

Strategic Professional Development Program for Young Researchers

Program for Tokai Pathways to Global Excellence

T-GEx Fellow Application Guidelines for AY2026

1. Project Outline

This project aims to nurture world leading researchers, business and industry leaders, and entrepreneurs, capable of driving international research initiatives and collaborative projects between academia and industry as part of a comprehensive young researcher development program linking postgraduate education to the world-class researchers. To achieve this, a comprehensive development program for early-career researchers is to be set up to steer them towards global excellence. The program is comprised of two phases: Phase 1, in which all the selected researchers (henceforth referred to as T-GEx Fellows) are to acquire high-level transferable skills and build a research network by attending seminars and events, and Phase 2, in which they are expected to improve and refine their abilities and skills to engage in research or industry-academia collaborative projects by executing individually tailored development plan.

The endeavors above are to be carried based on a consortium in which academic institutions and private firms, located mainly in the Tokai region, participate. The consortium will function as a regional hub of developing highly skilled human resources where knowledge concerning career development is shared and collaborative ties are fostered.

For details, refer to the T-GEx website: <https://www.t-gex.nagoya-u.ac.jp/en/>

2. Details of the Project

This program aims at nurturing a diverse group of young researchers, each of whom has a different prospect and need for their career development. Given this, the program offers 4 cultivation tracks; (1) international joint research; (2) interdisciplinary joint research; and (3) industry-academia collaboration; and entrepreneurship. The selected researchers may combine these tracks as the fifth option of ‘extended track’.

Once, a track is chosen, each T-GEx Fellow draws up a development plan, with assistance provided by the program. There are no prerequisites to select a particular track, and applicants are encouraged to embark on a new challenge.

Details are as follows.

(1) Up to 500,000 yen (tentative) per person will be provided as start-up research expenses only in the first year.

(2) Support for establishment of an independent research environment and research advancement

① Provision of research space

T-GEx Fellows will be affiliated with Nagoya University’s Institute for Advanced Research under this program. On request basis, the University will provide research space of about 50m² at its expense.

② Assignment of academic mentors and business advisors

Academic mentors and business advisors will be assigned to each of the T-GEx Fellow according to their research plans to stimulate research progress.

③ Support from URAs (University Research Administrator)

URAs of the Academic Research & Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration Division will assist the T-GEx Fellows to stimulate research progress, organize joint research projects and outreach activities and manage intellectual properties.

(3) In principle, from the second year onward, tailor-made research funds of up to 3 million yen / year (however, depending on budget conditions, the amount may be less than 2 million yen/year) will be provided per researcher. The T-GEx Fellows are required to file an application form by choosing one of the cultivation tracks of international joint research, interdisciplinary joint research, industry-academia collaboration, and entrepreneurship. The amount of fund to be provided will be determined in accordance with the assessment of the quality of the applications.

(4) Participation in exhibitions, retreats, and development programs to acquire transferable skills such as interdisciplinary and inter-cultural communication skills and management skills is mandatory. Expenses to engage in these activities will be supported.

3. Number of Successful Candidates

About 3 researchers from Nagoya University

<Note>

The number of T-GEx Fellows accepted in the past is as follows.

- **AY 2021** : Nagoya University 8
- **AY 2022** : Gifu University 1 • Nagoya University 5
- **AY 2023** : Gifu University 1 • Nagoya University 4
- **AY 2024** : Gifu University 1 • Nagoya University 4
- **AY 2025** : Gifu University 1 • Nagoya University 4

4. Duration of the Program

April 2026 to the end of March 2031

* In principle, the expected period of program participation is five years.

However, this program does not interfere in faculty mobility.

5. Application Requirements

In principle, those who meet the following conditions are eligible to apply. * Any research field is acceptable.

(1) Those who have been selected through open, international and domestic recruitment, and guaranteed to start full-time employment at Nagoya University by April 1, 2026. (including those who hold designated posts)

- (2) Those who have research experience of less than 10 years after completing their PhD and under 40 years old as of April 1, 2026 (under 43 years old for those who were enrolled in a medical field in which clinical training is required) Both academic and age requirements must be met.

Note: This condition does not apply to those who have taken leaves or time-off from research due to childbirth or childcare, etc.

6. Application Procedures

Please submit the following forms.

< Application form >

“Application Form1 _Tokai Pathways to Global Excellence AY2026”

< Deadline for submission >

January 5, 2026 (Monday) 5:00pm

< Submission address>

Research Planning Section, Research Planning Division, Research Cooperation Department

Mail: t-gex@t.mail.nagoya-u.ac.jp

7. Selection Process

The screening of candidates will be conducted as follows;

- (1) Nagoya University preliminary screening (in case of a large number of applicants)

The committee consisting of Nagoya University screening committee members will conduct the screening in accordance with the selection policy of the consortium. In principle, screening examination will be conducted based on application documents, however, interview will be additionally arranged if necessary.

- (2) Final screening by the consortium committee

The Selection and Assessment Committee established within the Working Committee (Consortium Committee), consisting of members from Gifu University and Nagoya University, will interview the shortlisted applicants.

The interview screening is scheduled as follows.

Applicants for the interview screening will be contacted individually by February 5, 2026 (Thursday)

Date: February 20, 2026(Friday) *time to be announced later

8. Notes

- (1) The affiliated department of the successfully selected T-GEx Fellow is requested to ensure that the T-GEx Fellow is engaged in research activities for at least 50% of their required workload.
- (2) In order to ensure the diversity of the T-GEx Fellows, we welcome applications from foreign researchers, Japanese researchers who have obtained degrees from overseas universities, Japanese researchers who have a total of more than one year of education and research experience at overseas institutions and Japanese or non-Japanese researchers who have been engaged in international collaborative research projects in Japan

or overseas.

- (3) When proposals are deemed equivalent, priority will be given to female applicants.
- (4) The scale of support may be revised depending on the budget of the Strategic Professional Development Program for Young Researchers.