



A S H B i



R E S E A R C H   A C C E L E R A T I O N   P R O G R A M

# KAKENHI Writing Seminar

for early-stage Researchers





## - Individual Writing Support (@ ASHBi, from 2019)

KAKENHI: Transformative Research A/B, Kiban S/A/C & Wakate  
Other grants including JST-FOREST, AMED etc.

## - Seminar Lecturer

KAKENHI, DC1/2 Fellowships, and others

### KAKENHI Seminars

2019年 9月12日 16:00~17:30 京都大学医学部A棟103 研究費申請支援セミナー

2020年 9月18日 16:00~17:30 開催方法: Zoom (学内限定) 素晴らしい研究も、善者良に「伝わる」調書で受け付けられたい。

### DC1/DC2 Seminars

Writing Seminar on Doctoral Course Fellowship (DC1/DC2) 4.14 16:00-17:15 vs Zoom

Writing Seminar For JSPS DC1/DC2 Fellowship Most Popular Funding for PhD students in Japan! 4.14 16:00-17:15 vs Zoom

### Other Seminars (outside of ASHBi)

English research proposal writing February 18 13:30-15:30

研究力向上セミナー 最先端研究拠点における研究力向上支援 ~WPI-ASHBiにおける外国人・若手研究者支援の取り組み紹介~



# Grant Application is about Convincing your Research Proposal!

2 Important factors of proposal



**↑  
Today**



# Today's Agenda

1. Basic Information and Application Process
2. Evaluation System for WAKATE & Kiban C
3. Storytelling: Preparing an Effective Proposal



## 1. Basic Information and Application Process

## 2. Evaluation System for WAKATE & Kiban C

## 3. Storytelling: Preparing an Effective Proposal



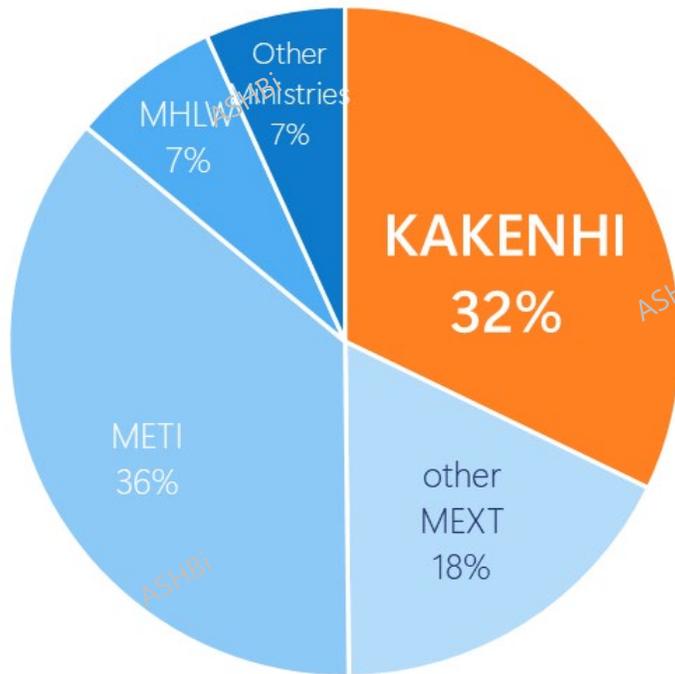
# JSPS funding programs for PhD students & Early-stage researchers

Fellowships	PhD Students	<b>DC1</b> <i>for prospective PhD students</i>
		<b>DC2</b> <i>for enrolled PhD students</i>
Grants	Postdocs	<b>PD</b> <i>for “permanent resident holders” and Japanese postdoc</i>
		<b>Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan (Standard)</b> <i>for foreign postdocs intending to start research in Japan</i>
	Postdocs & Faculty Members	<b>KAKENHI</b> <i>(Kiban S/A/B/C, WAKATE, etc.)</i>



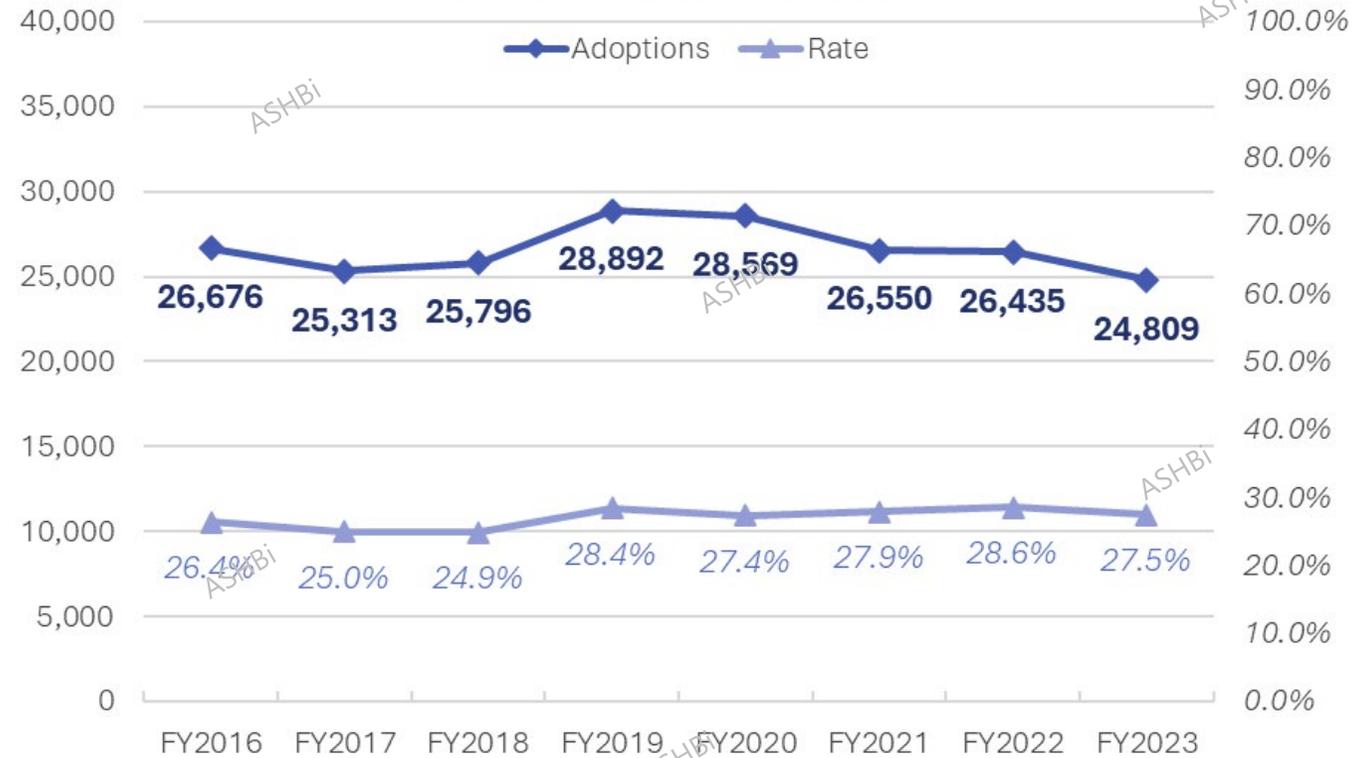
# KAKENHI is the largest & most accessible funding program in Japan

Government External Funding  
FY2024: 738,305M JPY



**32% of the  
govt. competitive funding**

## KAKENHI New adoptions



**Approx. 25,000 proposals  
are selected each year**

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/>

[https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken\\_27\\_kdata\\_g1333/2-1\\_r5.pdf](https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken_27_kdata_g1333/2-1_r5.pdf)



# For early-stage researchers, WAKATE/Kiban C are the most suitable

Category	Period	Grant Size (Total JPY)	Adoption (2024)	
			Number	Rate
<b>Kiban S</b>	5 years	50~200 M	65	11.9%
<b>Kiban A</b>	3-5 years	20~50 M	632	27.2%
<b>Kiban B</b>		5~20 M	3,327	28.0%
<b>Kiban C</b>	3-5 years	~5 M	<b>12,551</b>	27.5%
<b>WAKATE</b> <i>within 8yrs from PhD degree</i>	2-5 years		<b>5,290</b>	<b>40.1%</b>

+other special categories

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants01.html>  
[https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken\\_27\\_kdata/3-1-1\\_r6\\_0531.pdf](https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken_27_kdata/3-1-1_r6_0531.pdf)



# You need to apply via the JSPS E-Application System

To start, contact your univ. admin for

- your e-Rad #
- internal deadline

**JSPS Electronic Application System**  
for Projects Funded by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

English • Japanese

### Accessing the Electronic Application System

When using the Kakenhi electronic application system (application system / grant application system), please click the banner below to log-in with your e-Rad ID and password.  
If you have changed your log-in ID and password on e-Rad, a period between 30 minutes to 1 hour shall be required before the updated log-in ID and password become effective for the Kakenhi electronic application system.  
After you change your log-in ID and password on e-Rad, please allow some time before trying the Kakenhi electronic application system log-in.  
Please note that the update could take longer depending on the system status.

**Researchers login**

#### Maintenance information

Not planned

#### Download documents

Kakenhi (Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research) Electronic Application System Operation Manual for Researchers Version 2.6 (6.30MB) (updated: June 2022)

#### Note

Note to users: When the JSPS application deadline of each project approaches, please check the request status or application status to ensure the application has been submitted to JSPS.

The system restarts on 5:00 every day.  
Any information edited over the period cannot be saved. When using the system over the period, please perform Temporary Save before 5:00 and access again once the system is restarted.

Copyright (C) 2005-2014 JSPS All Rights Reserved.

**Login with your e-Rad #**  
*(your researcher ID in Japan)*

**E-application to funds**  
KAKENHI, JST grants etc.

**Carry the same ID**  
even when you transfer

<https://www.shinsei.jps.go.jp/kaken/english/index.html>

# You need to upload the application set in the E-Application System

WEB SYSTEM

WORD

WEB SYSTEM

Application Info

Application Info form showing fields for applicant name, institution, and research title.

Application Forms (Proposal)

Application Forms (Proposal) showing multiple pages of text in English and Japanese.

Budget Plan

Budget Plan form showing a table for budget items.

E-Application System



Your Univ. Admin checks and then submits to JSPS

[https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants09\\_kiban.html](https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants09_kiban.html)

# Your Application Forms (Proposal) consist of 3 Parts

**Make sure to follow the instructions carefully**

- e.g.
- page limit & font size (10pts or larger)
  - context to be answered for each part

See appendix for instruction details

## Application Forms (Proposal)

Form S-21: Research Proposal Document (forms to be uploaded) Early-Career Scientists 1

**1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.**

The research proposal will be reviewed in the Basic Section of the applicant's scheme. In filling this application form, refer to the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (2023).

Research objectives, research methods, etc. should be described within 4 pages.

A succinct summary of the research proposal should be given at the beginning.

The main text should give descriptions, in concise and clear terms, of (1) scientific background for the proposed research and the "key scientific question" comprising the core of the research plan, (2) the purpose, scientific originality, and creativity of the research project, (3) the circumstances leading to conception of the proposed research project, domestic and overseas trends related to the proposed research and the positioning of this research in the relevant field, (4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period, and (5) preparation status towards achievement of the purpose of the research project.

[SUMMARY]

Notes to observe when preparing the Research Proposal Document

### Part 1 Research Plan

4 pages

Note 2:

1. Read the "Procedures for Preparing and Entering a Research Proposal Document" before preparing this form.
2. Complete the form using 10-point or larger font.
3. The title and main text on the upper part of each page should be left margin.
4. Do not exceed the maximum number of pages specified in the instructions. Therefore, if there are any blank pages, leave them as they are (do not delete any pages).

Early-Career Scientists 5

**2. Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research and the Research Environment**

Description of (1) applicant's related research activities and (2) research environments including research facilities and equipment, research networks, etc. related to the conduct of the proposed research should be given within 2 pages to show the feasibility of the research plan by the applicant (please refer to page 4).

If the applicant has taken leave from research activity for some period (e.g. due to maternity and/or child care), he/she may choose to write about it in "3. Applicant's related research activities".

### Part 2 Feasibility

2 pages

Early-Career Scientists 7

**3. Issues Relevant to the Protection of Human Right and Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

If the proposed research involves such issues that require obtaining the consent and/or cooperation of third parties, consideration in handling of personal information, or actions related to bioethics and/or biosafety, including the laws, regulations and the guidelines in the country (region) where the grant-intended research is to be conducted, describe the measures and actions planned to be taken in responding to these issues within 1 page.

The provision applies to research activities that would require approval by an internal or external ethical jury, such as research involving handling of personal information from questionnaire surveys, interviews and/or behavior surveys, including personal histories and images, handling of donated specimens, human genome analysis, recruitment (DNA), and experiments with animals. If the activities of the proposed research do not fall under such categories, enter "N/A (not applicable)".

