KAKENHI NEWS

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KAKENHI is Changing for the First Time in Half a Century!

Before the call for proposals

● 2018 KAKENHI Screening System Reform Outline
● Screening Divisions Review

Learn about KAKENHI!

STEP 1 Before the call for proposals is open, understand the...

● Grant categories   ● Screening system
● Schedule   ● Application forms and guidelines
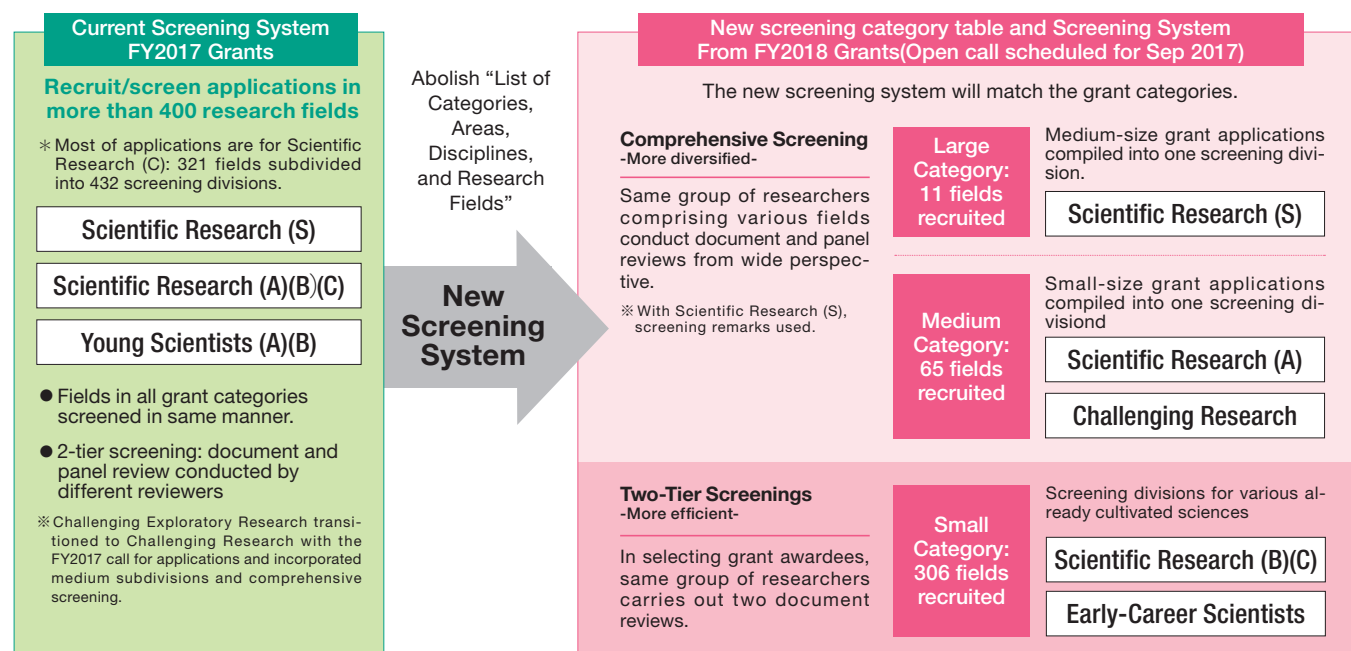
STEP 2 Once the call for proposals begins...

● Read the application guidelines carefully
● Check your application eligibility
● Get (confirm) your ID and password for the KAKENHI Electronic Application System

STEP 3 Write your application
Utilize the Research Office

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research(KAKENHI) is the Japanese government's only competitive funding scheme to support researchers in pursuing their own independent ideas.

FY2018 Reform of the KAKENHI Screening System

● JSPS is radically revising KAKENHI application and screening in order to promote diverse and creative academic research.

