

Basics of KAKENHI and What's New in FY2019

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Outline

- Basic Information on KAKENHI
 - What is KAKENHI?
 - Popular KAKENHI Categories
 - Schedule for KAKENHI Application
- Peer Reviewing Process
 - Two-Stage Document Review
 - Reviewing Criteria
 - Think about the Reviewers When Writing Your Proposal
- What's New in FY2019
 - "Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research" Section
- URA's Service for KAKENHI Application
- Sources of Information

What is KAKENHI?

"Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research"

KAKENHI is the most important research funding for most researchers in Japanese universities

KAKENHI is the only research grant that supports researches based on **the free ideas of researchers in all research fields.**

Popular KAKENHI Categories

Main Project

Grant Money



Less than 8 yrs after PhD

Pre-determined research areas

"Transformative researches"

Additional Project

Formal Name	Short Name	Total Grant Money (M yen)	Acceptance Rate FY2017 [U Tsukuba]
Scientific Research (A)	Kiban (A)	20-50	24.8% [30.0%]
Scientific Research (B)	Kiban (B)	5-20	24.7% [29.0%]
Scientific Research (C)	Kiban (C)	Up to 5	29.6% [40.0%] High
Early-Career Scientists	Wakate	Up to 5	(Wakate B) 30.2% [43.2%]
Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (Publicly Invited Research)	Shin Gakujutsu, Kobo	Up to 2-14 (depending on the Area)	ND [22.0%]
Challenging Research (Exploratory)	Hoga	Up to 5	10.9% [12.2%] Low

Wakate (Early-Career Scientists)

- Eligibility:
 - ✓ Less than 8 years after obtaining PhD, or
 - ✓ Non-PhD researcher who is less than 40 years old
- Grant money up to 5 M yen
- Research period: 2-4 years
- Acceptance rate = 30.2% (Japan), 43.2% (U Tsukuba).

**If you are new to KAKENHI and eligible,
Wakate would be the first choice**

Kiban (C) (Scientific Research (C))

- No restriction on career or age
- Grant money up to 5 M yen
- Research period: 3-5 years
- Acceptance rate = 29.6% (Japan), 40.0% (U Tsukuba).

**If you are new to KAKENHI and not eligible for Wakate,
Kiban (C) would be the first choice**

For an Additional Project

Shin Gakujutsu (Scientific Research on Innovative Areas)

- Can apply for in addition to [Kiban \(A/B/C\)](#) or [Wakate](#)
- [Pre-determined Research Areas](#) (39 Areas for FY2019)
http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shinkou/hojyo/kenkyuryouiki/1386952.htm
http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shinkou/hojyo/kenkyuryouiki/1406968.htm
- Up to 2-14 M yen (depending on the Area), 2 years
- Acceptance rate = 22.0% (U Tsukuba)

Hoga (Challenging Research (Exploratory))

- Can apply for in addition to [Kiban \(A/B\)](#)
- For researches that have the potential to [radically transform the existing research framework and/or direction](#)
- Up to 5 M yen, 2-3 years
- Acceptance rate = 10.9% (Japan), 12.2% (U Tsukuba).

Selection of Review Section

- Basically, you should choose a section that is most relevant to your proposed research
- However, consider the possibility of an alternative choice that makes your proposed research more appealing

Broad Section G	
Medium-sized Section 43 :Biology at molecular to cellular levels, and related fields	
Basic Section	
43010	Molecular biology-related
43020	Structural biochemistry-related
43030	Functional biochemistry-related
43040	Biophysics-related
43050	Genome biology-related
43060	System genome science-related
Medium-sized Section 44 :Biology at cellular to organismal levels, and related fields	
Basic Section	
44010	Cell biology-related
44020	Developmental biology-related
44030	Plant molecular biology and physiology-related
44040	Morphology and anatomical structure-related
44050	Animal physiological chemistry, physiology and

