

Overseas Research Activities Grant

KUASU Challenge + 2025

-Guidelines-

Graduate School of Economics (GSE), Kyoto University

1. Purpose and Outline

This grant is awarded to students who meet the eligibility requirements (see section 4 on Eligibility) and are conducting research activities overseas on Asian Studies or a subject within the scope of the EA Programme. This financial support is to help cover travel expenses to conduct field research and/or receive research supervision, and a portion of associated living expenses related to such activities.

2. Before applying

The grant recipient must adhere to Kyoto University's regulations and follow its instructions.

3. Application deadline (submit via email to: iao.econ[at]mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

January 16, 2026

Applications will no longer be accepted when the budget limit is reached. Applications must be submitted at least one month prior to the program's starting date.

4. Eligibility

- 1) The applicant must be a graduate student at the Graduate School of Economics of Kyoto University, not taking a leave of absence, and planning to conduct research activities overseas.
- 2) In principle, this grant covers overseas research activities. If the applicant intends to conduct research in their home country, they must clarify in their research proposal that overseas travel is for research purposes.

*Non-Japanese students can count Japan as overseas.

- 3) If the applicant is currently receiving other grants or scholarships, they must confirm in advance that there are no conflicts involved in obtaining this grant.

5. Fees covered by the grant (the grant recipient must be the person conducting the research activities) *Kindly note that the amount of the grant may be subject to the limited budget.

- 1) Airline tickets (for overseas research activities)
 - Asian countries: half of the airfare, up to 60,000 yen, will be covered.

Other countries: half of the airfare, up to 120,000 yen, will be covered.

- Round-trip airfare between Osaka (KIX/ITM) and the international airport closest to your first/final destination.

2) *Shinkansen or Airline tickets (for research activities within Japan)

- A round-trip Shinkansen train ticket between Kyoto and the nearest Shinkansen station to the first/last destination for research-related activities.
- If it is the most economical option, a round-trip airline ticket between Osaka (KIX/ITM) and the closest domestic airport to the first/last destination.

*Participants are responsible for arranging and paying for their Flight or Shinkansen tickets on their own. After returning to Kyoto University and submitting all required documents, half of the flight costs will be reimbursed based on the rules above and the Kyoto University accounting regulations.

3) Accommodation fee

4,000 JPY/research day (maximum 80,000JPY)

This will be provided only for the days on which research activities are scheduled. The maximum number of days participants can receive financial support for their accommodation fees is 20. The maximum amount per day that can be received is 4,000 JPY. Therefore, the maximum amount is 80,000 JPY (4,000 JPY x 20 days).

*Participants are responsible for arranging and paying for their accommodations, and after returning to Kyoto University, they will be reimbursed based on their actual research schedule.

*If participants stay at a family's or friend's home, etc., accommodation fees will not be provided.

6. Duration of Research Activities

- Minimum of **5 days** and a maximum of **3 months**.
Research trips must be finished by March 2, 2026.

7. Application procedures

Applicants must prepare and submit the following documents to the IAO **via email** (iao.econ[at]mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp) by January **16, 2026**.

1) Application form (Form 1)

2) Research proposal and execution plan (open format)

- While there is no specified format, the proposal must include a detailed plan and purpose of the proposed research activities that will be conducted and a statement that the applicant has sufficient language skills to conduct the research activities at their destination.

3) Pledge (Form 2)

4) Research Schedule (Form 3)

5) Evidence to support the applicant's planned research activities;

- 5-1. An acceptance letter/email of the applicant's supervisor(s) receiving their visit
 - If the applicant is receiving supervision from faculty members at different universities, they must submit a letter or an email from the supervisor(s) specifying the dates and place of their prospective meeting.
- 5-2. A letter/email from a contact person at the field research site
 - If the applicant is conducting field research, they must submit a letter or email written by a contact person validating the applicant's field research plans.
- 5-3. Proof of permission to enter institutions/libraries
 - If the applicant is collecting data at institutions and libraries, they must submit proof of permission that validates their activities.
 - If prior permission at the institutions/libraries is not required, a letter or email written by a contact person or detailed information about the institutions/libraries must be presented.
- 5-4. An appointment letter/email from the interviewee
 - If the applicant is conducting interviews with officials from government agencies, businesses, or NGOs; they need to submit a letter or email written by the interviewee indicating the date and place of the interview.