### Part 3 Compliance

1 page



# Summary: Basic Information and application process

## KAKENHI Overview

- Eligible to **both Japanese & Foreigners**
- Advisable to start from **WAKATE/Kiban C**
- Success rate is **30~40%**
- JSPS Deadline is **Sep 18** (for WAKATE/Kiban C)

## Application Procedures

- Application via **E-Application system**
- Need to obtain **e-Rad number**
- Contact **your univ. admin for details**

## Application Forms

- **Research Plan** 4 pages
- **Feasibility** 2 pages
- **Compliance** 1 page

1. Basic Information and Application Process

**2. Evaluation System for WAKATE & Kiban C**

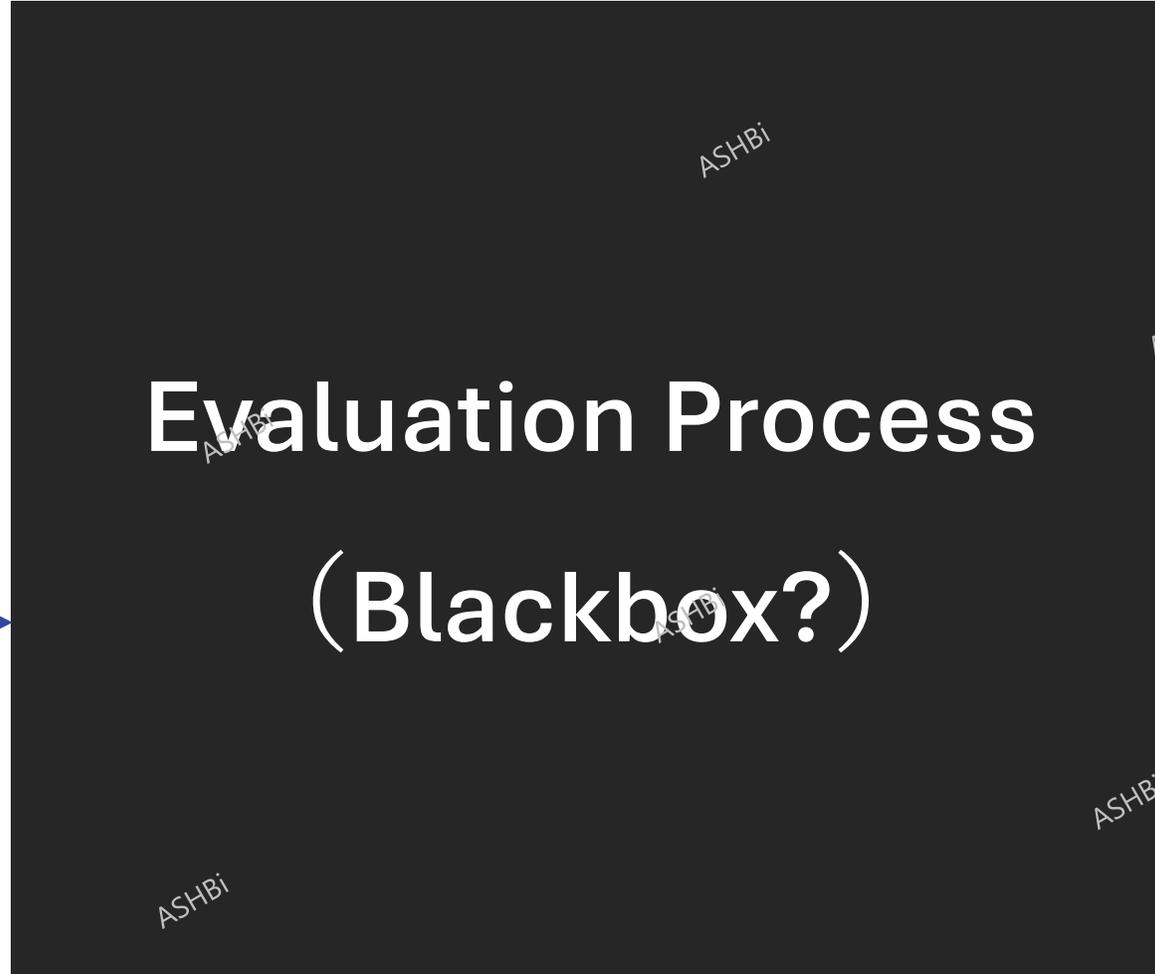
3. Storytelling: Preparing an Effective Proposal



# What is the evaluation process for WAKATE/Kiban C?

\*Kiban B follows the same process

You  
(Applicant)



Selected  
40%



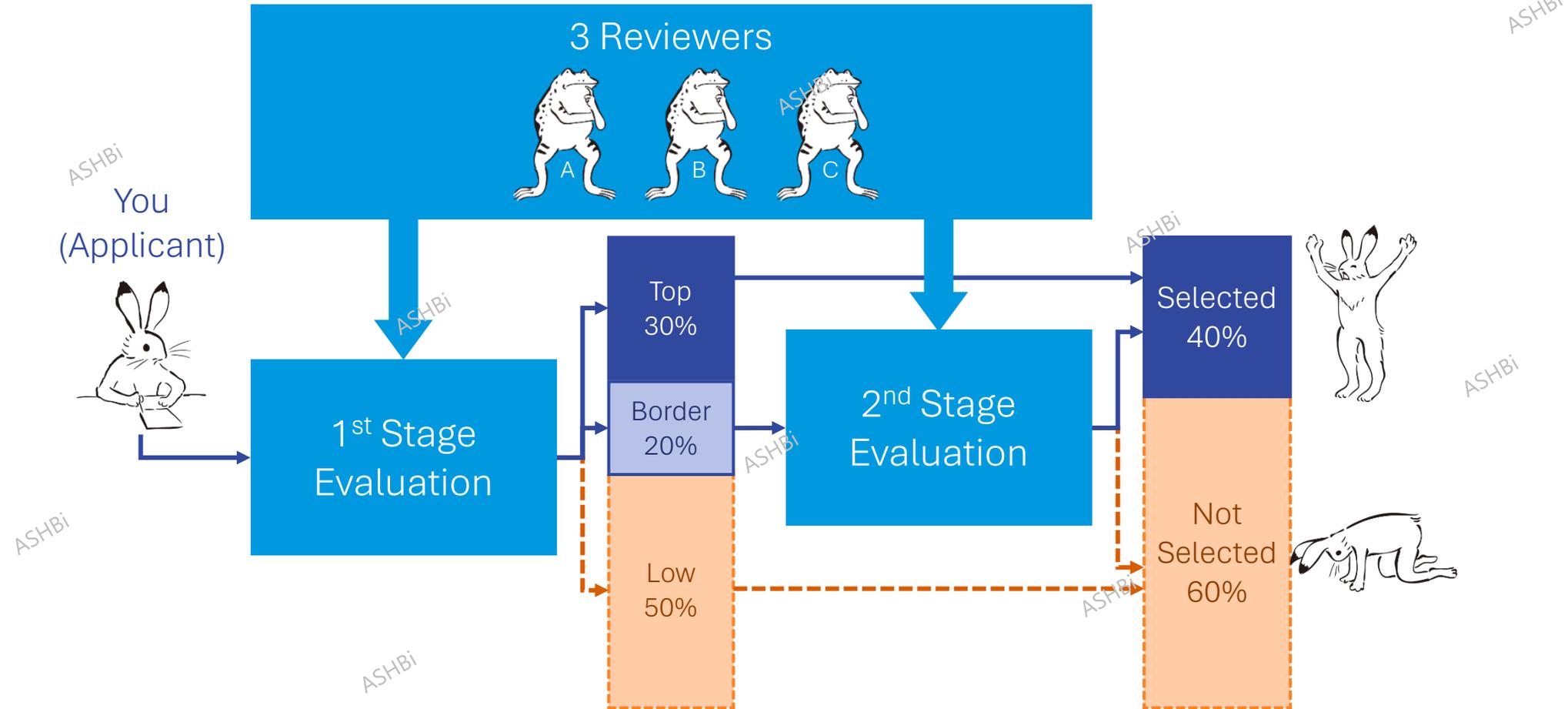
Not  
Selected  
60%



# WAKATE/Kiban C Applicants are evaluated by 3 reviewers in 2 stages

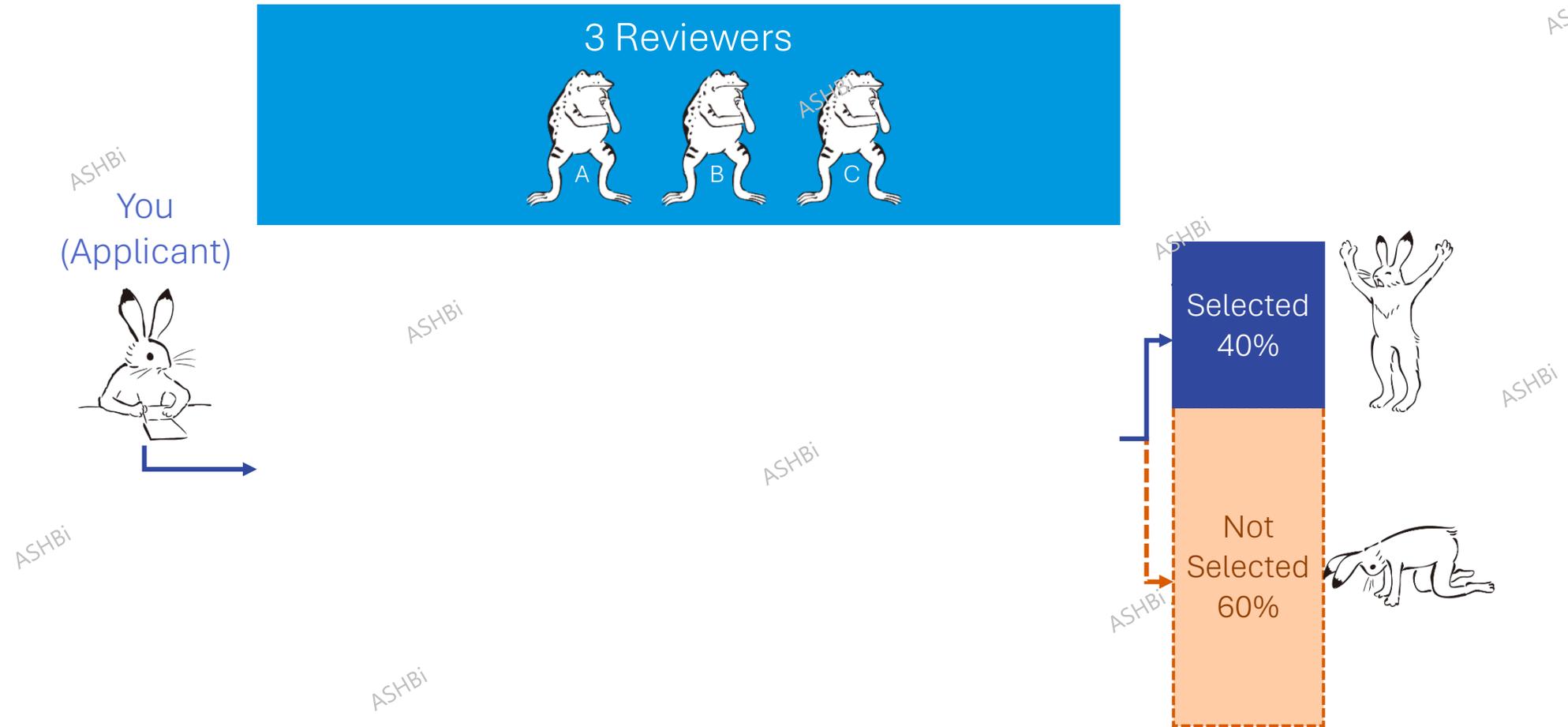
\*Kiban B follows the same process with 5 reviewers

**[NEW]** 4 Reviewers until last year



# Reviewers: Researchers in your Review Section fields

Experts are selected from the “**Review Section**” which you chose





# You are to choose from the 306 “Basic Sections” *(each covering a broad field)*

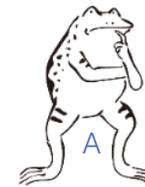
Broad Section G	
Medium-sized Section 43: Biology at molecular to cellular levels, and related fields	
Basic Section	
43010	Molecular biology-related
43020	Structural biochemistry-related
43030	Functional biochemistry-related
43040	Biophysics-related
43050	Genome biology-related
43060	System genome science-related
Medium-sized Section 44: Biology at cellular to organismal levels, and related fields	
Basic Section	
44010	Cell biology-related
44020	<b>Developmental biology-related</b>
44030	Plant molecular biology and physiology-related
44040	Morphology and anatomical structure-related
44050	Animal physiological chemistry, physiology and behavioral biology-related
Medium-sized Section 45: Biology at organismal to population levels and anthropology, and related fields	
Basic Section	
45010	Genetics-related
45020	Evolutionary biology-related
45030	Biodiversity and systematics-related
45040	Ecology and environment-related

## 44020 Developmental biology-related

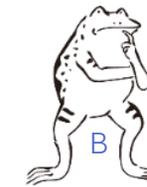
Cell differentiation, Stem cells, Regeneration, Germ layer formation, Morphogenesis, Organogenesis, Fertilization, Germ cells, Developmental genetics, Evolution and development, etc.



## Experts in Basic Section “44020”



Regeneration



Developmental genetics



Morphogenesis

Reviewers are experts but **may not be from your “specific” field**

# Past reviewer info can be helpful in choosing your Review Section

Past reviewers are disclosed  
*(provided only in Japanese)*

Broad Section G	
Medium-sized Section 43: Biology at molecular to cellular levels, and related fields	
Basic Section	
43010	Molecular biology-related
43020	Structural biochemistry-related
43030	Functional biochemistry-related
43040	Biophysics-related
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45040	Evolution and environment-related

FY2020

審査第四部会第44020小委員会

[発生生物学関連]

機関・部局・職	氏名
九州大学・医学研究院・教授	ハヤシ カツヒコ 林 克彦
首都大学東京・理学研究科・准教授	フクダ キミコ 福田 公子
東北大学・生命科学研究科・教授	クマノ ガク 熊野 岳
北里大学・一般教育部・准教授	ワダ ヒロフミ 和田 浩則

FY2019

審査第四部会第44020小委員会

[発生生物学関連]

機関・部局・職	氏名
九州大学・医学研究院・教授	ハヤシ カツヒコ 林 克彦
熊本大学・大学院生命科学研究部・准教授	オオタ クニマサ 太田 訓正
首都大学東京・理学研究科・准教授	フクダ キミコ 福田 公子
東北大学・生命科学研究科・教授	クマノ ガク 熊野 岳

# Past selections can also be helpful in choosing your Review Section

Broad Section G	
Medium-sized Section 43: Biology at molecular to cellular levels, and related fields	
Basic Section	
43010	Molecular biology-related
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Basic Section	
45010	Genetics-related
45020	Evolutionary biology-related
45030	Biodiversity and systematics-related
45040	Ecology and environment-related

You can search for past projects using **KAKENHI Database (KAKEN)**

**KAKEN** Grants  
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Database

Database of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research(KAKEN) is a public database which includes information on adopted projects, assessment, and research achievements from the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research(KAKENHI) Program. This system is hosted by the National Institute of Informatics (NII) in cooperation with MEXT and JSPS.

