

<Major Changes, etc. in the Call for Proposals for Fiscal Year 2025>

(1) Digitalization and Colorization of Review Materials

- Research Proposal Documents in color will be newly accepted for Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (A/B) and Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (A) (Publicly Offered Research). Accordingly, the reviewers will view Research Proposal Documents in color (PDF files) on the electronic application system to conduct reviews (Research Proposal Documents will no longer be printed out in monochrome (grayscale) and mailed to the reviewers). (Refer to III. Instructions for Prospective Applicants 3. Preparation of the KAKENHI Application Form (Research Proposal Document), etc. (3) (iv))

[Research Categories Already Subject to Digitalization and Colorization of Review Materials]*

- Specially Promoted Research, Scientific Research (S), Research Activity Start-up, International Collaborative Research, Fostering Joint International Research, and Home-Returning Researcher Development Research

*For the review of other research categories, Research Proposal Documents printed out in monochrome will continue to be used as review materials. Please note, however, that JSPS plans to expand research categories subject to digitalization and colorization of review materials based on the review situation in the future.

(2) Relaxation of Application Requirements to Promote Gender Equality

- In order to create an environment that enables early-career or child-raising researchers to more actively return to or participate in research activities, the “period of raising preschooler(s)” will newly be taken into consideration under the application requirements of Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up and Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists. The scope of “preschooler(s)” is limited to “child(ren)”, and based on the interpretation of the Civil Code, it covers the child(ren) of applicants themselves (including their natural child(ren), child(ren) out of wedlock, and adopted child(ren)). The new application requirements will apply,

starting from the FY2024 call for proposals for Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up and the FY2025 call for proposals for Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists. Please refer to the respective Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research for details.

【FY2024 Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up(Start of the Call for Proposals in March 1 2024)】

- A) An individual who obtains eligibility for KAKENHI application on or after September 20, 2023, and has not submitted an application under the call for proposals for the following research categories(*1) announced by MEXT and JSPS.
- B) An individual who has not submitted an application under the call for proposals for the following research categories(*1) announced by MEXT and JSPS because he/she was on maternity leave or was raising a preschooler(*2) in FY2023.

(*1) FY2024 Grants-in-Aid for Specially Promoted Research, Transformative Research Areas, Scientific Research, Challenging Research, and Early-Career Scientists

(*2) Including the period of childcare leave.

【FY2025 Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists (call for proposals to be started in mid-July 2024)】

Researchers who are less than eight years after the acquisition of their Ph.D. as of April 1, 2025 (*)

(*) Eligible researchers include the following:

- Those who are expected to acquire their Ph.D. by April 1, 2025
- Those who are deemed less than eight years after the acquisition of their Ph.D. by exempting the period of maternity leave or the period of raising preschooler(s) following their Ph.D. acquisition

(3) Changes to the Review Method of Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up and Grant-in-Aid for Encouragement of Scientists

○ Starting from FY2024, the review method of Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up and Grant-in-Aid for Encouragement of Scientists has changed from a two-stage document review to a one-stage document

review to make adoption/rejection decisions. This will allow for early notice of review results, and those whose research proposals were not adopted under Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up will be able to secure sufficient preparation time needed for the application for Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, etc. upon receiving the notice.

(4) Research Integrity

- In line with the “Policy on Measures to Ensure Research Integrity” (April 27, 2021, Decision of Council for Integrated Innovation Strategy), etc., JSPS has taken necessary measures to ensure the transparency of research activities.

Starting from the FY2025 call for proposals, research integrity information registered in e-Rad will be linked to the KAKENHI electronic application system, and you will be requested to enter the necessary information in your Research Proposal Document based on the e-Rad registered research integrity details.

Please note, in particular, that you cannot make application if the Principal Investigator and/or Co-Investigators have not registered the status of pledge regarding their research integrity information for their affiliated institution. Therefore, please make sure to confirm the registration status of the relevant information in advance. (Refer to III. Instructions for Prospective Applicants 2. and IV. Instructions for Administrative Staff of Research Institution 3. Issues that Need to Be Verified When Compiling the Application Forms (Preparing the Research Proposal Document), 2)

(5) Development of Security Export Control Systems

- Researchers who conduct KAKENHI-funded research activities and plan to export (provide) technologies restricted under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949) are required to fully confirm security export control systems, response measures, and other matters, in accordance with the said Act and the rules and regulations of their affiliated research institution.

Starting from research projects to be funded in FY2025, JSPS will, by the time of official grant decision, confirm whether the provision of goods and technologies subject to export controls under the Foreign

Exchange and Foreign Trade Act is planned in the relevant research projects and, if there is an intent to provide them, whether the research institution has developed a control system.

In the case that the provision is planned, it is necessary to establish a control system. Therefore, research institutions must develop a system necessary to properly conduct the relevant affairs and make sure to register the status of establishment in e-Rad. (Refer to IV. Instructions for Administrative Staff of Research Institution 2. Issues to Be Completed Beforehand by the “Research Institution” 10 and V. Other Relevant Issues 7. Security Export Control Policy (Coping with Technology Leakage Overseas))

(6) Research Data Management

- Starting from fiscal year 2024, researchers are asked to prepare research Data Management Plans (DMPs) of their projects under all research categories in principle. Details such as an example of a DMP will be given at the time of provisional grant decision. As such, please store, manage, and take other measures for research results and data of your research projects in accordance with your DMPs. (Refer to I. Outline of the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI-6. Dissemination, Etc. of Research Achievements Supported by KAKENHI 4)

(7) Promotion of scientific research with significant international ripple effects

- From FY 2025 onwards, the new item, “Rating element for the internationality of the research project” to the Scientific Research (A/B/C) will be added in order to promote scientific research with significant international ripple effects, and a description about “what sort of internationality the research project has” will be required in the column, “1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.” in the Research Proposal Document.

Improvements and enhancements of KAKENHI and future direction of discussions in the Subdivision on KAKENHI in the 12th Term (Interim Summary) (June 24, 2024)

URL : https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20240624-mxt_gakjokik-000036755_1.pdf