

**K. MATSUSHITA FOUNDATION**  
**2026 Research Grant - Application Guidelines -**  
**Areas of Research: Humanities and Social Sciences**

Number of Grant Recipients	A maximum of 30 students and researchers
Application period	9:00 a.m. on April 1 (Wed) ~ 5:30 p.m. on May 11 (Mon), 2026
Screening Process	Careful and fair screening will be conducted by the screening committee in mid-July, 2026.
Notification of Results	Applicants will be notified of the results by e-mail by the beginning of August, 2026.
Grant Amount	Maximum amount of grant per student/researcher is 800,000 yen.
Grant Period	Term of grants shall be one year from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027.

公益財団法人

松下幸之助記念志財団

K. MATSUSHITA FOUNDATION

## **(I) Scope of Eligible Research**

### **1. Areas of Research**

Research activities in the areas of humanities and social sciences 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 is highly encouraged.

### **(Ineligible research)**

- Research aimed at making profits
- Research that is considered to have already been completed
- Research that requires a large amount of funding
- Research with a duration of less than six months during 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 a grant under this program from the Foundation
- Individuals who reside in Japan
- Individuals who do not belong to graduate schools, organizations, research institutions, etc. located outside Japan.

## **(II) Grant Overview**

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

A maximum of 30 students and researchers

### **2. Grant Amount**

- Maximum amount of grant per student/researcher is 800,000 yen.
- The amount of each grant will be determined based on the content of the research plan and the reasonableness of the proposed budget.

### **3. Grant Period**

- Term of grants shall be one year from **October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027.**

#### **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 on page 6.

The amount requested and the itemized budget must always match.

#### **5. Main Obligations of Grant Recipients**

- Grant recipients are required to submit a written pledge to the Foundation and, within one month after the end of the grant period, submit a report on the progress and results of the research, together with an accounting report. If a valid report is not submitted within six months after the end of the grant period, the Foundation will determine that the research was not carried out and will require the full grant amount to be returned.
- Receipts must be attached to the accounting report for all expenditures.
- Any unexpended grant funds must, in principle, be returned to the Foundation.
- Please note that reports on the progress and results of the research will be made public on the Foundation's website and through other means.

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

#### **1. Screening Process**

- Careful and fair screening will be conducted by the screening committee in mid-July, 2026.

#### **2. Notification of Results**

- Applicants will be notified of the results by e-mail by the beginning of August, 2026. 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 sciences that meet the following criteria:

- Research that is aligned with the objectives and activities of the Foundation
- Research of high social and academic significance
- Creative and pioneering research
- Research that will be conducted by highly motivated and capable researchers and supported by well-designed research plans
- Research with a rational and appropriate budget plan.

## (IV) Application Procedures

### 1. Application Period:

**9:00 a.m. on April 1 (Wed) ~ 5:30 p.m. on May 11 (Mon), 2026**

\*The “Research Grant Program Application Form” page will automatically close at 5:30 p.m. on May 11.

\*Applications submitted by e-mail will not be accepted and will automatically be excluded from the screening process.

### 2. Application Procedure

Applicants are requested to complete the application through the Foundation’s website in accordance with the procedures below.

#### (1) Register an email address in the online application system

1. Access the Research Grant page and click “Application System.”  
([https://matsushita-konosuke-zaidan.or.jp/en/works/research/promotion\\_research\\_01.html](https://matsushita-konosuke-zaidan.or.jp/en/works/research/promotion_research_01.html))
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to register your name, email address, and password.  
*Once registered, you will be able to save your application temporarily and return to it later.*
3. An email requesting preparation of the application documents will then be sent to your registered email address.

#### (2) Prepare and submit the application through the online application system

1. Download the Letter of Recommendation form (Word format) from the Research Grant page. After it has been duly stamped or signed, scan it and prepare it as a PDF file.
2. Follow the instructions in the online application form, complete all required fields, and upload the Letter of Recommendation.
3. Click “Next” to review the information entered.
4. Click “Update” to save the application as a draft.
5. A confirmation email will be sent once your draft has been saved.  
*Please note that saving a draft does not constitute final submission.*  
*Applicants must complete the submission process via the submission URL provided.*
6. Log in through the submission URL included in the draft-save confirmation email.
7. Click “Next” to review the application details.
8. Click “Submit” to complete the application.
9. A confirmation email acknowledging receipt of the application documents will be sent to your registered email address.

*Applicants must ensure that they receive the notification email containing their application number.*

*Please note that the application may be revised after submission, provided that any revisions are made before the application deadline.*

### **Notes on Completing Each Section of the Application Form**

**Basic Information:** All fields must be completed without omission.  
Please provide an email address at which you can be reliably contacted during the screening period (from mid-May to September).

**Outline of Research:** Please provide an outline of your research. In preparing this section, please write in a manner that can be readily understood by members of the screening committee, including those outside your field of specialization. Please use the designated font size and do not exceed the prescribed length.

