you once the supervisor submits the form online.

(2) Online application form:

<https://apps.adm.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/WINGS/>

(3) Download the application document from:

<https://www.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/FoPM/application/guidelines.html>

(4) Application period

Application Form and Application Essay: From Monday, December 16th, 2024 until 3pm on Monday, January 6th, 2025 (JST). *Late submissions will not be accepted (*1).

Supervisor's Letter of Opinion: From Monday, December 16th, 2024 until 3pm on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025 (JST). *Late submissions will not be accepted

(*1) Complete the application well in advance as the server may become busy just before the deadline.

6. Enrollment period

New FoPM students will be enrolled in the program **from April 2025 to March 2027.**

Between December, 2026 and February, 2027, a Qualifying Examination (QE) will be held to select those permitted to stay in the program throughout their Doctoral studies. The QE will include the submission of a research proposal for your Doctoral research and the oral defense of the proposal. Students who pass the QE will be enrolled in FoPM up to **March 2030.**

Those who are selected to stay in the course will take their Final Examination (FE) in the summer of 2028, and those who pass the FE will qualify to complete the course. The FE will include the submission of a research report and the oral defense of the report. The course will be completed if and when the students receive their PhD degrees. For those who submit their dissertations early, FoPM will be completed at the time of the conferral of their degrees, provided that they have qualified to complete the course by that time.

7. Financial support

(1) Master's students

If desired, students may be appointed as *TAKUETSU* (Excellence) Research Assistants (TRAs) and be paid to engage in research in their fields. The appointment will begin from October 1st, 2025, and 170,000 yen will be paid per month (*1, *2, and *3). TRA appointment decision will be made based on a research and coursework progress review as well as application and screening.

Students awarded Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarships or any scholarships from the University of Tokyo cannot be appointed as TRAs, but may apply for FoPM. Students who do not wish to be appointed as TRAs, for example, because they are receiving other scholarships or having concerns about dependent exemption, may also apply for the program.

(2) Doctoral students

Students selected to stay in the course based on the results of the QE may also be appointed as TRAs. In this case, they will receive 180,000 yen per month to carry out research related in their field (*1, *2, and *3). Students who are accepted as JSPS Research Fellows or who receive Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarships or any scholarships from the University of Tokyo cannot be appointed as TRAs.

(*1) TRAs are not allowed to work as Research Assistants, but may work as Teaching Assistants on campus.

(*2) Income tax will be deducted from your TRA salary every month. You must therefore make a year-end adjustment or file a final tax return.

(*3) If your total income in one calendar year (January-December) exceeds a certain amount, you will be excluded from the category of dependent and/or non-working dependent on your parents' or spouse's health insurance. Moreover, depending on your total yearly income, you may be required to pay resident's tax in the next fiscal year.

8. Notes

- (1) Only applications for which all of the necessary documents are submitted by the deadline will be considered.
- (2) Under no circumstances may an applicant change the contents of their application once it has been submitted.
- (3) For unforeseen reasons, changes may be made to these guidelines or the application procedures. In such cases, an announcement will be made to potential applicants.
- (4) Personal information made known to FoPM through the application process will be used for the following purposes: (i) selection of FoPM students (application processing and selection), (ii) announcement of selected applicants, and (iii) enrollment procedures. For selected applicants only, the information will be further used for administrative duties relating to: (i) academic affairs (e.g., registration, enrollment), and (ii) student support (e.g., employment assistance, tuition waiver applications).
- (5) Any student who is found to have made a false statement in their application, even after being selected to join the program, may have their status as a FoPM student removed retroactively.

9. Contact

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*Office is closed from Monday, December 30th, 2024 to Sunday, January 5th, 2025.

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