

The Toyota Foundation Research Grant Program for Fiscal 2011

“Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future”

Information for Applicants

Application period

Applications submitted via the Internet

Friday, April 1, to Friday, May 13, 2011 (until 5:00 p.m. JST)

Applications submitted by mail

Friday, April 1, to Thursday, May 12, 2011 (postmarked at the latest)

April 2011

1. Program Objectives

Since its establishment in 1975, the Toyota Foundation Research Grant Program has provided support to pioneering research carried out on the basis of flexible ideas not limited by conventional frameworks, reflecting the independent standpoint of a private foundation. The grant program has evolved over the years since its launch, but what remains unchanged is a firm commitment bringing about a more creative and dynamic society in which the quest for knowledge fosters greater awareness and acceptance of pluralistic values. In fiscal 2011, we are seeking ambitious projects with important social significance in line with our new theme, "Pursuing Knowledge to Build a Better Future," based on the "Toyota Foundation Vision 2010" unveiled last year.

In our world today, science and technology and globalization advance alongside deep social change. This urgently requires a worldwide paradigm shift to address the many pressing tasks triggered by a variety of factors, such as the frequent outbreak of socioeconomic crises, unexpected wide-scale disaster and the destruction of the natural environment.

In the face of this situation, however, the research environment has not necessarily been up to the task of addressing the issues facing contemporary society. Reasons for this include the narrowing scope and increasing specialization of research fields and the greater emphasis now placed on evaluation and performance.

Yet the essence of research is an unceasing endeavor that stems from our innate and insatiable thirst for knowledge – something with the creative potential to actually change the world by fundamentally calling its ways into question. The process of trial and error, deeply rooted in intellectual curiosity, has for human beings brought about bountiful culture and forged new values. It has also been the soil from which the latest discoveries have grown. We can also look to research to boldly indicate the paths to take in addressing the societal challenges we face by serving as a more direct source of action.

Based on this outlook, our program has consolidated previous frameworks corresponding to research areas into a total of three frameworks in two categories, A and B, in line with the stages and characteristics of each research project. The frameworks all share a concern for uncovering new relations between people, as well as connections between people and culture and people and nature, and aspire to a

spiritually rich society in which people sustain each other by forming such links. Our grant program welcomes anyone inside or outside Japan—whether researchers and professionals or practitioners from outside the establishment—provided they are animated by the bold ambition to construct new paradigms and to have their knowledge resound within society. We hope for a positive response from all potential candidates.

2. Grant Frameworks

Category A: Joint Research

1. Practical research that contributes to addressing challenges facing society

The rapid development of science and technology and globalization has benefited all of us, but it has also triggered various problems with a major negative impact on human existence itself, including the occurrence of environmental problems on a global scale, confusion of social infrastructure triggered by large scale natural disaster, spread of international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. This grant framework targets joint research that boldly engages with and seeks to resolve issues directly confronting Japan and overseas areas, as well as the international community as a whole. The emphasis is on identifying the tasks and the methods to be employed, and on developing concrete ways to utilize the project results to benefit society.

We welcome practical research topics aimed at breaking through the status quo to contribute to the creation of a future better suited to individuals and society at large.

Examples of research themes:

- Building models aimed at resolving worldwide problems including infectious diseases and environmental problems like climate change.
- Policy recommendations with regard to relations between areas and between nations, including such issues as ethnic conflicts and regional economic disparities.
- Suggestions for social systems and techniques to revive and promote local communities in Japan and overseas.

2. Value-creation research aimed at forging a new society

In order for people to support one another and cultivate a hope-filled society, it is essential to strive to create rich ties with others in a harmonious way, with mutual respect for a diverse range of values and customs. This grant framework supports joint research that seeks to create new value on the basis of a sense of intellectual curiosity.

We hope to see projects for which the researchers focus not on short-term results, but on pioneering, independent work based on sticking to their own ideas, adopting a noteworthy perspective, and engaging in free thinking.

This grant framework welcomes ambitious research topics for which the emphasis is on a trial-and-error process that adopts a long-term perspective in pursuit of new paradigms for contemporary society.

Examples of research themes:

- Investigating topics in the realm of ideas or philosophy and identifying and formulating unexplored issues.
- Taking a fresh look at the sets of values and morals widely shared in today's society and revising them.
- Bringing to light traditional culture and customs, as well as wisdom and knowledge buried within people's lives.

Joint research

"Joint research" refers here to research carried out by multiple researchers on a common topic. This research will preferably be carried out so that the project members have a suitably broad range perspectives on the research in terms of such factors as cultural background and area of specialty.

Category B: Individual Research

This project framework is aimed at promising researchers, particularly young researchers or those whose outside the establishment. We target projects from any field or topic provided that the researcher has adopted an innovative perspective and approach, and that the project can contribute positively to the researcher's own future. Grant recipients are not limited to researchers affiliated with universities or research institutions.