Free word  Search

Full-Text Search  Close

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>

Research Project Title  Project/Area Number

Project Type  
 Research Project  Research Areas  Administrative Group  
 Compiling the Research Achievements  Planned Research  Publicly Offered Research  
 International Activities Supporting Group

Research Category  Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists Find Research Category

Allocation Type  Single-year Grant  Multi-year Fund  Partial Multi-year Fund

Review Section/Research Field  Basic Section 44020: Developmental biology-related Find Review Section/Research Field

Research Institution  Find Research Institution

Project Period (FY) 2020 ~ FY of Project

Total Cost (Overall)

Project Status  Adopted  Granted  Ceased  Suspended  Completed  Declined  Discontinued

Keywords

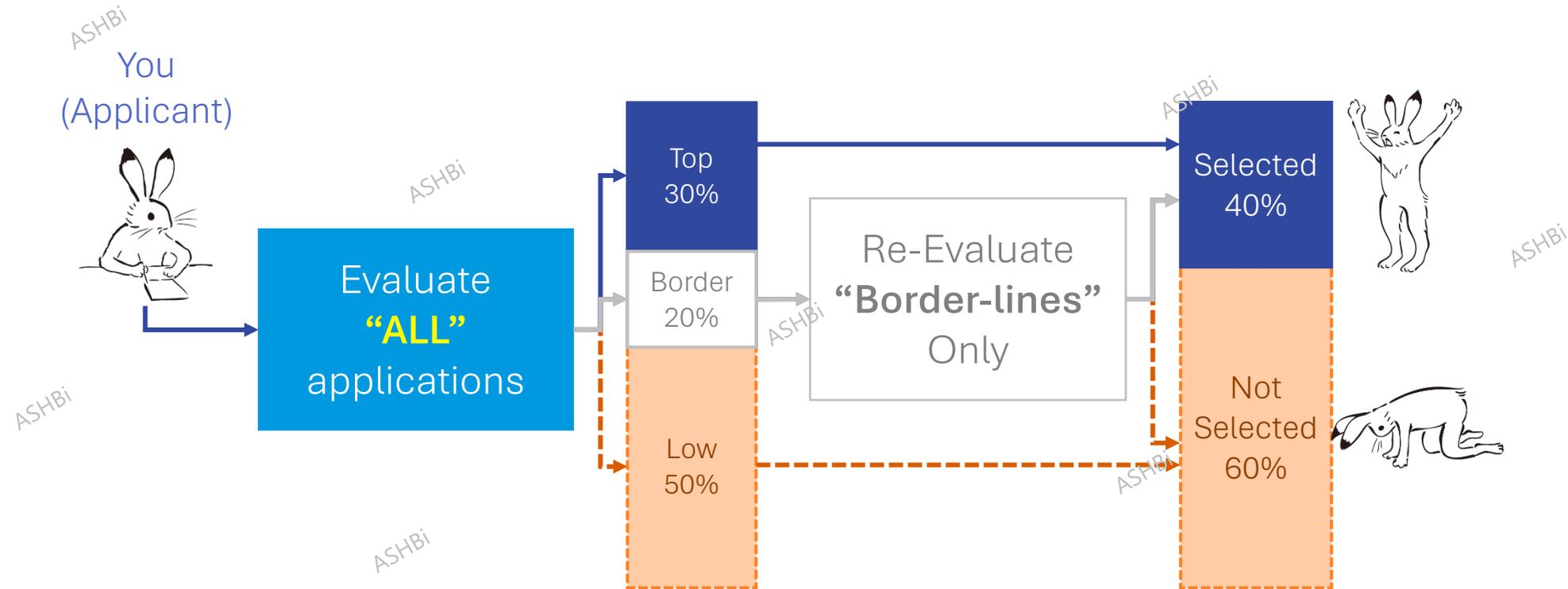
Research Abstract

[https://www.jps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken\\_kiban\\_2024\\_g\\_2307/review\\_section\\_table\\_e.pdf](https://www.jps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken_kiban_2024_g_2307/review_section_table_e.pdf)

<https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/en/>

# Evaluation: the fate of approx. 80% are decided in 1st Stage

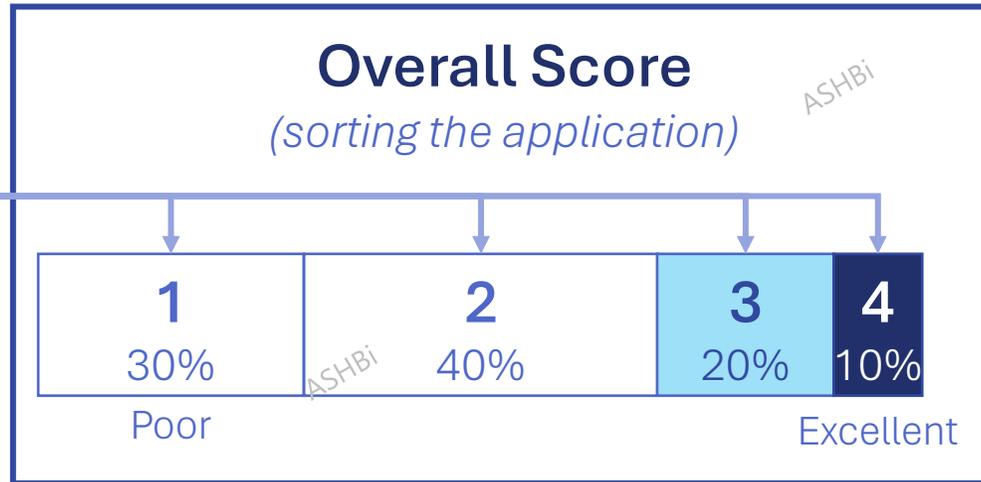
Sorting is done by the **“Overall Score”**



# Reviewers sort applications into 4 categories using the “Overall Score”

“Overall Score” Average of the 3 Reviewers is used for selection

Applicant



+

**NEW** (from FY2024 call)  
For Kiban A/B/C

Additional Element  
(absolute rating)

**International  
Ripple Effect**

3 Rating  
Elements  
(absolute rating)

- Academic Importance
- Validity of Methods
- Appropriateness of Researcher/Environment

# Reviewers need to assess these points for each Rating Element

Assessment criteria for each category is provided at the KAKENHI website

## (1) Academic Importance of the Research Proposal

- Is the research proposal an important research project that should be promoted from a scientific perspective?
- Is the “key research question or issue” comprising the core of the research project clearly stated? Is it original and creative?
- Does the research proposal clearly show the circumstances leading to this research proposal, global research trends, and the positioning of this research within the relevant domain or field?
- By conducting the proposed research project, could we expect positive effects on broader fields, science and technology, the society or other areas?

## (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?

## (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?

# Summary of Evaluation Systems

## Evaluation System

- **2 stage** document review

*Most are decided in 1<sup>st</sup> stage (1 chance)*

Your proposal needs to be understood properly

## Reviewers

- **306 Basic Sections**

- **3 Reviewers**

*Reviewers may not be experts of your specific field*

Your proposal needs to be in easy-to-understand format

## Scoring System

- **Overall Score + 3 Rating Elements**

- **Academic Importance**

- **Validity** of Methods

- **Appropriateness** of Researcher/Environment

- **International Ripple Effect\*** (\*for Kiban A/B/C)

1. Basic Information and Application Process

2. Evaluation System for WAKATE & Kiban C

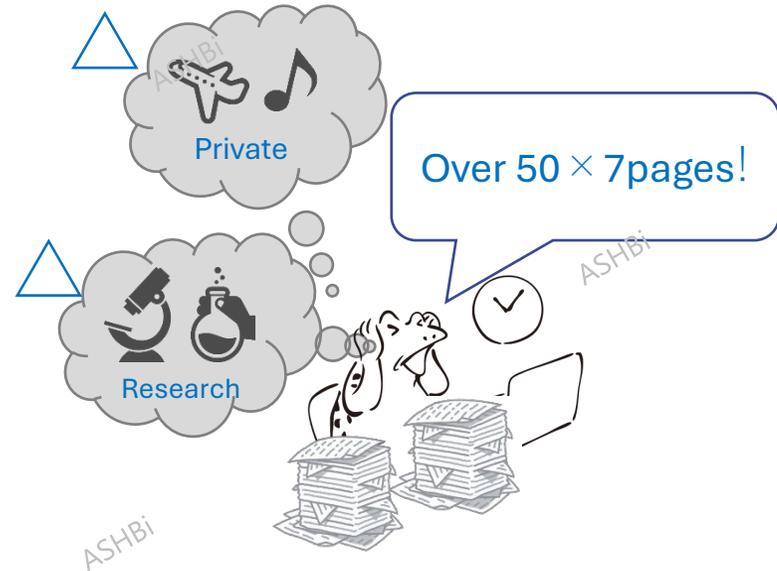
**3. Storytelling: Preparing an Effective Proposal**



# Before writing, we need to understand the reviewer's circumstances

Your proposal needs to be quickly & easily understood by your reviewers

Evaluate over 50 applications  
in short period

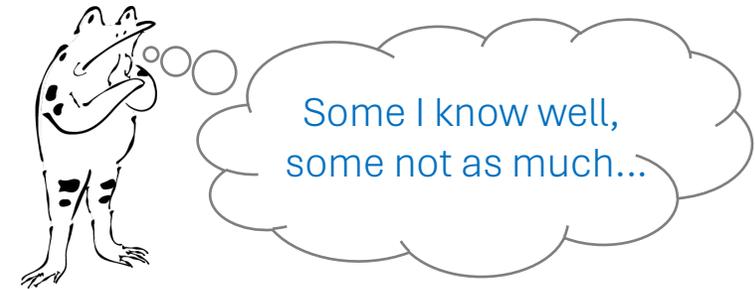


The story needs to be easily  
**understood at a glance**

Each “Basic Section”  
covers a broad field

44020 Developmental biology-related

Cell differentiation, Stem cells, Regeneration, Germ layer formation, Morphogenesis, Organogenesis, Fertilization, Germ cells, Developmental genetics, Evolution and development, etc.



The story needs to be easily  
**understood from other fields**

# What can we do to make an effective grant proposal?

**Effective “Research Story”**  
**helps reviewers capture your story quickly**



I can easily understand  
what this proposal is about!

# What is a research story?

Method for **communicating your research**  
to an **audience from other fields** in an **easy-to-understand manner**



**Your research**



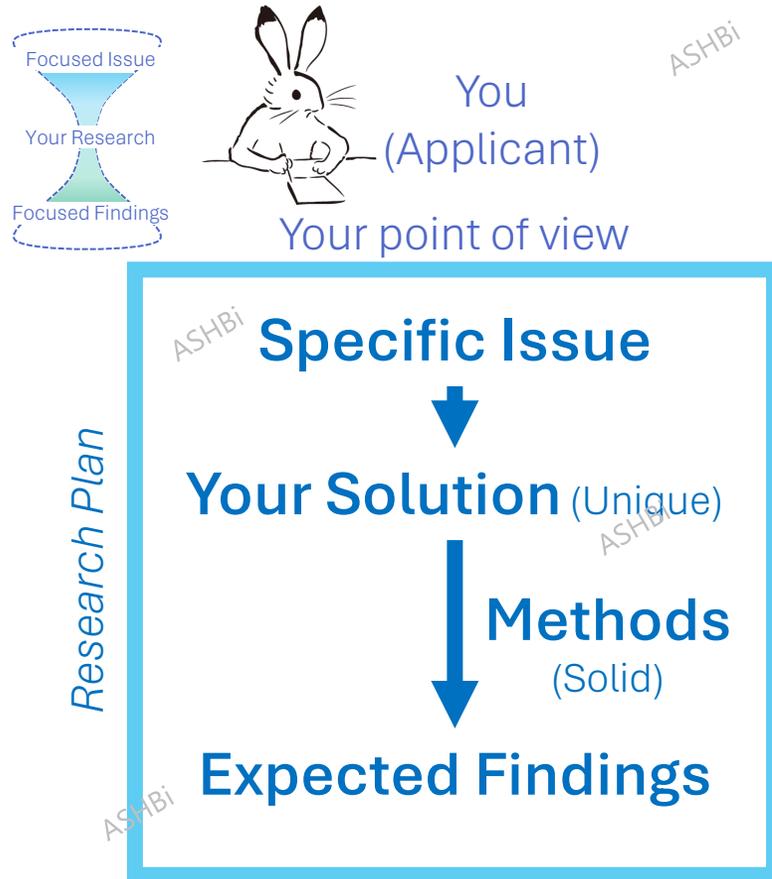
It is important to explain  
**how your findings contribute to academic progress**  
and

**how they have a significant impact on society**  
in a double-pyramid (hourglass) format

小川正 2022、他機関への説明資料より一部改変



# How can you incorporate the research story into your proposal?



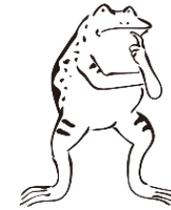
**You need a reviewer's point of view!**

# You need to connect your viewpoint with the reviewer's viewpoint



You  
(Applicant)