Figure 5

Current Screening System FY2017 Grants

Recruit/screen applications in more than 400 research fields

＊Most of applications are for Scientific Research (C): 321 fields subdivided into 432 screening divisions.

| Scientific Research (S) |

| Scientific Research (A)(B)(C) |

| Young Scientists (A)(B) |

● Fields in all grant categories screened in same manner.

● 2-tier screening: document and panel review conducted by different reviewers

※Challenging Exploratory Research transitioned to Challenging Research with the FY2017 call for applications and incorporated medium subdivisions and comprehensive screening.

Abolish "List of Categories, Areas, Disciplines, and Research Fields"

New Screening System

New screening category table and Screening System From FY2018 Grants(Open call scheduled for Sep 2017)

The new screening system will match the grant categories.

Comprehensive Screening
-More diversified-

Same group of researchers comprising various fields conduct document and panel reviews from wide perspective.

※With Scientific Research (S), screening remarks used.

Large Category: 11 fields recruited

Medium-size grant applications compiled into one screening division.

| Scientific Research (S) |

Medium Category: 65 fields recruited

Small-size grant applications compiled into one screening divisiond

| Scientific Research (A) |

| Challenging Research |

Two-Tier Screenings
-More efficient-

In selecting grant awardees, same group of researchers carries out two document reviews.

Small Category: 306 fields recruited

Screening divisions for various already cultivated sciences

| Scientific Research (B)(C) |

| Early-Career Scientists |

Screening Category Review

The applicant chooses which screening category to apply in from the examples in the tables of small, medium, and large categories.

Figure 6

Small categories are the basic unit of the screening divisions and constitute the Scientific Research (B, C) and Early-Career Scientists screening divisions.

Small categories feature examples but these are only to help the applicant understand the nature of the categories and do not preclude the applicant from applying with different content.

● Screening Division Table (small category) Excerpt

Small Category	Examples	Suitable Medium and Large Category	
		Medium Category	Large Category
01010	〔Philosophy and Ethics field〕 Philosophy in general, Ethics in general, Western philosophy, Western ethics, Japanese philosophy, Japanese ethics, Applied ethics and so on	1	A
01020	〔Chinese philosophy, Indian philosophy and Buddhist studies field〕 Chinese philosophy, Thought, Indian philosophy, Thought, Buddhist thought, Bibliography, Philology and so on	1	A
01030	〔Religious Studies field〕 History of religions, Philosophy of religion, Theology, Sociology of religion, Psychology of religion, Anthropology of religion, Religious folklore, Mythology, Bibliography, Philology and so on	1	A

Large categories collect several medium categories and constitute the Scientific Research (S) screening divisions. However, this does not preclude applicants from applying in the large categories with content different from the medium categories collected in the large category.

Screening Divisions can be found on the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) website for details.
http://www.mext.go.jp/component/a_menu/science/detail/__icsFiles/afieldfile/2016/12/22/1380669_01_1.pdf

● Screening Division Table (medium, large category) Excerpt

Large Category A

Medium Category: Thought, Art and Related fields

Small Category	Examples
01010	〔Philosophy and Ethics field〕 Philosophy in general, Ethics in general, Western philosophy, Western ethics, Japanese philosophy, Japanese ethics, Applied ethics and so on
01020	〔Chinese philosophy, Indian philosophy and Buddhist studies field〕 Chinese philosophy, Thought, Indian philosophy, Thought, Buddhist thought, Bibliography, Philology and so on
01030	〔Religious Studies field〕 History of religions, Philosophy of religion, Theology, Sociology of religion, Psychology of religion, Anthropology of religion, Religious folklore, Mythology, Bibliography, Philology and so on

Medium categories collect several small categories and constitute the Scientific Research (A) and Challenging Research screening divisions. However, this does not preclude applicants from applying in the medium categories with content different from the small categories collected in the medium categories.

※Some small categories fall under multiple medium categories. Applicants can choose the medium subdivision most suited to their research proposal. (Some medium Category also fall under multiple large divisions.)

