

**K. MATSUSHITA FOUNDATION**  
**2025 Research Grant - Application Guidelines -**  
**Areas of research: Humanities and social science**

**(I) Targeted Research**

**1. Areas of Research**

Research activities in the areas of humanities and social science which are expected to contribute to achieving the goal of the Foundation, by

- promoting “international understanding” by solving various issues which exist between Japan and other nations
- promoting “co-existence of nature and mankind”

The research is required to have global perspective and be based on high social and academic demand. Pioneering research based on creative ideas are highly welcome.

**(Ineligible research)**

- Research aimed at making profit
- Research which are considered to be actually completed.
- Research which require a huge amount of research expenses
- Researches whose period is less than 6 months in the grant period

**2. Eligibility and Conditions**

- Students enrolled in a doctoral program and researchers within five years after finishing a doctoral program (Eligibility is determined according to the position at the time of application)
- Individuals who have not previously received any grants from the Foundation
- Individuals who reside in Japan
- Individuals who do not belong to graduate schools, organizations, research institutions, etc. located outside Japan.

## **(II) Outline of the Grants**

### **1. Number of Grant Recipients**

Maximum 30 students and researchers

### **2. Amount of Grants**

- Maximum amount of grant per student/researcher is 800,000 yen.
- The amount of each grant will be assessed by the content of research plan and the rationality of its budget.

### **3. Term of Grants**

- Term of grants shall be one year from **October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026.**

### **4. Use of Grants**

- Grants are to be used for expenses necessary in carrying out research plans, and expenses shall be itemized in accordance with the List of Items of Expenditures in page 6.  
The amount requested and the itemized budget should always match with each other.

### **5. Main Duties of the Recipients**

- The recipient of the grant shall submit a pledge to the Foundation at the start of the program, and within 1 months after the end of the grant period, he / she shall submit a report on the process and the results of the research as well as an accounting report. In case valid reports are not submitted within 6 months after the grant period, we request the recipient to return full amount of grant he / she had received.
- In case the expense exceeds 10,000 yen, receipts should be attached to the financial report. Receipts for expenses less than 10,000 yen shall be saved by the end of the grant period in case that the Foundation request to submit.
- Surplus must be returned to the Foundation.
- Please note that the process and results of the research will be made public through the website of the Foundation.

## **(III) Screening Process and Evaluation Criteria**

### **1. Screening process**

- Careful and fair screening will be conducted by the screening committee in mid-July, 2025.

### **2. Notification of selection results**

- The results will be informed the applicants by e-mail by the beginning of August, 2025. Please understand that the Foundation will not respond to any inquiries regarding the results.

### 3. Evaluation Criteria

In screening, we focus on research in the areas of humanities and social science which meet the following criteria:

- Research which is in line with the objectives and activities of the Foundation
- Research which has high social and academic importance
- Research which is creative and pioneering
- Research which will be carried out by highly motivated and competent researchers and with excellent research plans and setups
- Research with rational and appropriate budget plan.

## (IV) Application Procedures

### 1. Download the application forms

Please download the application forms from our website.

<Research Grant Application Form >

[https://matsushita-konosuke-zaidan.or.jp/en/works/research/data/2025\\_Application\\_NAME.xlsx](https://matsushita-konosuke-zaidan.or.jp/en/works/research/data/2025_Application_NAME.xlsx)

### 2. Fill in the application forms

Please fill in the forms in either Japanese or English.

#### Notes:

**Application Form:** Fill in each item on the application form.  
Provide an e-mail address to be reached during the screening period (July - September).

**Recommendation:** The letter of recommendation needs signature or seal of the recommender. English recommendations can be written in a different format (including letter format) but must not exceed two pages.

**Outline of Research:** Explain the outline of the research.  
Try to write in a way which can be easily understood by the members of the screening committee with different areas of expertise.  
Please use the designated font size and do not add pages.

#### Summary of the

**master/doctor thesis:** Fill in a summary of your master or doctor thesis. In case you do not have a master thesis, provide a summary of an alternative article.  
Please use the designated font size and do not add pages.

**Budget:**                    **【Details of Expenditure】** should include only expenses from the grant of K. Matsushita Foundation. The total amount should be equivalent with the “amount of grant requested” indicated on the Application Form. Please clearly explain the purpose of expenditure and the background of calculation in relation to the research plan. Please refer to the "Items of Expenditures" on the last page of the guidelines in filling in this form.

### **Academic Background**

**and Recommender:** Please provide the name of a recommender who is a specialist in your research theme. The recommender should be a person who writes a letter of recommendation.

### **3. Submit (upload) the application forms**

1) After signed or sealed, please prepare the above documents converted to a PDF file.

