

FY 2021 KNIT Collaborative Research Fund Application Guidelines

[Overview]

As part of the Initiative for the Realization of Diversity in the Research Environment (Traction Type) (FY 2019-2024), one of the Science and Technology Human Resources Development Subsidy Programs (funded by MEXT), Hokkaido University offers a research funding scheme for the researchers who plan to conduct superior collaborative research with their collaborators at KNIT partner institutions (Hokkaido University, Muroran Institute of Technology, Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Kitami Institute of Technology, Amino Up Co., Ltd., and Nitto Denko Corporation) with the objective of enhancing the research capability and improving leadership skills of female researchers, and expanding research networks in Hokkaido. Their collaborative research is hereinafter referred to as KNIT Collaborative Research.

[Amount of Research Funding]

- A. Maximum of ¥1,000,000 per project if the principal investigator(PI) is from Hokkaido University
- B. Maximum of ¥250,000 per person, per project if the research collaborators belong to Hokkaido University

Refer to the conditions in “[Eligibility] (4) Application Amount” for the total amount of the FY 2021 KNIT Collaborative Research Fund.

[Eligibility]

(1) Structure of the Collaborative Research Team

- The PI must be a female researcher who belongs to KNIT partner institutions, and at least one researcher from KNIT partner institutions must be joined as a research collaborator. If your team meets this condition, researchers who do not belong to a KNIT partner institution may participate as research collaborators. Furthermore, details on the principal investigator and research collaborators are as follows.

① Principal Investigator

- A **female researcher** (includes specially-appointed faculty, postdoctoral research fellows, and academic researchers*2) who has participated in the poster session as a presenter in the interdisciplinary meetup week 2020*1

② Research Collaborators

- A researcher, **regardless of gender**, who belongs to a university, company, or other institutions (includes specially-appointed faculty, postdoctoral research fellows, and academic researchers*2)
- Only collaborators who belong to a university that is a KNIT partner institution are eligible for research funding.
- It is favorable for the collaborators to have participated in the interdisciplinary meetup week 2020, as it adds points to screening.

※1 Besides displaying a poster, this includes researchers who have posted their names as a joint signature on the poster, and participated in the interdisciplinary meetup week 2020.

※2 Shows enough effort to fulfill duties in the collaborative research, and does not violate employment conditions.

- (2) Multiple KNIT Collaborative Research Applications
 - A researcher may only submit one KNIT Collaborative Research proposal as a principal investigator.
 - A principal investigator may also be a research collaborator of another KNIT Collaborative Research project.
- (3) Applications by Recipients of the FY 2020 KNIT Collaborative Research Fund
 - Recipients of the FY 2020 KNIT Collaborative Research Fund may submit an application for a new theme or if there has been further development from their FY 2020 selected theme.
- (4) Application Amount
 - The total application amount for the fiscal year's KNIT Collaborative Research Fund must not exceed ¥1,750,000 per applicant. (Example: ¥1,000,000 as a principal investigator + ¥200,000 as a research collaborator in a different collaborative research × 4 projects = ¥1,800,000 is not allowed)
 - The total amount for one research theme submitted for the research fund must not exceed ¥1,800,000.
 - If one researcher becomes a collaborative researcher in multiple KNIT collaborative research project, the limit stated in **[Research Fund Amount] B** shall be applied for each collaborative research project. However, its validation shall be considered during screening.
- (5) Others
 - In line with the aim of this program, it is favorable for female researchers to participate as research collaborators, so the screening shall put weight on that factor.
 - Applications for research themes that have already received other research funds shall not be accepted.
 - Refer to the application guidelines of the researcher's institution for grants to researchers belonging to other institutions.

[Research Expenses Covered by the Funding]

Facility/equipment expense (expenses for purchases over ¥500,000), supplies expense, travel expense (participation in conferences to present the results of this research, meetings involving this research, etc., excluding international travel expense), and other necessary expenses (honorarium, communication and transportation expense, rent expense, and miscellaneous expenses)

Expenses of research collaborators and principal investigators of other institutions cannot be counted as expenses even when those expenses fall in the above categories.

[Distribution of Funds and Execution Period]

- The funds shall be distributed after the proposal is selected and the collaborative research contract is concluded with the institution to which the researcher belongs.
- The execution period of the funding shall be from the conclusion of the collaborative research contract until the end of February 2022.

[How to Apply]

- Principal investigators who belong to Hokkaido University must submit the prescribed application form to the **Promotion Office of Research Environment for Diversity** via electronic mail.
(Please inform research collaborators who belong to other partner institutions that they must submit a copy of the application form to the said office.)
- Research collaborators who belong to Hokkaido University must submit to the **Promotion Office of Research Environment for Diversity** a copy of the application form that the principal investigator submitted to the said office.

Deadline: February 1, 2021 (Monday) at 12:00 noon

[Screening]

- The selection and the amount of funding shall be decided by the KNIT screening committee. The selection shall be approved in the KNIT council.
- Screening shall be done by the committee members according to the following prescribed points.
 - A) The background and objective of the research is expressed in a way anyone can understand
 - B) The research plan is appropriate for the objective
 - C) The significance as a collaborative research and the role distribution are clear
 - D) Growth as a leader can be expected through research funding
 - E) The budget plan is appropriate for the research plan
 - F) Active participation in the interdisciplinary meetup week hosted by KNIT

[Announcement of Results]

Results are scheduled to be announced in early April 2021. All applicants will be notified.

[Other Notes]

- Successful applicants shall be required to actively participate in research studies, symposia and other events hosted by KNIT in line with this Initiative.
- The principal investigator must submit an implementation report (including financial statement) in the designated format to the **Promotion Office of Research Environment for Diversity** at the end of the implementation period for the fiscal year.
- The research title, applicant's institution, and the collaborators' institutions of successful applications shall be posted on the KNIT website and publications of the **Promotion Office of Research Environment for Diversity**. Other details shall be published after obtaining the applicant's permission.

Where to Submit Application and for Inquiries:

Promotion Office of Research Environment for Diversity

Headquarters for Human Resource Education and Development

Hokkaido University

Phone: 011-706-3625

E-mail: reed@synfoster.hokudai.ac.jp