

Call for Proposals: Ensemble Grants for Early Career Researchers 2020

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In order to promote collaboration among early career researchers in Tohoku University, the Ensemble Project for Early Career Researchers in Tohoku University will fund joint research groups consisting of researchers from several departments. The grants are intended to support budding academic research projects that are created through interdepartmental collaboration based on free individual ideas.

Proposals are invited to encourage new research start-ups or attempts at new developments that broaden the scope of existing research. Early career researchers are welcome to apply, but those who participate in the research group as co-investigators are not required to have any status, as long as they meet the requirements for affiliation described in the guidelines. We welcome applications based on new ideas and perspectives (not only the content of research, but also the use of facilities in other departments to improve research efficiency).

Application guidelines

1. Eligibility

Research groups composed of faculty members and researchers belonging to **multiple departments of Tohoku University (research institutes, centers, graduate schools, etc.)**.

Applicants (principal investigators) should be postdocs, research assistants, assistant professors, lecturers, and associate professors (including special appointments) who belong to each department of the Alliance of Research Institutes and Centers, Tohoku University. We especially welcome applications from early career researchers. Co-investigators other than the principal investigator are not subject to any restrictions on job title or status, but they are not eligible if it is clear that the group in more than one department will no longer be included in the majority of the research period due to graduation or completion of the course.

- Herein, the “Alliance of Research Institutes and Centers” refers to Institute for Materials Research (IMR), Institute of Development, Aging, and Cancer (IDAC), Institute of Fluid Science (IFS), Research Institute of Electrical Communication (RIEC), Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials (IMRAM), International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Center for Northeast Asian Studies (CNEAS), Frontier Research for Interdisciplinary Sciences (FRIS), Advanced Institute for Materials Research (AIMR), Research Center for Electron Photon Science (ELPH), and New Industry Creation Hatchery Center (NICHe). (hereinafter the same).
- In the case of concurrently serving or concurrently serving (including the mentoring system of the Interdisciplinary Research Institute), it is not considered to be more than one department by itself, even if you are a member of a group with researchers belonging to a department of the Alliance of Research Institutes and Centers, Tohoku University, which is your main activity base.
- The applicant (principal investigator) must be able to use the university's budget management system at one of the above departments.
- **Only one application per person (including the principal investigator and co-investigator) is allowed.**

2. Target of research

Collaborative research between multiple departments.

- The grants are open to research in all fields. Interdisciplinary research is not a prerequisite.

3. Schedule of selection processes and period of grants

The proposal will be decided around the middle of July 2020. The research period will be from July 1, 2020 (planned) to March 31, 2021.

4. Continuation of research in the next fiscal year

We will conduct a peer review at a symposium to be held in February 2021 by all participants and invited faculty members, and select two or three proposals for continuation in the next fiscal year (April 2021-March 2022, with a maximum research grant of 1,000,000 yen) around March 2021. In the next fiscal year, we plan to award about 15 new proposals (planned research period: July 2021 to March 2022, with a maximum research grant of 500,000 yen) in addition to these continuation proposals. The same proposal can be continued for up to one year (one year of new proposal plus one year of continuation).