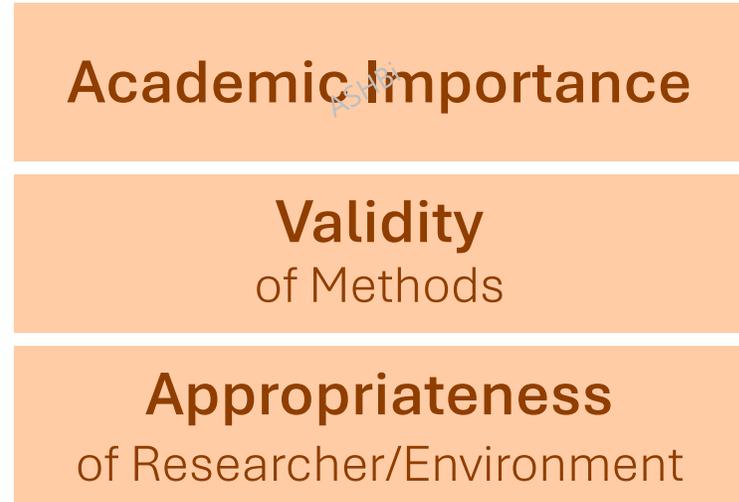
Your point of view



Reviewer

Reviewer's point of view

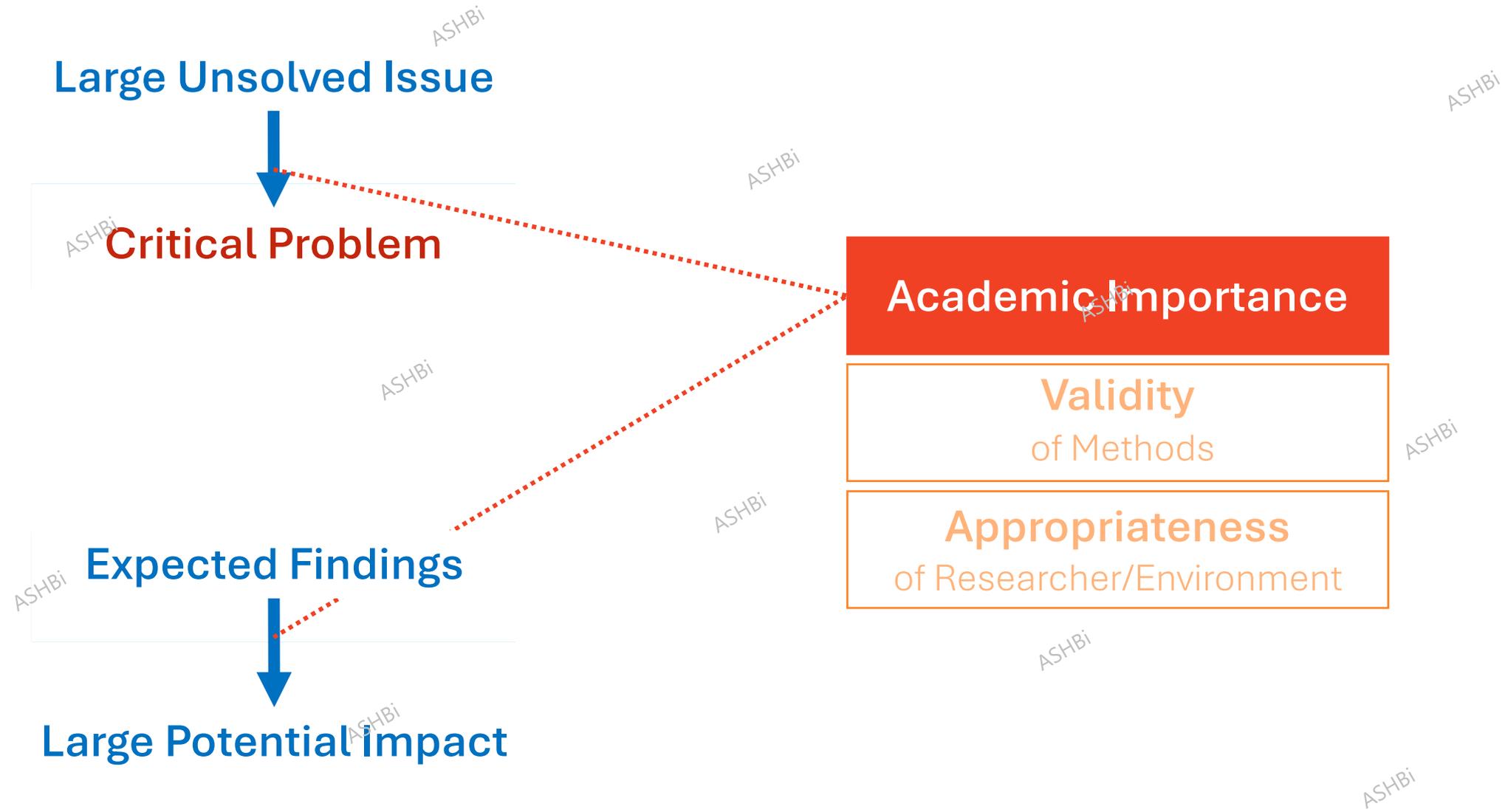
Research Plan



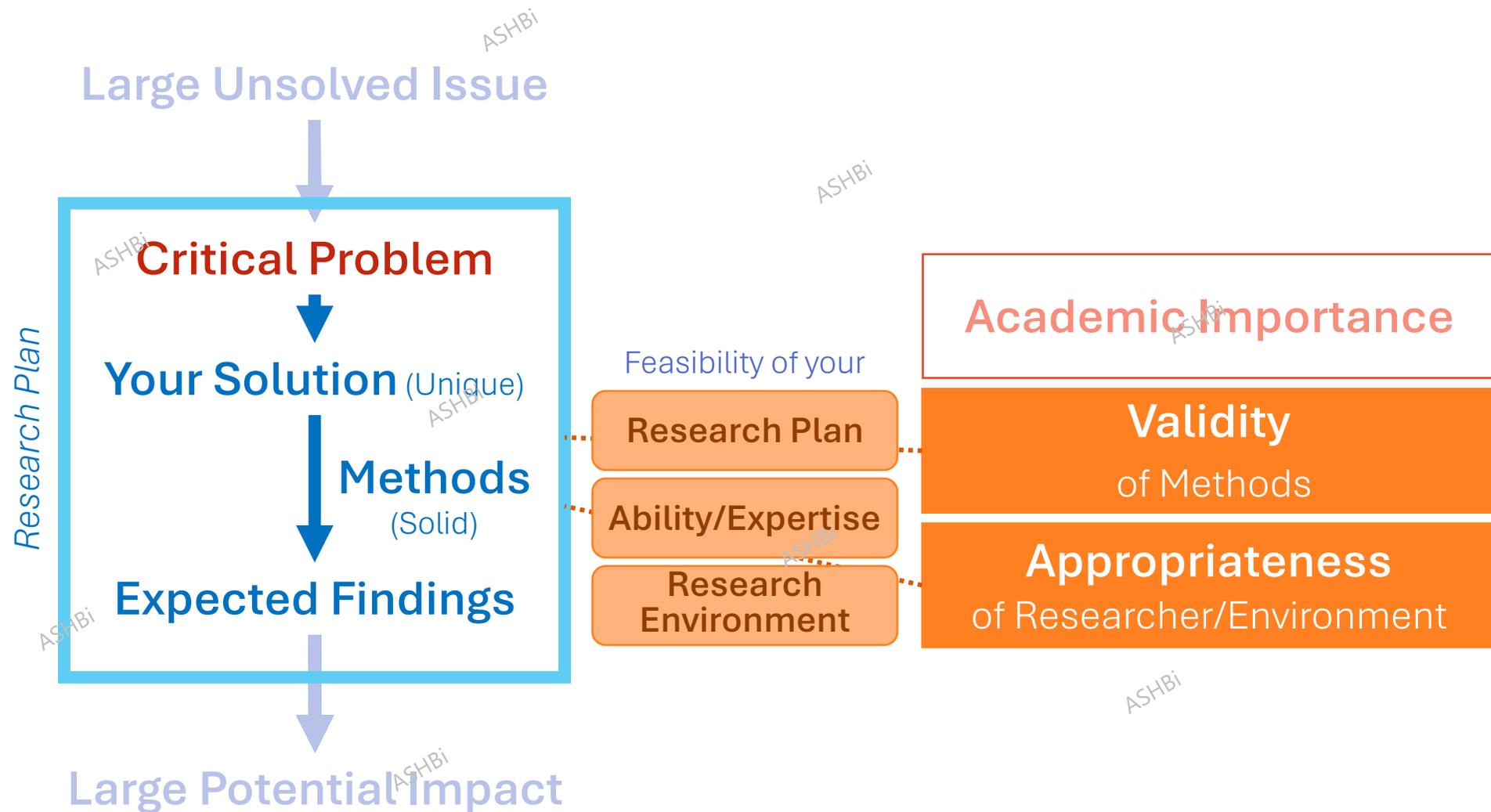
You need to satisfy both point of view



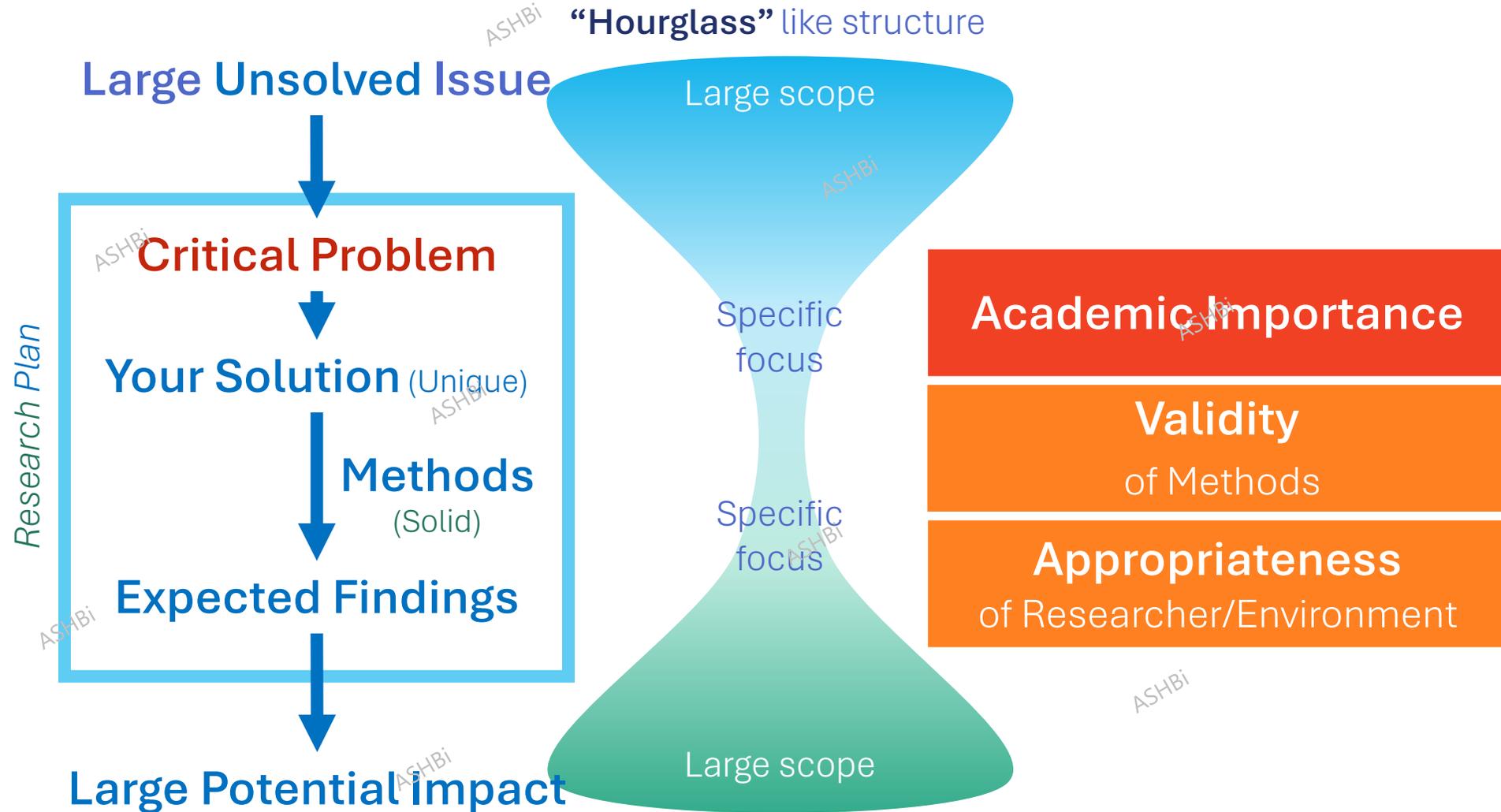
# Academic Importance: Why should others listen to your story?



# Validity & Appropriateness: Why is your plan feasible?



# Good storyline has the “Hourglass” structure



Modified from Scanlan C, “The hourglass: serving the news, serving the reader” Poynter, 2003  
<https://www.poynter.org/reporting-editing/2003/the-hourglass-serving-the-news-serving-the-reader/>





# Addressing the storyline into your proposal format

## Your storyline should be explained in Part 1

Form S-21: Research Proposal Document (forms to be uploaded) Early-Career Scientists 1

**1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.**

This research proposal will be reviewed in the later sections of the applicant's choice. In filling this application form, refer to the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (AKENI). Research objectives, research method, etc. should be described within 4 pages. A succinct summary of the research proposal should be given at the beginning. The main text should give descriptions, in concise and clear terms, of (1) scientific background for the proposed research, and the "key scientific question" concerning the core of the research plan; (2) the purpose, scientific originality, and necessity of the research project; (3) the circumstances leading to conception of the present research proposal, domestic and overseas trends related to the proposed research and the positioning of this research in the relevant field; (4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period; (5) preparation status (work achievement of the purpose of the research project).

[SUMMARY]

Notes to observe when preparing the Research Proposal Document

## Part 1 Research Plan

### 4 pages

Note 2:

1. Read the "Procedures for Preparing and Entering a Research Proposal Document" before preparing this form.
2. Complete the form using font size 10 point or larger.
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Early-Career Scientists 5

**2. Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research and the Research Environment**

1. Description of (1) applicant's education in scientific and (2) research environment including research facilities, equipment, research materials, etc. relevant to the conduct of the proposed research should be given within 2 pages to show the feasibility of the research plan to the applicant (Principal Investigator).  
If the applicant has an issue of absence from research activity for some period (e.g. due to maternity and/or child care), he/she may choose to write about it in (3) applicant's address research activities.

## Part 2 Feasibility

### 2 pages

Early-Career Scientists 7

**3. Issues Relevant to the Protection of Human Right and Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

By Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

If the proposed research involves such issues that require obtaining the consent and/or cooperation of third parties, consideration in handling of personal information, or access related bioethics and/or biosecurity, including the laws, regulations and the guidelines in the country (especially when the grant international research) to be conducted, describe the measures and actions planned to be taken in responding to these issues within 1 page.

The provisions apply to research activities that would require approval by an internal or external ethical jury, such as research involving handling of personal information from questionnaire surveys, interviews and/or behavior surveys, including personal histories and images, handling of animal specimens, human genetic analysis, recruitment (DNA), and experiments with animals. If the activities of the proposed research do not fall under such categories, enter "N/A (not applicable)".

## Part 3 Compliance

### 1 page

Usually, proposals are structured to follow the instruction

If you simply follow the instruction, “**Large Potential Impact**” will not be explained

### 1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

This research proposal will be reviewed in the Basic Section of the applicant’s choice. In filling this application form, refer to the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research-KAKENHI.

Research objectives, research method, etc. should be described within 4 pages.

A succinct summary of the research proposal should be given at the beginning.

The main text should give descriptions, in concrete and clear terms, of (1) scientific background of the proposed research, the circumstances leading to the conception of the proposed research, and the “key scientific question” comprising the core of the research plan, (2) the purpose, scientific originality, and creativity of the research project, (3) domestic and overseas trends related to the proposed research and the positioning of this research in the relevant field, (4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period, and (5) preparation status towards achievement of the purpose of the research project.

