



FY 2026 (Reiwa 8)

Academic Research Grant Application Guide

August 25, 2025

Hyogo Science and Technology Association
<https://hyogosta.jp>

Academic Research Grant Project

【About Academic Research Grants for FY 2026 (Reiwa 8)】

Since its inception as a core organization responsible for promoting science and technology in Hyogo Prefecture, the Hyogo Science and Technology Association (HyogoSTA) has provided financial grants to researchers and engineers who either work or reside in the Prefecture and are engaged in wide-ranging scientific and technological endeavors.

For FY 2026, HyogoSTA is offering funding again to support various research activities – ranging from creative and exploratory projects run by young up-and-coming researchers to fundamental and basic research as well as applied and practical research initiatives that will facilitate the industrial evolution – all with a view toward further advancing science and technology in the Prefecture.

HyogoSTA will be accepting research plans from a diverse range of projects, including ones that will be using SPring-8, a large synchrotron radiation facility; SACLA, an X-ray free electron laser facility; the Fugaku Supercomputer; the FOCUS Supercomputer; and other state-of-the-art research facilities and resources that are available in the Prefecture. HyogoSTA welcomes active applications from researchers and engineers affiliated with universities, research institutions, business corporations, and other sectors.

I Overview

1. Eligibility

Researchers and engineers (in the case of group research, the principal researcher) working or residing in Hyogo Prefecture and who have obtained approval from their affiliated organization to conduct the research in question.

- * A written consent from the head of the applicant's affiliated organization (equivalent to a dean or higher) is required after the grant application is approved.

- * Once the grant is approved, the recipient's affiliated organization is responsible for recording and managing all revenue and expenses related to the grant.
- * These conditions must be met for the duration of the grant period.
- * Individuals affiliated with universities or other research institutions outside Hyogo Prefecture as of the date of application may apply if they plan to transfer to Hyogo Prefecture by April 1 of the grant year. If applicable, please indicate this in your application.
- * In principle, those who have received this grant for the same research topic within the past three years (after FY 2023) are not eligible.

2. Eligible research projects

Eligible projects are those engaging in research and development on the topics that are related to daily living – such as health, welfare, the environment, safety, and food – or in fundamental research and development on the topics that concern the industries – such as materials, information, energy, and life. Research topics must either be original and have potential for development, or be aimed at creating unique and novel technologies, discovering and elucidating novel phenomena, or developing novel principles and theories with a realistic chance of success.

3. Classification of disciplinary divisions and eligible fields

Classification of disciplinary divisions	Eligible Fields
Medical/Pharmaceutics /Nursing (KAKENHI Broad Section H, I)	Basic medicine, clinical medicine, pharmaceutics, nursing, sports and health sciences, biomedical engineering, etc.
Life Sciences/Agricultural Sciences (KAKENHI Broad Section F, G)	Agricultural science, agricultural chemistry, veterinary and animal science, molecular biology, developmental biology, cell biology, genetics, neuroscience, etc.

Physical Sciences (KAKENHI Broad Section B, E)	Mathematics, physics, space and earth sciences, plasma science, organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, physical chemistry, polymer chemistry, biomolecular chemistry, etc.
Engineering/Information /Interdisciplinary Studies (KAKENHI Broad Section C, D, J, K)	Electrical and electronic engineering, materials engineering, chemical engineering, applied physics, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, architecture, measurement and control engineering, robotics, resource and energy engineering, information science (engineering), disaster prevention engineering, etc.

* Applications will be reviewed for each of the four classified disciplinary divisions as indicated above.

4. Amount: Up to 1 million yen/grant
5. Eligible expenses: Equipment and supplies, consumables, rental fees and usage-related costs, reference materials, printing expenses, travel expenses, research collaborator honoraria, communication and transportation expenses, and other expenses deemed directly necessary for the research
6. Grant period: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027
 - * An extension of up to one year may be approved depending on progress.
7. Expected number of grants: Approximately 30
8. Scheduled disbursement: June 2026
 - * The granted funds must be managed by the administrative office of the recipient's affiliated organization and clearly separated from other research funds to ensure proper management and use. All payments using the granted funds must be completed by March 31, 2027.

II Application Period

Monday, September 1 – Friday, October 10, 2025
(Apply online only)

Download the Application Form (Form 1) from the HyogoSTA website, complete it, and submit it via the Application Website (postal or in-person submissions are not accepted).

- * Corrections or resubmissions of the research plan statement or other documents will not be accepted after the Application Form has been submitted.