Broad Section H	
Medium-sized Section 47 :Pharmaceutical sciences and related fields	
Basic Section	
47010	Pharmaceutical chemistry and drug development sciences-related
47020	Pharmaceutical analytical chemistry and physicochemistry-related
47030	Pharmaceutical hygiene and biochemistry-related
47040	Pharmacology-related
47050	Environmental and natural pharmaceutical resources-related
47060	Clinical pharmacy-related
Medium-sized Section 48 :Biomedical structure and function and related fields	
Basic Section	
48010	Anatomy-related
48020	Physiology-related
48030	Pharmacology-related
48040	Medical biochemistry-related
Medium-sized Section 49 :Pathology, infection/immunology, and related fields	
Basic Section	
49010	Pathological biochemistry-related

Schedule for KAKENHI Application

Sep 1st	Call for Application
2nd week of Oct	Faculty Office (Shien-shitsu) Deadline
Last week of Oct	University Deadline
2nd week of Nov	JSPS Deadline

Peer Reviewing Process (Kiban (B/C) and Wakate)

Two-Stage Document Review

First Stage:

- Four or six reviewers read your proposal.
- Each reviewer gives an **overall score** in **4 grades** to each proposal.

Second Stage:

- The same reviewers review **boarder-line proposals**.
- Reviewers read **review comments by other reviewers** too.
- Each reviewer gives an **overall score** in **4 grades** to each proposal again.

First Stage Scores Mostly Determine the Outcome

- A reviewer gives a relative score to each proposal within the Review Section.
- Scores are distributed in a predetermined ratio.

Overall Score	Distribution
4 (Excellent)	10%
3	20%
2	40%
1 (Poor)	30%

Acceptance rate
is about 30%

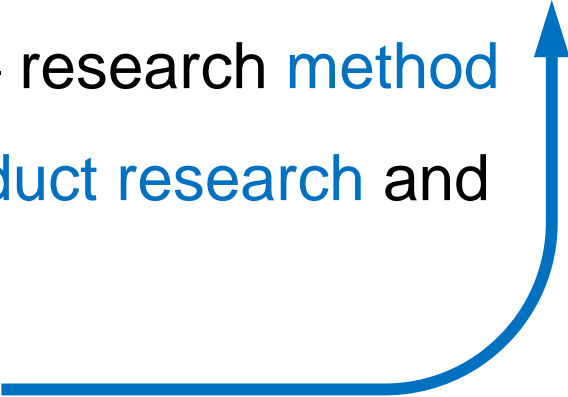
What are the Reviewing Criteria?

- 1) Academic importance and validity of research project
- 2) Validity of research objective and research method
- 3) Appropriateness of ability to conduct research and research environment
- 4) Ripple effect of research project

You must convince reviewers that your project meets all of these points.

What are the Reviewing Criteria?

Changed

- 1) ~~Academic importance and validity~~ of research project
 - 2) Validity of ~~research objective~~ and research ~~method~~
 - 3) Appropriateness of ~~ability to conduct research~~ and research environment
 - 4) ~~Ripple effect~~ of research project
- 

You must convince reviewers that your project meets all of these points.

Think about the Reviewers When Writing Your Proposal

- Each reviewer must review **70-100 proposals** in one month.
- Their **expertise may be different** from yours.
- They may not have good eyesight.
- They are probably **stressed and don't have time**.

It is a good idea to make your proposal:

- easy to understand (even for non-specialists)
- include visual presentation
- easy to read (e.g. avoid small letters)
- straightforward and simple



The Most Important Part of a Proposal

1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

In this column, research objectives, research method, etc. should be described within 3 pages. A **succinct summary** of the research proposal should be given at the beginning. The main text should give descriptions, in concrete and clear terms, of

- (1) scientific background for the proposed research, and the “**key scientific question**” comprising the core of the research plan,
- (2) the purpose, **scientific significance**, and **originality** of the research project, and
- (3) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period.

[SUMMARY]

First impression is extremely important!

[MAIN TEXT]

Clear and fascinating "key scientific question"

"Ability to Conduct the Research" Section (New in FY2019)

Previous: List of publication

1. John Smith, Xxxx, Xxxx. Novel Mechanism of Xxxxxx. Journal of Xxxxx. 60(4):553-561 (2017). (Peer Reviewed)
2. John Smith, Xxxx, Xxxx. Systematic Analysis of Xxxxxx. Journal of Xxxxx. 45(10):221-228 (2016). (Peer Reviewed)
3. John Smith, Xxxx. Alternative Function of Xxxxxx. Journal of Xxxxx. 115(2):1157-1166 (2016). (Peer Reviewed)
4. xxxxxxxx.....

