

4 Next Step Research Grant **Nurturing female leaders**



**Academic staff
(females only)**

(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 (Second period)

Provision of funds to help researchers carry out new research projects without other sources of external funding, gather data, and publish research outcomes.

- The grant provides up to 300,000 yen/year, 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.
- A second call for applications is tentatively scheduled for the second semester, but may be cancelled depending on the number of grants awarded in the first period and on the remaining budget. Those who received the grant for the first period are not eligible to apply for the second period.
- The grant is intended to offset expenses directly essential to the implementation of research, such as the following:
 - Registration fees for participation in academic conferences.
 - 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
 - Travel expenses are not supported by this grant in light of the current situation of COVID-19.

(3) Eligibility to apply

Female academic staff of Tohoku University (associate professor, senior assistant professor, assistant professor, research associate), whose principal duties are with Tohoku University.*¹ This excludes specially appointed professors (management) and those whose employment is 100% funded by external sources and who are obliged to exclusively serve the organization providing the funding.

*¹ Excluding employees serving under the cross-appointment system and others whose principal employer is an organization other than Tohoku University.

- Those who have competitive funds (including university expenses) totaling 3 million yen or more in the relevant academic year are ineligible.
- Applicants need to have unsuccessfully applied for FY2021 KAKENHI grants, and received an assessment rating of A or B.
- However, those who applied for multiple FY2021 KAKENHI grants and were awarded at least one are ineligible.
- Applications made not be made for both this grant and the Start-up Research Costs grant at the same time.
- Those whose employment is 100% externally funded may apply for this grant, provided that the funding source does not require them to focus exclusively on the funded project, and instead allows them to also engage in independent research efforts at their discretion.
- 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: 2021 Academic Year
- Attachment 8: Survey of Cooperation in Gender Equality Activities
- Document showing result of FY2021 KAKENHI grant application review (assessment rating)

(5) Deadline for submission of application

_____ 2021

(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 two by the department head, will submit them to the Tohoku University Center for Gender Equality Promotion no later than Friday, September 10, 2021.
- If more than two members of your department applies, select the top two candidates and submit their applications only.
- Please note that depending on the results of the review, some applicants may not be awarded this grant, even if they placed among the top two candidates.

(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 in late-September 2021. The scheduled date for disbursing the funds is October 1, 2021.

(8) Year-end report

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

(9) Other information

- 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, and other such activities.
- 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 a practical example.)