

2 Childcare Assistance Program

Work-life balance support



**Academic/administrative staff,
Postdoctoral Fellows, doctoral
students (male or female)**

(1) Aim

To subsidize the use of a babysitter or temporary childcare service to enable academic/administrative staff members who are expecting a baby or caring for children to balance their duties with childcare so that they do not have to abandon their careers.

(2) Program details

A grant will be provided to cover fees for babysitting/nursery services necessary for balancing work duties with childcare.

- Applications are taken quarterly for the period specified. Fee assistance is paid for items deemed necessary in the review process.
- The maximum subsidy amount is 5,000 yen for one day and 30,000 yen for one month.
 - Please note that **the actual amount disbursed may be less than the requested amount**, depending on the application review and the budget.
- **In principle, the 4th period of the program in the 2023 academic year covers eligible childcare services that were used in the period from January 1 to March 31, 2024 and for which a receipt was issued.**
- The grant covers the cost of babysitting, temporary childcare, and certain other childcare services (including costs such as transportation and early-morning or late-night surcharges) required by awardees so that they can balance the following duties/situations with their childrearing responsibilities:
 - Duties performed **outside of regular working hours**, including activities such as attending meetings, assisting the administration of entrance exams, writing papers, performing experiments, and advising students.
 - **Business travel**, including travel for participating in academic conferences, on/off-campus committee meetings, other meetings, etc.
 - Closings (excluding long closings) of the nursery, kindergarten, or elementary school attended by the awardees' children that hinder the awardees from carrying out their duties, to the extent they require temporary and other childcare services.
 - Emergencies such as injury/illness of the child or the awardee.
- The grant may not be applied to the following:
 - The cost of services that are deemed part of routine childcare, such as monthly extended-hours care fees and after-school activity fees.
 - Temporary childcare at the university's on-campus childcare facilities (Aobayama Midori Hoikuen, Kawauchi Keyaki Hoikuen, Hoshinoko Hoikuen) or childcare service for mildly ill/convalescent children (Hoshinoko Room).
 - Fees for housework or similar ancillary activities, admission fees, annual fees, or cancellation fees.
 - Childcare at a kindergarten, etc. attended by the child that is provided during the regular hours of service.
 - **Compensation for services provided by self-employed babysitters, and person-to-person contracts**
- **For more information, see the Frequently Asked Questions on TUMUG support programs (in PDF format).**

(3) Eligibility to apply

All members of the university's academic/administrative staff (including part-time administrative staff), students (in three-year doctoral courses, or courses in medicine, dentistry or pharmacology), or JSPS Research Fellows (SPD/PD/RPD/DC) hosted by Tohoku University **who personally care for a child living in the same household up to and including primary school grade 6.**

- Applications cannot be made if someone else is available to provide childcare or family care on a daily basis.
- Part-time academic/administrative staff members need to work at least 64 hours monthly to qualify for this program.

(4) Application forms

- Attachment 2: Application for Fee-assistance Programs for Hiring Babysitters and Other Child Care Services (4th Period), 2023
- Attachment 7: Applicant Details relating to Eligibility Evaluation
- Attachment 8: Survey of Cooperation in Gender Equality Activities
- Copy of documentation confirming eligibility to apply
 - Health insurance card, resident card, passport, or other document certifying child's age
- Documentation confirming the details of childcare service use during the period covered (for each instance of usage)
 - Original receipts (Be sure to have **your full name** listed on them)
 - Documents providing itemized description of services used and the hourly rates charged

(5) Deadline for submission of application (4th period)

Monday, April 1, 2024

(6) Where to submit application

- To DEI Center, Tohoku University
- Fill out the relevant Google form and submit it to the DEI Center by the deadline along with all required attachments (in PDF format; however, original receipts are to be sent via campus mail). The Google Form will be posted on the DEI Center 's web page as soon as the call for applications opens.

(7) Application screening

- Documents will be examined by the screening panel within the Center for Gender Equality Promotion.
- During the screening process, you may be asked to prepare and submit additional documents or come for an interview.
- Selections are scheduled to be announced in mid-April 2024.

(8) Year-end report

The awardee shall prepare a report, as separately prescribed, at the end of the academic year.

(9) Other information

- Application periods
 - 1st period: Friday, July 28, 2023 (for services used April 1–June 30, 2023)
 - 2nd period: Friday, October 27, 2023 (for services used July 1–September 30, 2023)
 - 3rd period: Friday, January 26, 2024 (for services used October 1–December 31, 2023)
 - **4th period: Monday, April 1, 2024 (for services used January 1–March 31, 2024)**
- In principle, applications are taken only for services that were received during the specified period and for which a receipt was obtained. However, exceptions may be allowed for circumstances beyond the applicant's control. Please consult with the application coordinator to see if you qualify for an exception. However, applications may not be made for fees incurred in a previous academic year.
- There is no ceiling on the amount of fee assistance that may be applied for. However, application approval and the actual amounts awarded depend on the budget available.
- The awardee shall, as far as possible, cooperate with the following types of requests regarding the promotion of DEI by the Committee for DEI promotion (may be taken into consideration in the selection process): Participation in symposiums and seminars, poster presentations, responding to questionnaires, writing articles/comments for public-relations materials, and other requests.
- When announcing the results of research made possible by this program, the awardee must clearly acknowledge assistance provided under the program. (Please refer to the attachment "Q&A" for a practical example.)
- You may be asked to provide additional documentation if needed.