New: Description

- (1) Previous Research Activities
 1. Novel Mechanism of Xxxxx
The PI has been engaged in xxxx, and revealed xxxx for the first time (Smith et al. 2017 Journal of Xxxxx). The finding had significant impact on xxxxxx, and changed xxxxxx.
 2. Systematic Analysis of Xxxxx
The PI learned xxxxx technique from xxxxxxxx, and xxxx.....
- (2) Research Environment
(facilities, equipment, materials, advisors, etc.)

"Ability to Conduct the Research" Section (New in FY2019)

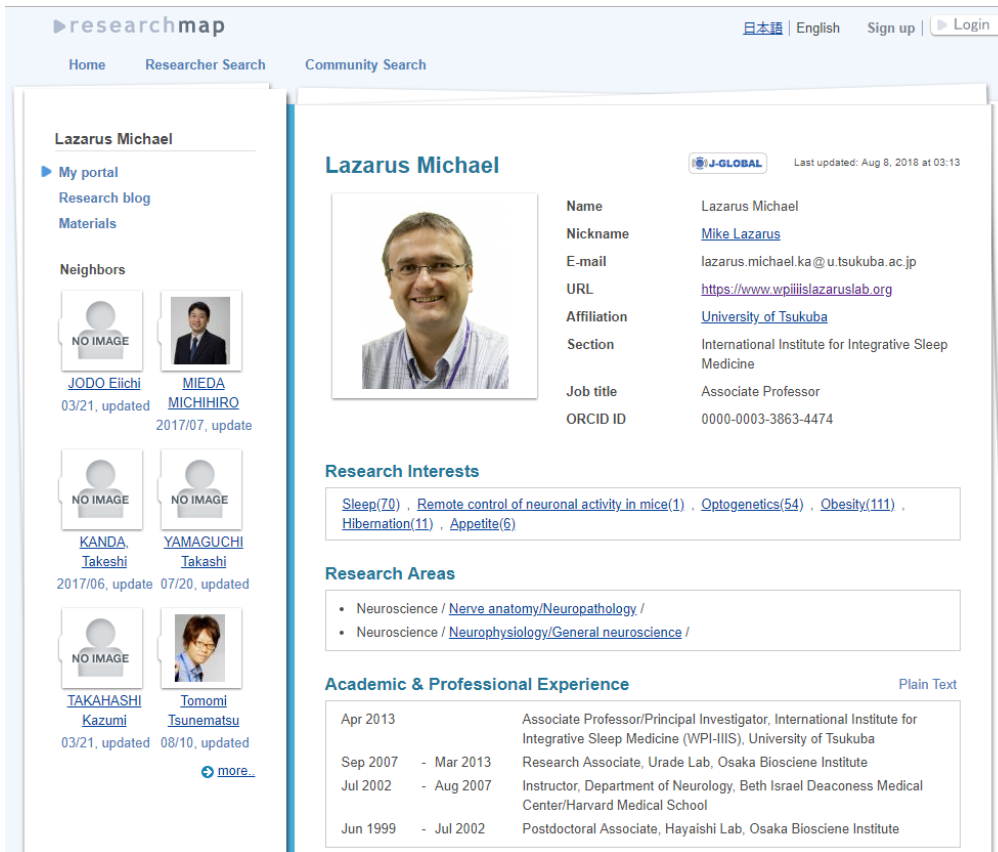
"(1) Previous Research Activities"

- Should be focused on the research activities relevant to the proposed research (because the purpose of the section is to show your capability to conduct the proposed research)
- If you have periods during which the researches were suspended (e.g. maternity leave, childcare leave), you may write about it here
- (Presenter's personal view) You can take advantage of this style and appeal your research achievements that cannot be shown in the list of publication (number of cites, impact on the field, requests for materials from other researchers etc.)

"Ability to Conduct the Research" Section (New in FY2019)

Reviewers will be referred to "Researchmap" and KAKEN database when reviewing a proposal.

