

FY2026 Application Guidelines for Academic Research Grants (Natural Sciences Division)

Mishima Kaiun Memorial Foundation

The Mishima Kaiun Memorial Foundation (hereafter, “the Foundation”) provides academic research grants with the purpose of supporting outstanding research in the natural sciences and humanities that shows promise for future development. We look forward to active applications from young researchers and female researchers.

1. Eligible fields

Natural sciences division: Academic research on food science

Academic research on food science means research on food ingredients, manufacturing, processing, preparation, fermentation and use of microorganisms, nutrition, preferences, physiological functions, food safety, disease prevention, etc.

2. Types of grants and details

(1) Types of grants

The Foundation’s academic research grants are classified into two types: “individual research grants” and “joint research grants.”

(A) Individual research grant

These grants are awarded to an individual researcher who applies for the grant to engage in an individual research project. However, this does not prevent the researcher who applies from having co-researchers.

(B) Joint research grant

These grants are intended for joint research on a common theme conducted by researchers from multiple research institutes or different departments and are awarded to joint research groups. (Please note that the application forms for individual research grants and joint research grants are different.)

(2) Grant amount and number of grants

(A) Individual research grant

Up to 1.5 million yen per grant, approximately 37 grants in total ~~for both divisions~~ (about 56 million yen in total / FY2025 results: 39 million yen)

(We aim to have female researchers and doctoral students account for at least 30% of the total number of grants.)

(The grant amount for individual research grants was set at 1 million yen per grant until FY2025. Starting from FY2026, it will be changed to up to 1.5 million yen per grant (with 1.5 million yen as the maximum allowable request).)

(B) Joint research grant

2 million yen to 5 million yen per grant, approximately 8 grants in total ~~for both divisions~~ (about 40 million yen in total / FY2025 results: 40 million yen)

(3) Period of grant

In principle, one year (from July 2026 to June 2027)

3. Eligibility

(A) Individual research grant

- (1) Researchers affiliated with research institutions in Japan (regardless of nationality), and Japanese nationals affiliated with research institutions overseas.

- (2) The researchers include those enrolled in a graduate school doctoral course (or graduate students enrolled in an equivalent course). Please note, however, that those enrolled in a graduate school master's course or undergraduate program aren't eligible to apply.
- (3) Researchers who are under 45 years old (as of April 1, 2026). However, in the following cases, you can apply even if you are over 45 or more years old.
 - i. Graduate school doctoral course students.
 - ii. Researchers who have completed their doctoral degree less than 8 years ago. (This includes those who have completed their doctoral degree for less than 8 years, excluding the period of prenatal/postnatal leave and childcare leave taken after obtaining their doctoral degree.)

(If you do not meet the conditions in (3), we recommend applying for the "Joint research grant".)

- (4) English may be used on the application form, but the title of the research proposal must be written in Japanese. The applicant must be able to respond to our communications in Japanese.

(B) Joint research grant

- (1) The applicant must be the principal investigator of the joint research project.
The principal investigator must represent a research organization in which researchers from multiple research institutions or different departments work together on a common research theme, and must be able to take responsibility for promoting and organizing the plan.
- (2) The principal investigator must belong to a university or research institution in Japan. Co-researchers can be of any nationality or affiliated with any research institution (including overseas research institutions).
- (3) There are no age restrictions. However, those in the master's program of graduate school or undergraduate program, including joint researchers, are not eligible.
- (4) One co-researcher must belong to an external research institution or department different from that of the principal investigator.
- (5) In principle, there must be at least one co-researcher with a research budget of at least 1 million yen.

4. Notes on eligibility

- (1) The representative researcher and co-researchers of a Joint research grant are not eligible to apply for an Individual research grant. In addition, they cannot participate as co-researchers in other Joint research grant applications.
- (2) Those who have received academic awards or grants from the Foundation in FY2023 or later are not eligible to apply. In addition, they are not allowed to participate as co-researchers under the joint research grant.
- (3) Those who have already received grants from other private foundations for the same or similar research projects during the period of the Foundation's grant are not eligible to apply.
- (4) Please do not apply if you are a representative of a large research project (total amount of 20 million yen or more excluding indirect costs) funded by a public grant (e.g., Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, etc.).
- (5) The "Individual research grant" cannot be applied to if the total amount of private and public grants in a single year, excluding indirect expenses, is 10 million yen or more.
- (6) If, before receiving notification of this grant's acceptance, you decide to receive a public or other private foundation grant mentioned above, please inform us and withdraw your application.
- (7) Those who are affiliated with a private company or who plan to start working at a private company during the grant period are not eligible to apply. Furthermore, those on joint research projects whose members include co-researchers who are affiliated with a private company are not eligible to apply.