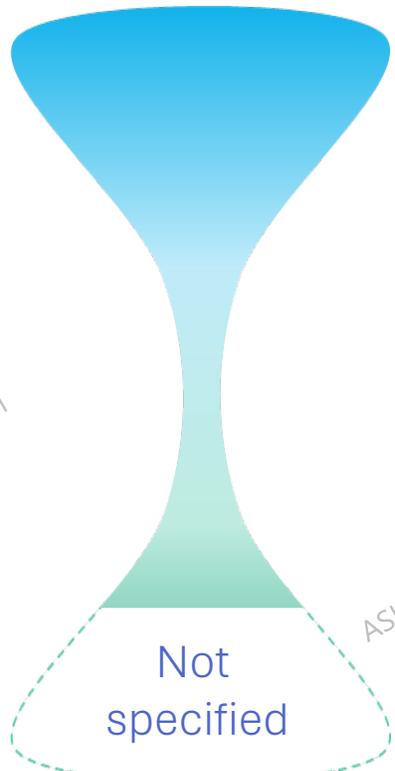
Moved from (3)

### Sample Proposal (using last year’s format)

The sample proposal is presented as a grid of pages. The first page is titled "1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc." and contains the introductory text. The second page is labeled "SUMMARY". The third page is labeled "(1)". The fourth page is labeled "(2)". The fifth page is labeled "(3)". The sixth page is labeled "(4)". The seventh page is labeled "(5)". The eighth page is labeled "(4)". The ninth page is labeled "(3)". The tenth page is labeled "(4)". The eleventh page is labeled "(5)". The twelfth page is labeled "(5)".

Icons and labels for the sample proposal pages:

- Graphical Abstract
- Topic Diagram
- Comparison chart
- Methods
- Preliminary Data



However, reviewers need to evaluate your “Large Potential Impact”

“Large Potential Impact” is clearly shown as one of the assessment criteria

### 1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

This research proposal will be reviewed in the Basic Section of the applicant’s choice. In filling this application form, refer to the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research-KAKENHI.

Research objectives, research method, etc. should be described within 4 pages.

A succinct summary of the research proposal should be given at the beginning.

The main text should give descriptions, in concrete and clear terms, of (1) scientific background of the proposed research, the circumstances leading to the conception of the proposed research, and the “key scientific question” comprising the core of the research plan, (2) the purpose, scientific originality, and creativity of the research project, (3) domestic and overseas trends related to the proposed research and the positioning of this research in the relevant field, (4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period, and (5) preparation status towards achievement of the purpose of the research project.

### Rating Element: Academic Importance

#### (1) Academic Importance of the Research Proposal

- Is the research proposal an important research project that should be promoted from a scientific perspective?
- Is the “key research question or issue” comprising the core of the research project clearly stated? Is it original and creative?
- Does the research proposal clearly show the circumstances leading to this research proposal, global research trends, and the positioning of this research within the relevant domain or field?
- By conducting the proposed research project, could we expect positive effects on broader fields, science and technology, the society or other areas?

# You need to find a place to explain your “Large Potential Impact”

There are several places where you can explain your “Large Potential Impact”

## 1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

This research proposal will be reviewed in the Basic Section of the applicant’s choice. In filling this application form, refer to the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research-KAKENHI.

Research objectives, research method, etc. should be described within 4 pages.

A succinct summary of the research proposal should be given at the beginning.

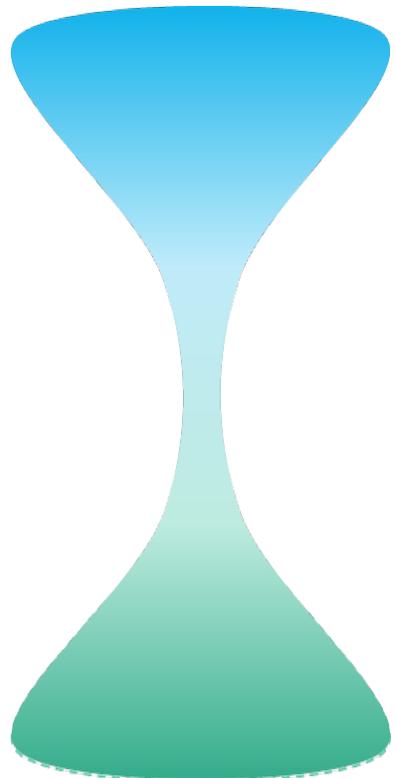
The main text should give descriptions in concrete and clear terms, of (1) scientific background of the proposed research, (2) the purpose, scientific originality, and creativity of the research project, (3) domestic and overseas trends related to the proposed research and the positioning of this research in the relevant field, (4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period, and (5) preparation status towards achievement of the purpose of the research project.

Example #1

Example #2

(2) the purpose

(4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent



### Sample Proposal (using last year’s format)

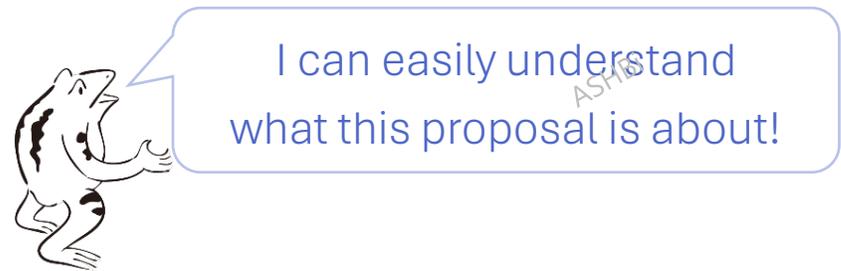
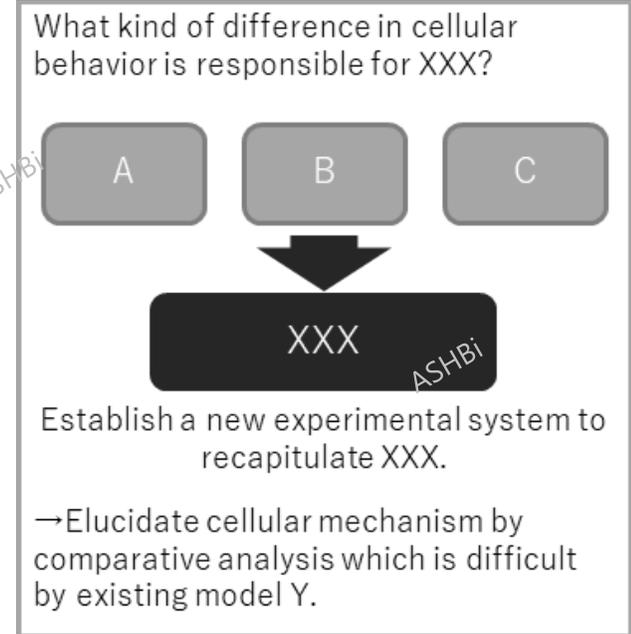
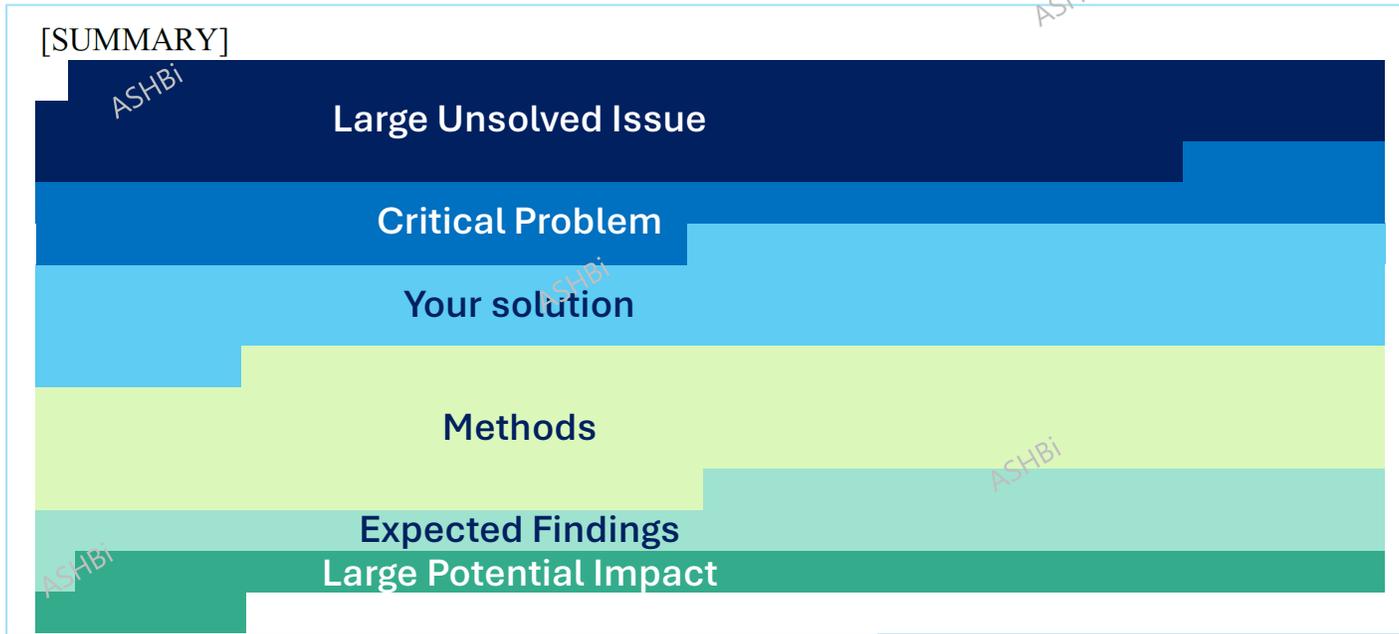
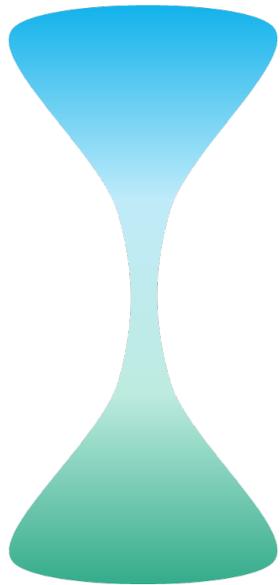
<p>1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.</p> <p>This research proposal will be reviewed in the Basic Section of the applicant’s choice. In filling this application form, refer to the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research-KAKENHI.</p> <p>Research objectives, research method, etc. should be described within 4 pages.</p> <p>A succinct summary of the research proposal should be given at the beginning.</p> <p>The main text should give descriptions in concrete and clear terms, of (1) scientific background of the proposed research, the circumstances leading to the conception of the proposed research, and the “key scientific question” comprising the core of the research plan, (2) the purpose, scientific originality, and creativity of the research project, (3) domestic and overseas trends related to the proposed research and the positioning of this research in the relevant field, (4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period, and (5) preparation status towards achievement of the purpose of the research project.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY</b></p> <p>(1)</p> <p>Graphical Abstract</p> <p>Topic Diagram</p> <p><b>Example #1</b></p> <p>(2) Purpose</p>	<p>(2)</p> <p>(3)</p> <p>Comparison chart</p>	<p><b>Example #2</b> (3)</p> <p>(4) What will be elucidated</p> <p>Methods</p> <p>Methods</p>	<p>(4)</p> <p>Methods</p> <p>Preliminary Data</p> <p>(5)</p> <p>36</p>
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# Effective summary can be prepared as your compact storyline

**Reviewer's first impression will be made here**

**By providing the storyline, reviewers can quickly capture the whole story**

Sample Summary (modified from the original)



**Simple Graphical Abstract can also be effective!**



# Other practical tips for an effective proposal

Tip #1 **Grant Writing is different from Paper Writing**

Tip #2 **Organize your story** using an outline framework

Tip #3 **Identify your “Key Scientific Question”**

Tip #4 **Visualize your plan** using “figures & diagrams”

Tip #5 **Guide the eyes** with “Easy-to-understand” structure

Tip #6 **Prepare/update your researchmap** upon application

Tip #7 **Obtain Third Person’s View** via Feedback

# Tip #1 Grant Writing is different from Paper Writing

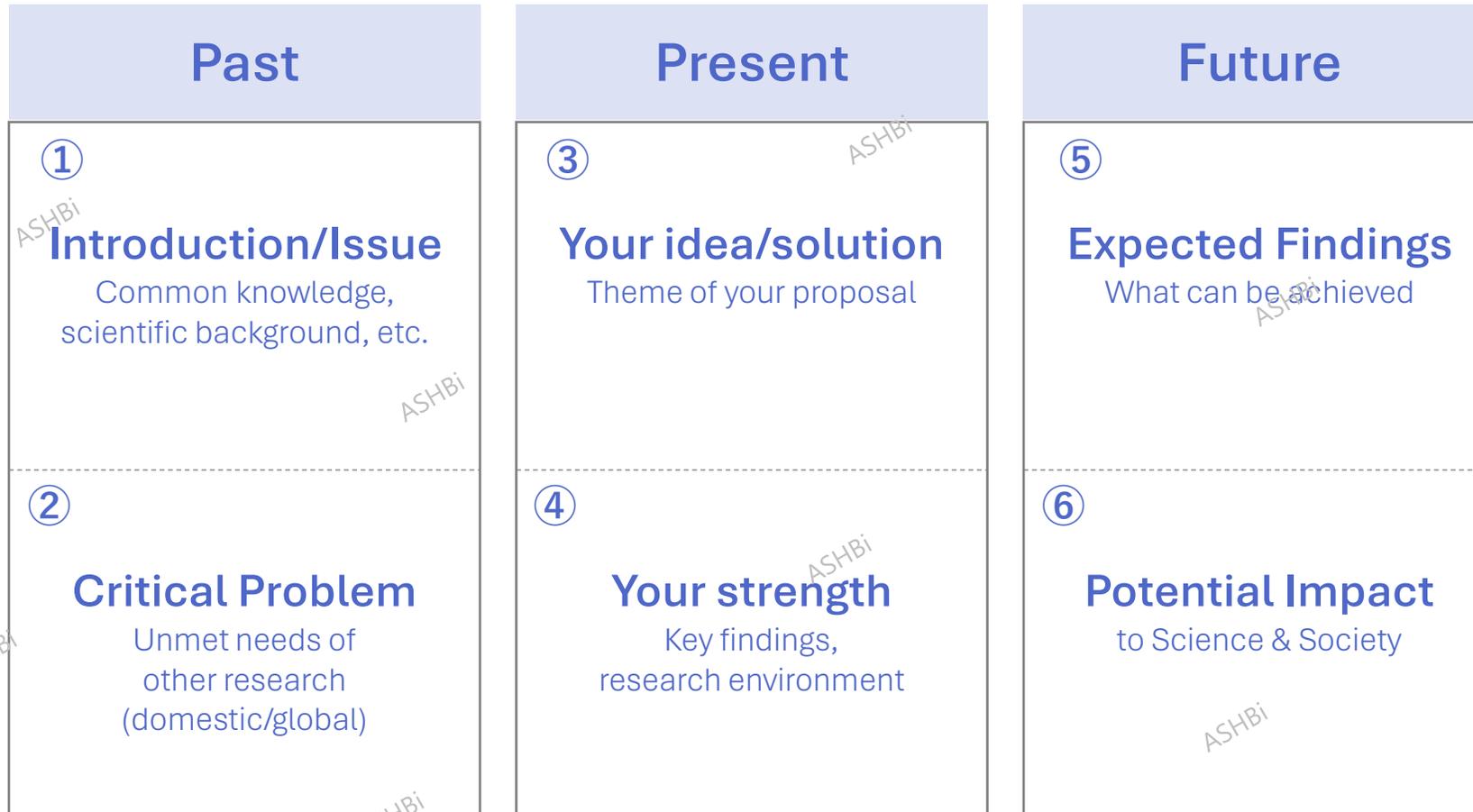
Paper Writing	vs	Grant Writing
<b>Past oriented</b> Work that has been done		<b>Future oriented</b> Work that should be done
<b>Theme-centered</b> Theory and thesis	↔	<b>Project-centered</b> Objectives and activities
<b>Specialized terminology</b> “Insider jargon”		<b>Accessible Language</b> Easily understood
<b>Expository rhetoric</b> <b>Explaining</b> to the reader		<b>Persuasive rhetoric</b> <b>“Selling”</b> to the reader