Ensemble grants: fiscal years 2020 and 2021

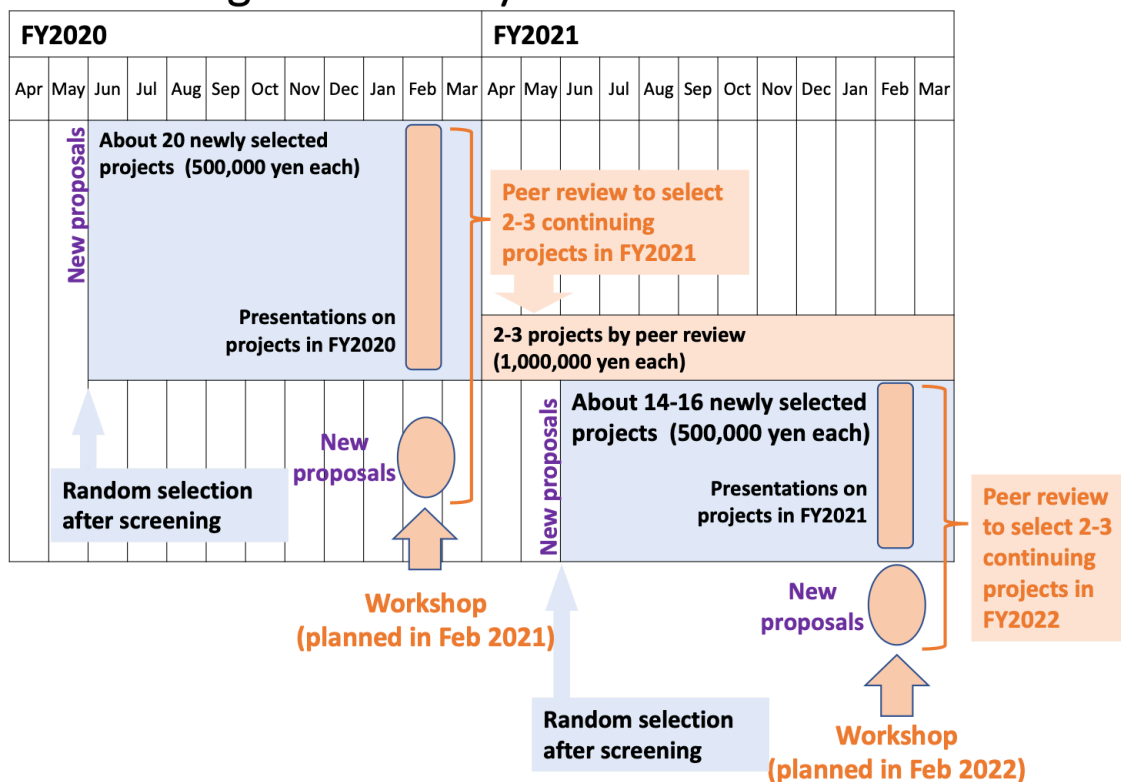


Figure 1. Selection process and period of grants

5. What is funded

We will provide research funds up to 500,000 yen. The amount of grants may be reduced depending on the number of awarded grants. After a certain period of time, the grants will be distributed to the departments of the Alliance of Research Institutes and Centers, Tohoku University, to which the principal investigator belongs from the Institute for Frontier Research in Interdisciplinary Science, which is the department in charge of this year.

6. Application form and submission

Please prepare the application form using the distributed application form, convert it to PDF, and the prepared application should be submitted by the principal investigator using the web form below by the deadline.

<https://forms.gle/yMVvtfCC31kLgYkU7>

Deadline: Friday, June 12, 2020

Submissions in a different format or overdue will not be accepted.

7. Number of grants

About 20 grants will be awarded.

8. Selection process

In order to discover budding research and support various researches, we will screen the content of researches as a working group, and randomly select about 20 researches to be selected and decided at the meeting of the Institute Director.

Applications that fall under any of the following categories will not be accepted for screening.

- Applications that do not meet the eligibility and requirement in this guideline
- Applications that are identical or very similar to previously awarded proposals
- Applications that do not show the minimum research content.
- Applications without justification in the necessary expense breakdown

9. Reporting

At the end of the research period, the grant awardees are required to submit a report of their research results in the prescribed format (the contents of the report are available on the website of the Ensemble Project for internal use only). They are also invited to present their research ideas and results at a symposium to be held during this fiscal year. When you publish your results, please indicate that they were supported by this program.

10. Management

You are expected to conduct your research in accordance with all the rules and instructions of the university and your department regarding safety and health management, network management, prevention of research fraud, and legal compliance. Please note that we will discontinue the support if it is judged that you have deviated from the above.

11. Notes

In the event of discrepancy between the English version and the Japanese version of the application guidelines, the Japanese version shall prevail.

If you have any questions about the application guidelines, please contact us at:

- Dr. Hiroyuki Kai, Assistant Professor, Advanced Institute for Materials Research, kai@tohoku.ac.jp
- Dr. Kazuyuki Suzuki, Associate Professor (URA), Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences, suzukik@fris.tohoku.ac.jp

How to prepare the application

The application form should be one or two pages, with the number of characters adjusted accordingly.

1. Research group

The research group should be composed of faculty, researchers, and technical staff members belonging to **multiple departments of the university (research institutes, centers, graduate schools, etc.)**. In addition to the above, you may also include non-academic members as co-investigators. Please add © in front of the principal investigator's name.

2. Research expenses breakdown

Research expenses are limited to equipment, supplies, travel expenses, honoraria, and personnel expenses necessary to carry out this research. (Expenditures that are considered appropriate for running a laboratory or for other research are not allowed.)

3. Other research grant applications

This grant does not restrict duplicate applications with other research funds, but if there are restrictions on other research funds, please apply with consideration.