

FAQ on Japan-Related Research Grants

Category	Category	Question	Answer
Application	Applicant	Are there any restrictions on the applicant's nationality?	Only for those who have the nationality of Asian countries other than Japan
		Is there an age limit for applicants?	No limit
		Can college students apply?	Yes
		Does the applicant have to be affiliated with a university?	There are no restrictions (Even if you belong to a government agency or research institute, you can apply)
		Are there job restrictions?	No limit
		If applicant is a national of an Asian country other than Japan, can applicant apply regardless of which university or research institution it belongs to?	Yes
		Is it possible to apply as a group instead of as an individual?	Yes. However, only one representative can apply. Other members will be collaborators.
	Collaborator	Is there a limit to the number of collaborators?	No limit
		Do collaborators have to be Japanese?	Collaborators can be of any nationality.
		Can collaborators be recommenders?	Collaborators cannot be recommenders
		Is the cooperation of Japanese universities and research institutes essential?	Not necessarily.
	Application	How can I know where are the application requirements posted?	Posted on The Sumitomo Foundation website
		What can and cannot be applied for at a cost?	Posted on The Sumitomo Foundation website
		Is it possible to apply for two consecutive years?	Researcher who has been selected in the past can apply after having completed its research. Cannot reapply during the research period.
		Are there particular areas that would be advantageous for selection?	No.
Is cooperation with Japanese universities and research institutes essential?		Not necessarily.	
Is it possible to refer to past adopted projects and completion reports?		Posted on The Sumitomo Foundation website	
Where are the rules and regulations regarding application posted?		Posted on The Sumitomo Foundation website	
What can be paid for and what cannot?		Posted on The Sumitomo Foundation website	
Is there an age limit?		No limit	
Are there any advantages or disadvantages associated with age?		There are no advantages or disadvantages based on age.	

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Application	Application method	Is it possible to submit the application by email or mail?	Impossible. Only apply through The Sumitomo Foundation application system.
		Is it possible for one person to submit multiple applications?	If different research content, multiple applications are possible, however, in which case you need to apply with a different email address(One email address is required for each application.)
		Is it necessary to apply in cooperation with a Japanese person?	Not necessarily.
	Application form	Is it possible to make changes to the format of the report and describe it in detail or attach supplementary materials?	Rules fixed. Strictly observe the number of pages (8 pages) and the specified font size (10.5 points or more). Supplementary materials will not be accepted. Even if you can enter it on the system, you will be disqualified.
		Is it possible to submit a handwritten application form?	Impossible. Download the form from the system and fill it in with your PC
		Is the application form in English only?	Applications can only be made in English or in Japanese
		What happens if the application is not completed by the deadline?	No extension of application deadline.
	Letter of recommendation	Who should write a letter of recommendation?	The format of the letter of recommendation is free, but please be sure to use the letterhead of the university or the institution to which the recommender belongs. The signature or seal of the recommender is required. Specific letter of recommendation from academic who knows the applicant well is required. Recommendations without specifics reasons are invalid. Collaborators cannot be recommenders.
		Is one letter of recommendation enough?	One is fine, but multiple is possible.
		Also need letters of recommendation for my collaborators?	Not necessarily.
	Requested budget	What is the exchange rate for budget?	Use the bank rate at the time of application.
		Is the indirect cost (overhead) of the affiliated institution covered by the grant?	Indirect costs (overhead) from the grant are not allowed.
		Is dedicated software necessary for research acceptable as an expense?	General-purpose items are not allowed, but items specialized for research are acceptable.
		Are academic participation fees allowed?	Anything necessary for research is allowed.
		Is it possible to purchase PCs, printers, etc. with grant?	General-purpose items are not allowed, but items specialized for research are acceptable.
Are research assistant fees acceptable?		Personnel (interpreters, assistants, etc.) hired to assist during the research period are permitted. Remunerations for researcher itself and collaborators are not accepted.	
Application system	Is it permissible to cover only the cost of attending academic conferences, inviting experts, and publishing books for presenting research results?	If the expenses listed on the left are part of the total research costs, they are permitted. But these expenses alone are not applicable.	
	Is it possible to apply from outside the system?	Impossible. Application from the system only	
	What do applicant need when applying for the system?	E-mail address of the applicant	

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Research	Theme	Are there any advantages or disadvantages of the theme?	None
	Research method	Is it necessary to visit Japanese research institutes and universities for research?	Not necessarily.
		Can applicant visit foreign countries other than Japan?	Yes
		Can applicant expect support from The Sumitomo Group (acceptance of visitors, etc.) for the research?	No
		As a comparative study, is it acceptable to conduct a comparative study that includes a third country?	Yes
	Research period	Is the research period only one year?	At the time of application, please make a research plan within one year. After the start of the research, it is possible to extend it for unavoidable reasons (up to 2 years).
	Research content	Is it possible to apply with the content that has already been announced?	Impossible
		Will The Sumitomo Foundation publish the research results?	No
		Is it possible to find out not only the themes of those who have been selected, but also the themes of those who have not been selected, from websites, etc.?	It's possible to find the themes of those who have been selected in the website.
		Does the applicant need to write a paper or publish the research results?	Not necessarily.
Research result	Who owns the research results?	The researcher itself.	
	Are there any restrictions on the publication of research results?	No.	
	What are the research results required of grant recipients?	After completing the research period, please submit a Completion Report and a Financial Report. If any deliverables such as papers, publications or others, please also submit them (photocopies are acceptable). Please be sure to include an acknowledgment of The Sumitomo Foundation in the publications and articles.	
	When should the report be submitted?	Within 3 months after the end of the research period	
	Need to write a dissertation? Need to create a publication?	Not necessarily. Not necessarily.	
Past project	Is it possible to refer to past projects and research results?	Posted on The Sumitomo Foundation website	

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Evaluation	Evaluation criteria	Are there any evaluation criteria for acceptance?	Based on the contents of the application form, considering Eligibility, Feasibility and Suitability of the research theme. (Whether it is a concrete plan that can actually carry out research and produce results)
	Pass/Fail	Will the reason be disclosed in case of rejection? Who are the selection committee members?	Not disclosed The selection of applications will be made by the Foundation's Selection Committee made up of certain persons of high academic standing.
Grant	Grant	Can it be combined with other financial assistance (another fund)?	Yes
		How are grants paid?	Payment will be made to the account specified by the applicant (in principle, personal account) after the contract is concluded.
		Can get a grant through university?	Universities and affiliated institutions should not collect administrative fees. A certificate stating that overhead fee will not be charged to the researcher must be issued by the university or affiliated institution.
		How much is the grant amount per case?	Up to 2 million yen (or equivalent to 2 million yen in US dollar amount). Plans exceeding this amount at the time of application will not be accepted
		Is it possible to continue to receive the grant multiple times?	Researcher who has been selected in the past can apply only after having completed its research. Cannot reapply during the research period.
		Is the grant paid in installments?	Lump-sum payment
		Can food and beverage expenses be covered by the grant?	Food and beverage expenses are not permitted (including during business trips)
	What if there is money left over?	As a general rule, use the full amount of the grant. If it is unavoidable that applicant cannot use all of them, please contact us individually.	