

Forefront Physics and Mathematics Program to Drive Transformation (FoPM)
AY2026 Application Guidelines for the International Research Experience

1. Objective

The Forefront Physics and Mathematics Program to Drive Transformation (FoPM) aims to maximize students' potential to become internationally competitive Doctoral graduates with outstanding specialist skills. To this end, all FoPM students are required to take part in the International Research Experience. These guidelines outline the requirements for application.

2. Eligibility

FoPM students who are between their second year of the Master's course and their second year of the Doctoral course at the time of participation. Students will be selected only once..

(* Students who enter the Master's course in Spring can apply from the January of their second year of the Master's course. Students who enter the Master's course in Autumn can apply from the July of their second year of the Master's course.

3. Period and activities

The following are accepted as International Research Experience.

1) Joint research at other universities or research institutions abroad (for approximately two weeks to three months. Students may attend international conferences during their visit, but solely attending a conference will not be counted as International Research Experience).

2) A corporate internship abroad (for approximately two weeks to three months)

(* In general, the activity must take place abroad; however, it may also be accepted if the activity is more meaningful in Japan. Describe the reason why activity in Japan is more appropriate in the Research Proposal (Form 2). In this case, the term "abroad" above shall be replaced with "in Japan".

4. Number of applicants to be admitted

About 40

(* The above number may not be applicable if students receive financial support from their hosts or other organizations to participate.

5. Expenses to be covered

- Students selected for the SPRING GX are required to use SPRING GX funds for their travel.
- Expenses will be paid on an actual basis.
- **FoPM provides only expenses 1) to 3) below.**

1) Transportation expenses

Round-trip airfare (discount economy class ticket). Take a transit flight if it is cheaper than a direct flight.

Note that bus and train fares within the same city are not covered.

2) Insurance

Futai Kaigaku insurance is recommended. Individual insurance policies will also be eligible for support, provided that their coverage is equivalent to that of the Futai Kaigaku insurance plan.

3) Accommodation expenses

Support will be provided based on a guideline of 8,000 JPY per night. However, the amount may be increased up to the fixed-rate ceilings (23,000 JPY per night for Europe and North America, and 13,000 JPY per night for other regions).

While considering your safety, try to find the lowest price accommodation possible. FoPM covers a maximum of 90 days accommodation (not including overnight flights).

*The FoPM grant cannot be used for the following fees:

• daily allowance • passport issuance fee • VISA fee • immunization fee • travel accident insurance fee • International Conference, Academic meeting and workshop registration fees.

However, these expenses can be covered using unrestricted budgets such as management expenses grants and donations. Be sure to check with the office in charge of these budgets to see if the expenses can be covered.

Notes:

- If students receive financial support from their host or other organizations to participate in the International Research Experience, the financial support provided by FoPM will be adjusted depending on the amount provided.
- Travel that crosses fiscal years is not permitted when using only the funding provided by this program. The activity must start and be completed within

AY2026 (2026.04.01-2027.3.31).

If the total expenses significantly exceed the initially requested amount, full reimbursement may not be provided.

6. Application procedure

Those wishing to be considered must submit the following documents in PDF format by the deadline (see [11. Documents to submitted to]). Prior application is necessary for the activity to be counted towards the course requirement.

- Application Form (Form 1)
- Research Proposal (Form 2)
- Itinerary (Form 3) *
- Recommendation Letter (Form 4) *
- Approval letter from host research institution (email correspondence also suffices) *
- Document(s) to prove the estimate of necessary costs in Form 3 *(Screenshot is acceptable)

(* If applicants plan to participate entirely with other financial support, they do not need to submit the documents marked with *.

7. Application deadline and result announcement

Starting date of activity	Application deadline	Result announcement
Round 1: April through June 2026.	Wednesday, January 30, 2026 at 17:00	Late February, 2026
Round 2: July through September 2026.	Friday, May 29, 2026 at 17:00	Late June, 2026
Round 3: October through December 2026.	Monday, August 31, 2026 at 17:00	Late September, 2026
Round 4: January through March 2027.	Monday, November 30, 2026 at 17:00	Late December, 2026

*However, if there are reasons such as delays related to visa issuance or the timing of acceptance that make it impossible to meet the above application deadline, you must consult with the WINGS Desk in advance.

8. Selection process

Selection will be made by the FoPM Committee.

9. Result

Will be announced by email.

At the same time, you will be informed of the necessary codes for your business trip application (出張申請). **Please forward the result email and your itinerary to the secretary of your lab or someone who can use the business trip application system** so that they can submit your trip application. If you do not know who is in charge, ask your supervisor who will take care of your business trip application.

If there are any major changes in your schedule or estimated expenses after you receive the result, please contact the WINGS Desk ASAP.

(There have been cases where traveling without submitting a business trip application has caused problems. Please ensure that you coordinate with your academic supervisor and administrative staff without fail.)

10. Report submission

Students are required to submit a Report (Form 5) in PDF format within two weeks of their return (see [11. Document to be submitted to]). The submitted report will be posted on the FoPM website.

11. Documents to be submitted to:

WINGS Desk, Academic Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo

wings.s@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp

12. Miscellaneous

- If you stay abroad for research purposes, the host organization may require you to get a visa. As this will probably take a few months, check if you need a visa well in advance.
- When participating in joint research or a corporate internship overseas, students need to purchase insurance (e.g., study abroad insurance) that suits the period and purpose of their stay **at least three weeks before departure**.

Students at the Graduate School of Science:

Students at the Graduate School of Science may take out the “JEES *Futai Kaigaku*” insurance through the [Graduate School Office](#). (daigakuin.s@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