### **Summary of Master's/**

**Doctoral Thesis:** Please provide a summary of your master's thesis. If you do not have a master's thesis, for example because you graduated from an overseas university or under a different academic system, please provide equivalent material instead (such as conference presentation materials).

**Budget Plan:** Under "Budget (Details of Expenditure)," please enter only the details of the expenditures for which funding is being requested from this Foundation. Please clearly describe the intended use of the funds and the basis for the cost calculation in relation to your research plan. When completing this section, please be sure to refer to the "List of Expense Categories" on page 6. Please write concisely, referring to the sample entries where appropriate.

### **Applicant's Background**

**and Recommender:** If you have been selected as a JSPS Research Fellow, please indicate this in the Background section, together with the relevant period of appointment. In the Recommender section, please provide the name of one specialist in a relevant field who is considered qualified to evaluate the proposed research topic.

**Letter of Recommendation:**

The recommender's name must be indicated, and the letter must bear the recommender's personal seal or signature. A letter of recommendation in English may be submitted in a different format (letter size is acceptable), but it should be limited to one or two pages.

- \* Only the letter of recommendation may be submitted separately by postal mail (either by registered mail or Letter Pack) if the recommender prefers to send it directly to the Foundation. Such documents must arrive no later than **Monday, May 11**. In that case, applicants must upload a PDF file indicating that the letter of recommendation will be sent directly by the recommender.

<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

**3. Important Notes**

- Applications submitted by email, postal mail, in person, or fax will not be accepted.
- Please retain a copy of the submitted application details and letter of recommendation file until the screening results have been notified.
- As network congestion may occur immediately before the application deadline (Monday, May 11, 2026, 5:30 p.m.), applicants are strongly advised to submit their applications well in advance.
- If you do not receive a notification confirming completion of your application, please contact the Foundation office promptly.

**4. Application Inquiries:**

Any questions regarding the application should be submitted through the "Inquiry" form on the Foundation's website.

After the application period opens, applicants are required to provide their application number when making an inquiry.

Before making an inquiry, please refer to the FAQ section on the website.

Please note that the Foundation office will be closed from Saturday, April 25, to Wednesday, May 6 (national holiday), and inquiries received during this period cannot be answered.

In addition, a large volume of inquiries is expected immediately after the holiday period, and some inquiries may not be answered before the application deadline. Applicants are therefore strongly encouraged to make inquiries, whenever possible, before the holiday period.

## Items of Expenditure

Items	Explanations
(1) Personnel <hr/> Reward / payment to cooperators <hr/> Reward / payment to assistants	Honoraria or tokens of appreciation for advice or cooperation provided by external collaborators Honoraria for research assistants engaged in support work necessary for the research, such as the collection of materials and surveys <i>(including honoraria for temporary workers engaged in tasks such as survey assistance, driving, and data entry)</i>
(2) Travel <hr/> Domestic <hr/> Overseas	Transportation, accommodation, and incidental expenses <i>(including insurance premiums and other expenses associated with overseas travel)</i>
(3) Survey / Equipment <hr/> Contract survey <hr/> Software / Data Processing	Expenses for outsourcing questionnaire surveys, data tabulation, and similar work to external contractors Expenses for computer program development, data processing, computer usage fees, and software licensing or rental fees <i>Excluding the cost of purchasing hardware, such as personal computers, that can continue to be used after the end of the research period.</i>
(4) Documents & copying <hr/> Purchase of books, Materials, etc. <hr/> Printing / Copying	Expenses for purchasing books and academic papers, and other materials. Expenses for purchasing recording media such as photographs, microfilm, and disks. Printing costs for questionnaires, tabulation sheets, and similar materials, as well as document copying costs.
(5) Conference Rent for a venue <hr/> Miscellaneous	Rental expenses for venues used for meetings Expenses for refreshments and boxed meals served at meetings, as well as communication costs
(6) Communication / Transportation	Communication costs and equipment transportation costs
(7) Consumable Supplies	Office supplies and other consumable items necessary for the research
(8) Miscellaneous Expenses	Expenses not falling under any of the categories above, including translation fees, proofreading fees, maintenance and management costs for equipment and fixtures, fees for participation in research meetings, and other related expenses.

**The following expenses are not eligible for funding:**

*(If included in the application, such expenses will be deducted from the amount of grant awarded, even if the application is approved.)*

- Personnel costs, living expenses, tuition fees, and per diem allowances for business trips of the researcher
- General administrative expenses necessary for the operation and management of the research organization
- Costs for printing reports, publishing printed materials, or organizing symposia conducted solely for the purpose of presenting the results of research that has already been completed
- Expenses for participation in academic conferences or meetings held outside the applicant's country of residence that are not intended for the presentation of research results
- Costs for purchasing hardware that remains usable after the end of the research period, such as **personal computers, digital cameras, audio-visual equipment, copying or printing equipment**, and other fixtures or equipment

**\*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.**