※These translations for Screening categories are provisional for your reference. Formally, please refer to the one published by JSPS at a later date.

2018

KAKENHI is Changing for the First Time in Half a Century!

With the FY2018 call for applications, the structure of KAKENHI will change greatly.
In line with the Basic Policy, there will be a rearrangement of the KAKENHI grant categories and also significant changes to the screening system.

Basic Policy

Japan's ability to continue producing outstanding research results and maintain its international standing is in doubt.

In light of this, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Council for Science and Technology has set out to position research based on researchers' independent ideas (scientific research) as a source of national strength; prioritize innovation, interdisciplinarity, integration, and internationalism as contemporary demands on scientific research; and move forward radical reforms, especially of Grants-in-Aid (May 26, 2014).

Must be challenging

The research must attempt to develop new knowledge by applying creative investigative skills based on the knowledge of researchers.

Must be comprehensive

With emphasis on the diversity of scientific research, the research should seek to gain a complete overview of subcategorized knowledge even while building on the specialized knowledge in academic fields as traditionally organized.

Must be cross-discipline

The research should give birth to new academic disciplines, through coordination and cooperation by researchers in different fields and various people involved locally and overseas.

Must be international

The research must be relativized through discussion and validation by the global academic community, in all kinds of areas including the humanities and social sciences as well as natural sciences, contributing to the world by achieving globally recognized excellence or proposing a new research framework.
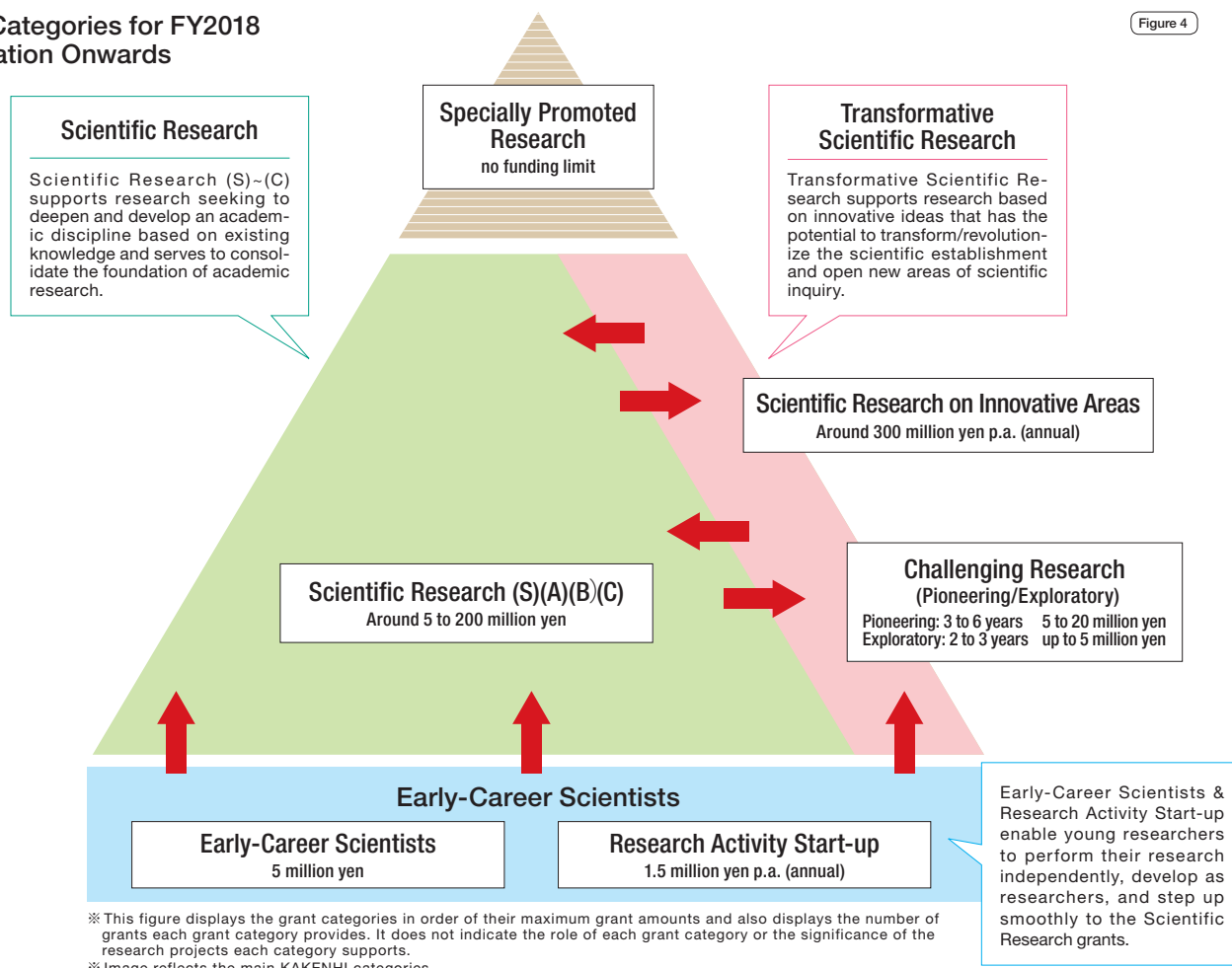
Outlook of KAKENHI Reform

