



# HeKKSaGOn

Heidelberg | Kyoto | Karlsruhe | Sendai | Göttingen | Osaka  
NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES

## Call for Applications HeKKSaGOn Joint Projects

Within the framework of the HeKKSaGOn Alliance, scholars and researchers of the six partner universities have the opportunity to apply for seed funding to support joint projects and are invited to submit applications for funding for up to three years with well-defined objectives and activities. Project applications should take into account the HeKKSaGOn Presidents' strategic decisions for the second cycle and its priority areas, and should state their contribution to the sustainability of the HeKKSaGOn Alliance.

### The HeKKSaGOn Alliance

The German-Japanese university consortium HeKKSaGOn was founded in July 2010 as an association of three German and three Japanese universities. HeKKSaGOn stands for the **Heidelberg – Kyoto – Karlsruhe – Tohoku/Sendai – Göttingen – Osaka – network**. The university partners in HeKKSaGOn share the conviction that important global problems can be solved only through interdisciplinary and international cooperation and through the open exchange of knowledge. For further information please refer to: <https://www.hekksagon.net/>

### Priority areas

At the 9<sup>th</sup> HeKKSaGOn University Presidents' Conference in 2023, the Presidents and Rectors decided to focus on the following priority areas related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. Transcultural Studies and the Transformation of Societies
2. Data Science, Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence
3. Life Science, Medicine and Changing Environments

### Funding

Funding will be provided to the successful project applications for a maximum period of three years. A positive midterm evaluation is required for continued funding and will be based on an interim report and a presentation at the next HeKKSaGOn Presidents' Conference, which will be held in Osaka in November 2025. The main research tasks are expected to be carried out locally at the university of the respective lead coordinator in collaboration with research associates at partner universities. Funding is intended to be used for purposes such as travel, accommodation, and the organization of workshops, seasonal schools, and seminars. However, the purposes for which funding is used, the amount of funding provided, the period in which it must be used, and the way in which it must be used will vary by each individual university. For further information, please contact your local HeKKSaGOn coordinator.

The funding shall be considered to be seed funding, and the project groups are encouraged to look for additional sources of funding for continuing or enhancing their project activities.

Selected projects can start their activities from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at the earliest and should be completed no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

## Who can apply?

Applications must be submitted by a group of scholars/researchers from at least three of the six HeKKSaGOn member universities. Each group must include the participation of researchers from at least one Japanese member university and at least one German member university. In addition, one researcher from the Japanese and one from the German side should act as lead coordinator (chairperson) and co-coordinator of the project.

## Selection criteria

The following aspects will be taken into account for the selection of projects:

- Definition of concrete goals and activities (including a schedule and milestones)
- Relevance of the topic to the HeKKSaGOn priority areas
- Relevance for/interaction with society
- Inclusion of young researchers and graduate students, as well as educational aspects

## Submission of the project proposal

The project proposal ((1) the Application Form and (2) the Financial Plan Breakdown) must be submitted via e-mail by the group's lead coordinator to:

- Dr. Martin Jagonak, University of Göttingen, e-mail: [martin.jagonak@zvw.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:martin.jagonak@zvw.uni-goettingen.de)

In addition, the lead coordinator should send a copy of the project proposal to the HeKKSaGOn coordinator of her/his university (Global Engagement Division, E-mail: [kokusai-k@grp.tohoku.ac.jp](mailto:kokusai-k@grp.tohoku.ac.jp)).

**Application deadline (via e-mail): March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (09:00 am, JST)**

## Result announcement

Expected date of results notification: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

## Policy disclaimer

In line with HeKKSaGOn's commitment to equality and diversity, we encourage applications from persons with diverse backgrounds, regardless of career stage, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.

## Interim and final reports

Lead and/or co-coordinators of projects are requested to attend the HeKKSaGOn University Presidents' Conferences and give a report on the development and results of their projects. The provision of travel expenses required for the project leader and/or co-coordinators to attend the Presidents' Conferences are subject to each university's individual funding scheme.

## HeKKSaGOn Coordinators' Contact at Tohoku University :

- Global Engagement Division
- E-mail: [kokusai-k@grp.tohoku.ac.jp](mailto:kokusai-k@grp.tohoku.ac.jp)