

NEWSLETTER



Grants-in-Aid Special Edition

【July Edition】 Grants-in-Aid Season Has Arrived!

Now that it is July, Grants-in-Aid applications have begun and in the Research Office, summer is naturally Grants-in-Aid Season! This month's newsletter is a special Grants-in-Aid edition!

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (hereafter "G-i-A") are competitive research 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 (from the JSPS website). G-i-A is the largest competitive research funding system in Japan, and is not only important research funding for researchers, but also an indicator of a university's research strength.

YONEYAMA Hiroshi, President

In the APU2030 Vision, formulated for 2030 as the future vision that APU aims to achieve, we proclaimed, "raise those who will change the world and build a world-class Global Learning Community." Additionally, for the realization of the APU2030 Vision, in the Challenge Design, "the promotion of internationally recognized research that contributes to society and the region" action plan was determined. At the end of the last academic year, APU's Research Enhancement Plan was decided, and it can truly be said that research activities have been specifically addressed as a policy issue. By enhancing APU's research capabilities, highly original knowledge and academic results will be produced, creating social impacts on the international community, local communities, and industries - that is my image as the president of the university. It is none other than the professors who will be working on this research. We deeply grateful of the dedication of our teachers to their daily educational and research activities and their cooperation with the administration. As president of the university, I will take a leadership role in strengthening the university's support for teachers so that they can further focus on their research activities.

I, myself, with the goal of presenting the whole picture of the experiences of Japanese people moving, working, and living in the Pacific Rim region from the pre- to post-war period using the analytical methodologies of history, regional research, geography, sociology, and anthropology, obtained two G-i-A Type A grants. This major project was made possible by the mentorship of senior researchers and the cooperation of all research collaborators. I feel that the hardships I endured and the sense of accomplishment and fulfillment I felt at that time were proud experiences for me as a researcher that I will never forget, even now that I am the president of the university. By all means, I hope that APU professors will challenge themselves in their lives as researchers! As a fellow researcher, I so hope.



SHINODA Hiroyuki, Vice-President (Academic Affairs & In Charge of Research)



I, myself, have been faculty at the College of Information Science and Engineering at Ritsumeikan University (RU), and am an active researcher who runs a lab consisting of 14 graduate students and 23 undergraduate students. At RU, I specialize in psychophysics, visual science, color engineering, and legal psychology, and am in charge of related specialized courses and “multivariate analysis.”

So far, as those at APU have been promoting their unique research and actively disseminating the results, APU is also gaining recognition in those research areas. In APU'S Research Enhancement Plan, we aim to achieve unparalleled excellence through a system of diverse researchers working on research issues that cannot be solved elsewhere. Simply put, it is a situation of “As for this, APU,” “This is only solvable by APU.”

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research application season has arrived. From “frequently accepted” to “keeping distance,” I think there are many ways to associate with Grants-in-Aid. However, I've never thought about it as “Why Grants-in-Aid?”, as it is also true that they are

common place for researchers enrolled in (Japanese) universities. Obtaining research funding is a matter of life and death in the science and engineering fields, while in the humanities and social sciences, research outputs such as journal submissions and conference presentations, as well as materials, equipment, surveys, honoraria, etc., naturally require a certain amount of money for research promotion itself. If you are actually doing research activities, your personal research funds should be insufficient. Research funding through industry-academia partnerships is also an important source of funding, but it reduces the degree of freedom in research content in order to meet the needs of the partner. In this respect, Grants-in-Aid provide research funds for a wide range of research projects based on the unrestricted ideas of researchers, so it is no wonder that Grants-in-Aid function as a barometer of the research power of universities in Japan.

APU's continued aim is to increase the percentage of Grants-in-Aid applicants and recipients. I would like to say, “Everyone, apply!” however there are various hurdles to application and selection. Decisions of research topics and plans, choosing the application field (for me, this is a big problem), how to write the application form, etc. all of these the Outreach and Research Office, would be happy to be consulted on. Even if you do not have plans to apply to Grants-in-Aid, please consult with the Office. We want to support research in many forms at APU.

