

Academic Year 2021

**Okayama University Science, Technology, and Innovation Creation Fellowship
(OU Fellowship) [Type B] Application Guidelines**

Okayama University is calling for applications for the Okayama University Science, Technology, and Innovation Creation Fellowship [Type B]※. The OU Fellowship was established to assist students enrolling in the doctoral degree program and to cultivate young researchers capable of promoting Okayama University priority research fields with the intention of cultivating researchers capable of playing important roles in science, technology and innovation creation in Japan.

Okayama University will provide and distribute the living expenses and research budget as well as provide a wide range of approaches to improve research capability and support career paths.

※This recruitment is for the 2021 academic year (Payment start: October 2021), but depending on the recruitment status for each grade and the recruitment status for the 2022 academic year, which is recruited at the same time, applicants may be a candidate for the 2022 academic year (Payment start: April 2022).

1. Planned Enrollment Capacity

Approx. 30 students (Approx. 10 students per grade)

2. Qualification Requirements

Applicants for the OU Fellowship Type B must fulfill the requirements listed below, be highly motivated to learn and concentrate on conducting research.

Working individuals are eligible to apply for Type B. However, those who fall under any of the following are excluded:

- (1) Students who have stable income that is sufficient to live on*
- (2) Research Fellows (Young Scientists) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- (3) Students from abroad receiving support through the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship or scholarships from their own countries

* “Stable income that is sufficient to live on” here means 2,400,000 yen/year.

Program	Graduate Course	Requirements
Doctoral Degree Program (Second Semester)	Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology (Excluding Division of Earth and Planetary Materials Science) Graduate School of Health Sciences Graduate School of Environmental and Life Science Graduate School of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences) Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering in Health Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students who are scheduled to enroll in October 2021• Students enrolling in the programs shown on the left as of October 1, 2021 (within the standard period of completion)
Five-year Doctoral Degree Program	Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology (Division of Earth and Planetary Materials Science)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students enrolling in their 3rd to 5th years in the programs shown on the left as of October 1, 2021

		(within the standard period of completion)
Four-year Doctoral Degree Program in the Fields of Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmaceutical Sciences	Graduate School of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Excluding Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are scheduled to enroll in October 2021 • Students enrolling in the programs shown on the left as of October 1, 2021 (within the standard period of completion)
If you have any inquiries about qualification, please contact us as shown in “10. Contact/Address to Send Your Application.”		

3. Amount of Support

OU Fellowship Type B consists of research encouragement funding, a research budget and a research grant (special category) which is additionally provided by the evaluations based on the proposal. The amount to be provided is as shown below.

(1) Research Encouragement Funding: 1,800,000 yen per year (150,000 yen per month)

* In principle, funding is paid every two months.

* **Research encouragement funding is provided for living expenses with the intention of helping to enable successful applicants to concentrate on their research.**

(2) Research Budget: 400,000 yen per year

* To be distributed after submission of the research plan to the secretariat every academic year.

(3) Research Grant (Special Category): Up to 700,000 yen per year

This research grant is distributed to students who submitted their own proposals and received high evaluations in each academic year based on the submitted proposals.

***The research grant (special category) is additionally provided to OU Fellowship Type B recipients who submit their own approaches to increase their (1) international perspective, (2) research capability, and (3) career awareness.**

[Notes]

In the case that the applicant for OU Fellowship Type B is the recipient of the following scholarships, the relevant scholarship amount shall be adjusted that the total annual amount of the scholarship and OU Fellowship will be 2,400,000 yen.

(1) Ohmoto Ikueikai Student Grant

(2) Okayama University Scholarship to Support Students in Doctoral Degree Programs (Second Semester)

(3) Other scholarship provided by a graduate school or division of Okayama University (excluding one-time award for enrollment)

If you have any questions about handling of the applicants who have already received these scholarships for 2021 academic year, please contact to “10. Contact/Address to Send Your Application (OU Fellowship Secretariat)”.

4. Duration

The period of distribution of the research encouragement funding and research budget is the period, beginning of October 2021 in which the successful applicant is enrolled in the doctoral degree program (second semester), five-year doctoral degree program, or four-year doctoral degree program

[Submission Deadline: Sunday, October 3 (24:00 JST)]

and must be within the standard period of completion.

We decide the Type B recipients every academic year. If you have an intention to continue to receive the OU Fellowship for the 2022 academic year, please check the box of "I hope to receive OU Fellowship for 2022 academic year" in the application. You need not to apply for the 2022 academic year.

If the successful applicant takes a leave of absence from school, he/she will, in principle, no longer qualify for funding. However, if the recipient is expected to return to school to restart the research, the funding and budget may be temporarily suspended, and then restarted after the recipient returns to school.

5. Application Procedure

Students who have a desire to receive the OU Fellowship funding and budget must fill out and submit the following documents:

- Application Form
- Certificate of Estimated Income (For working individuals, etc. who have a regular income)
- Evaluation Form

Submission Deadline: Sunday, October 3 (24:00 JST) [No Exceptions]

Address to Send Your Application: OU Fellowship Secretariat *Please submit via email.

ou-fellowship@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp

Applicants must ask their individual advisors (planned) or someone familiar with their research to fill out and submit the designated Evaluation Form. (The Evaluation Form must be submitted directly to the secretariat by the person who completes the Evaluation Form.)

Please ensure sufficient time to complete the procedures for each form.

6. Selection Process

Successful applicants will be determined through document screening and online interview conducted by the OU Fellowship Screening Committee. The results of the document screening will be announced to the applicants by the end of October. Applicants who have passed the document screening will receive details regarding the online interview. The online interview is scheduled for early November. The results of the online interview will be announced to the applicants during November.

If a successful applicant declines the OU Fellowship, the Fellowship will be awarded to another appropriate applicant.

7. Selection Criteria

Okayama University awards OU Fellowships to applicants who are highly motivated to learn and conduct research, and they are expected to promote research in the priority fields designated by Okayama University and to play important roles in science, technology, and innovation creation in Japan in the near future. Applicants are comprehensively evaluated in the following areas:

- (1) The ability to set innovative research themes supported by creativity and deep insight
- (2) Exceptional ability to pursue their research
- (3) High communication ability

8. OU Fellowship Recipient Obligation

Successful OU Fellowship recipients are obligated to take research ethics education classes specified by Okayama University, concentrate on research activities based on their own research plans, and pursue the following items to form their particular career paths after the acquisition of the degrees: (Details will be announced following selection.)

[Submission Deadline: Sunday, October 3 (24:00 JST)]

(1) Submission of research progress reports for each academic year (September and March, in the designated OU format)

***Type B requires the recipients to report the progress of research supported by the research grant (special category).**

(2) Periodical interviews with mentors (once every two months in principle)

(3) Participation in programs related to the improvement of research capability and support for career path (internship, meetings with companies, seminars, etc.)

9. Notes

(1) Successful OU Fellowship applicants are required to submit a pledge to concentrate on research activities, etc.

(2) Successful OU Fellowship applicants do not have an employment relationship with Okayama University; however, research support funding or research encouragement funding is listed as miscellaneous income under tax law and is considered taxable income. Therefore, successful applicants must file income tax returns.

(3) Research budgets must be used appropriately under the supervision of the university (advisor).

10. Contact/Address to Send Your Application (OU Fellowship Secretariat)

Yoshida/Kanemoto, Research Support Office

Email: ou-fellowship@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp

Phone Number: 086-251-8462