Modified from Porter R, “Why Academics Have a Hard Time Writing Good Grant Proposals”  
The Journal of Research Administration, vol 38, 2, 2007

In Grant Writing, you need to **sell** “your future plan”

# Tip #2 Organize your story using an outline framework

## Sample of an Outline Framework



小野英理 “科研費研究計画調書のグラフィックデザイン” 2019

Check to see if you have **“every component”** in your story

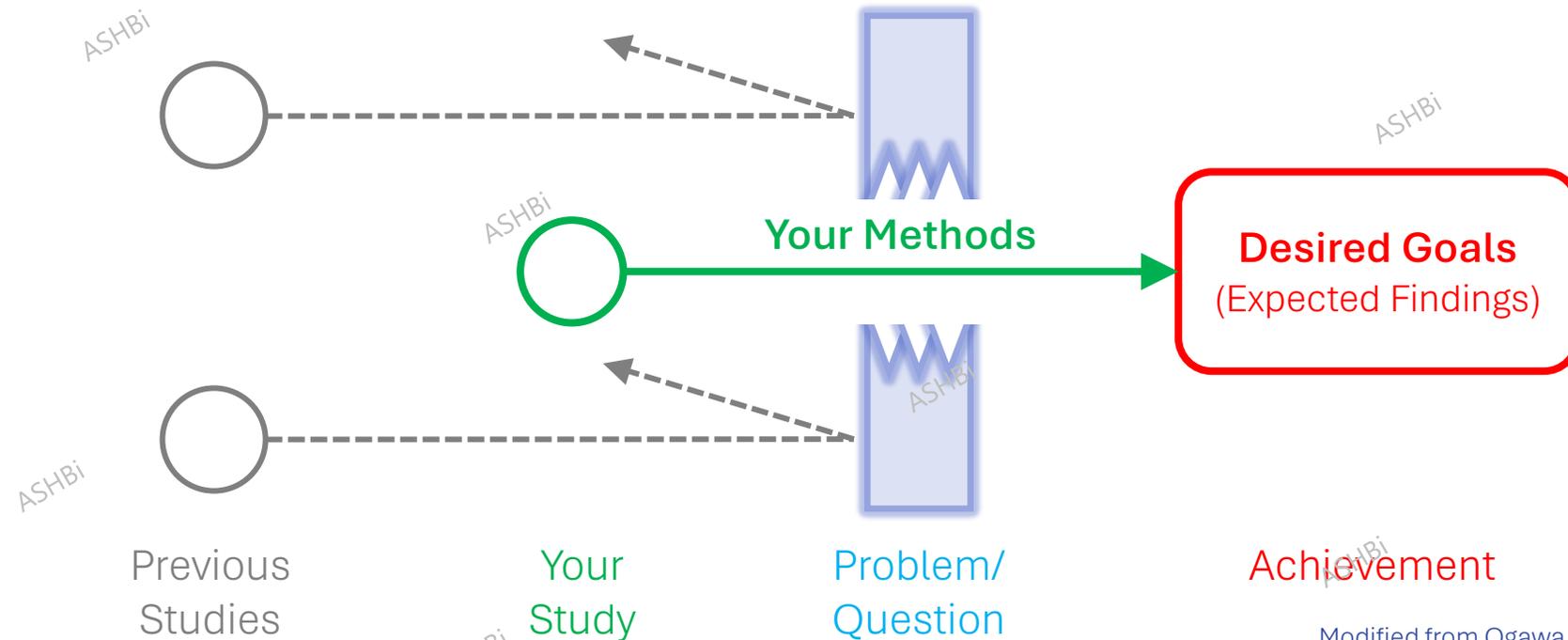


# Tip #3 Identify your “Key Scientific Question”

In KAKENHI, you need to **clarify your “Key Scientific Question”**

A good question/problem distinguishes your proposal from others!

→ It enhances the significance/originality of your study



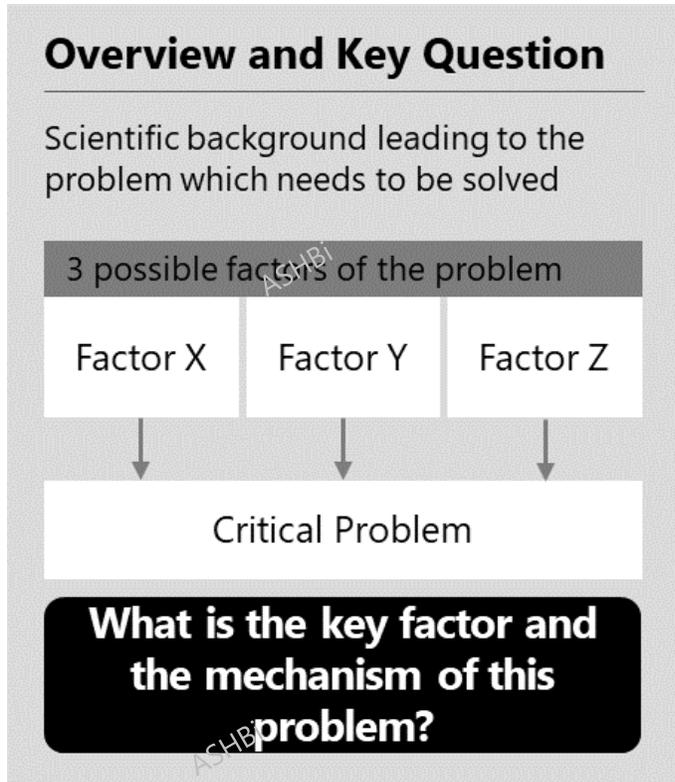
Tadashi Ogawa  
Admin. Director  
WPI-ASHBi

Modified from Ogawa T, “My experience as a reviewer”  
KAKENHI Preparation in Advance, 2018

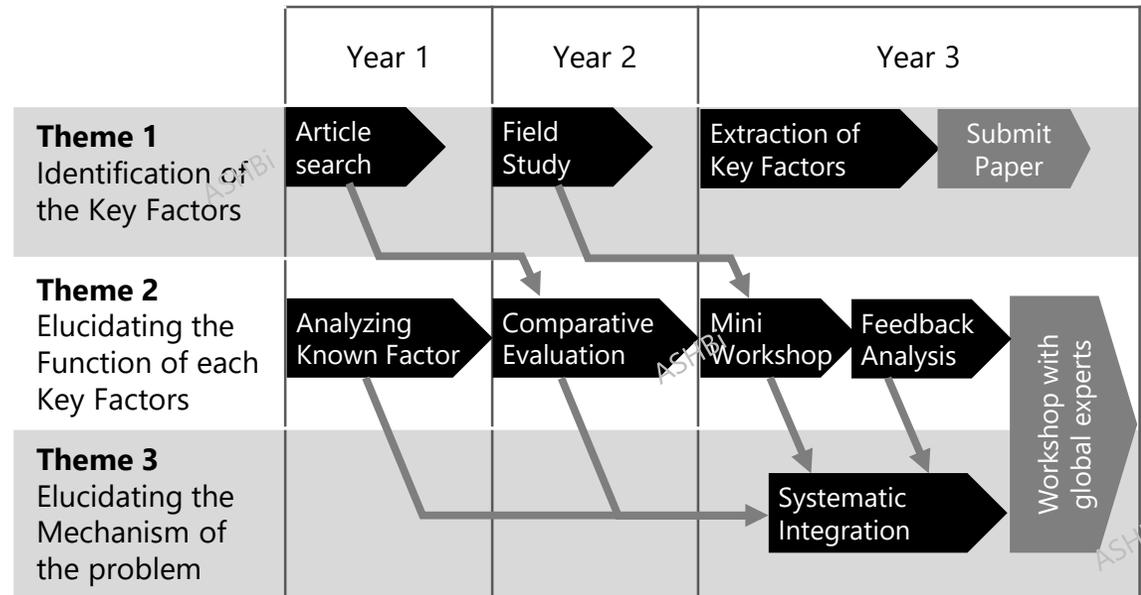
Make a question of which **your method is the “best way” to success** while showing the **“difficulty” in other methods**

# Tip #4 Visualize your plan using “figures & diagrams”

e.g. Conceptual diagram



e.g. Project timeline

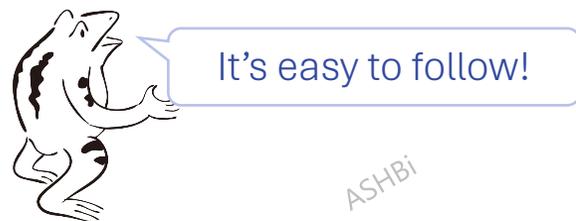
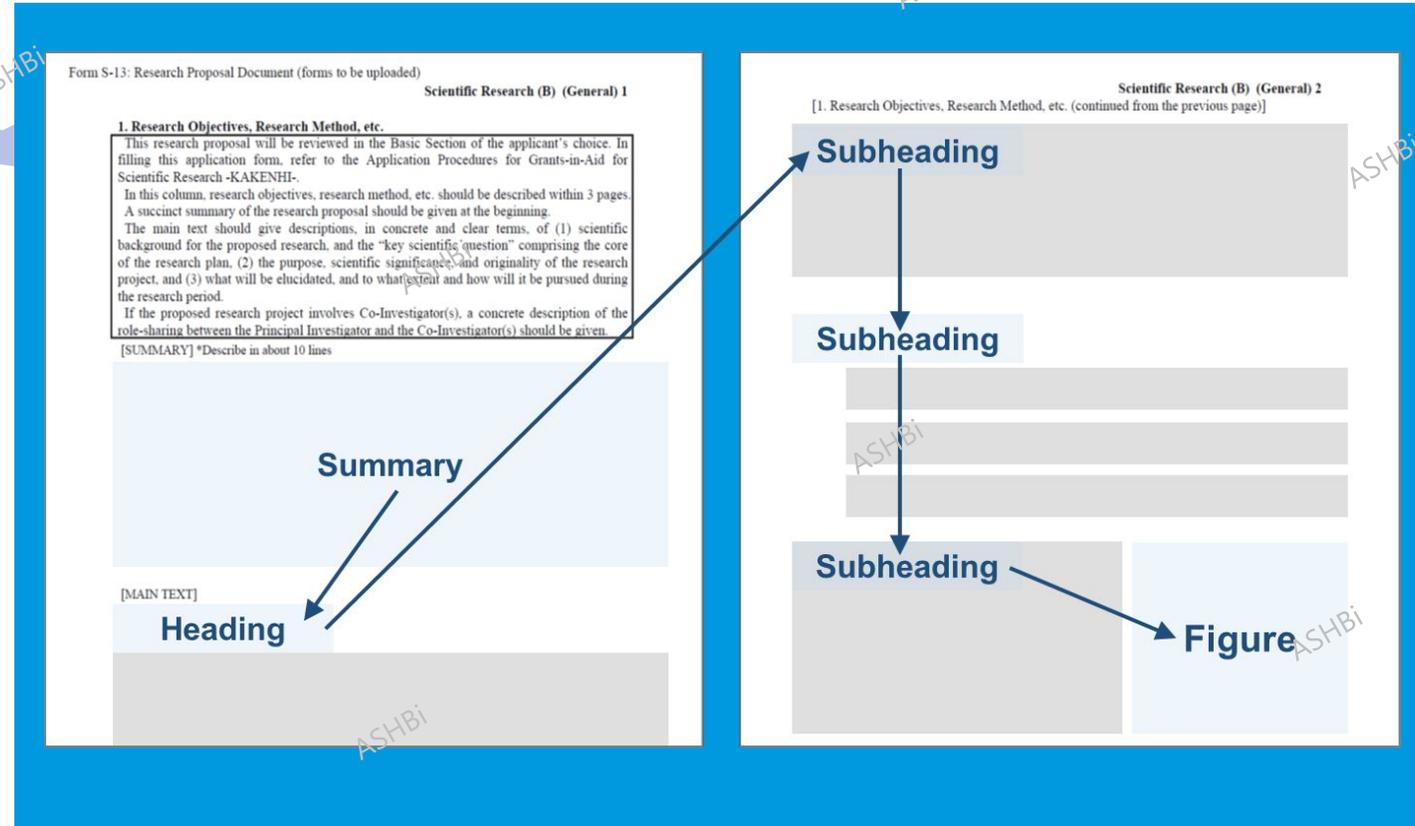
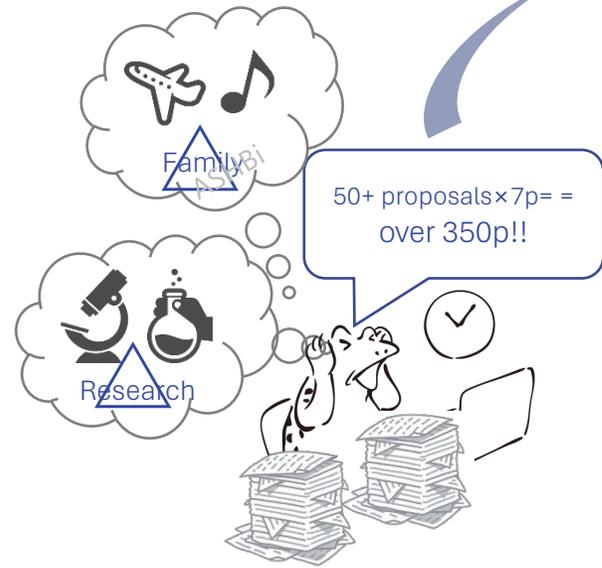


