

KAKENHI 101

July 22, 2019

Ai Saito

Research Administrator (URA)

Research Administration/Management Office



Outline

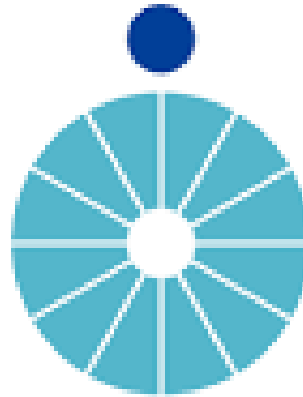
- What is KAKENHI?
 - What is KAKENHI?
 - How do I choose appropriate category?
 - When should I start preparation?
 - How much can I get?
- How do they select researches?
 - Two-Stage Document Review
 - Reviewing Criteria
 - Reviewers Situation
- URA's Service for KAKENHI Application
- Sources of Information

What is KAKENHI?

Several funding agencies in Japan



JSPS



文部科学省

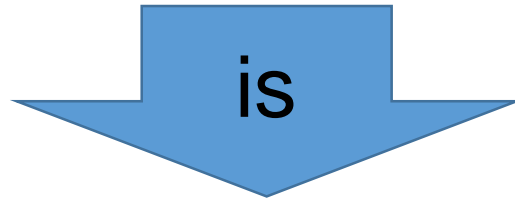
MEXT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE, SPORTS,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



What is KAKENHI?

What KAKENHI makes special compering to other grants?




- KAKENHI is open for almost **all research fields**
- KAKENHI is the only research grant that supports researches based on **the free ideas of researchers**

Official JSPS site says:

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. (<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/index.html>)

How do I choose appropriate category?

How do I choose appropriate category?

		Formal Name	Short Name	Total Grant Money (M yen)	Acceptance Rate FY2018
Main Project	 <p>Grant Money</p>	Scientific Research (A)	Kiban (A)	20-50	24.7%
		Scientific Research (B)	Kiban (B)	5-20	25.6%
		Scientific Research (C)	Kiban (C)	Up to 5	27.9%
		Early-Career Scientists	Wakate	Up to 5	30.7%
Additional Project	Less than 8 yrs after PhD	Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (Publicly Invited Research)	Shin Gakujutsu, Kobo	Up to 2-14 (depending on the Area)	9.1%
	Pre-determined research areas	Challenging Research (Exploratory)	Hoga	Up to 5	12.1%
	"Transformative researches"				

How do I choose appropriate category?

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 = 30.7% (Japan)

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

How do I choose appropriate category?

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 = 27.9% (Japan)

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

How do I choose appropriate category?

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/kenkyuryoui/ki/1386952.htm
http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shinkou/hojyo/kenkyuryoui/ki/1406968.htm
- Up to 2-14 M yen (depending on the Area), 2 years
- Acceptance rate = 9.1% (Japan) .

How do I choose appropriate category?

- **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 = 12.1% (Japan),

How do I choose appropriate category?

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		Broad Section H	
Medium-sized Section 43 :Biology at molecular to cellular levels, and related fields		Medium-sized Section 47 :Pharmaceutical sciences and related fields	
Basic Section		Basic Section	
43010	Molecular biology-related	47010	Pharmaceutical chemistry and drug development sciences-related
43020	Structural biochemistry-related	47020	Pharmaceutical analytical chemistry and physicochemistry-related
43030	Functional biochemistry-related	47030	Pharmaceutical hygiene and biochemistry-related
43040	Biophysics-related	47040	Pharmacology-related
43050	Genome biology-related	47050	Environmental and natural pharmaceutical resources-related
43060	System genome science-related	47060	Clinical pharmacy-related
Medium-sized Section 44 :Biology at cellular to organismal levels, and related fields		Medium-sized Section 48 :Biomedical structure and function and related fields	
Basic Section		Basic Section	
44010	Cell biology-related	48010	Anatomy-related
44020	Developmental biology-related	48020	Physiology-related
44030	Plant molecular biology and physiology-related	48030	Pharmacology-related
44040	Morphology and anatomical structure-related	48040	Medical biochemistry-related
44050	Animal physiological chemistry, physiology and	Medium-sized Section 49 :Pathology, infection/immunology, and related fields	
		Basic Section	
		49010	Pathological biochemistry-related

When should I start preparation?

When should I start preparation?

Important Dates of 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



When should I start preparation?

Stages from Research Idea to Submission



How much can I get?

How much can I get?

It depends on case, but generally, you cannot get full amount of grant that you applied.

Ex) KIBAN C in 2018

Sufficiency Rate is 73%...

