



**Newly appointed
academic staff
(females only)**

(1) Aim

This program assists newly appointed female researchers with start-up research costs, the ultimate aim being to nurture female leaders across a wide range of disciplines who have the potential to fill top global leadership positions going forward. The hope is that by assisting researchers who have just started their research careers at this university, they will develop into full-fledged researchers capable of attracting funding from other sources.

(2) Program details

Funds will be provided to offset the start-up costs of research at Tohoku University.

- The maximum grant amount is 1 million yen; however, it may be reduced based on the application details, budget availability, and the status of other program approvals

(3) Eligibility to apply

Female academic staff newly appointed during the period May 2, 2025 – May 1, 2026 (professors, associate professors, senior assistant professors and assistant professors), whose principal duties are with Tohoku University. *1 This excludes specially appointed professors (management), and those whose employment is 100% funded by external sources and who are obliged to exclusively serve the organization providing the funding.

*1 Excluding employees serving under the cross-appointment system and others whose principal employer is an organization other than Tohoku University.

- Persons whose employment is fixed-term are not eligible to apply, if the date of “Renewal Limit” on their Notice of Employment is on or before March 31, 2028.
- Those who have competitive funds (including university expenses) totaling 2 million yen or more in the relevant academic year are ineligible.
- Persons appointed on or after May 2, 2026, need to wait until the following academic year to apply.
- For persons who have been promoted from research associate to assistant professor or above, between May 2, 2025 and May 1, 2026 they can apply for this program.
- Those who have been previously selected for this grant may not apply again, regardless of any changes to their department affiliation or post.
- Applications made not be made for both this grant and the Next Step Research Grant at the same time.

(4) Application forms

- Attachment 2: Proposed Use Declaration Form for the Start-up Research Fund: (AY2026)
- A copy of the Notice of Employment

(5) Deadline for submission of application

Friday, July 3, 2026

(6) Where to submit application

- Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Tohoku University (DEI Center)
- Fill out the relevant Google form and submit it to the DEI Center along with all required attachments (in PDF format). The Google Form will be posted on the DEI Center's website page as soon as the call for applications opens.

(7) Application screening

- Documents will be examined by the screening panel within the DEI Center.
- 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 at end-July 2026. The scheduled date for disbursing research funds is August 1, 2026.
- If many applications are received, preference will be given to departments with a low proportion of female academic staff.

(8) Year-end report

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

(9) Other information

- 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 and the DEI Center (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.)