

## Questions and Answers about the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (*Kakenhi*) Program

This Q&A piece, which provides basic information about the *Kakenhi* grant program, is meant for overseas researchers who have recently arrived in Japan.

The admin office of your host institution in Japan is responsible for the overall administration of its *Kakenhi* program, including issuing calls for applications, providing selection notices, disbursing grants, and carrying out grant administrative procedures for both the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the grantees (researchers). Therefore, please direct inquiries for detailed information to your host institution's admin office.

### Q1. Can foreign researchers apply for Grants-in-Aid?

A. Yes. Application may be made by researchers working at Japanese universities and other research institutions irrespective of their nationality. However, to be eligible, the following four criteria must be met.

#### Criteria for Researchers

- (1) Be engaged in carrying out the subject research activities at the subject research institution. Be affiliated with the subject research institution in either a paid, unpaid, full-time or part-time capacity. (Researchers whose main duties at the subject institution are other than the subject research are also eligible.)
- (2) Be actually engaged in conducting the subject research at the subject research institution.

#### Criteria for Research Institutions

- (3) After the grant is issued, the research institution must implement the subject research activity as its own project.

(4) The research institution must administer the grant money as its own funds.

Please inquire at your host institution's admin office as to whether you satisfy these criteria.

Q2. Which of the grant categories may I apply for?

A. Various grant categories have been established to correspond with project objectives, funding scale, duration and other factors. Researchers may freely choose from among them the category that best coincides with their research plans.

English application guidelines and forms are provided for FY2009 grant applications (solicited in September 2008).

FY2009 English grant application guidelines (Scientific Research and other categories)

FY2009 English grant application form (Scientific Research and other categories)

[http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants09\\_2008.html](http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants09_2008.html)

Q3. When is the deadline for filing an application?

A. In each grant category, applications are received once a year. For specific dates, please refer to the application guidelines in your preferred grant category.

FY2009 English grant application guidelines (Scientific Research and other categories)

FY2009 English grant application form (Scientific Research and other categories)

[http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants09\\_2008.html](http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants09_2008.html)

Q4. May I prepare my application in a language other than Japanese?

A. Yes. Application may be prepared in English.

English application guidelines and forms are provided for FY2009 grant applications (solicited in September 2008).

FY2009 English grant application guidelines (Scientific Research and other categories)

FY2009 English grant application form (Scientific Research and other categories)

[http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants09\\_2008.html](http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants09_2008.html)

Q5. May I submit my application directly to JSPS?

A. No. You must submit it via your affiliated research institution. For details, please check with your institution's admin office.

Q6. When will I be notified as to whether my application was selected?

A. Time frames differ by grant category as each has its own screening process. For the specific time frame, please refer to the application guidelines in your preferred grant category.

FY2009 English grant application guidelines (Scientific Research and other categories)

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Q7. If my application is selected, when may I start my research using the grant funds?

A. You may start it as soon you receive your selection notice. (If your research continues for multiple years, you may start using each year's grant from 1 April without interruption from the previous year.) For concrete grant usage procedures, please inquire at your institution's admin office.

Q8. What may the grant funds be used for?

A. The grant is used to cover the cost of goods and services required for carrying out the subject research and to compile the research results. (Examples: Purchase equipment and materials, cover travel costs, pay remunerations.) For concrete grant usage procedures, please inquire at your institution's admin office.

Q9. Within the grant period, may I freely carry over grant funds into the next fiscal year?

A. No. Grant funds are to be expended by the end of each fiscal year of the funded project. Therefore, they may not freely be carried over into the next fiscal year.

However, the four expense items in the grant application form may be freely adjusted up to 50% within each fiscal year. JSPS's authorization must be obtained to adjust them more than 50%.

There are cases when carrying over funds to the next fiscal year may be approved because the scheduled research cannot for unavoidable reasons be completed within the subject fiscal year. For such carry-over procedures, please inquire at your institution's admin office.

Q10. Under the grant program, what is the difference between direct and indirect costs?

