

External Research Funding Support Program (KAKENHI)

Application Guidelines for FY2025

- A. Research Category Step-Up Support Program
- B. Retry Support Program
- C. Large-budget Research Category Support Program by
KAKENHI Advisors

* The 'URA Accompanied Application Support Program (Large-budget Research Categories)' has been renamed to 'Large-budget Research Category Support Program by KAKENHI Advisors'.

* The 'Step-Up Support Program for Applications Prior to Final Year' will no longer be offered starting FY2025.

Introduction

To increase the number of applications, selections, and total funding under the KAKENHI program, the Research Strategy Office is implementing external funding support programs.

List of projects (research expenses) supported by external funds in FY2017 [Outline].

	A	B	C
	Research Category Step-Up Support Program	Retry Support Program	Large-budget Research Category Support Program by KAKENHI Advisors
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Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigating the risk of research interruption or stagnation due to the loss of research funding Promote challenge to higher level research (safety net) 		Support for applying for large-budget research projects
Eligible applicants	<p>A principal investigator whose project concludes in FY2024 (Reiwa 6), who applied for a higher research category in FY2025 (Reiwa 7) and was not selected (despite being subject to a hearing or receiving an A rating), and who intends to reapply in FY2026 (Reiwa 8).</p> <p>[Previous project] [Proposed project]</p> <p>Scientific research(A) ⇒ Scientific research(S)</p> <p>Scientific research(B) ⇒ Scientific research(A)</p> <p>Scientific research(C)/ Early-career ⇒ Scientific research(B)</p>	<p>An individual who has previously been awarded a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S) or (A), who applied again for the same category but was not selected (despite being subject to a hearing or receiving an A rating), and intends to reapply in FY2026 (Reiwa 8). *Additional conditions may apply.</p> <p>[Eligibility Criteria]</p> <p>① Full-time faculty member (including specially appointed positions)</p> <p>② Has served as Principal Investigator for a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) or (S) within the past three years (FY2022-FY2024)</p> <p>③ Applied for a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) or (S) in FY2025 and was not</p>	<p>A full-time faculty member of this university (including specially appointed positions) who intends to apply for one of the following large-budget research categories. *The final decision will be made based on factors such as past application and award history for KAKENHI.</p> <p>[Eligible Categories]</p> <p>International Leading Research, Specially Promoted Research, Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas(A)・(B), and Scientific research(S)</p>

		<p>selected (despite being subject to a hearing or receiving an A rating)</p> <p>④ Has no ongoing project as Principal Investigator in FY2025</p> <p>⑤ Has research achievements during the three-year period from FY2023 to FY2025</p>	
Support Details	<p>Research Expense Support [Guideline Amounts]</p> <p>Scientific Research (S): ¥2,000,000</p> <p>Scientific Research (A): ¥1,500,000</p> <p>Scientific Research (B): ¥750,000</p>	<p>Research Expense Support [Guideline Amount] ¥1,250,000</p>	<p>Support Provided by Matched Advisor</p> <p>1) Research Planning Meetings</p> <p>2) Application Document Review</p> <p>3) Mock Interviews</p>

※The amount of support research expenses in the table is a guideline amount, and will be determined based on the budget for the fiscal year 2025 and the number of recipients.

A. Research Category Step-Up Support Program

1. Purpose

For researchers who applied for higher-tier KAKENHI categories but were not selected, and meet the specified criteria, this program provides research funding to mitigate the risk of research interruption or stagnation due to loss of funding. It also promotes continued challenges to higher-level categories of KAKENHI and contributes to increasing the university's total external funding.

2. Eligible Applicants

Applicants must meet all of the following three criteria:

- ① The applicant must be the Principal Investigator of a research project listed under the "Research Categories Concluding in FY2024 (Reiwa 6)" and must have applied as Principal Investigator in the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) KAKENHI call for a research category listed under the "Eligible Research Categories for Support." However, applications under the "Generative Research Fields" category are not eligible.

Research Categories Concluding in FY2024 (Reiwa 6)	Eligible Research Categories for Support	Note
Scientific research (A)	Scientific research (S)	If the applicant is selected for a Scientific Research (A) as a Principal Investigator through multiple applications, they will not be eligible for this support.
Scientific research (B)	Scientific research (A)	If the applicant is selected for a Scientific Research (S) as a Principal Investigator through multiple applications, they will not be eligible for this support.
Scientific research (C)/ Early-Career	Scientific research (B)	—

- ② The result of the application in the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) call must correspond to one of the categories listed in the following table.

Eligible Research Categories for Support	The result of the application
Scientific research (S)	Was subject to a hearing review but was not selected
Scientific research (A)	Although the application was not selected for funding, it received an A rating or an equivalent evaluation.
Scientific research (B)	(In research fields where approximate ranking is not provided, this refers to cases where the average raw score for evaluation elements is 3 or higher.)

- ③ The applicant must continue their research challenge by applying again as a Principal Investigator from Hokkaido university in the FY2026 (Reiwa 8) KAKENHI call, under the same research category as in the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) call.