Modified from Ono E, “科研費研究計画調書のグラフィックデザイン”, K-CONNEX Seminar, 2017

***Make sure to prepare them in grayscale!***

**Visualizing your storyline will enable reviewers to capture your story at a glance**

# Tip #5 Guide the eyes with “Easy-to-understand” structure



Modified from Ogawa T, "My experience as a reviewer" KAKENHI Preparation in Advance, 2018

Frog Icons: <https://chojugiga.com/>

Place the **summary, headers and figures effectively** to help guide reviewers' eyes

# Tip #6 Prepare/update your researchmap upon application

Researchmap is the largest database of researcher information in Japan

▶ **researchmap** <https://researchmap.jp/>

Image of your researchmap individual page



Registration fields

#	Fields
1	Name
2	Researcher Number
3	Affiliation
4	Degree
5	Gender
6	Research Interests
7	Research Areas
8	Research History
9	Education
10	Awards
11	Committee Memberships
12	Professional Memberships

#	Fields
13	Papers
14	Misc.
15	Presentations
16	Books and Other Publications
17	Teaching Experience
18	Works
19	Research Projects
20	Major Industrial Property Rights
21	Social Activities
22	Academic Activities
23	Media Coverage
24	Others

[https://www.jsp.go.jp/file/storage/grants/j-grantsinai/38\\_jigyouseitsumeikai/data/r05/siryou4.pdf](https://www.jsp.go.jp/file/storage/grants/j-grantsinai/38_jigyouseitsumeikai/data/r05/siryou4.pdf)

**Many reviewers check researchmap when they evaluate**  
**Make sure to update your data once you submit**

# Tip #7 Obtain Third Person's View via Feedback

Check to see how much of your proposal is understood by others



Modified from Ono E, “科研費研究計画調書のグラフィックデザイン”, K-CONNEX Seminar, 2017

**The reader of your research story is the reviewer, not you**

# Acknowledgements

## ASHBi Research Acceleration Unit

Tadashi Ogawa  
Hiromi Inoue

Spyros Goulas  
Chieko Chiwata

### Materials, advices & support

Rio Tsutsumi, WPI-ASHBi, Kyoto University  
Eiri Ono, IIMC, Kyoto University  
Hiromi Sumita, LiMe, Kyoto University  
Fumi Komori & Narumi Sano, ASHBi Office



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# Appendix 1

ASHBi

## Instructions for the KAKENHI Research Proposal Document (sample: WAKATE)

ASHBi

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*[NOTE] Instruction for Kiban C is also the same*

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ASHBi

# 1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

## 1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

This research proposal will be reviewed in the Basic Section of the applicant's choice. In filling this application form, refer to the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research-KAKENHI-.

Research objectives, research method, etc. should be described within 4 pages.

A succinct summary of the research proposal should be given at the beginning.

The main text should give descriptions, in concrete and clear terms, of (1) scientific background of the proposed research, the circumstances leading to the conception of the proposed research, and the "key scientific question" comprising the core of the research plan, (2) the purpose, scientific originality, and creativity of the research project, (3) domestic and overseas trends related to the proposed research and the positioning of this research in the relevant field, (4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period, and (5) preparation status towards achievement of the purpose of the research project.

Moved from (3)

[https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken\\_kiban\\_2024\\_g\\_2307/s-21\\_e.docx](https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken_kiban_2024_g_2307/s-21_e.docx)

## Scientific Research (C) (General) 1

### 1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

This research proposal will be reviewed in the Basic Section of the applicant's choice. In filling this application form, refer to the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI-.

Research objectives, research method, etc. should be described within 4 pages.

A succinct summary of the research proposal should be given at the beginning.

The main text should give descriptions, in concrete and clear terms, of (1) scientific background of the proposed research, the circumstances leading to the conception of the proposed research, and the "key scientific question" comprising the core of the research plan, (2) the purpose, scientific originality, and creativity of the research project, (3) research trends in the relevant area and the positioning of this research in the area, (4) what will be elucidated, and to what extent and how will it be pursued during the research period, (5) preparation status towards achievement of the purpose of the research project., and (6) what sort of internationality this proposed research has (e.g. it will be a future world-leading research project, it will contribute to the development of global research projects through collaboration, it will create high value as a research project unique to Japan, etc.).

If the proposed research project involves Co-Investigator(s) (Co-I(s)), a concrete description of the role-sharing between the Principal Investigator (PI) and the Co-I(s) should be given.

Moved from (3)

NEW!



# 1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

## Notes to observe when preparing the Research Proposal Document

### Note 1 :

1. Read and understand the following important notes carefully before preparing your Research Proposal Document.

KAKENHI funding aims to promote scientific research in all fields based on original ideas of researchers. The grants provide financial support for creative and pioneering research projects that will become the foundation of social development.

In KAKENHI, research theme setting is at the applicant's discretion. As such, KAKENHI research proposals are evaluated based not only on their scientific significance, but also on their originality and creativity. Accordingly, in the Research Proposal Document forms for the "Scientific Research", "Early-Career Scientists" and "Research Activity Start-up" categories, applicants are required to state:

- ✓ What kind of key scientific question(s) is set against the relevant scientific background (such as research trends and new developments)?
- ✓ What are the scientific originality and creativity of the proposal?
- ✓ What was the circumstances leading to the conception of the research idea?
- ✓ What are the research trends (domestic and overseas) and the positioning of this research in the relevant field?

In the review process, research proposals will be screened either by Comprehensive Review or Two-Stage Document Review.

Reviewers strive to grasp the essence of the proposed research through exchange of opinions among them, evaluate such merits as scientific significance, originality and creativity, and comprehensively place their judgments taking account of the feasibility of the research plan and the applicant's ability to conduct research.

In applying for KAKENHI, applicants are advised to take note of the above, and to read the Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and the explanations of review criteria and the annotations in the application form in preparing their Research Proposal Documents, so that the scientific merits and other points in the research proposal will be appropriately conveyed to the reviewers.

# 1. Research Objectives, Research Method, etc.

## Notes to observe when preparing the Research Proposal Document

### **Note 2:**

1. Read the “Procedures for Preparing and Entering a Research Proposal Document” before preparing this form.
2. Complete the form using font size 10-point or larger.
3. The title and instructions on the upper part of each page should be left intact.
4. Do not exceed the maximum number of pages specified in the instructions. Therefore, if there are any blank page(s), leave them as they are (do not delete any page).

## 2. Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research and the Research Environment

### 2. Applicant's Ability to Conduct the Research and the Research Environment

Descriptions of (1) applicant's hitherto research activities (including main research achievements), and (2) research environments including research facilities and equipment, research materials, etc. relevant to the conduct of the proposed research should be given within 2 pages to show the feasibility of the research plan by the applicant (Principal Investigator).

If the applicant has conducted any international efforts related to his/her research plan (such as his/her records of joint international research and research history in overseas institutions), they should be included as necessary in "(1) applicant's hitherto research activities". Also, if the applicant has taken leave of absence from research activity for some period, he/she may choose to write about it therein.

NEW!

#### \* Note:

- 1. The description in this column is to explain the feasibility of the research plan. On citing research achievements (research papers, books, patents, invited talks, etc.) they should be given not as an exhaustive list but as supporting evidence to prove the applicant's ability to conduct the proposed research.*
- 2. Sufficient information should be given so that the reviewers can identify the research achievements.*
- 3. (In the case of a research paper, for example, the relevant information, including the title of the paper, the author(s), the title and the volume of the journal, the publication year, and the pages of the article should be given; in the case of a book, the bibliographic and other information should be provided.) The research papers that can be cited are only those already published or accepted for publication.*

[https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken\\_kiban\\_2024\\_g\\_2307/s-21\\_e.docx](https://www.jsps.go.jp/file/storage/kaken_kiban_2024_g_2307/s-21_e.docx)



# 3. Issues Relevant to the Protection of Human Right and Compliance with Laws and Regulations

## **3. Issues Relevant to the Protection of Human Right and Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

*(cf. Application Procedures for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research)*

If the proposed research involves such issues that require obtaining the consent and/or cooperation of third parties, consideration in handling of personal information, or actions related bioethics and/or biosafety, including the laws, regulations and the guidelines in the country/region(s) where the joint international research is to be conducted, describe the measures and actions planned to be taken in responding to these issues within 1 page.

This provision applies to research activities that would require approval by an internal or external ethical jury, such as research involving handling of personal information from questionnaire surveys, interviews and/or behavior surveys, including personal histories and images, handling of donated specimens, human genome analysis, recombinant DNA, and experimentation with animals.

If the activities of the proposed research do not fall under such categories, enter “N/A (not applicable)”.



# Appendix 2

## Assessment Criteria for Document Review

# Where to find your assessment criteria for your category

The screenshot shows the JSPS website with the following navigation menu items: About Us, Programs, News, and Contact Us. The breadcrumb trail is: Home > Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research > Peer Review Process. The left sidebar contains a list of links: Top, How to apply, KAKENHI pamphlet, Handbook for Researchers, Types of Grants Programs, Budget, Peer Review Process (highlighted with a red box and the word "Click"), Award Trends, Research Results Database & Archives, Abstracts of Large-scale Research Projects, Introduction of Multi-year Fund, and Inquiries.

Go to “Peer Review Process”

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-grants/grants03.html>

Scroll down

The screenshot shows the 'Assessment Criteria for Document Review (FY2023)' page. It features a table with two columns: 'Research categories' and 'Assessment Criteria'. A red arrow points from the 'Peer Review Process' link in the previous screenshot to this table.

Research categories	Assessment Criteria
Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S)	<a href="#">PDF</a>
Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) (General)	<a href="#">PDF</a>
Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B/C) (General) Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists	<a href="#">PDF</a>
Grant-in-Aid for Challenging Research (Pioneering/Exploratory)	<a href="#">PDF</a>
Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up (FY2022)	<a href="#">PDF</a>
International Leading Research (FY2023)	<a href="#">PDF</a>
Fostering Joint International Research (FY2023)	<a href="#">PDF</a>
International Collaborative Research (FY2023)	<a href="#">PDF</a>



## Assessment Criteria: Overview

# Scientific Research (B/C) (Application Section “General”) and Early-Career Scientists Assessment Criteria for Document Review

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) aim to dramatically develop all academic research, from basics to applications, throughout all research fields. In the review for allotment of research funds, each reviewer is required to make appropriate and fair judgment as to whether the submitted research proposals could contribute greatly to this end.

The Basic Section will be applied for the review. Note that for Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B), any Basic Section with a notably small number of applications will be reviewed jointly with other Basic Sections.

Instead of a panel review, the Two-Stage Document Review method will be implemented where the same group of reviewers will conduct document review in two stages to determine the adoption of research proposals.

## Assessment Criteria: Overview

In the first stage review, each research proposal will first be assigned an absolute score for the individual rating elements listed below to assess the content, plan, etc. of the research. Then a relative overall score on a scale of 1 to 4 will be assigned.

Note that, in the absolute evaluation for each rating element, if you assign a score of “2—Marginal” or “1—Poor,” you will be asked to select which item of the rating element was considered “Marginal” or “Poor,” and to give the reason for such judgment. The items selected here will be disclosed to unsuccessful applicants who have made prior request for disclosure of the results of the first stage review.

In the second stage review, the same group of reviewers will assess the research proposals that qualified for the second stage review based on the results of the first stage document review, and assign new scores for the second stage. Here, you should check the review comments (for the first stage) etc. made by all the reviewers assessing the same research proposal, and assign a score based on your own insight.

The adoption of research proposals and allocation of research funds will be determined based on these scores, etc.





# Assessment Criteria: Overview

In conducting the review, you do not necessarily have to give high scores to research proposals that marked high scores in all of the individual elements. You are asked to conduct appropriate assessments so as to discover significant research projects over a wide range and enable the progress of scientific research while giving consideration to the diversity of research such as characteristics of the fields.

Note that you must not conduct reviews of research proposals submitted by any research team consisting of researchers whom you have vested interests.

# Assessment Criteria: 3 Rating Elements

## [Rating Element 1]

### Academic Importance of the Research Proposal

#### (1) Academic Importance of the Research Proposal

- Is the research proposal an important research project that should be promoted from a scientific perspective?
- Is the “key research question or issue” comprising the core of the research project clearly stated? Is it original and creative?
- Does the research proposal clearly show the circumstances leading to this research proposal, global research trends, and the positioning of this research within the relevant domain or field?
- By conducting the proposed research project, could we expect positive effects on broader fields, science and technology, the society or other areas?



# 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?

# 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?

# Assessment Criteria: First Stage Review

## [Overall Scores in the First Stage Review]

To determine the adoption of each research proposal, make a comprehensive judgment focusing on the rating elements (1) through (3) above, and assign an overall score on a scale of 1 to 4 in accordance with the scoring distribution shown in the right column in the table below. (This may not be the case if you are asked to review a small number of research proposals.)

If you have “vested interests” in a research proposal, enter the reason in the “Reason for Vested Interests” column.

Also note that “The Status of Application and Acquisition of Research Grants” and “Issues Relevant to Human Rights Protection and Legal Compliance” columns in the research proposal document are not to be considered for the overall score given in the document review. As such, you should assign the overall score based on each of the other columns, etc. Please check the section iii. Points to be Noted on how to handle “The Status of Application and Acquisition of Research Grants” and “Issues Relevant to Human Rights Protection and Legal Compliance” columns in the review process.

# Assessment Criteria: First Stage Review

## [Review Comments in the First Stage Review]

In the first stage review, you must give your review comments in the “Review Comments” column for every research proposal, focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of each research proposal Note that you will not be required to provide review comments in the second stage review.

The review comments will be disclosed to other reviewers to help each reviewer gain better understanding on the research proposals when assigning new overall scores in the second stage review.

# Assessment Criteria: Second Stage Review

## [Overall Scores in the Second Stage Review]

To determine the adoption of each research proposal that qualified for the second stage review based on the results of the first stage document review, make a comprehensive judgment focusing on the rating elements (1) through (3) above. Check also the review comments, etc. provided by all reviewers who are reviewing the same research proposal. Then assign an overall score on a scale of 1 to 4 in accordance with the scoring distribution shown separately as indicated in the right column in the table below.