*The above-mentioned evidence does not have to be limited to a letter/email. Correspondence through messages exchanged through various SNS apps is also acceptable. In such cases, please take a screenshot/copy of the exchanges to submit as evidence.

*All required documents must be written in English or Japanese. Please provide a translation of documents if they are written in a language other than English or Japanese.

- 6) Approval from the supervisor (open format)
 - Applicants must ask their supervisor to email the IAO (iao.econ[at]mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp) stating their approval for their research activities and travel.

8. Screening

The screening and selection process is conducted by several GSE faculty members. All applicants will be notified of their results within two weeks.

*Applicants may be requested to provide additional information if needed.

*Any inquiries regarding application status are not accepted during this period.

9. After you are approved to receive the grant

After receiving the approval notice, the grant recipient must follow the following instructions and prepare for the research activities.

- 1) Make all necessary flight arrangements (if applicable) for your travels scheduled during the grant period by yourself.
 - All flights should depart from and return to Osaka (KIX/ITM), and seats must be in economy

class

- Additional charges for seat selection, luggage, etc., are not included in the grant.
 - If the recipient changes or cancels a flight due to personal reasons after the tickets have been issued, all the cancellation and handling fees shall be charged to the recipient.
 - Required documents: Flight e-ticket (before the research trip), Receipt (officially issued), Flight boarding passes (After the research trip)
- 2) Obtain a visa (if needed)
- The recipient must check all the required documents for obtaining a visa and inform IAO well beforehand if any documents are required from the office.
 - The grant does not cover fees for obtaining a visa.
- 3) Purchase overseas travel insurance (Futaikaigaku: <https://www.tnpgrp.co.jp/tnpo/newpage17.html>) with unlimited medical treatment and rescue expenses coverage.
- The recipient must sign up for the GAKKENSAN: Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research.
 - The insurance must cover the entire research period, including the days of travelling to and from the research destination. (Please note that the insurance must cover up to the return date to Japan.)
 - The grant does not cover insurance fees.
 - The recipient must submit a copy of the insurance policies to the IAO a week before initiating any activities.
- 4) Inform the IAO of accommodation details
- All recipients must submit the address and contact details of their accommodation during their research activities.
- 5) Submit Notification of Overseas Travel
- All GSE students are required to submit a Notification of Overseas Travel through KULASIS before they travel overseas.
- 6) Contact information
- In case of an emergency, the recipient must contact their direct supervisor and the IAO (iao.econ[at]mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp).
- 7) [In case the recipient is conducting their research in Japan] Arrange the Shinkansen ticket

10. After returning from research activities

After returning from all research activities, the grant recipient must follow the following instructions and report on their research activities.

- 1) **IMMEDIATELY: submit all boarding passes to the IAO**
- The recipient must submit ALL boarding passes from each flight route.
 - If the recipient is travelling by a Shinkansen or limited express train, they must submit

receipts of a limited express ticket and a boarding ticket.

Note: When purchasing a ticket at a JR station ticket counter (Midori-no-Madoguchi), the recipient must inform the counter clerk that they need a receipt at the time of purchase.

If the ticket (reserved seat ticket, unreserved seat ticket, etc.) is purchased from a ticket machine at a JR station, a "receipt button" will appear on the screen. The receipt will be issued along with the ticket. Receipts cannot be issued at stations other than where the ticket was purchased. Also, a receipt cannot be issued at a later date, so please be sure to get one at the time of purchase.

2) WITHIN TWO WEEKS of your return: submit a report (Form 4)

- The report can be written in either Japanese or English.
- The report must contain the purpose, schedule, outcome of the research, the recipient's future research plan, and pictures taken at the destination (it must include at least one picture that shows the recipient at the research site).
- Please note that the report may be posted on the Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit website.

11. Contact Information

The International Affairs Office (IAO)

Faculty of Law and Faculty of Economics East Bldg., 2nd Floor

Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University

Tel: 075-753-3467

E-mail: iao.econ[at]mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Note: Personal information about the applicants will only be used for the intended purpose and will not be disclosed to third parties.