3. Financial Support

The following amounts serve as guidelines for support. Final amounts will be determined based on the FY2025 budget and the number of supported applicants.

Eligible Research Categories for Support	Research Expense Support [Guideline Amounts]
Scientific research (S)	¥2,000,000
Scientific research (A)	¥1,500,000
Scientific research (B)	¥750,000

4. Application Procedure and Deadline

Applicants who wish to receive support under this program must submit the application form and screening result to their department's administrative office by the deadline set by the department. The department will compile the submissions and email them to the Scientific Research Grants Section, Research Promotion Planning Division.

Application Deadline	By 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2025 (Reiwa 7) [Must arrive at: Research Promotion and Planning Division (Research Integrity Office) , Research Promotion Department]
Submission Address	kakenhi@research.hokudai.ac.jp

*** Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted for any reason.**

5. Selection Process and Timeline

Eligible recipients will be determined by the Director of the Research Strategy Office based on the application form and screening result, and will be notified in writing in May 2025 (Reiwa 7) (tentative).

6. Other Conditions and Notes

- ① This call is being launched prior to the formulation and finalization of the university's FY2025 (Reiwa 7) budget. Please note that the details of the support may be subject to change depending on the budget situation.
- ② Recipients of support under this program who do not apply as a Principal Investigator from this university for the same research category in the FY2026 (Reiwa 8) KAKENHI call as in the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) call must submit a report explaining the reason for not applying, and in principle, must return the full amount of the support funds.
- ③ Recipients of support under this program who receive an additional grant award for the supported research category must return the remaining balance of the support funds, excluding the amount that had already been spent and finalized as of the date of the grant award notification.
- ④ The support funds are expected to be allocated from the university's general operating budget and may be used for expenses incurred from April 2025 (Reiwa 7). However, the funds may not be carried over for use in FY2026 (Reiwa 8).
- ⑤ Recipients of support under this program who apply in the FY2026 (Reiwa 8) KAKENHI call for the same research category as in the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) call, but are not selected for funding, must submit the screening result for that research category.
- ⑥ Applicants who are not employed by this university may also apply, provided that the department or equivalent is able to manage the support funds. Please note that, depending on the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) program budget and the number of eligible recipients, some applicants may not be selected for support.
- ⑦ Recipients of support under this program are required to cooperate with interviews or other surveys conducted by the Research Strategy Office for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the program.
- ⑧ Recipients of support under this program who are selected for funding in the FY2026 (Reiwa 8) KAKENHI call must cooperate in registering their application documents in the "Approved KAKENHI Proposal Database." Confidential or unpublished information that should not be made public will be appropriately taken into account during the registration process.

B. Retry Support Program

1. Purpose

This program is intended to support Principal Investigators who applied for KAKENHI but were not selected, and who meet the specified eligibility requirements, in cases where research funding is genuinely needed. The purpose is to help them continue their research activities and facilitate early success in future KAKENHI applications, thereby contributing to an increase in the number of KAKENHI grants awarded at Hokkaido university.

2. Eligible Applicants

Applicants must meet all of the following eight conditions:

- ① The applicant must be a professor, associate professor, lecturer, or assistant professor (including specially appointed faculty) affiliated with Hokkaido university.
- ② The applicant must have served as a Principal Investigator for a Scientific Research (S) or (A) during the past three years (FY2022 to FY2024).
- ③ The applicant must have applied from this university as a Principal Investigator for a Scientific Research (S) or (A) (hereinafter referred to as an “eligible research category”) in the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) KAKENHI call, and must not have been selected for funding.
- ④ The applicant must have received an approximate evaluation ranking of “A” for the eligible research category in the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) KAKENHI call, and in the case of Scientific Research (S), the proposal must have been selected for a hearing review but ultimately not selected for funding.
- ⑤ The applicant must not have any ongoing KAKENHI project as a Principal Investigator in FY2025 (Reiwa 7). Applicants who are awaiting the screening results of a proposed project as Principal Investigator may still apply for this support program.
- ⑥ The applicant must not have received support under the “Research Category Step-Up Support Program” in FY2025 (Reiwa 7).
- ⑦ The applicant must have at least one research achievement—such as a conference presentation, journal publication, or academic book—during the period from FY2023 (Reiwa 5) to FY2025 (Reiwa 7).
- ⑧ In the FY2026 (Reiwa 8) KAKENHI call, the applicant must apply as a Principal Investigator from Hokkaido university for one of the research categories listed in the table on the following page..

Research category applied for in the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) KAKENHI call but not selected for funding	Research category to be applied for in the FY2026 (Reiwa 8) KAKENHI call
Scientific Research (S)	Scientific Research (S) (including concurrent application for Scientific Research (A))
Scientific Research (A)	Scientific Research (A) (including concurrent application for Scientific Research (S))

3. Financial Support

In both cases, research expenses will be supported with a guideline amount of ¥1,250,000. The final amount of support will be determined based on the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) program budget and the number of eligible recipients.

