



Q&A Session





Before we start...

1. We will first answer the **Frequently Asked Questions** provided from past seminars and from registration.
2. Then, we will pick up unanswered questions from the audience with the remaining time. Selected question will be shared on the screen.



Question 1: Eligibility

I am not a young researcher but am within 8 years from obtaining my PhD degree. Can I still apply for WAKATE? Also, does academic position matter in applying?

Can a graduate student or a guest fellow apply for KAKENHI?

Eligibility: from the Application Guideline

At the time of the proposal submission, a researcher needs to have been approved by his/her research institution as an eligible researcher who meets the Requirements a), b) and c) stated below, and have his/her Researcher Information properly registered in the Rad system as eligible for KAKENHI application.

<Requirements>

- a. The applicant must be an individual belonging to a research institution with a job assignment including a research activity within the said institution. *(Whether the job is paid/unpaid, or full-time/part-time is irrelevant. It is not a prerequisite of eligibility that the research activity constitutes the main part of his/her job.)*
- b. The applicant must be actually engaged in a research activity in his/her research institution. *(Those who are only engaged in research assisting jobs are ineligible.)*
- c. The applicant must not be a graduate student nor any other categories of student. *(However, an individual who has a position in a research institution with a research activity as his/her main job (e.g., a university teaching staff, a researcher belonging to a company, etc.) and holds a student status at the same time is eligible.)*



Question 2: Parallel applications

Can we apply for Wakate and Kiban C at the same time? Are there other categories which are allowed for parallel applications?

I already have an KAKENHI WAKATE/Kiban C right now and will cover next fiscal year as well. Can I still apply?

Restriction on Parallel Grant Application

If you wish to apply for multiple categories, check the restriction chart before application

Example of an restriction chart (excerpt from the original chart)

1-1) Type “Principal Investigator (New Proposal/Continued) (Column A) → Principal Investigator (Column B)”

<div style="text-align: center;"> Column B Applicable or Not </div>			<div style="text-align: center;"> Column A Already have or have applied for </div>														
			Specialty Promoted Research	Scientific Research (S)	Scientific Research (A)			Early-Career Scientists (First Time)	Early-Career Scientists (Second Time)*1	Transformative Research Areas (A)*2			Transformative Research Areas (B)		Challenging Research		Fostering Joint International Research (B)*4
					General	General	General			Administrative Group	Planned Research	Publicly Offered Research	Administrative Group	Planned Research	Pioneering	Exploratory	
			New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal
PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI		
Scientific Research (B)	General	New Proposal	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	×	×	—	×	×	■							
		Continued	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	▲	▲	—	▲	▲	▲							
	Overseas Scientific Investigation	Continued	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	▲	★	★	★	▲	▲					▲		
Scientific Research (C)	General	New Proposal	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	×	×	×	—	×	×				×	×		
		Continued	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	▲	▲	▲	—	▲	▲				▲	▲		
	Generative Research Fields	Continued	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	▲	▲		
Early-Career Scientists	General	New Proposal (First Time)	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	×	×	×	×	—	—				×	×	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		New Proposal (Second Time)*1	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	×	—	—					×	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Generative Research Fields	Continued (First Time)	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	▲	▲	▲	▲	—	—					▲	▲	
		Continued (Second Time)*2	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>	▲	▲	▲	▲	—	—					▲	▲	
Challenging Research	Pioneering	New Proposal	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>			×	×		×	×	×		—	×		
		Continued	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>				▲	▲		▲	▲	▲		—	▲	
	Exploratory	New Proposal	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>				×	×	×					×	—	
		Continued	PI	<input type="checkbox"/>				▲	▲	▲					▲	—	

Can you apply for the "Column B" category?

[Blank]: Yes (can receive both)
 ■: Yes, but priority is on A (cannot receive both)
: Yes, but priority is on B (cannot receive both)
 —: No
 ×: No
 ▲: No
 ★: No



Question 3: Language (Japanese vs English)

Will the chance of acceptance become better if we write the proposal in Japanese rather than to write it in English?

Would it be worth translating my English proposal into Japanese? Would it increase the chance?

Is it possible to write some parts such as keywords, phrases, sentences in Japanese?



Question 4: Publication records

Will the publication track record affect the chance of acceptance?

I have just finished my PhD and have changed my research direction as a postdoc, so I don't have a publication record in that field. Is there anything we can write to substitute publication records?

Assessment Criteria: 3 Rating Elements

[Rating Element 3]

Appropriateness of Ability and Research Environment to Conduct Research

(3) Appropriateness of Ability and Research Environment to Conduct Research

- Judging from the research activities, etc. conducted over the years, does the applicant possess sufficient ability to carry out the research plan?
- Has the applicant secured a research environment that he/she needs to conduct the research plan including research facilities, equipment, and research materials?



Question 5: Preliminary data

Do I need to describe any pre-experiments or previous studies for the proposal? How much data do I need to show?

In other countries, I may put myself in a risk of having the idea copied

Assessment Criteria: 3 Rating Elements

[Rating Element 2]

Validity of the Research Method

(2) Validity of the Research Method

- Is the research method, etc. specific and appropriate to achieve the research objective? Also, are the research expenditures consistent with the research plan?
- Is the state of preparation appropriate to achieve the research objective?