→About 70% of the amount of money that you required in application will be allocated. If you request 5 M yen in you application, you can receive 3.5 M yen.

How Are Applications Reviewed?

How Are Applications Reviewed?

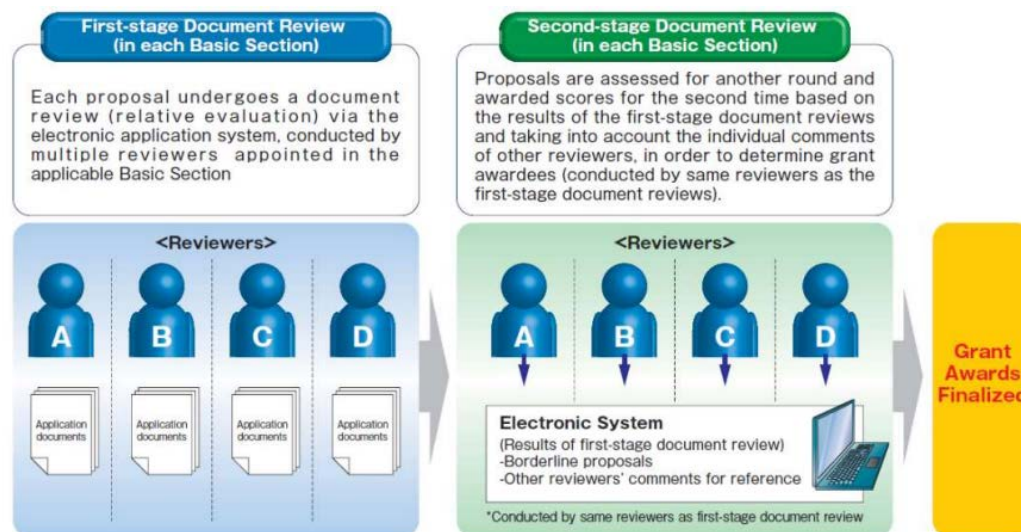
Two-Stage Document Review

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



How Are Applications Reviewed?

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%

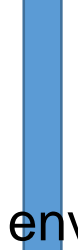
**Acceptance rate
is about 30%**

**You must
stay in the
top 30%!!!**

What are the Reviewing Criteria?

Check the assessment criteria on the site of JSPS

https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/01_seido/03_shinsa/index.html

- 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
- 

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

Scientific Research (B/C) (Application Section “Generative Research Fields”) Assessment Criteria for Document Review

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) aim to develop all the academic research from basics to applications remarkably throughout all research fields. In assignment review, each reviewer is required to judge appropriately and fairly whether or not to contribute greatly to this purpose with regard to the research projects submitted.

In this application section, “Comprehensive Review” is implemented in which all reviewers will conduct document review on all research projects and the same reviewers will have discussion about each project from a broad perspective at panel review.

Through this review method, by conducting a deep understanding and thorough discussion on research subjects, it is necessary to judge significance, originality and feasibility of the proposal, and conduct appropriate evaluation so that excellent research projects can be found out.

In addition, if there are a large number of applications, “preliminary screening” will be conducted in order to narrow down to the number of projects appropriate for conducting document review by all reviewers. In the preliminary screening and document review, a relative overall score is assigned to each research project in 4 grades, taking into account the following individual rating elements. In

Imagine how reviewers read your proposal

- Each reviewer must review 70-100 proposals in one month.
- Their expertise may be different from yours.
- They are probably stressed and their eyes may be tired.

Tips

It is a good idea to make your proposal:

- readable not only for specialists but also non-specialists
- straightforward and simple
- more visual using images, charts, and tables
- Jargon-free
- Avoid using too small fonts

Important points of writing proposal

The Most Important Part of a Proposal

This part will be a portal to invite reviewers to your research plan

Form S-14: Research Proposal Document (forms to be uploaded)

Scientific Research (C) (General) 1

1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

This research proposal will be reviewed in the Basic Section of the applicant's choice. In filling this application form, refer to the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI-.

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.

If the proposed research project involves Co-Investigator(s) (Co-I(s)), a concrete description of the role-sharing between the Principal Investigator (PI) and the Co-I(s) should be given.

[SUMMARY]

[MAIN TEXT]

* Notes:

1. Read carefully the "Procedures for Preparing and Entering a Research Proposal Document" when preparing the document.
2. The document should be written with font size 10-point or larger.
3. The title and instructions on the upper part of each page should be left intact.