In FY2017, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology revised Challenging Exploratory Research, splitting it into Challenging Research (Exploratory) and Challenging Research (Pioneering). These categories were the first to have screening under the new screening system, in advance of the new screening system's full-scale introduction in FY2018.

In FY2018, both Scientific Research and Young Scientists will transit to screening with the new screening divisions and screening method, opening a revolutionary stage in reforms. Further, Young Scientists (A) will become part of Scientific Research, Young Scientists (B) will have a name change to Early-Career Scientists, Early-Career Scientists will limit application to those who have completed their PhD within the last eight years (with a three-year transitional measure allowing those who have not yet completed their PhD to apply), and Specially Promoted Research (which does not allow a single researcher to receive multiple grants) will undergo a readjustment of its grant categories.

■ Grant Categories for FY2018 Application Onwards

Scientific Research
Scientific Research (S)~(C) supports research seeking to deepen and develop an academic discipline based on existing knowledge and serves to consolidate the foundation of academic research.

Specially Promoted Research
no funding limit

Transformative Scientific Research
Transformative Scientific Research supports research based on innovative ideas that has the potential to transform/revolutionize the scientific establishment and open new areas of scientific inquiry.

Scientific Research on Innovative Areas
Around 300 million yen p.a. (annual)

Scientific Research (S)(A)(B)(C)
Around 5 to 200 million yen

Challenging Research
(Pioneering/Exploratory)
Pioneering: 3 to 6 years   5 to 20 million yen
Exploratory: 2 to 3 years   up to 5 million yen

Early-Career Scientists

Early-Career Scientists
5 million yen

Research Activity Start-up
1.5 million yen p.a. (annual)

Early-Career Scientists & Research Activity Start-up enable young researchers to perform their research independently, develop as researchers, and step up smoothly to the Scientific Research grants.

※ This figure displays the grant categories in order of their maximum grant amounts and also displays the number of grants each grant category provides. It does not indicate the role of each grant category or the significance of the research projects each category supports.
※ Image reflects the main KAKENHI categories.

Learn about KAKENHI

I want to accelerate my research career!   I found a topic I want to explore more!
Answers to the simple questions about the KAKENHI application process!!

STEP 1 — Before the call for applications begins

POINT 01

Understand the Grant categories

Look at the grant categories with the following in mind.

❶ Research Topic
What sort of research goals and directions do you want to pursue in your own career as a researcher?

❷ Research Team
Will you do research yourself or with a group?

