

FAQ on Japan-Related Research Grants

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

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Application	Application method	Is it possible to submit the application by email or mail? Is it possible for one person to submit multiple applications? Is it necessary to apply in cooperation with a Japanese person? What if I have questions about the application?	Impossible. Only apply through The Sumitomo Foundation application system. 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.) Not necessarily. Contact The Sumitomo Foundation at "japan.related@mail.sumitomo.or.jp" (in English or Japanese) Make inquiries at least one week before the closing date.
	Application form	Is it possible to make changes to the format of the report and describe it in detail or attach supplementary materials? Is it possible to submit a handwritten application form? Is the application form in English only? What happens if the application is not completed by the deadline?	Rules fixed. Strictly observe the number of pages (9 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. Impossible. Download the form from the system and fill it in with your PC Applications can only be made in English or in Japanese No extension of application deadline. In case of FY2026, October 30 at 17:00 (Japan time).
	Letter of recommendation	Who should write a letter of recommendation? Is one letter of recommendation enough? Also need letters of recommendation for my collaborators?	The format of the letter of recommendation is free, but please be sure to use the letterhead in principle 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. One is fine, but multiple is possible. Not necessarily.
	Requested budget	What is the exchange rate for budget? Is the indirect cost (overhead) of the affiliated institution covered by the grant? Is dedicated software necessary for research acceptable as an expense? Are academic participation fees allowed? Is it possible to purchase PCs, printers, etc. with grant? Are research assistant fees acceptable? What is the maximum grant amount? Is it acceptable to claim only the costs of attending conferences, inviting experts, and publishing books to present research results?	Use the bank rate at the time of application. Indirect costs (overhead) from the grant are not allowed. General-purpose items are not allowed, but items specialized for research are acceptable. Anything necessary for research is allowed. General-purpose items are not allowed, but items specialized for research are acceptable. Personnel (interpreters, assistants, etc.) hired to assist during the research period are permitted. Honoraria for researcher itself and collaborators are not accepted. A maximum of 2 million yen or its equivalent in US dollars. The costs listed on the left are accepted if they are part of the overall research costs, but they are not accepted as the only costs. The main focus must be on direct costs related to the research.
	Application system	Is it possible to apply from outside the system? What dose an applicant need when applying for the system?	Impossible. Application from the system only 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? Can applicant visit foreign countries other than Japan? Can applicant expect support from The Sumitomo Group (acceptance of visitors, etc.) for the research? As a comparative study, is it acceptable to conduct a comparative study that includes a third country?	Not necessarily. Encourage a visit to Japan. Yes No 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? Will The Sumitomo Foundation publish the research results? 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.? Does the applicant need to write a paper or publish the research results?	Impossible No. Completion report submitted by grant recipients are posted on The Sumitomo Foundation's official website. It's possible to find the themes of those who have been selected in the website. Information such as the application themes of unsuccessful applicants will not be made public. Not necessarily.
	Research result	Who owns the research results? Are there any restrictions on the publication of research results? What are the research results required of grant recipients? When should the report be submitted? Need to write a dissertation? Need to create a publication?	The researcher itself. No. 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. Within 3 months after the end of the research period Not necessarily. Please be sure to include an acknowledgment of The Sumitomo Foundation in the publications and articles. Not necessarily. Please be sure to include an acknowledgment of The Sumitomo Foundation in the publications and articles.
	Past project	Is it possible to refer to past projects and research results?	Posted on The Sumitomo Foundation official 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. Please refer to the "Selection Review" posted on The Sumitomo Foundation's official website. It is also important to contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and Asian countries.
	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)? How are grants paid? Can get a grant through university? How much is the grant amount per case? Is it possible to continue to receive the grant multiple times? Is the grant paid in installments? Can food and beverage expenses be covered by the grant? What if there is money left over?	Yes Payment will be made to the account specified by the applicant (in principle, personal account) after the contract is concluded. 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. 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 Researcher who has been selected in the past can apply only after having completed its research. Cannot reapply during the research period. Lump-sum payment Food and beverage expenses are not permitted (including during business trips) 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.