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"

Reviewers will use "Reserchmap" and "KAKEN database" as reference to know applicant's "ability to conduct the research"

Scientific Research (C) (General) 5

3. Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research and the Research Environment

In this column, descriptions of (1) applicant's hitherto research activities, and (2) research environments including research facilities and equipment, research materials, etc. relevant to the conduct of the proposed research should be given within 2 pages to show the feasibility of the research plan by the applicant (PI) (and Co-I(s), if any).

If the applicant has taken leave of absence from research activity for some period (e.g. due to maternity and/or child-care), he/she may choose to write about it in "(1) applicant's hitherto research activities".

"Ability to Conduct the Research"



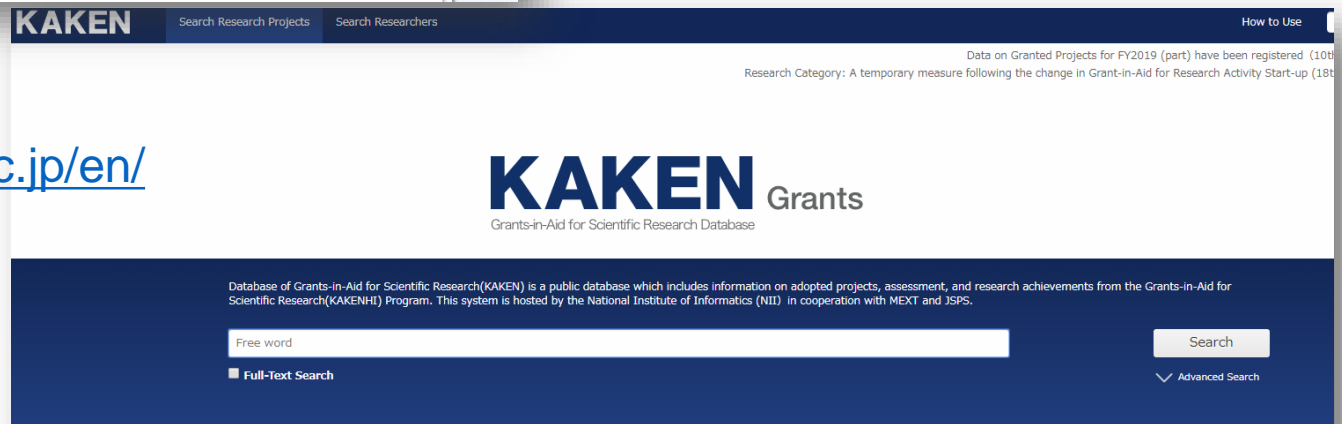
<https://researchmap.jp/>



You should:

- (1) Create your account on “Researchmap”, if you have not had one yet
*You need the “Researcher Number” to create an account.
- (2) Update your information on “Researchmap”, especially the list of publications.

<https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/en/>



URA's Service for KAKENHI Application

URA's Service for KAKENHI Application

Visit our research information portal C.O.T.R.E

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

University of Tsukuba research information portal

C O T R E
Community of Tsukuba REsearchers

URA research funding of support
Academic Support by URA

University research funding and support system
Grants at University of Tsukuba

External research funding and off-campus cooperation
Competitive Research Fund, Research Collaboration

Administrative procedures related to research funding
Administrative procedures concerning research funding

Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

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Kakenhi Seminar for Non-Japanese Researchers

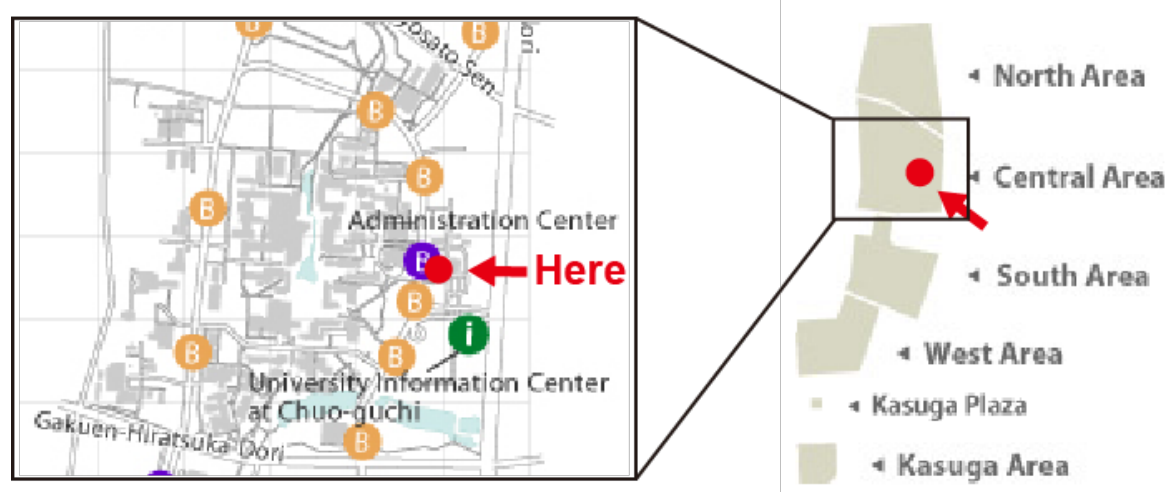
July 22nd Mon 9:30 - 11:40
University Hall 3F
Special Conference Room

