4 Next Step Research Grant  Nurturing female leaders

(1) Aim
This grant is aimed at nurturing female leaders across a wide range of disciplines who have the potential to fill top global leadership positions. It provides financial assistance necessary for research purposes such as implementing new research projects, presenting/publishing outstanding research achievements, and gathering data to ideate new research topics. The hope is that the ability to initiate new research projects based on their own ideas and publish their research outcomes will empower awardees to independently pursue their research and enhance their research accomplishments, and in doing so develop into full-fledged researchers capable of attracting funding from other sources.

(2) Program details (First period: April 1–September 30, 2019)
Provision of funds to help researchers carry out new research projects without other sources of external funding, gather data, and publish research outcomes.

◎ Number of awardees: approximately 20
◎ The grant provides up to 400,000 yen, with the actual amount awarded based on a review of the application. The amount may be reduced depending on budgetary circumstances and amounts awarded under other programs.
◎ This program is offered twice a year.
◎ The grant is intended to offset expenses directly essential to the implementation of research, such as the following:
  • Travel expenses, registration fees, and other costs necessary for participation in academic conferences, symposia, research planning meetings, etc.
  • Purchase of equipment/supplies necessary for performing research; honoraria and other compensation to assistants, subjects, etc.
  • Expenses essential to publication of research, such as article submission fees and English proofreading fees

(3) Eligibility to apply
Female academic staff of Tohoku University (associate professor, senior assistant professor, assistant professor, research associate), excluding specially appointed professors (management) and those whose employment is 100% funded by external sources.
* Personnel whose employment is partially funded by Tohoku University for even a small percentage, such as 5%, remain eligible to apply.
* If many applications are received, preference will be given to departments with a low proportion of female academic staff.

(4) Application forms
◎ Attachment 4: Application for Next Step Research Grant
(5) Deadline for submission of application

_________ 2019

(6) Where to submit application

General affairs office in your department _______________

* The general affairs officer will collect all applications for the department and after ranking of the top three by the department head, will submit them to the Tohoku University Center for Gender Equality Promotion no later than April 10, 2019.

* If you have not applied but suddenly find that you require assistance during the year, please discuss the matter with the General Affairs Division, General Affairs and Planning Department.

(7) Application screening

◎ Documents will be examined by the screening panel within the Committee for Gender Equality.

◎ During the screening process, you may be asked to prepare and submit additional documents or come for an interview.

◎ Selections are scheduled to be announced at end-April. The scheduled date for disbursing the funds is May 1, 2019.

(8) Year-end report

The awardee shall prepare a report, as separately prescribed, at the end of the year.

(9) Other information

◎ Applications for the second period of this grant will be taken in October, provided that the budget is still available. Those who received the grant for the first period are not eligible to apply for the second period.

◎ The awardee shall, as far as possible, cooperate with the following types of requests regarding the promotion of gender equality by the Committee for Gender Equality and the Center for Gender Equality Promotion (may be taken into consideration in the selection process): Participation in symposiums and seminars, poster presentations, responding to questionnaires, submission of public-relations material.

◎ When announcing the results of research made possible by this program, the awardee must clearly acknowledge assistance provided under the program. (Please refer to the attachment “Q&A” for practical examples.)