For those that are interested in learning more about Grants-in-Aid:

Those who would like further details on Grants-in-Aid, please check the homepage for the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).

[Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research](#) | [KAKENHI](#) | [JSPS](#)

Please click this link to view APU faculty who have previously been selected for Grants-in-Aid.

[Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research \(KAKENHI\) Projects - Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University](#)
[Past Projects - Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University](#)

The KAKENHI Talk and Café was held!

On July 2 (Wed.), the KAKENHI Talk, by those with experience with being selected to receive Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), was held. This program is designed for faculty members who are planning or considering applying for KAKENHI in AY2026, and provides information on “What is KAKENHI?” and “Tips for writing an application that will be accepted” by professors who have previously been selected for KAKENHI.



Professor MACK Lindsay
Center for Language Education

[Lecture title : Integration of Machine Translation Technology]



First, Professor Lindsay MACK from the CLE spoke. Professor MACK was selected to receive an Early-Career Scientist Grant in AY2023. Drawing from her own experiences, Professor Mack shared how she had previously applied but was not selected in AY 2022. She outlined the timeline for preparation and discussed how she revised her research proposal, focusing on both the Key Research Question and the Research Purpose. Additionally, she provided specific examples of her research methods and the accomplishments she achieved. She concluded by offering valuable tips for professors who are about to apply.

Professor SHIMOMURA Ken-Ichi
College of Asia Pacific Studies

[Lecture title : Towards further improvements in applications for Grant-in-Aid for Scientific]

Next, APS' Professor SHIMOMURA Ken-Ichi, who has previously been selected for all KAKENHI Types A, B, and C, and drew on his experience as a reviewer, spoke from the perspective of “Towards Further Improvements in Applications for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research.” In the example that research is “cooking” and the application form is “a menu with pictures,” in order to make the application “look” good, he gave objectively useful hints such as “answer each question without over or under answering” and “write industry terms in layman’s terms.” Finally, he added the words of encouragement, “Good luck!”



The full KAKENHI Talk video can be viewed [here](#).
(Available in both Japanese and English.)

Please feel free to watch other previous KAKENHI Talks as well!



After the Talk finished, the KAKENHI Café, where participants could receive consultations relating to their KAKENHI applications while drinking coffee, opened. Professors Iguchi, Hasuda, and Sun were available for consultation, and those seeking advice asked questions and received advice, effectively using the full time.

At the Outreach and Research Office, we also accept professors who wish to apply for KAKENHI or who are interested in them. Thanks to the cooperation of past Grants-in-Aid recipients, several past successful applications are available at the Outreach & Research Office for your reference, please let our office know.

Grants-in-Aid Application Schedule



The Application schedule for AY2026 is as follows:

July 14 (Mon.): JSPS applications open

July 23 (Wed.): 14:00 - 15:30 Grants-in-Aid Application Guidance Session

Languages: Japanese and English

Venue: Zoom <https://weareapu.zoom.us/j/97222667011>

Registration: [Grants-in-Aid Application Guidance Session](#)

(Registration will be available through the day of the Guidance Session.)

August 6 (Wed.) Noon (12:00): First deadline for peer review of research plan

If you would like your application to be reviewed by other APU faculty members, please submit your application by this deadline via the JSPS electronic application system. Once you have completed the submission, please let us know by email and indicate that you would like to receive a faculty peer review.

August 20 (Wed.) Noon (12:00): Second deadline for office check of research plan

If you would like to request a document check by the Office staff, please submit your application via the JSPS online system by this date. Please note that it will not be possible for the staff to conduct a thorough document check if your application submitted after this deadline.

September 5 (Fri.) Noon (12:00): Final internal deadline

Faculty members who would not like a document check done by the Office nor a faculty review of their research plan should submit their finalized application by this deadline.

September 17 (Wed.): JSPS' deadline