<https://researchmap.jp/>



The screenshot shows the Researchmap website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "Home", "Researcher Search", and "Community Search", along with language options (日本語 | English) and user actions (Sign up | Login). The main content area displays the profile of Lazarus Michael, including a profile picture, a bio, and various sections: "Research Interests", "Research Areas", and "Academic & Professional Experience".

researchmap 日本語 | English Sign up | Login

Home Researcher Search Community Search

Lazarus Michael J-GLOBAL Last updated: Aug 8, 2018 at 03:13

My portal
Research blog
Materials

Neighbors

JODO Eitchi 03/21, updated
MIEDA MICHIRO 2017/07, update

KANDA Takeshi 2017/06, update
YAMAGUCHI Takashi 07/20, updated

TAKAHASHI Kazumi 03/21, updated
Tomomi Tsunematsu 08/10, updated
[more...](#)

Lazarus Michael

Name Lazarus Michael
Nickname [Mike Lazarus](#)
E-mail lazarus.michael.ka@u.tsukuba.ac.jp
URL <https://www.wpiiiislazaruslab.org>
Affiliation [University of Tsukuba](#)
Section International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine
Job title Associate Professor
ORCID ID 0000-0003-3863-4474

Research Interests

[Sleep\(70\)](#) . [Remote control of neuronal activity in mice\(1\)](#) . [Optogenetics\(54\)](#) . [Obesity\(111\)](#) . [Hibernation\(11\)](#) . [Appetite\(6\)](#)

Research Areas

- Neuroscience / [Nerve anatomy/Neuropathology](#) /
- Neuroscience / [Neurophysiology/General neuroscience](#) /

Academic & Professional Experience [Plain Text](#)

Apr 2013	Associate Professor/Principal Investigator, International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine (WPI-IIS), University of Tsukuba
Sep 2007 - Mar 2013	Research Associate, Urade Lab, Osaka Bioscience Institute
Jul 2002 - Aug 2007	Instructor, Department of Neurology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School
Jun 1999 - Jul 2002	Postdoctoral Associate, Hayaishi Lab, Osaka Bioscience Institute

You should:

- (1) Create your account at Researchmap, if you do not have one already
*You will need the "Researcher Number" to create an account.
- (2) Update your information at Researchmap, especially the list of publication.

KAKENHI Help Desk by URA

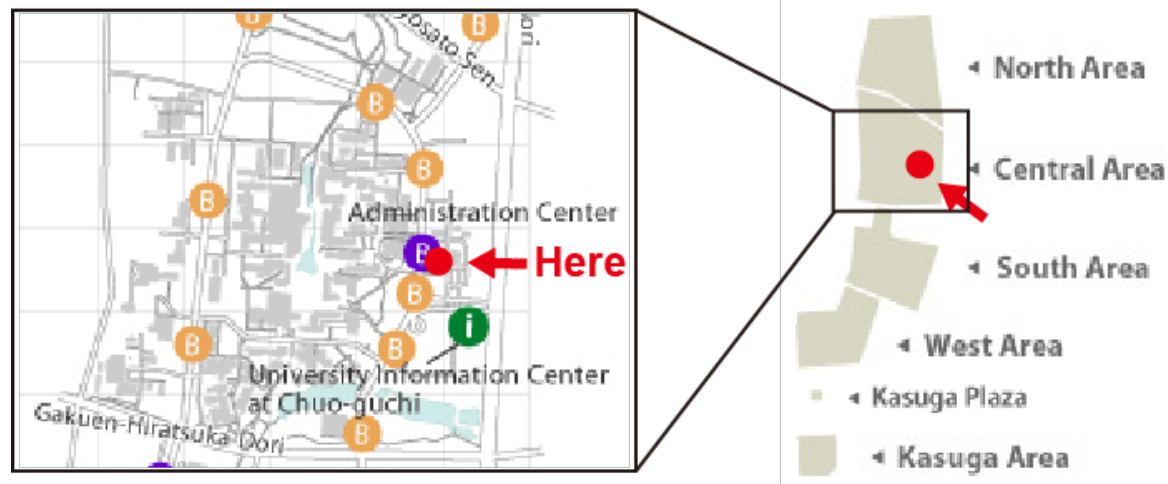
Period: From September 3 to October 12, 2018

Place: Research Administration/Management Office, 6F, Administration Center (Honbu Building)

Targets: **Non-Japanese researchers** in University of Tsukuba who wish to apply for KAKENHI grants for FY2019.

