

Kyushu University Inamori Frontier Program (Inamori FP) Q&A

Ver.4

● About the Application Guidelines

About the Employment Period

Q1: How is the employment period determined?

A: As a general rule, the employment period is five years from the starting date for the position. For example, if the starting date is January 1, 2027, then employment would continue until December 31, 2031.

About the Application Requirements

Q2: What research fields does this program include?

A: It includes all fields in humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Q3: Applicants must be a young researcher capable of conducting autonomous research activities as an independent PI, but is there an age limit?

A: Since there are various potential circumstances to consider such as life events and career paths that depend on the characteristics of the research field, we have not set a specific age limit.

Q4: I am planning to receive my doctorate in December, 2026. Do I meet the requirements to apply?

A: If you will hold a doctorate at the time of starting the position at Kyushu University, you can apply.

About Research Activities

Q5: How is the Host Faculty determined?

A: The affiliation of those hired for the Inamori Frontier Program will be with the Institute for Advanced Study, but actual research activities will be conducted at a faculty or institute at a campus (Host Faculty). The Host Faculty is determined once the Institute for Advanced Study has made arrangements with the applicant's desired faculty or institute during the screening process.

Q6: While the focus is on devotion to research activities, I am also interested to participate in educational activities and student guidance in light of my future career. Is that possible?

A: It is possible as long as no less than 70% of your overall effort is devoted to research. You will need the approval of your Host Faculty if you wish to engage in these activities, so please consult with the Host Faculty after you are hired.

About Salary, etc.

Q7: How much salary can I expect?

A: Salary is decided within a range from 10,000,000 yen to 12,000,000 yen in basic annual salary according to research background and other such factors, based on the Kyushu University Rules for Compensation of Faculty Members (Annual Salary). Please see below for details (reference case).

(Reference case)

1. Salary

(1) Basic monthly pay 840,000 yen (if basic annual salary is 10,080,000 yen)

(2) Allowances: Payment of allowances stipulated in the rules for compensation, in addition to transport allowance

* Allowances such as housing allowance, dependents allowance, end-of-term allowance, and study allowance are not provided.

2. Severance payment

Not provided.

3. Health insurance, pension

Those who are hired will be enrolled in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Mutual Aid Association and employee pension.

Q8: Do you provide compensation for relocation expenses?

A: Compensation is provided according to the rules.

Q9: If someone who works at a national university is hired, will that person's severance payment be cumulatively totaled?

A: It will not be cumulatively totaled.

Q10: Is any paid leave available other than the specified days off?

A: We provide annual paid leave, sick leave, special leave, and other forms of leave as specified in the rules of employment.

Q11: Is it possible to live in employee housing?

A: It is possible to apply for a lease. However, availability depends on vacancies and other circumstances, so you might not receive your desired housing unit.

Q12: Is childcare leave available? And if I take childcare leave, how would my employment period be handled?

A: If you meet the requirements at the time of taking the leave, you will be able to take childcare leave. However, the employment period will not be extended along with childcare leave being taken.

Q13: Is this an exempted position as stipulated by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)?

A: While there is a five-year employment period, this is a full-time research position which thereby meets the criteria for the exempted job system.

About Support for Research Activities

Q14: How can I receive support for research expenses and other costs?

A: Support for research expenses and other costs is provided as follows. However, if hired in the middle of an academic year, the amount of support provided for the first year will be pro-rated by the number of remaining months.

1. Research expenses (per person)

[Experiment-related] 2,000,000 yen/year (support for three years after hiring)

[Non experiment-related] 1,000,000 yen/year (support for three years after hiring)

2. Cost of employing research assistants, etc. (per person)

6,000,000 yen/year (paid for five years after hiring)

Q15: How are “experiment-related” and “non experiment-related” determined for research expenses?

A: These are decided according to the specialized field of the applicant and the content of their research plan. There are cases in which experiments are conducted in humanities and social sciences as well, so the decisions are made after hiring and verifying the content of the research.

Q16: In addition to the support shown on the Application Guidelines, is it also possible to receive support for expenses necessary to arrange the research environment (such as costs incurred to relocate research equipment)?

A: Since there are budgets and other issues involved, the decisions on whether to provide such support are made after consultations about the individual circumstances.

About Hiring as an Institute for Advanced Study Professor

Q17: After completing the employment period, those who were recognized as particularly outstanding achievers (up to two) based on the results of the final evaluation are hired as Institute for Advanced Study professors, but is this on a tenure track system? And how do you decide who to hire as a professor?

A: It is not a tenure track system. For hiring as an Institute for Advanced Study professor, up to two of those who have displayed particularly outstanding performance in terms of both their individual research findings and the research strategy of the university as a whole - based on the Inamori Frontier Program's own evaluation criteria - may be hired as Institute for Advanced Study professors.

However, hiring will not take place if the results of the evaluations do not recognize anyone as appropriate.

About the Screening Process

Q18: Do alumni or currently enrolled students of Kyushu University have an advantage?

A: These factors have no impact on screening.

Q19: How are the interviews conducted?

A: The interviews are planned to be conducted online. Interviewees will be contacted on an individual basis with details about how the process will be conducted.

Q20: In what language(s) will the interviews be conducted?

A: Interviews will be conducted in either Japanese or English according to what the interviewee selected, but some questions may also be asked in English even during Japanese language interviews.

Q21: If a schedule conflict arises on the scheduled date and time of my interview, could I switch to another date and time?

A: Changes to the specified interview date and time are not allowed.

Q22: How is notification of the screening results provided?

A: Notification is sent to the applicants themselves by email. Notifications are generally planned according to the following schedule.

Please note that these could be subject to change depending on the status of the screening schedule.

1. First screening (document screening) results notification: Early May 2026
2. Second screening (document screening) results notification: Late August 2026
3. Third screening (interview screening) results notification: Mid-November 2026

How to Submit Documents & Submission Deadline

Q23: I noticed an error after uploading my application documents. Can I re-upload them?

A: As long as it's before the deadline, the documents can be re-uploaded. Please upload the documents again with "Revision" or something similar added to the file name. However, please note that documents re-uploaded after the deadline will be invalid.

Q24: Would you still accept an application after the application deadline?

A: Applications will not be accepted if submitted after the application deadline.

Q25: Do you accept application documents sent by email or post?

A: Only uploaded applications will be accepted. Applications sent by email or post will not be accepted.

About Points to Note

Q26: I would like to check beforehand on the research environment, equipment, and other details at the faculty or institute where I will be working. May I contact them directly to inquire?

A: Send advance questions or inquiries to faculties and institutes by email to the Inamori FP Recruitment Officer by email. In the message, please clearly indicate the name of the faculty or institute to receive the advance question or inquiry.

Please note that depending on the nature of the question, you may have to wait some time to receive a response. Therefore, we request that you send any questions or inquiries early enough to allow sufficient time for a response.

About the Contact Point for Questions

Q27: Can I call to ask questions by phone?

A: We do not answer questions by phone. Additionally, since we expect to receive questions from a large number of applicants immediately before the application deadline, we ask that you send questions as early as possible.

You will be contacted by email with notification of the upload link for application document data within three days after completing application registration (five days if received on a weekend or holiday). Please refrain from contacting us to check on your registration during that time.

Contact Point for Questions

Inamori FP Recruitment Officer, Academic Research and Industrial Collaboration Management Office of Kyushu University

E-mail: inamorifp@jjmu.kyushu-u.ac.jp