

International Research Center for Medical Sciences (IRCMS)

Research Internship Program Application Guidelines for AY2025 (Second Recruitment)

Overview

IRCMS, the center of excellence for world-class research in stem cell, development, aging and cancer, launched the IRCMS Research Internship Program in 2015. We have a strong interest with the highest priority in developing a global collaboration and focus on exchange of young scientists from partner institutions abroad. With opportunities for hands-on research experiences, we offer this program to undergraduate and graduate students who have interest and motivation in advanced medical research as "Research Interns".

Eligibility for Application

1. Eligibility is open to applicants of all nationalities, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral candidates at overseas universities in the field of medical sciences or related fields, as well as individual researchers affiliated with institutions outside Japan who have potential research projects that could lead to collaborative activities with IRCMS.
2. Recent graduates of undergraduate or graduate courses who are planning to enroll in a postgraduate program are also eligible. Preference will be given to those aiming to enroll in the Graduate School of Medical Sciences (GSMS) at Kumamoto University. Current students are expected to graduate within one to two years from the time of application.
3. Applicants who select one of the eligible Principal Investigators (PI) below at the IRCMS.

Principal Investigator (PI)	Research Theme / Website
<u>TAKIZAWA Hitoshi</u>	Stem Cell Stress http://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/research/hitoshi_takizawa/
<u>KURIHARA Hiroki</u>	Multicellular Dynamics https://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/members/pis/hiroki_kurihara/
<u>SASHIDA Goro</u>	Transcriptional Regulation in Leukemogenesis http://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/research/goro_sashida/
<u>SHENG Guojun</u>	Developmental Morphogenesis http://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/research/guojun_sheng/
<u>MIHARADA Kenichi</u>	Proteostasis in Stem Cell https://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/members/pis/kenichi_miharada/
<u>MIZUNO Hidenobu</u>	Multi-dimensional imaging http://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/research/hidenobu_mizuno/
<u>UMEMOTO Terumasa</u>	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Engineering http://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/research/terumasa_umemoto/
<u>KUROTAKI Daisuke</u>	Chromatin Organization in Immune Cell Development http://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/research/daisuke_kurotaki/
<u>TAKAHASHI Yuta</u>	Epigenetic Inheritance https://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/members/pis/Yuta_Takahashi/
<u>MORISHIMA Tatsuya</u>	Epitranscriptome in hematopoiesis https://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/members/jrpi/

ASAI Rieko	Cardiac Morphogenesis https://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/members/jrpi/
LIU Norika	Macrophages Biology https://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/members/jrpi/

*Click PI's name to contact

Duration

2 to 8 weeks until early March 2026.

NOTE:

- The period of internship should be discussed with host PI ahead of time.
- The periods from August 9th to the 14th, and December 27th to January 4rd 2026 should be excluded and avoided from the program duration due to university's holidays when you plan to visit.

Required documents

1. Application form and CV.
2. A letter of recommendation written by academic supervisor(s) of the home institution, or the last university attended.
3. Additional supporting documents if any (e.g., awards, publications).

NOTE:

- All documents should be submitted to the IRCMS online registration system below, by email will not be accepted.
<https://forms.office.com/r/jXwK6L6deF>
- The documents must be written in either English or Japanese created in A4 size in PDF format. A document written in other than these languages must be accompanied with an English translation.
- Submitted documents will not be returned.
- An application passed the submission deadline is not acceptable.
- An applicant who makes false statements in the documents will be disqualified from taking the selection process or will be disqualified to receive the financial support even after selection.

Application Period

From Tuesday July 22 through Friday August 22, 2025 at 5:00PM (JST)

Application Procedures

1. Applicants must find a host PI from the list above and submit the required documents through the registration system as instructed.
2. The host PI will review the submitted application documents to select the potential candidates, and conduct interviews.
3. Based on the PI's evaluation, the IRCMS Research Internship committee will carry out the final screening and determine the result.
4. The IRCMS Admin Office will notify applicants of the result by email. Successful participants must confirm their firm participation by replying within 7 days after of receiving the result notification. If no reply is received within 7 days for whatever reason, IRCMS will withdraw the result and cancel the IRCMS Research Internship Program.

NOTE:

- Those who intend to apply to a Doctoral Course (PhD) of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences (GSMS) at Kumamoto University would be selected with higher priority.

Financial aid

IRCMS provides financial support to the participants for travel expenses and accommodation during the IRCMS Research Internship Program. There is no participation fee for the program.

- 1) Travel expenses: One round-trip air ticket between the place of residence and Kumamoto. (IRCMS will arrange the most reasonable travel means for participants.)
- 2) Accommodation: All or part of the accommodation costs during the program will be provided.

NOTE:

- The participants must consult the travel schedule with the host PI before travel occurs.
- The participants must be financially responsible for the daily expenses during the program period. It is highly recommended that you should prepare some cash in Japanese yen, or another major foreign currency convertible into Japanese yen, or a credit card.

Obligations of Research Interns

1. Participants must obtain an appropriate health and travel insurance covering the travel period.
2. Participants must submit a weekly report.
3. At the conclusion of the program, participants must submit a final report on the research project.
4. Participants must return home soon after the completion of program.

REMARKS:

Application and Selection Record (2015-2025)

Number of selected applicants / Total number of applications

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
1st Call	8/10	6/8	5/5	4/24	7/35	6/11	2/27	0	5/29	7/26	8/93	58/268
2nd Call	-	4/6	4/10	5/20	2/25	4/13	0	0	4/21	3/31		19/74
Total	8/10	10/14	9/15	9/44	9/60	10/24	2/27	0	5/29	10/57		77/342

Contact for inquiries

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<http://ircms.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/>