Question 6: Research Theme

Which would be better to choose for WAKATE/Kiban C?

- a) a theme that continues my previous studies or
- b) an entirely new theme but have supporting works for

In case of b), what should I write to justify that I'm able to conduct the research?



Question 7: Basic Section

My research will fit well for both section XXX and YYY. It uses the method in the field of XXX but the application will be in the field of YYY. How do I choose which basic section to apply for?

Would the acceptance rate differ between humanities and natural sciences?

Past Selection Results: KAKEN Database

From the website, you can search for past adopted projects for each Review Sections

1) Press "Advanced Search" to open search criteria

We have enhanced the search function of the KAKEN database to make it easier to search for information on International Joint Research projects. <https://support.nii.ac.jp/en/news/kaken/20211227-0>

2) Select your category, review section, etc.

3) Press "Search" to check adopted projects. Title, Investigator, Outline can be found

The image displays the KAKEN website interface. On the left, the 'Advanced Search' form is shown with several fields highlighted in red boxes and arrows: 'Project Type' (with 'Research Project' selected), 'Research Category' (set to 'Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists'), 'Review Section/Research Field' (set to 'Basic Section 44020:Developmental biology-related'), and 'Project Period (FY)' (set to '2022'). Below these are sections for 'Total Cost (Overall)', 'Project Status', 'Keywords', 'Research Abstract', and 'Researcher' information.

On the right, the search results page is shown. It features a 'Refine your search' sidebar on the left and a main results area on the right. The results area displays a list of search results, with the first three results highlighted. Each result includes the project title, research category, review section, research institution, principal investigator, project period, and keywords. The first result is titled '1. 中間型神経前駆細胞を制御する新規分子機構の解明' and is categorized under 'Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists' and 'Basic Section 44020:Developmental biology-related'.

Past Selection Results: Adoption Data (Numbers, Allocation)

From the chart, you can observe that the adoption rates are similar between "all" Review Sections

Acceptance rate for each broad sections *(all category combined, FY2022 new adoptions)*

Section	Research Fields	Applications	Accepted	Acceptance Rate	Composition
A	Philosophy, Literature, History, Geography, Law, Political science, Economics, Sociology, Education, Psychology related fields	16,991	5,368	32%	21%
B	Algebra, Analysis, Condensed matter physics, Plasma science, Particle-/nuclear-/astro-physics, Earth and planetary science related fields	5,370	1,459	27%	6%
C	Mechanics of materials, Fluid engineering, Electrical and electronic engineering, Civil engineering, Architecture, Aerospace engineering, Social systems engineering related fields	7,019	1,865	27%	7%
D	Materials engineering, Chemical engineering, Nano/micro science, Applied condensed matter physics, Applied physics and engineering, Nuclear/earth resources engineering, Biomedical engineering related fields	5,562	1,359	24%	5%
E	Physical chemistry, Organic chemistry, Inorganic/coordination chemistry, Polymers, Inorganic chemistry, Biomolecular chemistry related fields	4,187	1,040	25%	4%
F	Agricultural chemistry, Agricultural and environmental biology, Forestry and forest products science, Agricultural economics and rural sociology, Veterinary medical science related fields	5,860	1,517	26%	6%
G	Biology at molecular to cellular levels, Biology at cellular to organism levels, Biology at organismal to population levels related fields	4,851	1,254	26%	5%
H	Pharmaceutical sciences, Biomedical structure and function, Pathology and infection/immunology related fields	4,612	1,237	27%	5%
I	Oncology, Brain sciences, General internal medicine, Organ-based internal medicine, Internal medicine of the bio-information integration, Surgery of the organs maintaining homeostasis, Surgery related to biological and sensory functions, Oral science, Society medicine, Sports sciences, physical education, Biomedical engineering related fields	28,818	8,467	29%	34%
J	Information science and computer engineering, Human informatics, Applied informatics related fields	3,787	1,026	27%	4%
K	Environmental analyses and evaluation, Environmental conservation related fields	1,795	452	25%	2%
Total		88,852	25,044	28%	100%

Modified from https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/27_kdata/data/r04/3-2_r4.pdf



Question 8: Budget Plan

What should I write for an explanation of the budget plan?
How much in detail should we write the budget plan?

Should I still ask for the maximum amount although I don't really require that much?

Assessment Criteria: Other Evaluation Items (Research Expenditure)

Validity of Research Expenditures

In order to ensure effective and efficient allocation of KAKENHI funding, please consider the criteria listed below with respect to the validity and necessity of research expenditure. If you find a flaw in the content of the research expenditure and think that the sufficiency rate should be reduced, assign a “x” to the research proposal.

The sufficiency rates for research proposals that were marked “x” by more than one reviewer will be set below the average sufficiency rate.

- Is the content of research expenditure reasonable and can we expect that the research expenditure will be used effectively?
- Are items genuinely necessary for the implementation of the research plan properly budgeted, such as costs for purchasing equipment?
- If any of the expenditure categories (equipment costs, travel expenses, or personnel cost/honoraria) exceeds 90% of the total expenditure, can we expect that the research expenditure will be used effectively for the implementation of the research plan?