❸ Research Period
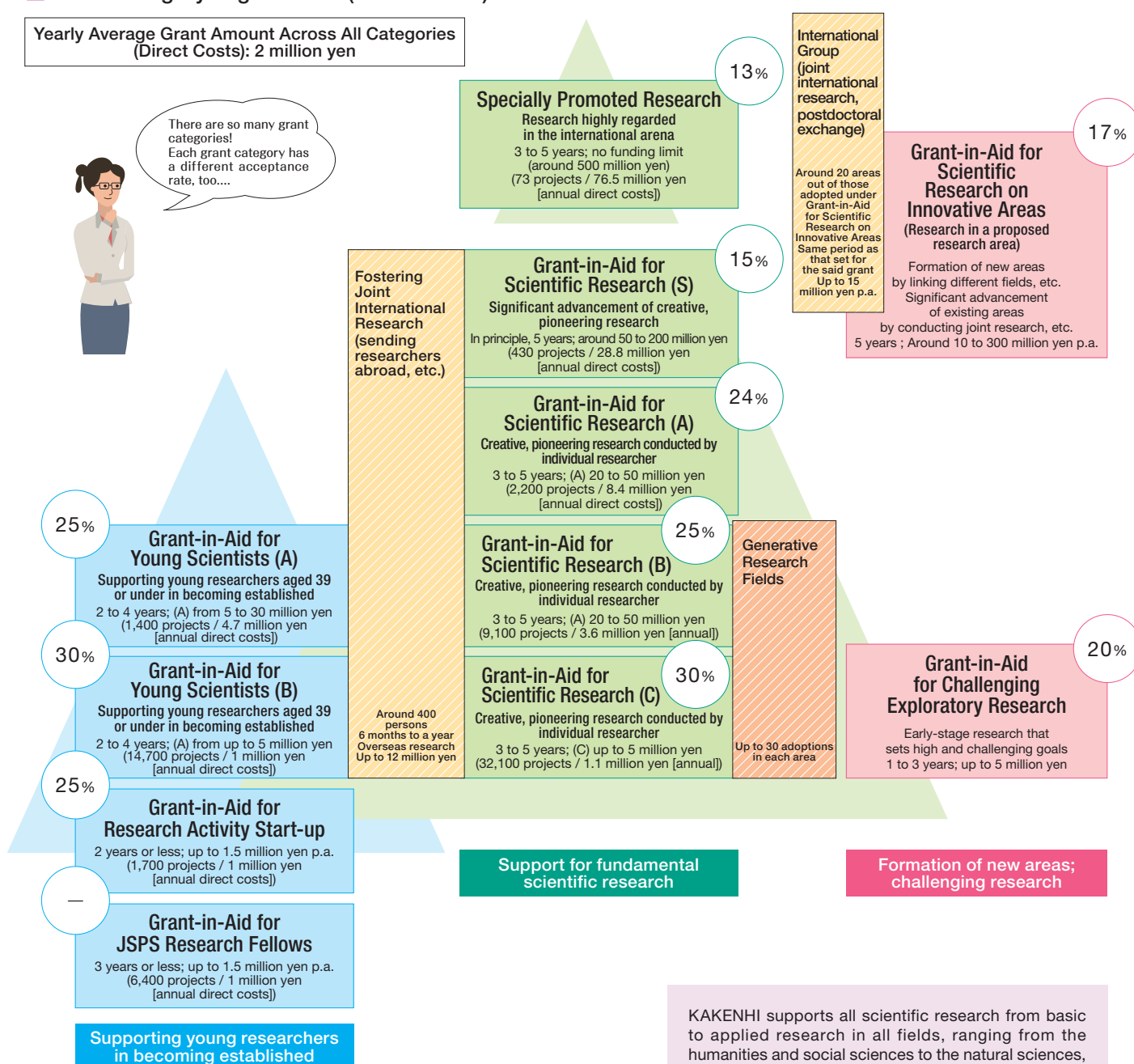How many years is your research plan?

❹ Research Costs
How much research funding do you need to achieve your research goals?