Research Category to Be Applied For	Estimated Support Amount
Scientific Research (S) / (A)	¥1,250,000

4. Application Procedure and Deadline

Those wishing to receive support must submit the individual application form and screening result to their department's administrative office by the designated deadline. The department will compile the documents and email them, along with a summary sheet, to the Scientific Research Grants Section, Research Promotion Planning Division.

Application Deadline	By 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2025 (Reiwa 7) [Must arrive at: Research Promotion and Planning Division (Research Integrity Office) , Research Promotion Department]
Submission Address	kakenhi@research.hokudai.ac.jp

*** Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted for any reason.**

5. Selection Process and Timeline

Eligible recipients will be determined by the Director of the Research Strategy Office based on the application form and screening result, and will be notified in writing in May 2025 (Reiwa 7) (tentative).

6. Other Conditions and Notes

- ① This call is being launched prior to the formulation and approval of the university's FY2025 (Reiwa 7) budget. Please note that the support details may be subject to change depending on the budget situation.
- ② If a recipient of support does not apply in the FY2026 (Reiwa 8) KAKENHI call as a Principal Investigator from this university for one of the research categories specified in the table under "2. Eligibility Requirement (7)," they must submit a report explaining the reason for not applying and, in principle, return the full amount of the support funds.
- ③ If a recipient of support is newly awarded a KAKENHI grant for a different research category as a Principal Investigator in FY2025 (Reiwa 7), they must return the unspent portion of the support funds, excluding the amount that had been finalized as spent by the date of the grant award notice.
- ④ If a recipient of support applies for the relevant research category in the FY2025 (Reiwa 7) KAKENHI call and is not selected for funding, they must submit the screening result.
- ⑤ The support funds are planned to be allocated from the university's general operating budget and may be used for expenses incurred from April 2025 (Reiwa 7). However, the funds cannot be carried over into FY2026 (Reiwa 8).
- ⑥ Recipients of support under this program are required to cooperate with interviews or other surveys conducted by the Research Strategy Office for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the program.
- ⑦ Recipients of support under this program who are selected for funding in the FY2026 (Reiwa 8) KAKENHI call must cooperate in registering their application documents in the "Approved KAKENHI Proposal Viewing System." When registering, appropriate consideration will be given to unpublished data and other information that should not be made public.

C. Large-budget Research Category Support Program by KAKENHI Advisors

1. Purpose

This program aims to support applicants planning to apply as Principal Investigators for large-budget KAKENHI categories by matching them with research advisors. The support includes research planning meetings, reviews of application documents, and mock interview preparation, with the goal of increasing the number of applications and successful grants at Hokkaido university.

2. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are professors, associate professors, lecturers, or assistant professors (including specially appointed faculty) affiliated with this university who plan to apply as Principal Investigators or Area Leaders for one of the following large-budget KAKENHI categories: International Leading Research, Specially Promoted Research, Transformative Research Areas (A/B), or Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S).

In selecting the recipients of support, past KAKENHI application and award history will be taken into consideration.

3. Support Contents

Researchers with experience in receiving large-budget KAKENHI grants or serving as reviewers will be matched as KAKENHI advisors. Applicants can choose from the following support options according to their needs.

(1) Research Planning Meetings

Applicants preparing to apply for a large-budget KAKENHI category may receive support for holding research planning meetings with their advisor, including opportunities for discussion and feedback on their research plan.

(2) Application Document Review

Applicants may receive a review of their application documents by a KAKENHI advisor.

(3) Mock Interviews

If the submitted proposal is selected for a hearing, applicants may receive support for a mock interview, with the advisor acting as a reviewer.

4. Application Method

Those who wish to receive support under this program must submit the application form to the Research Promotion Planning Division through their department's administrative office. (Submission email: kakenhi@research.hokudai.ac.jp)

5. Selection Process

Recipients of support will be determined as needed based on the submitted application form, through consultation between the Director of the Research Strategy Office and the Executive Advisor to the President in charge of the office. Notification will be provided in writing.

6. Other Conditions and Notes

- ① Depending on the outcome of the advisor matching process, the requested type of support may not always be available.
- ② Recipients of support must apply for a large-budget KAKENHI category at least once within two years from the date of receiving support. (An application submitted in the same fiscal year as the support is counted as one attempt.) However, if it is determined during the support process that applying for a different competitive research grant is more appropriate than KAKENHI, the applicant may substitute that application instead.
- ③ Recipients of support must report the outcome to the Director of the Research Strategy Office.
- ④ Recipients of support must cooperate with interviews or other surveys conducted by the Research Strategy Office for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of this program.
- ⑤ Recipients who receive support and are subsequently awarded a grant must register their application documents in the “Approved KAKENHI Proposal Viewing System.” (Appropriate consideration will be given during registration to unpublished data or other sensitive information that should not be disclosed.)

7. Others

This program does not provide research funding; however, depending on the budget situation of the Research Strategy Office, travel expenses and other costs that contribute to building research collaborations may be supported.