Registration: Visit the URL below, and register through the link on the page.

<http://ura.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/archives/16384>



KAKENHI Proposal Revise Service by URA

**You send us your draft proposal,
and we send you our comments!**

Period: Registration is open until September 24, 2018

(Please send us your draft until September 28, 2018)

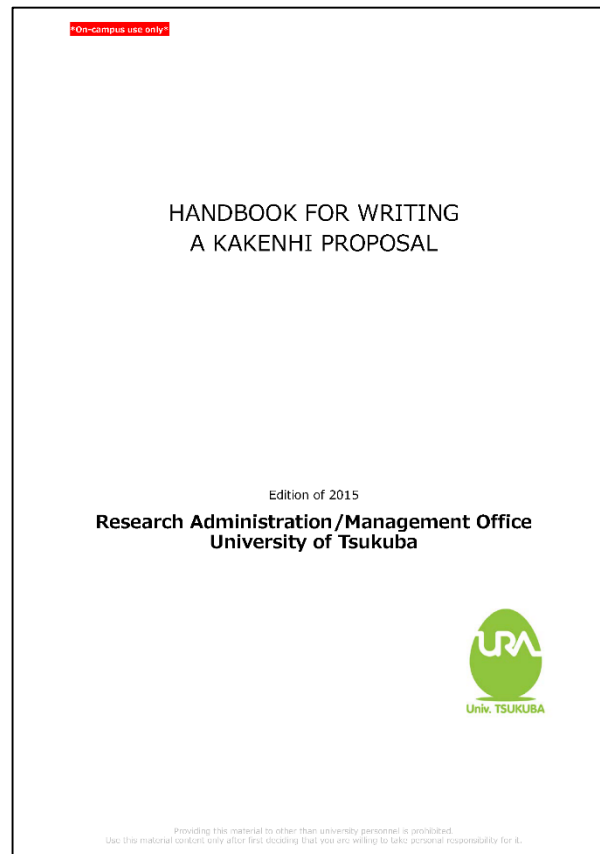
Targets: **Early-career researchers** (less than **12 years** after obtaining PhD as of April 1, 2019) who wish to apply for KAKENHI grants for FY2019.

Registration: Visit the URL below, and register through the link on the page.

<http://ura.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/archives/16377>

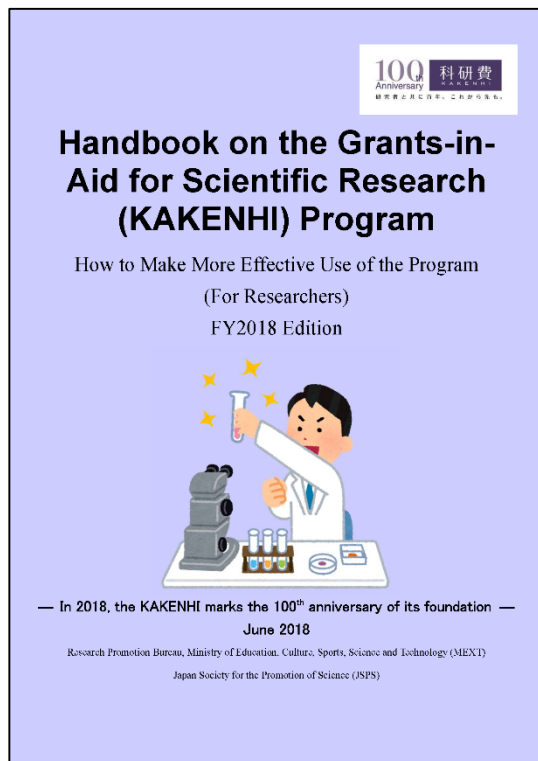
Handbook for Writing a KAKENHI Proposal by URA

