

The Toyota Foundation Research Grant Program for Fiscal 2012

“Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future”

Information for Applicants

This program supports researches uncovering new relations between people, nature, and culture, and aspiring to an enriched society in which people sustain each other.

Application Period

Applications submitted via the Internet

Monday, April 16 to Friday, May 18 (until 5:00p.m. JST)

Applications submitted by mail

Monday, April 16 to Thursday, May 17 (postmarked at the latest)

April 2012

1. Program Objectives

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. In fiscal 2012, continuing from Fiscal 2011, we are seeking research projects with social significance in line with our theme, “Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future”.

In our world today, science and technology and globalization advance dramatically. But at the same time, we face challenges with complexed factors which requires a worldwide paradigm shift, such as destruction of the natural environment and financial and economic crises. In face of the rapid change of ties between people in Asia and local communities, the role of research within the society is also called into question to explore our renewed lifestyles.

Yet the essence of research is an endeavor that stems from intellectual curiosity –something with the creative potential to actually change the world by fundamentally calling its ways into question. The results of such researches evolving from the process of trial and error, may not be accepted instantly by society, still has the potential to enrich our culture and lead to new findings. 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 concept, our program asks for joint projects within the scope of two frameworks, “Research that aims at creating new social value” and “Practical research that contributes to addressing social issue”. We also call for individual research proposals, to support researchers taking the lead in the next generation.

All frameworks ask for ambitious researches uncovering new relations between people, nature, and culture, and aspiring to an enriched society in which people sustain each other.

Our grant program welcomes anyone inside or outside Japan – whether researchers and professionals or practitioners from outside the established research institutions – 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

As below, we invite proposals under 3 frameworks, [Category A] Joint Research 1. and 2., as well as [Category B] Individual Research. Please note that applicants should use different formats to prepare a proposal for respective framework.

Category A: Joint Research

1. Research that aims at creating new social value

This grant framework supports joint research conducted by various members who share each intellectual curiosity or taste, which seeks for an unrevealed new value in the society. We expect to see far-sighted researchs which are not bound by existing academic disciplines or short-term results and could present a new paradigm to the society.

Examples of research themes:

- Creating and disseminating a new concept generated from dialogues between parties from different backgrounds and positions
- Visualizing wisdom or knowledge buried in people's traditional life, culture and environment
- Raising a question through exploring philosophical and ideological agendas, deepening of a new academic sphere, etc.

Expected outcomes, etc.:

This framework gives priority to an unexpected evolution of research by amalgamation of different perspectives, or process of trial-and-error. However, we expect the research project to have appropriate outreach methods to share research results to the wider society.

2. Practical research that contributes to addressing social issue

This grant framework targets joint research that engages with and seeks to resolve specific social issues confronting Japan or other countries, by utilizing the expertise and strength of each research member. We welcome practical research who capture the essential features of the issue and aimed at breaking through the status quo to contribute and could lead to the creation of our desirable future.

Examples of research themes:

- Building models aimed at resolving global issues including pandemics, climate change, environmental destructions or problems caused by migration across borders
- Policy recommendations with regard to relations between areas and between nations, including such issues as ethnic conflicts and economic disparities
- Empirical researches for supporting disadvantaged groups or aiming at economic revival in local communities

Expected outcomes, etc.:

This framework expects research to have strategic results such as a proposal or recommendation which can be utilized in the near future to resolving an issue in the society.

Category B: Individual Research

This framework is aimed at supporting individual researches conducted by promising researchers, particularly young researchers or those who do not belong to universities or formal research institutions. We expect proposals from any field or topic provided that the researcher has adopted a free-minded and innovative perspective and approach, and that the research can contribute positively to the researcher's own future.

Examples of research themes:

Any fields, themes, research styles are accepted for applying.

Expected outcomes, etc.:

We expect a research result that freelance researchers (for instance, post doctoral researchers or visiting fellows) can utilize for future studies, or practical activities.

Note

- Neither grant framework imposes any restrictions related to applicant's nationality, affiliation, or place of residence.
- Please note that the grant does not cover indirect costs of the organization to which the applicant is affiliated or general administrative costs ("overhead").

Grant Framework Outline

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, 2012	10 million yen (5 million yen or less per year)	Approx. 40 million yen
Joint Research 2				Approx. 40 million yen
Category B:				
Individual Research	Individual research by young/non-establishment researchers	1 or 2 years, starting from Nov. 1, 2012	2 million yen (1 million yen or less per year)	Approx. 20 million yen
Total				100 million yen

3. Grant Amounts, Periods, and Reporting

- **Total amount of grants**

100 million yen

- **Amount per grant**

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

(For one-year projects, the upper limit for grant funding is 5 million yen)

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

(For one-year projects, the upper limit for grant funding is 1 million yen)

Note:

Appropriateness of the applied grant amount for the proposed research will also be considered under the process of selection. There is a possibility of reduction of actual grant amount compared with applied amount as a result of selection.

- **Grant period**

Grant coverage will begin on November 1, 2012, and run for one year (to October 31, 2013) or two years (to October 31, 2014).

- **Presentation of reports**

Each principal project member will be obliged to prepare and submit a written interim project report, final project report, together with financial report and attached documents, all using the prescribed forms within one month after the midterm/ end of the project period.

4. Communication with the Toyota Foundation

A. Grant initiation (exchange of memorandums)

Each project representative for which a grant is awarded will exchange memorandum 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 principle research members or representative of the project to understand the project's progress and its prospects for research outcomes.