When generating a PDF file, please set name of the file as:

2025\_Application\_Name.pdf (Example: “2025\_Application\_Taro Matsushita.pdf”)

2) Access the web form “Research Grant Program Application Form” page from the URL on our website.

3) On the page, please enter the following information;

[Name of Applicant]

[Age]

[Nationality]

[e-mail address]

[Classification]

[Current Institution]

[Title of Research] and [Subtitle of Research (if any)]

[Amount of Grant Requested]

and then upload the PDF file (“Attachment of Research Grant Application Form”).

**Please ensure this procedure finishes no later than May 12, 2025**

4) After submitting the file, you will receive an email informing your “Applicant Number”.

\*As for documents that require a signature or seal (i.e., “Recommendation”), please make scanned data of the signed or sealed documents.

\* “Recommendation” letter can be sent by post (as “ordinary registered mail” or “simplified registration”) in case the recommender prefers to send it directly to the Foundation. In that case, please mention on the Recommendation page that the letter of the recommendation will be send separately from the recommender.

**\* Notes**

Following documents are not acceptable. (will be excluded from the screening process)

- Documents with added pages
- Documents in a different format instead of the one specified, or those written in smaller font than the designated font size.
- Documents whose contents are not shown properly when printed out in A-4 size
- Documents in which necessary items are not filled in.

As the application documents will not be returned once submitted, please make sure to save a copy before submission.

If you are selected as a recipient of this grant, you cannot receive any other scholarship or grant offered by K. Matsushita Foundation during you receive this grant.

<If you send the recommendation letter directly>

K. MATSUSHITA FOUNDATION Kyoto Office  
2nd floor, PHP Building, 11 Kitanouchi-cho, Nishikujo,  
Minami-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto 601-8411, Japan

**4. Application period:**

**9:00 a.m. on April 1 (Tue) ~ 5:30 p.m. on May 12 (Mon), 2025**

\*The “Research Grant Program Application Form” page will automatically close at 5:30 p.m. on May 12.

\*Application documents sent by E-mail are not acceptable. It will be automatically excluded from the screening process.

**5. Inquiries for Application:**

If you have any inquiries about application, **please ask through the “Inquiry” page on our website.** Please **indicate your Reference Number** if you have already acquired it.

The Foundation office will be closed **from April 26 to May 6, 2025,** for holidays. As our response may delay due to rush of inquires after the holidays, please contact us before the holidays if possible.

**\*NOTICE\* Grant will be transmitted to the bank account of the recipient. It cannot be transmitted to the institution, or universities the recipient belongs to. If the grant is managed by a university or research institution, the foundation will provide the grant directly to the individual. Afterward, the individual should appropriately process the procedures with their affiliated institution.**

## Items of Expenditure

Items	Explanations
(1) Personnel	
Reward / payment to cooperators	Rewards to cooperators for their advice and cooperation.
Reward / payment to assistants	Rewards to staff temporarily employed to assist your research including drivers, those engaged in data input work, etc.
(2) Travel	
Domestic	Transportation and accommodation expenses required for a trip (for survey, attendance to conference, etc.) which exceeds 100 km one way.
Overseas	Miscellaneous expenses including overseas travel insurance.
(3) Survey / Equipment	
Contract survey	Expenses incurred by contracting questionnaire surveys, data collection, etc.
Computer software	Expenses including development of computer programs, data processing, computer rental fee and program rental fee.
(4) Documents & copying	
Purchase of books, Materials, etc.	Expenses for purchasing books and thesis, etc. Expenses for purchasing recording media such as films, tapes, and disks.
Printing / Copying	Expenses for printing questionnaire and data collection forms, etc. and for copying books.
(5) Conference	
Rent for a venue	Rental fee of the space used for conferences.
Miscellaneous	Refreshments and lunch served at the conference, communication expenses, etc.
(6) Communication / Transportation	Transportation expenses required for research activities (trips within 100 km one way), communication expenses and expenses for transporting equipment
(7) Consumables	Office supplies and consumables.
(8) Miscellaneous	Expenses which are not included in any of the above items. Translation expenses, proofreading expenses, stenography expenses, gifts to survey respondents, gifts to organizations surveyed, maintenance expenses for equipment and fixtures, attendance fee to conferences and other expenses.

### The following expenses are not accepted:

- Personnel / living expenses and tuition fee of a researcher
- General operating expenses required for managing research organizations
- Expenses required for printing reports, issuing publications, holding symposiums, etc.
- Expenses to attend an academic conference held outside the country of residence
- Expenses to purchase equipment including **personal computers, photo equipment, visual equipment, copying equipment and printing equipment, etc.**