■ **Grant Category Organization (as of FY2016)**

Figure 1

Yearly Average Grant Amount Across All Categories (Direct Costs): 2 million yen

There are so many grant categories!
Each grant category has a different acceptance rate, too....

Specially Promoted Research
Research highly regarded in the international arena
3 to 5 years; no funding limit (around 500 million yen)
(73 projects / 76.5 million yen [annual direct costs])
13%

International Group (joint international research, postdoctoral exchange)
Around 20 areas out of those adopted under Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas
Same period as that set for the said grant
Up to 15 million yen p.a.

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas
(Research in a proposed research area)
Formation of new areas by linking different fields, etc.
Significant advancement of existing areas by conducting joint research, etc.
5 years ; Around 10 to 300 million yen p.a.
17%

Fostering Joint International Research (sending researchers abroad, etc.)
Around 400 persons
6 months to a year
Overseas research
Up to 12 million yen

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S)
Significant advancement of creative, pioneering research
In principle, 5 years; around 50 to 200 million yen
(430 projects / 28.8 million yen [annual direct costs])
15%

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A)
Creative, pioneering research conducted by individual researcher
3 to 5 years; (A) 20 to 50 million yen
(2,200 projects / 8.4 million yen [annual direct costs])
24%

Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (A)
Supporting young researchers aged 39 or under in becoming established
2 to 4 years; (A) from 5 to 30 million yen
(1,400 projects / 4.7 million yen [annual direct costs])
25%

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B)
Creative, pioneering research conducted by individual researcher
3 to 5 years; (A) 20 to 50 million yen
(9,100 projects / 3.6 million yen [annual])
25%

Generative Research Fields
Up to 30 adoptions in each area

Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (B)
Supporting young researchers aged 39 or under in becoming established
2 to 4 years; (A) from up to 5 million yen
(14,700 projects / 1 million yen [annual direct costs])
30%

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)
Creative, pioneering research conducted by individual researcher
3 to 5 years; (C) up to 5 million yen
(32,100 projects / 1.1 million yen [annual])
30%

Grant-in-Aid for Challenging Exploratory Research
Early-stage research that sets high and challenging goals
1 to 3 years; up to 5 million yen
20%

Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up
2 years or less; up to 1.5 million yen p.a.
(1,700 projects / 1 million yen [annual direct costs])
25%

Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Research Fellows
3 years or less; up to 1.5 million yen p.a.
(6,400 projects / 1 million yen [annual direct costs])
—

Support for fundamental scientific research

Formation of new areas; challenging research

Supporting young researchers in becoming established

KAKENHI supports all scientific research from basic to applied research in all fields, ranging from the humanities and social sciences to the natural sciences, with grant categories of a range of sizes and modes. KAKENHI selects creative and pioneering research projects for funding through peer-review (several researchers in related fields review applications).

※In each grant category, numbers in parentheses indicate grant projects (new + continuing) and average grant amounts (total and direct costs) [round numbers], while numbers in circles indicate acceptance rates.

I want to help younger researchers!　The motivations for embarking on research are wide and varied.

POINT 02

Understand the screening system

Screening is made not by grant category. It is by the screening division the applying researcher selected for their research plan. Because the screening is peer review (several researchers in related fields review applications), the applicant's selection of an appropriate screening division can be the difference between success or failure.

1 On the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science's homepage, you can check the sorting of the up to 400 screening divisions from FY2017.

※ In FY2018, the screening divisions will see drastic changes. Check the outline in this issue and the details in the Screening Division Table posted on the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's homepage.
http://www.mext.go.jp/component/a_menu/science/detail/__icsFiles/afieldfile/2016/12/22/1380669_01_1.pdf

https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/03_keikaku/data/h29/h29_koubo_08.pdf

2 Database of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKEN Database) centralizes information on past Grants-in-Aid projects. You can use the free word search function to look up research topics and keywords you are interested in and see what research topics and keywords were successful in which screening divisions.