5. Nominators

- (1) Applicants must obtain the recommendation of the head of the department (head of affiliation) or an equivalent person at the applicant's institution of affiliation.
 - i. University: dean of the faculty, dean of the graduate school, or dean of the research institute
 - ii. Heads of public research institutes and other non-private research institutions
 - iii. In the case of graduate students, academic advisors are also acceptable.
- (2) Nominators of individual research grant may recommend multiple applicants.
The number of joint research grants is limited to one per nominator.

6. Expenses to be covered by the grant

- (1) Expenses directly necessary for the research
In principle, indirect expenses and general administrative expenses (overheads) of the research institute or laboratory as a whole are not covered.
- (2) In the event that a researcher transfers to another research institute or organization, the grant will be transferred to the new research institute or organization as a research grant to the researcher.

7. Research not eligible for funding

- (1) Research for commercial purposes or research that is highly likely to lead to commercialization
- (2) Research commissioned by other organizations
- (3) Research that has already been substantially completed

8. How to apply

Please apply via the online system (Research Grant Application System) on the Foundation's website ([https://: www.mishima-kaiun.or.jp](https://www.mishima-kaiun.or.jp)). The web system will be accessible from January 9, 2026. For details on how to apply, please refer to the “Application Procedures” section of the website.

9. Application period

January 9, 2026 (Fri.) - February 28, 2026 (Sat.)

10. Method of selection

Applicants will undergo screening by a selection committee consisting of academic members of the Foundation, and the Board of Directors will make a final decision on successful applicants.

11. Selection criteria

Selection will be made with emphasis on the following points:

- (A) Individual research grant
 - (1) Research that is deemed to be in high demand from an academic or social standpoint
 - (2) Research that is highly original and has the potential to become a springboard for other research
 - (3) Research with a well-developed research plan and high potential for achieving its objectives
 - (4) Research for which it is difficult to obtain government or corporate subsidies or grants, and which is in line with the objectives of the Foundation's activities
 - (5) Exploratory research by young researchers
- (B) Joint research grant
In addition to (1) through (5) above,
 - (6) Joint research by researchers from multiple research institutions or different departments
 - (7) Grants must be appropriately allocated to co-researchers.

12. Notification of selection results

Applicants will be notified of the selection results by mid-June 2026. The results will also be announced on the Foundation's website.

Please note that we will not be able to respond to questions regarding the reasons for selection.

13. Presentation of grants

The grant will be paid into the recipient's designated bank account (by bank transfer) by early July 2026. A presentation ceremony is scheduled to be held on July 10, 2026 (Fri.). Successful applicants are requested to attend unless there are unavoidable circumstances.

14. Tax exemption for grants

The Foundation's grants are exempt from income tax in accordance with the Ministry of Finance Announcement No. 96 dated October 17, 1969.

15. Reporting of research results, etc.

- (1) By July 20, 2026, after the expiration of the grant period, recipients are required to submit a research report ("Research Report" and "Summary of Research Results") and an income/expenditure report.
- (2) The submitted research reports will be digitally archived by the Foundation, published on its website, and also submitted to the Japan Science and Technology Agency, the National Diet Library, and other organizations. Summaries of research results will be included in the Annual Report.
- (3) When presenting the results of grant-funded research (in the form of a paper or orally), the recipient will be asked to clearly indicate that the research was supported by the Foundation.
- (4) Recipients of the "Joint research grant" are required to participate in the research reporting session held in the fall of the year in which the grant period ends, and to present their research outcomes. Recipients of the "Individual research grant" will also be invited to attend this session.
- (5) Extension of the grant period is possible for those who take maternity or childcare leave during the grant period. Extension may also be granted depending on the circumstances of the research.

16. Other

- (1) Handling of personal information
 - i. Personal information provided on the application form will be handled appropriately within the scope of its use in accordance with the Foundation's Privacy Policy.
 - ii. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Foundation will obtain the prior consent of the individual when providing personal information to a third party.
- (2) If necessary, please refer to "Academic Research Grants: Frequently Asked Questions" on the Foundation's website (available in Japanese only).

17. Inquiries

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