

FAQ on Japan-Related Research Grants

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

| Category    | Category                 | Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| Application | Application method       | Is it possible to submit the application by email or mail?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Impossible. Only apply through The Sumitomo Foundation application system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|             |                          | Is it possible for one person to submit multiple applications?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | If different research content, multiple applications are possible, however, in which case you need to apply with a different email address(One email address is required for each application.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|             |                          | Is it necessary to apply in cooperation with a Japanese person?<br>What if I have questions about the application?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Not necessarily.<br>Contact The Sumitomo Foundation at "japan.related@sumitomo.or.jp" (in English or Japanese)<br>Make inquiries at least one week before the closing date.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|             | Application form         | Is it possible to make changes to the format of the report and describe it in detail or attach supplementary materials?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Rules fixed. Strictly observe the number of pages (9 pages) and the specified font size (10.5 points or more).<br>Supplementary materials will not be accepted.<br>Even if you can enter it on the system, you will be disqualified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|             |                          | Is it possible to submit a handwritten application form?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Impossible. Download the form from the system and fill it in with your PC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|             |                          | Is the application form in English only?<br>What happens if the application is not completed by the deadline?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Applications can only be made in English or in Japanese<br>No extension of application deadline. In case of FY2025, October 31 at 17:00 (Japan time).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|             | Letter of recommendation | Who should write a letter of recommendation?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | The format of the letter of recommendation is free, but please be sure to use the letterhead in principle of the university or the institution to which the recommender belongs.<br>The signature or seal of the recommender is required.<br>Specific letter of recommendation from academic who knows the applicant well is required. Recommendations without specifics reasons are invalid.<br>Collaborators cannot be recommenders.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|             |                          | Is one letter of recommendation enough?<br>Also need letters of recommendation for my collaborators?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | One is fine, but multiple is possible.<br>Not necessarily.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|             | Requested budget         | What is the exchange rate for budget?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Use the bank rate at the time of application.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|             |                          | Is the indirect cost (overhead) of the affiliated institution covered by the grant?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Indirect costs (overhead) from the grant are not allowed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|             |                          | Is dedicated software necessary for research acceptable as an expense?<br>Are academic participation fees allowed?<br>Is it possible to purchase PCs, printers, etc. with grant?<br><br>Are research assistant fees acceptable?<br><br>What is the maximum grant amount?<br>Is it acceptable to claim only the costs of attending conferences, inviting experts, and publishing books to present research results? | General-purpose items are not allowed, but items specialized for research are acceptable.<br>Anything necessary for research is allowed.<br>General-purpose items are not allowed, but items specialized for research are acceptable.<br>Personnel (interpreters, assistants, etc.) hired to assist during the research period are permitted.<br>Honoraria for researcher itself and collaborators are not accepted.<br><br>A maximum of 2 million yen or its equivalent in US dollars.<br>The costs listed on the left are accepted if they are part of the overall research costs, but they are not accepted as the only costs.<br>The main focus must be on direct costs related to the research. |
|             | Application system       | Is it possible to apply from outside the system?<br>What dose an applicant need when applying for the system?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Impossible. Application from the system only<br>E-mail address of the applicant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| Research | Theme            | Are there any advantages or disadvantages of the theme?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|          | Research method  | Is it necessary to visit Japanese research institutes and universities for research?<br>Can applicant visit foreign countries other than Japan?<br>Can applicant expect support from The Sumitomo Group (acceptance of visitors, etc.) for the research?<br>As a comparative study, is it acceptable to conduct a comparative study that includes a third country?                        | Not necessarily. Encourage a visit to Japan.<br><br>Yes<br>No<br><br>Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|          | Research period  | Is the research period only one year?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | At the time of application, please make a research plan within one year. After the start of the research, it is possible to extend it for unavoidable reasons (up to 2 years).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|          | Research content | Is it possible to apply with the content that has already been announced?<br>Will The Sumitomo Foundation publish the research results?<br><br>Is it possible to find out not only the themes of those who have been selected, but also the themes of those who have not been selected, from websites, etc.?<br>Does the applicant need to write a paper or publish the research results? | Impossible<br><br>No. Completion report submitted by grant recipients are posted on The Sumitomo Foundation's official website.<br>It's possible to find the themes of those who have been selected in the website. Information such as the application themes of unsuccessful applicants will not be made public.<br>Not necessarily.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|          | Research result  | Who owns the research results?<br>Are there any restrictions on the publication of research results?<br>What are the research results required of grant recipients?<br><br><br>When should the report be submitted?<br>Need to write a dissertation?<br><br>Need to create a publication?                                                                                                 | The researcher itself.<br>No.<br>After completing the research period, please submit a Completion Report and a Financial Report. If any deliverables such as papers, publications or others, please also submit them (photocopies are acceptable).<br>Please be sure to include an acknowledgment of The Sumitomo Foundation in the publications and articles.<br><br>Within 3 months after the end of the research period<br>Not necessarily. Please be sure to include an acknowledgment of The Sumitomo Foundation in the publications and articles.<br>Not necessarily. Please be sure to include an acknowledgment of The Sumitomo Foundation in the publications and articles. |
|          | Past project     | Is it possible to refer to past projects and research results?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Posted on The Sumitomo Foundation official website                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| Evaluation | Evaluation criteria | Are there any evaluation criteria for acceptance?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Based on the contents of the application form, considering Eligibility, Feasibility and Suitability of the research theme.<br>Please refer to the "Selection Review" posted on The Sumitomo Foundation's official website.<br>It is also important to contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and Asian countries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|            | Pass/Fail           | Will the reason be disclosed in case of rejection?<br>Who are the selection committee members?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Not disclosed<br>The selection of applications will be made by the Foundation's Selection Committee made up of certain persons of high academic standing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Grant      | Grant               | Can it be combined with other financial assistance (another fund)?<br>How are grants paid?<br><br>Can get a grant through university?<br><br>How much is the grant amount per case?<br><br>Is it possible to continue to receive the grant multiple times?<br><br>Is the grant paid in installments?<br>Can food and beverage expenses be covered by the grant?<br><br>What if there is money left over? | Yes<br><br>Payment will be made to the account specified by the applicant (in principle, personal account) after the contract is concluded.<br>Universities and affiliated institutions should not collect administrative fees. A certificate stating that overhead fee will not be charged to the researcher must be issued by the university or affiliated institution.<br><br>Up to 2 million yen (or equivalent to 2 million yen in US dollar amount). Plans exceeding this amount at the time of application will not be accepted<br><br>Researcher who has been selected in the past can apply only after having completed its research. Cannot reapply during the research period.<br><br>Lump-sum payment<br>Food and beverage expenses are not permitted (including during business trips)<br>As a general rule, use the full amount of the grant. If it is unavoidable that applicant cannot use all of them, please contact us individually. |