III Application Procedure

- (1) Enter the necessary information in the Application Form (Form 1) using Microsoft Word or similar software (handwriting is not allowed). You may insert photos or figures as needed. While the application may be prepared in either black-and-white or color, its copies will be distributed to the reviewers in black-and-white. Only one application per applicant is accepted per fiscal year.

- * The application form can be downloaded from the HyogoSTA website.

→[FY 2026 Application Form](#) (Word)

- * The form has been updated. Please be sure to use only the current year's version.

- (2) **Applications must be submitted via the Application Website, which is linked on the HyogoSTA website.**

IV How to Fill Out the Application Form

- (1) In the "Research Topic" section, describe the details of your research clearly and concisely within 20 words.

Include a subtitle if it cannot be described within 20 words.

- (2) In the "Field of Research Topic" section, please select and enter the five-digit code, along with its name, that best matches your topic from among the Basic Section codes provided in the Review Section Table of the KAKENHI Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research. Then enter the single alphabet letter that represents the Broad Section covering the Basic Section code you have selected, and place a circle (○) over the disciplinary division to which the Broad Section

belongs.

- * Submitted research projects will be reviewed based on the classified disciplinary divisions.
- * The KAKENHI Review Section Table is available on the HyogoSTA website.

→(Reference) [KAKENHI Review Section Table](#)

- (3) In the “Plan for Use of Grant Funds” section, list the cost of purchasing items needed for the research and expenses needed for promoting the research.

【Eligible expenses】

1. Equipment and supplies 2. Consumables 3. Rental fees and usage-related costs 4. Reference materials 5. Printing expenses 6. Travel expenses 7. Research collaborator honoraria 8. Communication and transportation expenses 9. Other expenses deemed directly necessary for the research

- * If your research plan entails any equipment and supplies expenses, state the name of each item in the form. For other expenses, specify the applicable category from the list above.

- (4) Outline of Research Plan (Part 1): In the “Summary of Application” section, summarize your application clearly in 120 words maximum, with up to three keywords.
- (5) Outline of Research Plan (Part 2): The “3. Research Schedule” should be listed as April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027.
- (6) Outline of Research Plan (Part 3): In the “Summary of Research Experience” section, list major research papers, etc. published by the applicant (in the case of group research, the principal researcher) since 2021, starting with the most recent paper, and moving in reverse chronological order by publication date.

V Screening

(1) Screening schedule

First round: November 2025 – mid-January 2026

Second round: Mid-January 2026 – end of February 2026

(2) Screening process

First round: For each of the four classified disciplinary divisions to which the research topics belong, a review board consisting of experts in the corresponding field will select and recommend candidates for the second round.

Second round: A committee of industry, academic, and government experts will comprehensively review the topics recommended by the review board in the first round and select the final recipients.

(3) Screening criteria

Submitted research projects will be judged comprehensively based on the following criteria:

- Clarity of purpose and objectives
- Innovativeness and originality
- Potential for future development
- Need for funding and other factors

VI Notification of Results

Applicants will be notified in writing around the beginning of March 2026.

VII Report and Patents

(1) **In principle, a performance report (consisting of a progress report and a financial report) must be submitted by Friday, April 9, 2027, following the end of the fiscal year in question.**

If the report is not submitted without a valid reason, the grant approval may be revoked and a repayment of the grant may be requested.

(2) Progress reports will be published on the HyogoSTA website (<https://hyogosta.jp>).

(3) Applicants may file patent or utility model applications, but are required to report the details thereof to HyogoSTA.

VIII Other

- (1) Application forms will not be used for any purpose other than screening, and the contents thereof will be kept strictly confidential.
- (2) Application materials will not be returned regardless of whether the application is approved or rejected.
- (3) Applicants who wish to make administrative changes to their application after submission, including withdrawal, are requested to contact the HyogoSTA office below.
- (4) Information on the selected projects (e.g., recipients' names, organizations, positions, research themes to be funded by the grant) will be announced to the press and published on the HyogoSTA website, project reports, association bulletins, and presentation ceremony materials.
- (5) Applicants selected for research grants will be invited to attend a grant presentation ceremony, which HyogoSTA plans to hold. HyogoSTA will also host a research presentation session along with the grant presentation ceremony, where one grant recipient from each classified disciplinary division will be asked to give a presentation on their research project.
- (6) Grant recipients will be asked to participate in a follow-up survey (questionnaire) conducted in two rounds after the end of the grant period.

【For Inquiries】

Hyogo Science and Technology Association – Project Division
5-10-1 Shimoyamate-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture
(on the 7th floor of the Hyogo Prefectural Office Building No. 1)
Phone: 078-362-3845
Email: jigyou@hyogosta.jp