Arrival at UT in 2015, Inquired in 2016, Applied in 2017, granted June 22nd 2018

Kakenhi has 2 Ks

1st K: Katachi
Advice received:
Told that some examiners sort applications out by a glance: applications piled on left are OUT and on the right IN for further review.
Importance of Form over content in Japan: KATACHI
Judgment on first look: does one want to proceed and read this? Is there something to catch the eye?
I was told by an examiner and at a glance at my final version of the grant application: « You'll get it »

Do important data & ideas stand out?
Are the text and tables adequately balanced?
Is there just enough and not too much text underlined? Underline less than 1/3 of text (see red boxes)

You have 3 pages: use them all up/use graphs-pics/etc to illustrate meaning of text.
Grant applications in Japan rely more than in other countries on visual aids.
Find coherence & balance of tables/graphs: (see circled elements in blue)
- Summary model: that includes all key information
- Theoretical graph (or picture) / or doodle / pictogram / photograph
- Measuring process: input (data) / output (data) / diagram / graph
- Calendar of project
Advice received: A schematic figure for your experimental design may help reviewers.

Advice received: Schematic figure added.

Advice received: Reviewers receive a grey scale print. Make sure that your color figures are recognized well.
Advice received: The figures and letters in Fig.3 are too small. Please be kind to aged reviewers.

Fig.3 simplified and made readable with larger fonts.
Once the Katachi screening passed then comes Content.

Advice received:
- Probably the most important to grab the examiner’s interest. Needs to be well written.
- Assume that many of four reviewers of your application are ignorant about your field and unfamiliar with most technical terms such as articulatory phonology, auditory impedance, etc. Use as plain language as possible and use a concrete expression instead of abstract and/or general expression.
Perusal of a Successful Kakenhi Application: Drafting a Winning Grant Application in Japan
Bruno Jactat, July 22, 2019 Mon 9:30 11:40 University of Tsukuba

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Advice received:
For example you say “the listening profile of language learners”. Please assume that most of the reviewers cannot imagine exactly what “listening profile” means. If you say a listening score of the TOEIC examination, for example, there is no room for miscommunication. Be concrete.
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**3. This single research project will try to identify two main questions.**

**Goal 1:** Determine the effect of auditory phonological training on TD and prephonological children.

This study will analyze the effect of auditory phonological training in French on 12 children aged 3-5 years. The training will be based on the French language, with specific education in phonology. The participants will be divided into two groups: one receiving training and the other a control group. The training will be administered to the first group, while the second group will receive no training.

**Goal 2:** Determine whether gains on TD and prephonological children are transferable to another language.

We will examine the children's progress in another language (e.g., English) to assess whether the training effects transfer to a different linguistic domain.

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Advice received:
The first paragraph is always important because it is least likely to be skipped by a reviewer. I think that it is good to describe what really motivated you to perform this project, maybe your passion wanting to know something.
Advice received:

Reviewers are trained to hate “I do this because there is no study”-type arguments. Please backup your argument by adding the following claims:

- Why it is so important to study this.
- There is a reason why others did not or cannot study this. But I can do it because I have a special tool, skill, viewpoint, opportunity etc.
What’s your story? How does everything you’ve done so far contribute to your unique story?

Advice received: Please express your enthusiasm to study this and your self-confidence that you are the best person to work on the study because of your skill, experience and insights etc.
Advice received:

Please follow the instruction of listing your research achievements faithfully. The instruction reads, “For a research paper in an academic journal, the title, author(s), journal, refereed or not, volume, first and last pages, and publication year should be given.....” They do not allow a style like (2017a), (2017b) for example.
Advice received:
All the items that you listed as “Equipment or Buhin” are supposed to be listed as “Consumables or Shomohin”. On the other hand, the expensive software, “Archeon Technologies software” and “SPSS” are supposed to be listed as an Equipment according to the accounting rules of the University of Tsukuba. For details, please ask clerical staff at your supporting office.
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items are reorganized into proper lists.

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**FINAL SUGGESTIONS**

- Start early
- Get help
- Get inspiration from other successful Kakenhi applications
- Get feedback of your ideas / design / writing from a diverse audience
- Keep it DISCO : Direct Interesting Simple Concise Organized
- Let your enthusiasm show
- Avoid mistakes that lead to dismissal

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Thank you for your advice and support!

- Prof. Hideyuki Kato
- Mr. Shogo Kurihara
Research administrators of
Research Administration/Management office
University of Tsukuba