https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/ja/index/
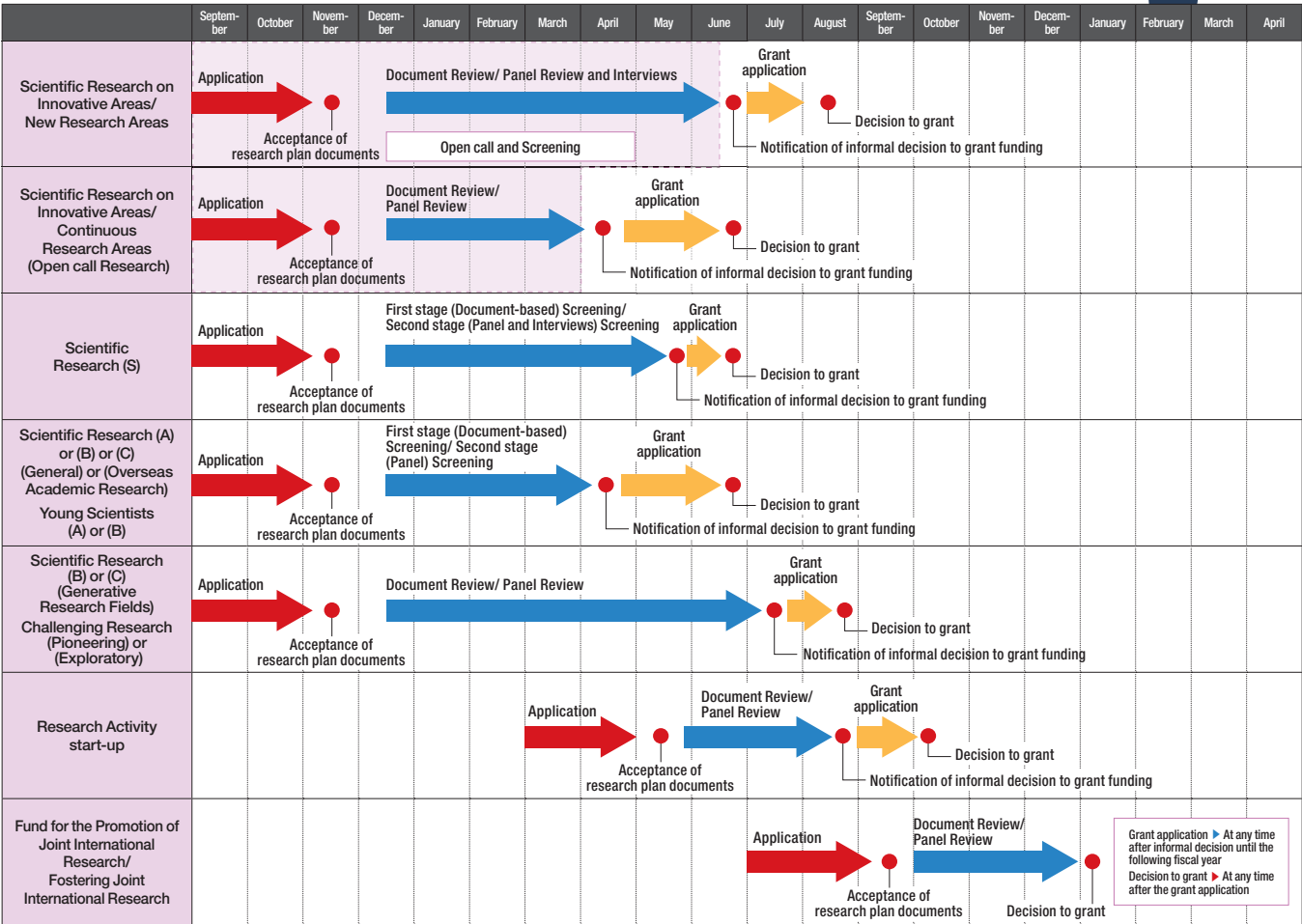
POINT 03

Understand the schedule

Scientific Research, Young Scientists, and Challenging Research account for the majority of applications and have their the call for proposals in the fall of the preceding year. In contrast, Research Activity Start-up, which supports researchers who have just begun working at a university and are applying to KAKENHI for the first time, has its call for applications in spring of the same year.