Research topics of the University of Tsukuba Research topics of University of Tsukuba



KAKENHI Help Desk by URAs

- Period: From **September 3 to October 12, 2019**
- 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 FY2020.
- 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 URAs

Send us your draft proposal, we send you back it with comments from the viewpoints of the third persons!

Period: Registration is open until **September 24, 2019**

(Sending drafts deadline is **September 28, 2019**)

Targets: **Early-career researchers** (less than **12 years** after obtaining PhD as of April 1, 2020) who wish to apply for KAKENHI grants for FY2020.

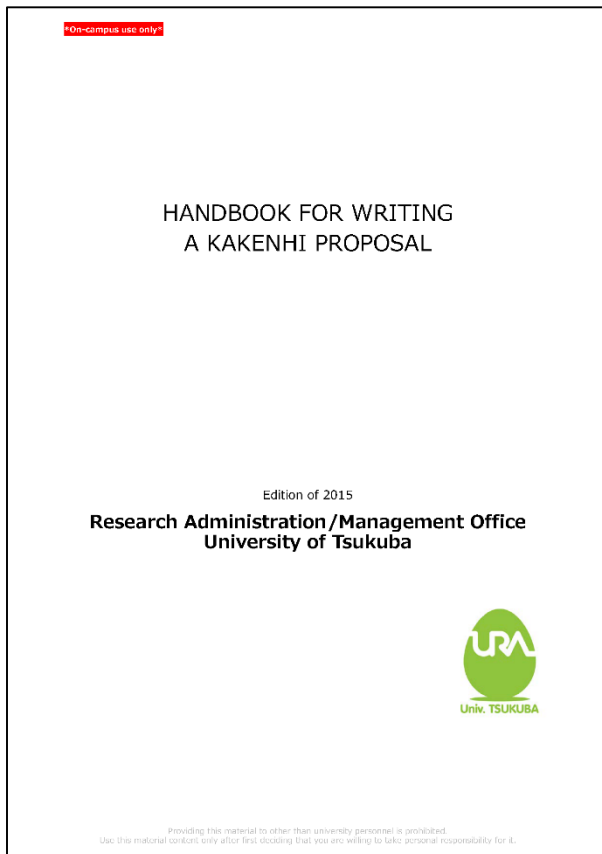
Registration: Visit the URL below, and register through the link on the page.

<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>

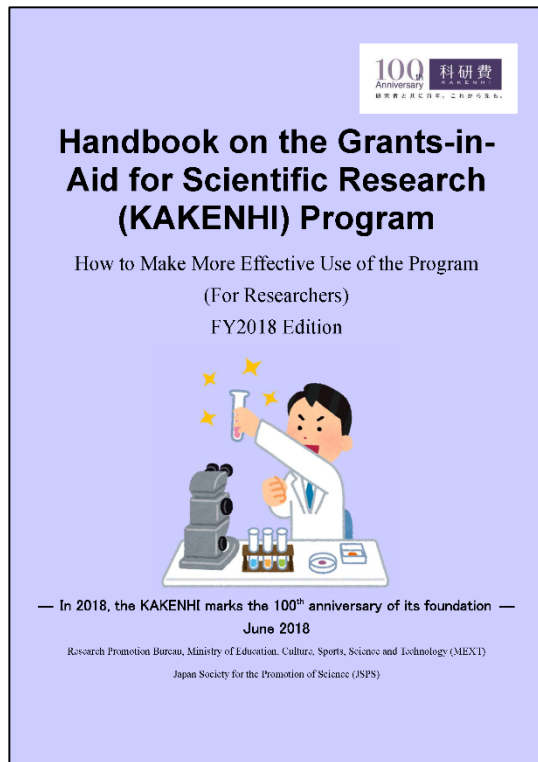


The 2015 Edition is the latest version. Yes, it is a bit old, but most things still apply.