C. Progress report meetings

Meetings may be held during or after the project period, at which the principal members or representatives of projects will be asked to report on their progress and prospects.

D. Research workshops, symposiums, or field researches

Project grantees are requested to inform the Foundation program officers in advance when there is an opportunity to know more about the project progress, for instance when a workshop / symposium / field research is held during the grant period.

E. Continued funding

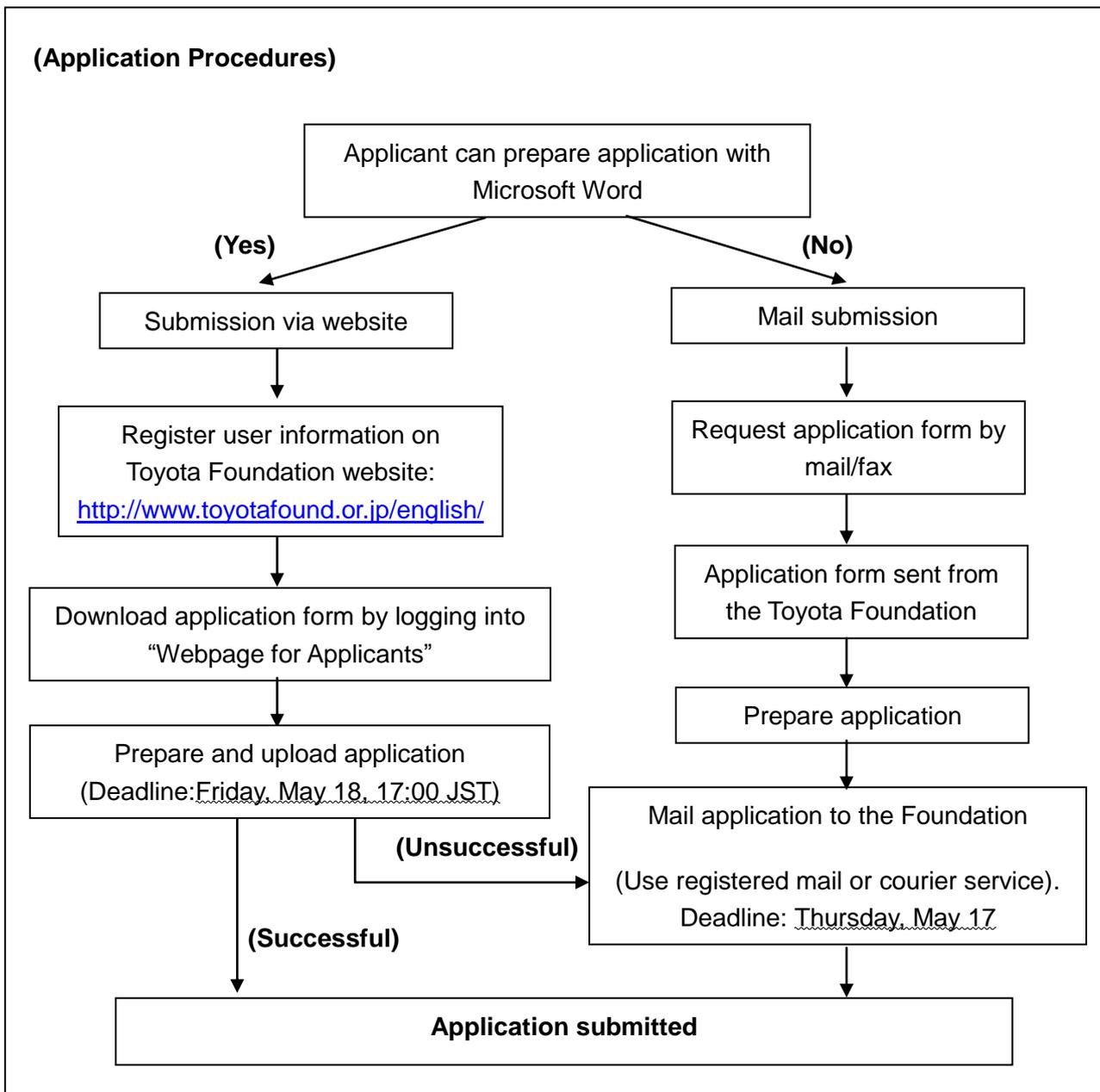
A project member who devises a plan for a new project closely related to a current or previous project may apply for continued funding in the following fiscal year or thereafter, either under this program or under another Toyota Foundation program. The decision to approve or decline the application will 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 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.

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

■ For applications via the Toyota Foundation website

Monday, April 16, to Friday, May 18, 2012 (until 5:00 p.m. JST)

■ For those unable to apply via the website

Monday, April 16, to Thursday, May 17, 2012 (postmarked at the latest)

Please note that deadlines differ depending on whether the application is submitted via website or by mail.

C. Selection process

Formal decisions on the selection of researches to be awarded grants will be made at Toyota Foundation Board of Directors meetings scheduled to be held in September 2012, 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 (contact person) are scheduled to be informed of the selection results at an early date following the Board of Directors meetings. Please understand that we cannot respond to direct inquiries from applicants.

F. Important notes 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.

Applications 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 Thursday, May 17, 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.: Watanabe (Mr.), Murai (Ms.)



The Toyota Foundation