

Until recently, national grant programs disbursed research funds on a yearly basis only, making it necessary to conduct research each fiscal year within the scope of the funds issued for that year, and to go through a troublesome procedure of accounting for the funds at the end of each fiscal year. Besides the administrative difficulties, there was a tendency for research to stall at the end of the fiscal year. The following changes were therefore made to the KAKENHI program to enhance usability.

### (1) Introduction of Multi-year Fund (fiscal 2011-)

Before fiscal 2021: Grants-in-Aid were issued on a single fiscal year basis, requiring researchers to divide their research plans into one-year segments when applying for a grant. Now, this Multi-year Fund gives them the flexible use of their grants over the entire duration of multi-year projects.

Research categories eligible for the Multi-year Fund in fiscal 2022:

Scientific Research (C), Challenging Research (Pioneering/Exploratory), Young Scientists (B), Early-Career Scientists, Research Activity Start-up, Special Purposes, Fund for Promotion of Joint International Research (International Leading Research, Fostering Joint International Research (A/B), Home-Returning Researcher Development Research, International Activities Supporting Group), Scientific Research (B) (application section: Generative Research Fields)

- ◆ By requesting funding scheduled for the next fiscal year(s) to be carried forward, researchers can make optimal use of their grants in pace with progress of their work.
- ◆ The use of grant funds may be carried over into the next fiscal year without having to do advanced processing. Without having to think about the end of fiscal years, researchers can advance their work by carrying unused funds over into the next fiscal year(s).
- ◆ Researchers can advance their work without having to do end-of-year accounting. As this system eliminates the fiscal-year framework, orders placed for goods or services in one year may be delivered in the next.

#### Image of Multi-year Fund grant usage