Different grant categories have different screening divisions and screening methods. Grant categories that require screening interviews have comparatively longer screening

terms and different grant categories also release grant results (informal disbursement notices) at different times.

> I want to apply to Young Scientists (B)! The the call for proposals is in fall! I'll start preparing now so I'll be ready when the the call for proposals opens

■ Modify Schedule from Application to Disbursement (Excerpt as of FY2017)

Figure 2

Application forms and guidelines

Each grant category has different application forms. Depending on the grant category and screening division, a single reviewer may look at over 100 applications. The time they will give to a single application is very limited. The first step to obtaining a grant is to fill the ten-odd pages of the application with text and figures that will persuade the screener.

To begin, download the previous year's application procedures, application forms, and application instructions for the relevant grant category and start drafting an application.

FY2017 Application Information (for reference)	Specially Promoted Research, Scientific Research (S/A/B/C), Challenging Research (Pioneering/Exploratory), Young Scientists (A/B)	https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/03_keikaku/download.html
	Scientific Research on Innovative Areas, Special Purposes	http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shinkou/hojyo/boshu/1376435.htm
	Research Activity Start-up	https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/22_startup_support/download.html

STEP 2 Once the call for applications begins

POINT 05

Read the application guidelines carefully

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science revises the application procedures every year. Because FY2018 will be the centerpiece of the KAKENHI reforms, it is expected that significant revisions to the screening system and moderate revisions to Young Scientists and Specially Promoted Research are made. Please be sure to check the correct information on grant categories, screening field, schedule, and application documents once it becomes available.

POINT 07

Get (confirm) your ID and password for the KAKENHI Electronic Application System

Application is made through the KAKENHI Electronic Application System. Researchers applying for the first time should ask their campus' Research Office to issue them an ID and password for the system in advance. Researchers who have applied in the past can continue to use the same ID and password. If you have forgotten your password, please consult with the Research Office on your campus.

> Ask your Research Office to issue you an ID and password for the KAKENHI Electronic Application System

POINT 06

Check your application eligibility

Ritsumeikan University allows faculty members in an eligible employment position to apply for KAKENHI. For details, please see the application eligibility table on the Division of Research homepage (to be updated September 2017 and March 2018).

● Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Homepage Electronic Application System Top Page

Click here

http://www-shinsei.jsps.go.jp/kaken/index.html

STEP 3 Write your application × Utilize the Research Office

The Research Offices offer comprehensive assistance with KAKENHI application. Each Research Office holds an application guidance session after the call for proposals opens and checks application forms against the Procedures for Preparing and Entering a Proposal. Further, the Research Offices also plan to assemble KAKENHI application advisors, professors who have either established a record of successful KAKENHI applications or served as KAKENHI application screeners. The Research Offices will proactively send out important KAKENHI application information through the Research Division homepage and by email.

If you have any questions or concerns about applying for KAKENHI, please feel free to ask the Research Office on your campus.

> Write my application early and consult with my Research Office! Take advantage of the office's support to get advice from multiple perspectives!

Research Office Grants-in-Aid Application Contacts by Campus

Kinugasa Campus / Suzaku Campus
Research Office at Kinugasa Campus (Shugakukan 2F)
Tel: 075-465-8224
mail: shinseik@st.ritsumei.ac.jp

Biwako-Kusatsu Campus
Research Office at Biwako-Kusatsu Campus (Research Center for Disaster Mitigation System 3F)
Tel: 077-561-2802
mail: b-kaken@st.ritsumei.ac.jp

Osaka Ibaraki Campus
Research Office at Osaka Ibaraki Campus (Building B 5F)
Tel: 072-665-2570
mail: oicro@st.ritsumei.ac.jp