3. Grant Amounts and Periods

- **Total amount of grants**

150 million yen

- **Amount per grant**

Category A: Joint Research 1 & 2 Up to 10 million yen (2 years)

Category B: Individual Research Up to 2 million yen (2 years)

Please note:

* For one-year projects, the upper limit for grant funding is 5 million yen for Category A and 1 million yen for Category B.

* Neither grant framework imposes any restrictions related to nationality, affiliation, or place of residence.

- **Grant period**

Grant coverage will begin on November 1, 2011, and run for one year (to October 31, 2012) or two years (to October 31, 2013).

Project category	Nature of research	Grant period	Maximum grant per project	Total allocated grant amounts
Category A				
Joint Research 1	Joint research involving multiple project members	1 or 2 years, starting from Nov. 1, 2011	10 million yen (5 million yen or less per year)	Approx. 60 million yen
Joint Research 2				Approx. 60 million yen
Category B				
Individual Research	Individual research by young/non-establishment researchers	1 or 2 years, starting from Nov. 1, 2011	2 million yen (1 million yen or less per year)	Approx. 30 million yen
Total				150 million yen

4. Communication with the Toyota Foundation

A. Grant initiation (exchange of memorandums)

Each principal member (or representative) of a project for which a grant is awarded will exchange memorandums of agreement with the Toyota Foundation and then carry out the project in accordance with this agreement.

B. Consultation and coordination

If necessary, a Toyota Foundation program officer will visit the main members or representative of a project to discuss the project's progress and its prospects for achieving results.

C. Progress report meetings, workshops, and symposiums

Meetings will be held at which the principal members or representatives of projects may be asked to report on their progress and prospects for achieving results. Workshops and symposiums will also be held.

D. Presentation of reports (interim and final)

The Toyota Foundation requires the principal project member to prepare and submit a written interim project report, final project report, and financial report (using the prescribed forms). Please note that if an interim report is judged to be inadequate, subsequent grant funding may be suspended.