in the process of preparing a new version

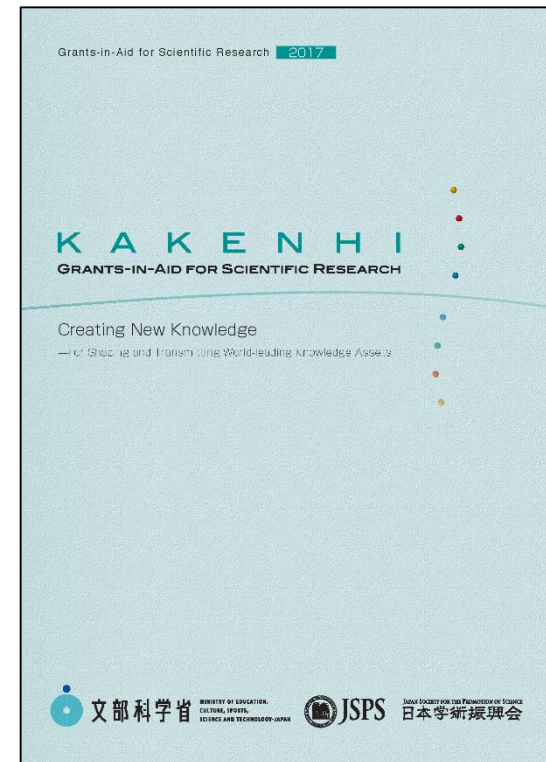
Sources of Information on KAKENHI

Sources of Basic Information on KAKENHI



Handbook on the
KAKENHI Program

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/data/handbook.pdf>



KAKENHI Pamphlet

In Japanese, 2018

https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/24_pamph/data/kakenhi2018.pdf

Application Procedures

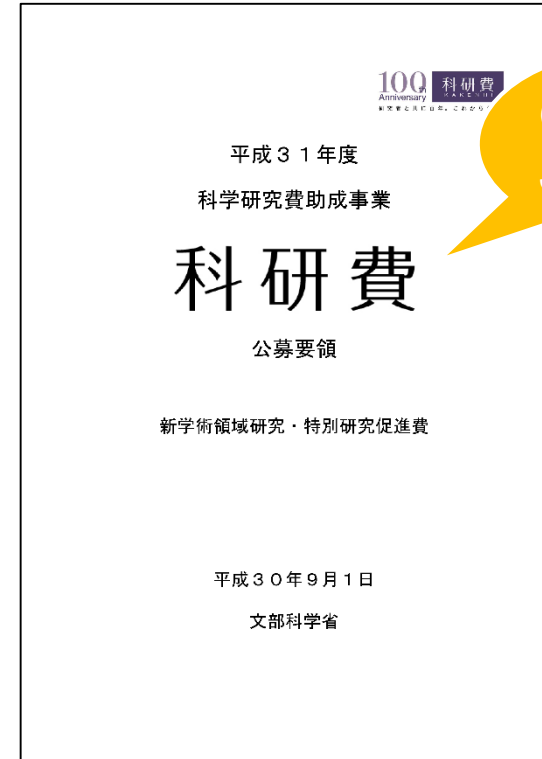
English ver.
coming soon



Application Procedures
by JSPS
(Everything else)

https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/03_keikaku/data/h31/h31koubo_e.pdf

Only in
Japanese



Application Procedures
by MEXT
(Shin Gakujutsu)

Visit JSPS Webpage to Get Information

Google "JSPS KAKENHI"



The screenshot shows the official website of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) KAKENHI. The header includes the JSPS logo, the text "JAPAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE" and "日本学術振興会", a text size selector (S M L), a search bar, and a site map link. Navigation tabs for "一般の方へ" (For General Public), "研究者/機関担当者の方へ" (For Researchers/Institution Staff), and "English" are visible. A secondary navigation bar contains "About Us", "Programs", and "How To Find Us/Contact". The main content area is titled "Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research" and features a banner with the text "科研費 <KAKENHI>". Below the banner, there is a section titled "Outline of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research <KAKENHI>" which describes the purpose of the grants and their selection process. A left-hand menu lists various resources such as "Top", "How to apply", "KAKENHI pamphlet", "Handbook for Researchers", "Types of Grants Programs", "Budget", "Peer Review Process", "Award Trends", "Research Results Database & Archives", "KAKENHI ESSAY SERIES", "Results generated through the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Program", "Frontline Scientific Research Projects Advanced in JAPAN", "System Reform Creating the Grant-in-Aid Fund", and "Inquiries".

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

科研費 <KAKENHI>

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)]).

(<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/index.html>)

What is KAKENHI?

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Thank you!