Note that research proposals that were ranked close to the planned adoption threshold as a result of the first stage document review, and research proposals that were assigned extremely low scores by certain reviewers will also be considered when determining the eligibility for the second stage review.

Also note that “The Status of Application and Acquisition of Research Grants” and “Issues Relevant to Human Rights Protection and Legal Compliance” columns in the research proposal document are not to be considered for the overall score given in the review. As such, you should assign the overall score based on each of the other columns, etc. Please check the section iii. Points to be Noted on how to handle “The Status of Application and Acquisition of Research Grants” and “Issues Relevant to Human Rights Protection and Legal Compliance” columns in the review process.

# 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?



# Reference: Evaluation of Challenging Research

## Challenging Research (Pioneering/Exploratory) Assessment Criteria for Document Review

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) aim to dramatically develop all academic research, from basics to applications, throughout all research fields. In the review for allotment of research funds, each reviewer is required to make appropriate and fair judgment as to whether the submitted research proposals could contribute greatly to this end.

Challenging Research (Pioneering/Exploratory) is intended to support research plans that aim at radically transforming the existing research framework and/or changing the research direction and have the potentials of rapid development based on innovative ideas. (The *Exploratory* category encompasses research plans that are of highly exploratory nature, or are in the budding stage.) This category has a distinctly different character from those of other research categories such as Scientific Research or Early-Career Scientists.

Challenging Research targets research projects that have the potential to radically transform the existing research framework and/or change the research direction—for example, potentials to discover and pursue new principles, reexamine academic concepts and frameworks, or make significant changes in the mindset or implement innovative methodologies, etc. that may bring breakthroughs in research. Accordingly, reviewers are to conduct the reviews with focus on the significance of the research as a “challenging research.”

In addition, from the viewpoint of confirming the feasibility of such “Challenging Research,” examine the applicant's ability to carry out the research by checking his/her research track records, content of research activities, etc. However, if the proposal contains a description on the research achievements, do not make your judgment based on the amount of information.

In the review of Challenging Research, the Medium-sized Section will be applied as the review section. In addition, a Generative Research Fields Review Division may be established as necessary apart from the Review Section table for a limited period of time, especially for areas that are considered to be in high academic need. Also, for the review of *Pioneering*, The review method will be a Comprehensive Review in which all reviewers will first conduct document review on all research proposals, then the same reviewers will conduct discussions from a broad perspective on each research proposal in the panel review. For the review of *Exploratory*, the Two-Stage Document Review method will be implemented instead of a panel review, where the same group of reviewers will conduct document review in two stages to determine the adoption of research proposals.

Note that if there is a large number of applications, a Preliminary Screening will be conducted in order to narrow down to the number of projects appropriate for all reviewers to conduct document review, and each application will be assigned a relative overall score on a scale of 1 to 5.

In the document review for *Pioneering*, each research proposal will first be assigned an absolute score on a scale of 1 to 3 based on the rating elements to determine the validity of the proposal as challenging research. Next, taking into consideration the rating elements to assess the content of the research plan, a relative overall score on a scale of 1 to 4 will be assigned.

In the panel review, reviewers will conduct discussions, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the raw scores, etc. of the overall scores of the document review, and determine the adoption of research proposals and allocation of research funds. The proposed budgets will be respected to the maximum

## Emphasis is on the “Significance” as a “Challenging Research”

Challenging Research targets research projects that have the potential to radically transform the existing research framework and/or change the research direction—for example, potentials to discover and pursue new principles, reexamine academic concepts and frameworks, or make significant changes in the mindset or implement innovative methodologies, etc. that may bring breakthroughs in research. Accordingly, reviewers are to conduct the reviews with focus on the significance of the research as a “challenging research.”

In addition, from the viewpoint of confirming the feasibility of such “Challenging Research,” examine the applicant's ability to carry out the research by checking his/her research track records, content of research activities, etc. However, if the proposal contains a description on the research achievements, do not make your judgment based on the amount of information.

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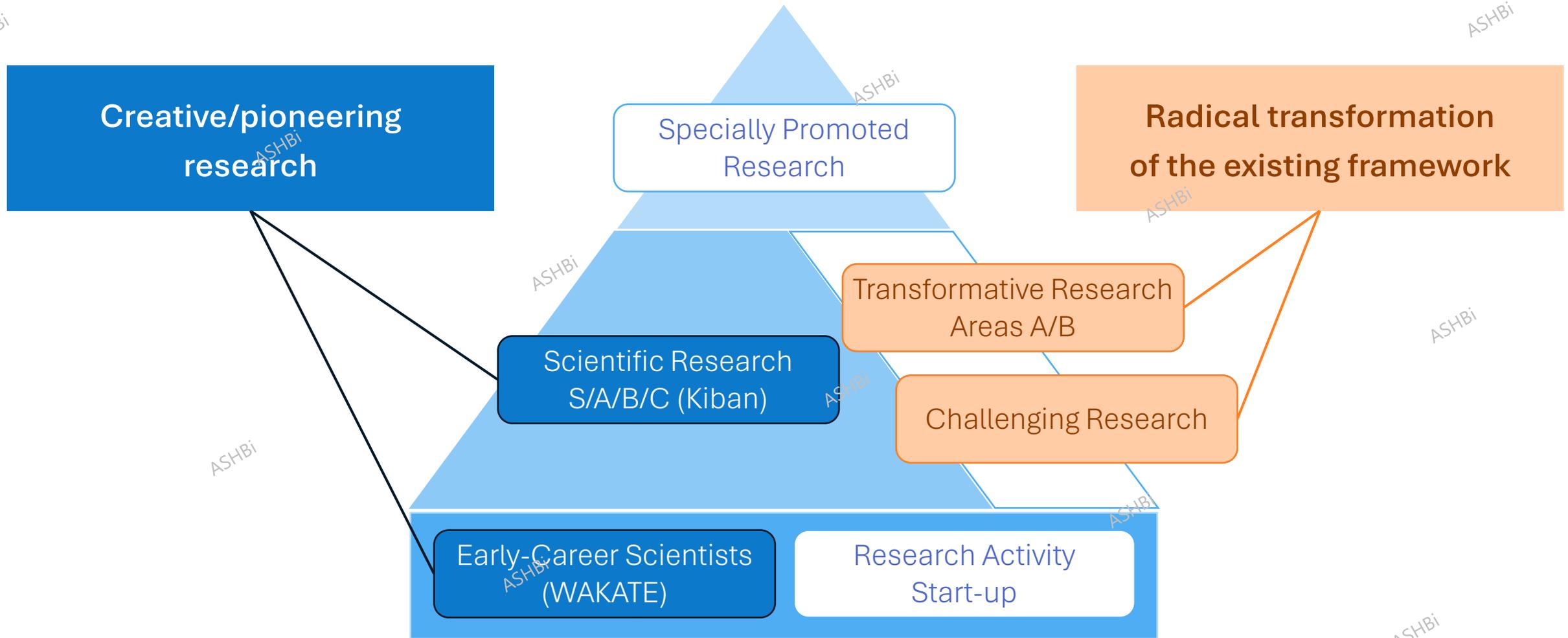


# Appendix 3

## Other KAKENHI references

# Categories for KAKENHI

“Grant-in-Aid (KAKENHI) Program” for



# Restriction on Parallel Grant Application

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

Example of a 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;"> <b>Column B</b>                      Applicable or Not                 </div>				Specially Promoted Research	Scientific Research (S)		Scientific Research (A)		Scientific Research (B)		Scientific Research (C)		Early-Career Scientists (First Time)		Early-Career Scientists (Second Time)*1		Transformative Research Area (A)*2			Transformative Research Area (B)		Challenging Research		Fostering Joint International Research (B)*4	
					New Proposal	New Proposal	General		General		General		New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal	New Proposal		New Proposal
							General	Overseas Scientific Investigation	General	Overseas Scientific Investigation	General	Overseas Scientific Investigation													
					PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI		PI
Scientific Research (B)	General	New Proposal	PI	□	×	×	—	×	×	×	■														
		Continued	PI	□	▲	—	▲	▲	▲	▲															
	Overseas Scientific Investigation	Continued	PI	□	▲	★	★	★	▲	▲													▲		
	Generative Research Fields	Continued	PI	□	□																	▲	▲		
Scientific Research (C)	General	New Proposal	PI	□	×	×	×	—	×	×											×	×			
		Continued	PI	□	▲	▲	▲	—	▲	▲												▲	▲		
	Generative Research Fields	Continued	PI	□	□																	▲	▲		
Early-Career Scientists	New Proposal (First Time)	New Proposal	PI	□	×	×	×	×	—	—											×	×	□		
		New Proposal (Second Time)*1	PI	□	□	□	□	×	—	—													×	□	
	Continued (First Time)	PI	□	▲	▲	▲	▲	—	—													▲	▲	▲	
		PI	□	▲	▲	▲	▲	—	—														▲	▲	
Challenging Research	Pioneering	New Proposal	PI	□				×	×		×	×	×								—	×			
		Continued	PI	□				▲	▲		▲	▲	▲									—	▲		
	Exploratory	New Proposal	PI	□				×	×	×												×	—		
		Continued	PI	□				▲	▲	▲													—		

**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**

# Review Section Table

You are to select “one” review section from the chart which suits you the most

Attached Table 2

## Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research-KAKENHI- “Review Section Table”

- About the Review Section Table . . . . . 1
- The Review Section Table (Overview) . . . . . 2
- The Review Section Table (Table for Basic Section) . . . . . 9
- The Review Section Table  
(Table for Medium-sized and Broad Sections) . . . . . 30

March 9, 2022

Subdivision on Research Grant Screening Section of the Academic Deliberation  
in the Subdivision on Science, Council for Science and Technology

For the “Basic Sections” below, the reviewers may consist of **experts from different Medium-sized & Broad Sections**

**【Basic sections may be presented in plural Medium-sized and Broad Section】**

Basic Section Item	Basic Section Description	Medium-sized Sections corresponding Basic Sections	Broad Sections corresponding Basic Sections
02090	Japanese language education-related	2, 9	A
02100	Foreign language education-related	2, 9	A
80010	Area studies-related	4, 6	A
80020	Tourism studies-related	4, 7, 8	A
80030	Gender studies-related	4, 6, 8	A
80040	Quantum beam science-related	1 4, 1 5	B
90010	Design-related	1, 2 3, 6 1	A, C, J
90020	Library and information science, humanistic and social informatics-related	2, 6 2	A, J
90030	Cognitive science-related	1 0, 6 1	A, J
90110	Biomedical engineering-related	9 0	D, I
90120	Biomaterials-related	9 0	D, I
90130	Medical systems-related	9 0	D, I
90140	Medical technology assessment-related	9 0	D, I
90150	Medical assistive technology-related	9 0	D, I

# 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	<b>32%</b>	21%
B	Algebra, Analysis, Condensed matter physics, Plasma science, Particle-/nuclear-/astro-physics, Earth and planetary science related fields	5,370	1,459	<b>27%</b>	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	<b>27%</b>	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	<b>24%</b>	5%
E	Physical chemistry, Organic chemistry, Inorganic/coordination chemistry, Polymers, Inorganic chemistry, Biomolecular chemistry related fields	4,187	1,040	<b>25%</b>	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	<b>26%</b>	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	<b>26%</b>	5%
H	Pharmaceutical sciences, Biomedical structure and function, Pathology and infection/immunology related fields	4,612	1,237	<b>27%</b>	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	<b>29%</b>	34%
J	Information science and computer engineering, Human informatics, Applied informatics related fields	3,787	1,026	<b>27%</b>	4%
K	Environmental analyses and evaluation, Environmental conservation related fields	1,795	452	<b>25%</b>	2%
<b>Total</b>		<b>88,852</b>	<b>25,044</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

# 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

Original DB found at <https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/en/>



# Appendix 4

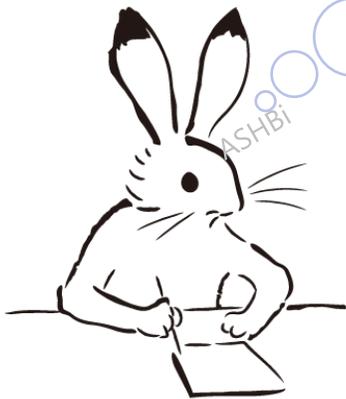
## Other useful tips



# Questions you want to answer in your abstract

A good abstract will provide answers to reviewer's questions

- **Which problem are you going to solve?**
- **Why is this problem important to science/society?**
- **What is the goal here (What will you find/achieve?)**
- **How will/What makes you manage to do it?**
- **What potential impact can you provide to science/society?**



Modified from "Writing an abstract", Australian National University  
<https://www.anu.edu.au/students/academic-skills/research-writing/journal-article-writing/writing-an-abstract>

# What's different in Paper Writing & Grant Writing?

## *Academic Writing versus Grant Writing: Contrasting Perspectives*

<b>Academic Writing</b>	<b>Grant Writing</b>
<p><b>Scholarly pursuit:</b> <i>Individual passion</i></p> <p><b>Past oriented:</b> <i>Work that has been done</i></p> <p><b>Theme-centered:</b> <i>Theory and thesis</i></p> <p><b>Expository rhetoric:</b> <i>Explaining to reader</i></p> <p><b>Impersonal tone:</b> <i>Objective, dispassionate</i></p> <p><b>Individualistic:</b> <i>Primarily a solo activity</i></p> <p><b>Few length constraints:</b> <i>Verbosity rewarded</i></p> <p><b>Specialized terminology:</b> <i>“Insider jargon”</i></p>	<p><b>Sponsor goals:</b> <i>Service attitude</i></p> <p><b>Future oriented:</b> <i>Work that should be done</i></p> <p><b>Project-centered:</b> <i>Objectives and activities</i></p> <p><b>Persuasive rhetoric:</b> <i>“Selling” the reader</i></p> <p><b>Personal tone:</b> <i>Conveys excitement</i></p> <p><b>Team-focused:</b> <i>Feedback needed</i></p> <p><b>Strict length constraints:</b> <i>Brevity rewarded</i></p> <p><b>Accessible language:</b> <i>Easily understood</i></p>

Porter R, “Why Academics Have a Hard Time Writing Good Grant Proposals”,  
The Journal of Research Administration, vol 38, 2, 2007