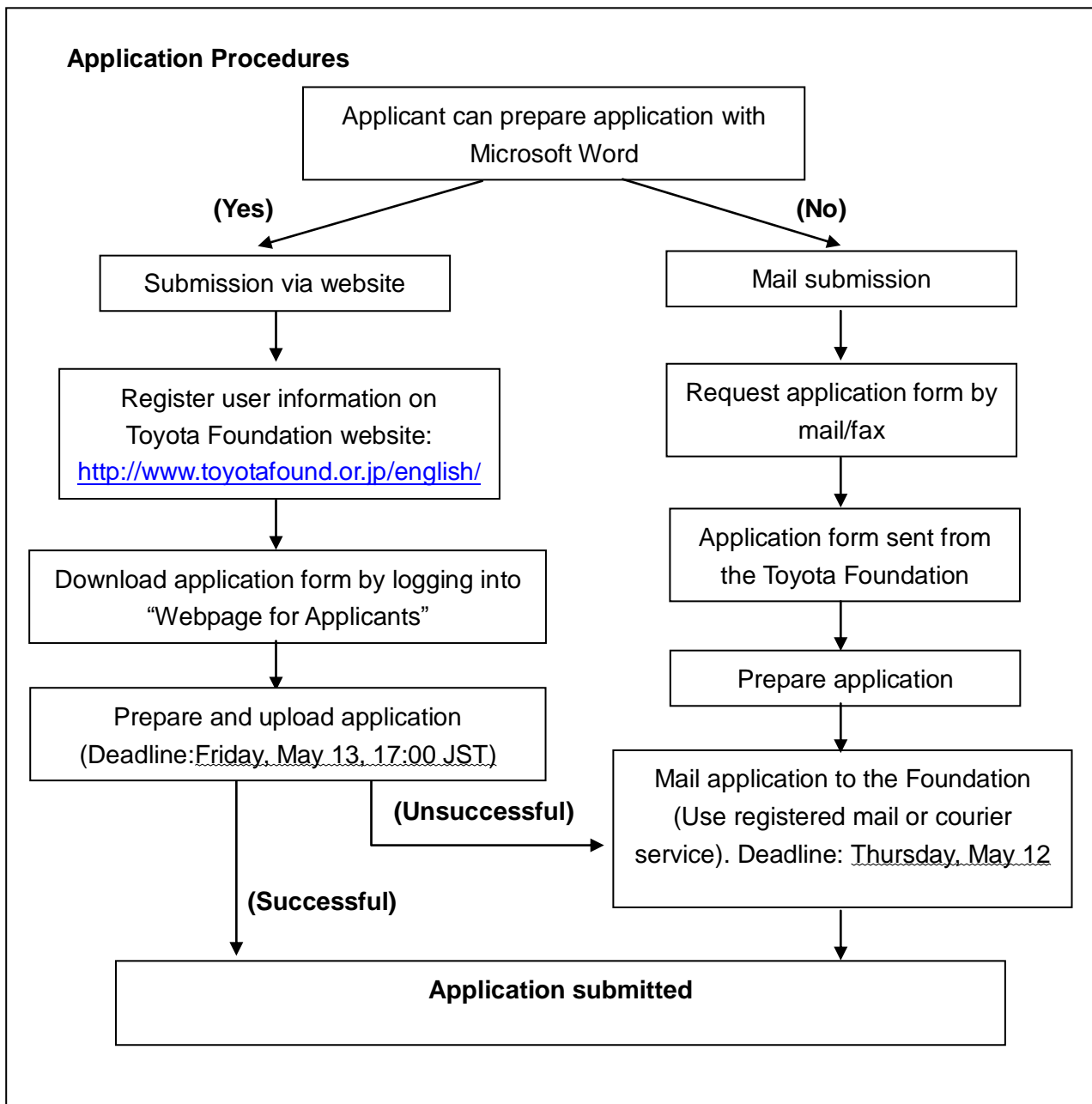
E. Continued funding

A project member who devises a plan for a new project closely related to a current or previous project may apply for continued funding in the following fiscal year or thereafter, either under this program or under another Toyota Foundation program. The decision to approve or decline the application will be based on a comprehensive review of the status and results of the original project, as set forth in consultations and the interim and final reports, as well as on standards used in screening new projects. Applicants who are seeking continued funding should confer with the program officer in charge of the original project.

5. Application Procedures and Screening

A. Application procedures

To apply for a grant via the Internet, applicants should visit the “Research Grant Program Application Announcement” page of the Toyota Foundation website (<http://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/>), where detailed instructions are available.



■ Those unable to apply via the Toyota Foundation website can send a postcard or fax to the Research Grant Program (contact information at the end of this document). Please clearly state that you are requesting a Research Grant Program application form and indicate your name, mailing address, and phone number (mobile phone acceptable).

Completed applications forms should be sent by registered mail or acceptance-recorded mail, or by a courier service or another delivery service that provides a record of delivery. Please confirm the deadlines in “B. Application period” below.

Please note:

* The Toyota Foundation cannot accept applications submitted by fax or e-mail or delivered in person.

* Only the prescribed form may be submitted as an application for the program (Japanese or English); no substitutes or additional pages can be accepted.

B. Application period

Friday, April 1, to Friday, May 13, 2011 (until 5:00 p.m. JST)

■ For those unable to apply via the Toyota Foundation website
Friday, April 1, to Thursday, May 12, 2011 (postmarked at the latest)
Please note that deadlines differ depending on whether the application is submitted via the Internet or by mail.

C. Selection process

Formal decisions on the selection of projects to be awarded grants will be made at Toyota Foundation Board of Directors meetings scheduled to be held in September 2011, based on the deliberations of the Toyota Foundation Research Grant Program Selection Committee (chaired by Professor Toshio Kuwako of the Tokyo Institute of Technology). The selection of projects is primarily based on the information contained in the submitted applications, but when necessary the committee may ask to interview an applicant about a project proposal or ask an applicant to make a presentation at the Toyota Foundation.

D. Selection results

Applicants (or their designated contacts) are scheduled to be informed in writing of the selection results at an early date following the Board of Directors meetings. Telephone inquiries are not accepted.

F. Points to keep in mind when submitting and after submitting an application

When submitting an application:

Applications submitted via the Toyota Foundation website

- Traffic on the Toyota Foundation website can be expected to intensify as the application deadline approaches, and this could hinder individual attempts to submit (upload) an application.
- Those applying via the Toyota Foundation website are not allowed to send in the application by mail. Each applicant is asked to submit only one application, either via the Internet or by mail – *not* both.
- Please follow all the instructions provided on the Toyota Foundation website when submitting your application.

Those unable to apply via the website may submit an application by mail

- Please submit only one copy of the application form. No additional documents should be included with an application.
- Application forms will be photocopied during the selection process – please do not staple or paste anything to the form.
- If you format your application by pasting print-outs onto the form, please make a copy of the complete form and send the copy.
- Application forms must be printed on only one side of each page submitted; pages printed on both sides will not be accepted.
- The “application number” space at the top right of the application form is for Toyota Foundation use. We will mail you a postcard by early June to inform you of your application number.
- Applications postmarked after Monday, May 12, 2011, will not be accepted.

After submitting an application:

- Applications cannot be replaced or updated once they are submitted.
- Submitted applications will not be returned.

- If any statement in an application is found to be untrue or misleading, the application may be rejected, and even if the project proposal has been approved, the grant may be cancelled.
- The Toyota Foundation will not respond to questions about the reasons for its approval or rejection of project proposals.

PRIVACY NOTICE: The personal information you provide on the application form will be used by the Toyota Foundation for project selection, statistical analysis, and administrative activities, such as contacting applicants. This information will not be used for any other purpose without your consent, except in cases provided for by law.

Address to Send Applications (Contact Details for Inquiries)

Research Grant Program, The Toyota Foundation
Box 236, Shinjuku Mitsui Building 37F
2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo, Japan 163-0437
Phone: +81-(0)3-3344-1701 Fax: +81-(0)3-3342-6911

<https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/inquiry/>

Attn.: (Mr.) Kusuda, (Ms.) Ohsawa



The Toyota Foundation