Please download it at the URL below:
<http://ura.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/archives/9729>

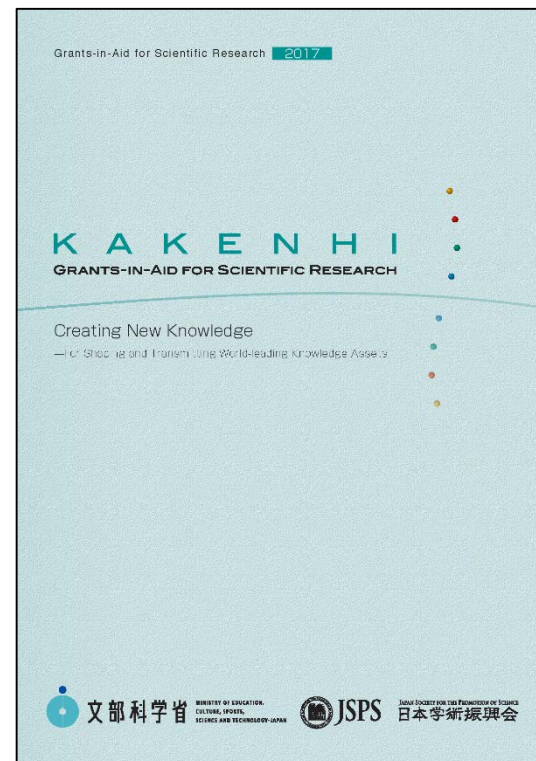


The 2015 Edition is the latest version. Yes, it is a bit old, but most things still apply.

Sources of Basic Information on KAKENHI



Handbook on the
KAKENHI Program



KAKENHI Pamphlet

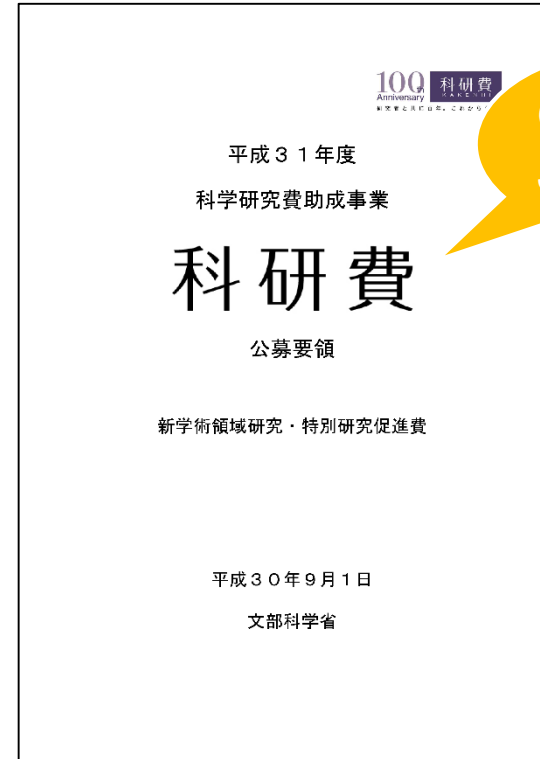
Application Procedures

English ver.
coming soon



Application Procedures
by JSPS
(Everything else)

Only in
Japanese



Application Procedures
by MEXT
(Shin Gakujutsu)

Visit JSPS Webpage to Get Information

Google "JSPS KAKENHI"

JAPAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE
日本学術振興会

Text Size **S** **M** **L** Search Site Map

一般の方へ 研究者/機関担当者の方へ English

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Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research <KAKENHI>

科研費

Outline of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research <KAKENHI>

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research are competitive funds that are intended to significantly develop all scientific research (research based on the free ideas of the researcher), from basic to applied research in all fields, ranging from the humanities and the social sciences to the natural sciences. The grants provide financial support for creative and pioneering research projects that will become the foundation of social development. The research projects are selected using a peer-review screening process (screening by multiple researchers whose field of specialization is close to that of the applicant).

Research results obtained under these Grants-in-Aid are widely published in academic journals.

From FY1999, some functions of the Grants-in-Aid program were transferred to JSPS from Monbusho (now Monbu Kagakusho [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)]).

Thank you!