

International Grant Program 2020
Main Questions and Answers from the online orientations

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[i.e. "have practical experience such as conducting research, carrying out activities, producing creative works, and making policy proposals, etc. in regards to the focused issues"](#)

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1. CONCERNS RELATED TO COVID-19

Q1 Is it possible to extend the grant period, in case the proposed plan cannot be implemented as planned, or can't start in the first place due to the situation of COVID-19?

A. Yes. With regard to postponement of the start time and extension of the project period, we will take flexible measures depending on the circumstances.

At this point (April 2020), it is difficult to foresee when overseas travel and overseas activities will be resumed. Please be sure to set a generous time schedule within the grant period (1 or 2 years from November 2020).

2. ABOUT TARGET COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

Q2. Is it possible to set up a project team in Japan and Singapore, then include other Southeast Asian countries and Europe as survey sites?

A. Yes, the project area must include at least two of the countries / regions specified in the program guidelines. On top of that, it is possible to add other countries / regions. The nationality of the members does not matter.

Q3. There are activity groups in several districts within the same country. Is it OK to include each of these groups in the project?

A. Yes. You can include multiple districts within the same country as long as the project includes more than two target countries / regions specified in the program guidelines.

Example: Japan (Tokyo, Osaka) and Thailand (Bangkok, Chiang Mai)

3. ABOUT THEME AND CONTENTS OF THE PROJECT

Q4. There were “A. Priority Thematic Area” and “B. Open Area” in the International Grant Program 2019. Is it correct to understand that there is no priority thematic area but only “Open Area” in 2020?

A. Yes, we do not set the priority thematic area and it is only then-called “Open Area” in 2020.

Q5. Which is more appropriate to apply for, the special subject program “Migrants and Japanese society” or the International Grant Program? Our project is about multicultural coexistence among Japanese people and people with foreign roots in Japanese society.

A. It depends on the content of the project which program is suitable to apply, so please consult. These two programs have different aims and requirements from each other. For example, the International Grant Program requires direct exchange and mutual learning, while the special subject program “Migrants and Japanese society” aims at building supportive mechanisms and environments.

Q6. Can I apply a kind of project that the researchers in universities in Japan and abroad collaborate on concept development, case study, field research, formulation of elements such as architecture and mechanism, programs, designing and operation management, etc., for an advancement of town development?

A. Yes, as long as that is necessary in addressing the common issues in multiple countries.

4. ABOUT THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICATION

Q7. Is it OK to apply from a voluntary group?

A. Yes, but please note that the grant is directed to individuals, not groups/organizations.

The nationality and affiliation of the applicant such as voluntary groups, NGOs, universities, and private companies, do not matter. The same apply to project members as well.

Q8. Do you accept multiple applications from one organization?

A. Yes, but please note the grant is directed to individuals, not groups/ organizations. If a person is considering multiple projects, it is recommended to have prior consultation before applying.

Q9. Do applications from smaller organizations given priority over larger organizations?

A. No. The grant is intended for individuals who carry out the project, so the financial scale of the affiliated organization does not matter.

Q10. Are a project representative and all members need to fulfill the Qualifications for Application on p.3 in the guidelines?

i.e. "have practical experience such as conducting research, carrying out activities, producing creative works, and making policy proposals, etc. in regards to the focused issues"

A. No. You don't have to have all the experiences, as long as you have the appropriate experience to carry out the project. It is not necessary for all members to fulfill this requirement. However, it is desirable to have members who can achieve equal participation for an exchange and mutual learning point of view.

5. ABOUT THE BUDGET/COSTS AND GRAND FUND

Q11. May I use my own funds and/or external funds in addition to the grant from the Toyota Foundation?

A. Yes. You can use your own funds and/or external funds. In view of the development and sustainability of the project, we recommend that you secure not only the fund from the Toyota Foundation, but also your own funds as well as other relevant institutions. For external funds, please specify in your proposal "11. Other funding sources".

Q12. May I purchase consumable items with the grant fund?

A. Yes. Please refer to the list of grant items in the page 10 of the sample proposal. The items that cost 200,000 yen (about 2000USD) or more fall in to (6) Equipment / Machinery, and the ones that are less than 200,000 yen goes to (7) Miscellaneous.

6. OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES

Q13. Is it possible to create a product, such as an architecture or a landscape designed by the project team and local residents?

A. Yes. As long as they are in line with the purpose of the International Grant Program, any forms of the deliverables are accepted.

7. PROJECT SCHEDULE

Q14. I want to apply for a one-year project. If the implementation period needs to be extended, can I apply for an additional project for the next year?

A. It is possible to extend the project period if necessary. If you plan a new project as the next step, please apply for the grant in the following year.

Please note that the program is reviewed and revised every year and are subject to change.

8. OTHERS

Q15. May I to apply for both “International Grant Program” and “Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan”?

A. Yes. However, it is not necessarily regarded positive in the selection, considering the capacity in implementation. Prior consultation is advised.

Q16. Are there any differences between English and Japanese application in the selection process (such as the composition of the selection committee)?

A. No. It will go through the same process by the same selection committee.

Q17. Is the prior consultation available in English?

A. Yes.

Q18. If I apply this year and it is rejected, can I revise the proposal and apply again in the next year?

A. Yes, you can. We recommend to have prior consultation before applying. Please note that the program is reviewed and revised every year and are subject to change.