A. Direct costs are those for goods and services required to carry out the subject research and to compile the research results, including purchasing equipment and materials, covering travel costs, and paying remunerations.

Indirect costs are those involved in maintaining the environment required to

implement the subject research, including personnel costs, facility maintenance, and library operation.

Q11. What procedure am I to take if I should return to my country before the grant period ends?

A. If you cannot continue your scheduled research because you intend to return early to your country, you must submit a report on the state of your grant expenditures and the results of your research to date. If unspent funds remain, you must return them. For instructions on reporting and returning funds, please inquire at your institution's admin office.

Q12. What procedure should I take when my funded research is completed?

A. In the case of a multi-year grant, a report is to be submitted at the end of each fiscal year on the state of your grant expenditures and research progress. Upon completion of the research, a report is to be submitted on the overall research results. For instructions on report preparation and filing, please inquire at your institution's admin office.

Categories	Description	Function	
		Select	Award
Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research			
Specially Promoted Research	Internationally appraised research expected to produce outstanding results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-5 years</li> <li>500 million yen or more per project</li> </ul>	JSPS	MEXT
Scientific Research in Priority Areas	Highly responsive on issues of urgent societal needs that require global collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-6 years</li> <li>20-600 million yen yearly per area</li> </ul>	MEXT	MEXT
Scientific Research on Innovative Areas	(Research in a proposed research area) Joint research in new disciplines that contributes to elevating Japan's scientific standard and fostering young researchers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 years</li> <li>10-300 million yen yearly per area</li> </ul>	MEXT	MEXT
	(Research under a proposed research project) Innovative topical research with potential for scientific breakthroughs, without a guarantee of good results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 years</li> <li>10 million yen yearly</li> </ul>		
Scientific Research	(S) Leading-edge research by a researcher or a small group of researchers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 years</li> <li>50-200 million yen per project</li> </ul>	JSPS	JSPS
	(A) Creative and pioneering research by a researcher or a group of researchers		
	(B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-5 years</li> <li>[A] 20-50 million yen per project</li> </ul>		
	(C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[B] 5-20 million yen per project</li> <li>[C] Up to 5 million yen per project</li> </ul>		
Exploratory Research	Uniquely original research in an early stage of development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-3 years</li> <li>Up to 5 million yen per project</li> </ul>	JSPS	JSPS
Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists	(S) Research team led by a researcher of up to age 42 start-up grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 years</li> <li>30-100 million yen per project</li> </ul>	JSPS	JSPS
	(A) Research carried out by individual researcher of up to age 37	JSPS	MEXT
	(B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-4 years</li> <li>[A] 5-30 million yen per project</li> <li>[B] Up to 5 million yen per project</li> </ul>		
(Start-up)	Start-up research conducted by a newly tenured researcher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 years</li> <li>Up to 1.5 million yen per year</li> </ul>	JSPS	JSPS
Encouragement of Scientists	Research carried out by an employee of an educational or research institution or a corporation or any other individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year</li> <li>Up to 1 million yen</li> </ul>	JSPS	JSPS
Grant-in-Aid for Special Purposes	Urgent and critical research subjects, experimental trials concerning research aid	MEXT	MEXT
Publication of Scientific Research Results			
Publication of Scientific Research Results	Support for publishing the results of highly significant research conducted by research groups and for disseminating such information internationally	MEXT	MEXT
Scientific Periodicals	Support for the publication of academic journals so as to promote international exchange	JSPS	JSPS
Scientific Literature	Support for the publication of academic journals so as to promote international exchange	JSPS	JSPS
Databases	Support for the compiling databases and making them openly accessible through various scientific information networks	JSPS	JSPS
Specially Designated Research Promotion	Support for research conducted by private research institutes to satisfy specific scientific or societal demands	MEXT	MEXT
Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows	Research by JSPS pre- and postdoctoral fellows (Japanese and overseas researchers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 3 years</li> </ul>	JSPS	JSPS
Creative Scientific Research	To further advance selected components of highly creative research conducted Grants-in-Aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 years</li> </ul>	JSPS	JSPS