

<Major Changes, etc. in the Call for Proposals for Fiscal Year 2026>

(1) Schedule for the Call for Proposals

- The main future schedule for the FY2026 call for proposals for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI- (for the FY2025 call for proposals for the Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up and the Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research) to be made in fiscal year 2025 is tentatively as follows.
No call for proposals will be made for the International Collaborative Research for adoption in fiscal year 2025 and beyond.

Schedule for the FY2026 Call for Proposals for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI- (Tentative) (*1)

Research Category*2	Start of Call for Proposals	Deadline for Submission of Applications	Notice of Review Results*3	Provisional Grant Decision*4
Specially Promoted Research	April 11, 2025	June 17, 2025	Early January 2026	Early April 2026
Scientific Research (S)	April 11, 2025	June 17, 2025	Mid-February 2026	Early April 2026
Transformative Research Areas (A/B)	April 11, 2025	June 17, 2025	Mid-February 2026	Early April 2026
Transformative Research Areas (A) (Publicly Offered Research)	July 14, 2025	September 17, 2025	Mid-February 2026	Early April 2026
Scientific Research (A/B/C) and Early-Career Scientists	July 14, 2025	September 17, 2025	February 27, 2026	Early April 2026
Challenging Research (Pioneering/Exploratory)	July 14, 2025	September 17, 2025	June 30, 2026 (Late February 2026*5)	Late June 2026
Encouragement of Scientists	July 14, 2025	September 17, 2025	January 30, 2026	Early April 2026
Publication of Scientific Research Results	July 14, 2025	September 17, 2025	Late March 2026	Early April 2026

Schedule for the FY2025 Call for Proposals for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI- (Tentative) (*1)

Research Category*2	Start of Call for Proposals	Deadline for Submission of Applications	Notice of Review Results*3	Provisional Grant Decision*4, 6
Research Activity Start-up	March 1, 2025	May 8, 2025	July 31, 2025	Late July 2025
International Leading Research	January 9, 2025	March 14, 2025	Late November 2025	Late November 2025
Fostering Joint International Research	July 14, 2025	September 17, 2025	Late February 2026	Late February 2026

Home-Returning Researcher Development Research	July 14, 2025	September 17, 2025	Late February 2026	Late February 2026
International Collaborative Research	Call for proposals discontinued (no call for proposals will be made for adoption in fiscal year 2025 and beyond)			

- *1 Both schedules are for newly proposed projects.
- *2 For the schedule for research categories other than the above, please refer to the respective Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and other documents.
- *3 The adoption or rejection of newly proposed projects will be notified to their Principal Investigators via the KAKENHI electronic application system before or on the day of provisional grant decision.
When you receive a Notice of Review Results indicating “adoption” of your project, you can make advance preparations for the commencement of your research project; however, as before, please conclude necessary contracts, etc. after provisional grant decision.
- *4 Timing of provisional grant decision may change, depending on the passage of the government budget and other circumstances.
- *5 The schedule in parentheses means the timing for issuing Notices of Review Results of “Preliminary Screening.”
- *6 For Home-Returning Researcher Development Research, “provisional grant decision with conditions” will also be made.

(2) Promotion of the Joint Use of Research Facilities

- In order to promote efficient use of research funds and joint use of facilities, starting from fiscal year 2025, JSPS will require joint use with those inside and/or outside the research institution of research facilities and equipment that have been purchased with direct expenses of KAKENHI and that meet conditions stipulated by the spending rules. Please visualize such research facilities and equipment for those inside and/or outside the research institution, by, in particular, registering them on a search system, etc. For details, please refer to the Guidelines toward the Promotion of the Joint Use of Research Facilities and Equipment (March 2022, Study Group on the Formulation of the Guidelines, etc. toward the Joint Use of Research Facilities and Equipment at Universities and Other Institutions) and the KAKENHI spending rules (supplementary conditions, funding conditions, etc.).

- Guidelines toward the Promotion of the Joint Use of Research Facilities and Equipment (March 2022, Study Group on the Formulation of the Guidelines, etc. toward the Joint Use of Research Facilities and Equipment at Universities and Other Institutions)

https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/shotou/163/toushin/mext_00004.html

(3) 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 are given at the time of provisional grant decision or via the URL below. As such, please store, manage, and take other measures for research results and data of your research projects in accordance with your DMPs.

In addition, researchers are requested to submit the information on research data that are generated in funded projects and made public (metadata, etc.) as part of the Report

on the State of Implementation and the Report on the Results for submission in fiscal year 2025. (Refer to I. Outline of the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research - KAKENHI- 6. Dissemination, Etc. of Research Achievements Supported by KAKENHI (4) Management of Research Data)

- Management and Utilization of Research Data in KAKENHI (JSPS website)
https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/01_seido/10_datamanagement/index.html

(4) Promotion of Open Access to Research Papers, Etc.

- In order to promote open access to research papers through presentations thereof and other means, starting from new calls for proposals in April 2025 and beyond, it will be required to publish such papers under all research categories in principle on “institutional repositories and other information infrastructure” immediately after they are published in academic journals. It will also be required to report the published information as part of the Report on the State of Implementation and the Report on the Results. (Refer to I. Outline of the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI- 6. Dissemination, Etc. of Research Achievements Supported by KAKENHI (3) Promotion of Open Access to Research Papers, etc.))

(5)Digitization and Colorization of Review Materials

- Research Proposal Documents for Scientific Research (A) will be accepted in full-color. In relation to this change, the reviewers will view and review full-color Research Proposal Documents (PDF files) through the electronic application system. (Research Proposal Documents will no longer be printed out in monochrome (grayscale) and mailed to reviewers.) (Refer to “III. Instructions for Prospective Applicants 3. Preparation of the KAKENHI Application Form (Research Proposal Document) (3) (iv)”)

[Research categories to which digitization and full-color versions of review materials are already applied]*

- Grant-in-Aid for Specially Promoted Research, Scientific Research (S), Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up, Fostering Joint International Research, Home-Returning Researcher Development Research, International Leading Research, Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (A and B), Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (A) (Publicly Offered Research), and Grant-in-Aid for Encouragement of Scientists

* For review of other research categories, a monochrome printed Research Proposal Document will continue to be used as review material. More research categories will be eligible for digitization and full-color versions of review materials in the future based on review conditions.