

Keio University Grant for Early Career Researchers

Launched in AY 2015, this program implements the following projects to foster the next generation of innovative, highly-competent and leadership-oriented researchers in the early stages of their career who are associated with the Faculty of Science and Technology or Shonan Fujisawa Campus and who will be responsible for the future of *monozukuri*.

Details of each project

(1) Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers (from AY 2015)

With the aim of fostering the next generation of innovative, highly-competent and leadership-oriented researchers in the early stages of their career who will be responsible for the future of *monozukuri*, the program provides financial assistance for joint international research projects to doctoral students and full-time academic staff under the age of 45 at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Graduate School of Science and Technology and Shonan Fujisawa Campus.

(2) Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research and Exchange Projects (from AY 2018 - ended AY 2022)

The grant will support new interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research and exchange projects from faculties, graduate schools, and university-affiliated research institutes in research areas that are expected to enhance the international reputation of Keio University. The program especially focuses on supporting research that is expected to lead to the acquisition of large research grants or to the emergence of corporate collaborations.

(3) Implementation of Foundational English Proficiency Acquisition Program for Keio students (from AY 2018 - ended AY 2020)

In order to foster researchers with international perspectives and experience gleaned from studying abroad, the program supports Keio students in acquiring English proficiency (such as TOEFL), which is a prerequisite for applying to study abroad programs of their choice.

(4) Promotion of Leading-edge Research Projects (from AY 2023)

The grant will support leading-edge research projects that enhance Keio University's international reputation and that are original, interdisciplinary, and expandable. An advisor will be assigned within the Graduate School of Science and Technology to provide ongoing advice and support in the creation and implementation of the project. In principle,

candidates must be full-time academic staff under the age of 45.

Achievements

■ AY 2015

- Implemented the “Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers” project. The 22 selected researchers traveled to 19 universities and institutions in 8 countries.

■ AY 2016

- Implemented the “Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers” project. The 22 selected researchers traveled to 25 universities and institutions in 16 countries.

■ AY 2017

- Implemented the “Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers” project. The 22 selected researchers traveled to 27 universities and institutions in 15 countries.

■ AY 2018

- The system was revised, and in addition to the existing “Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers” initiative, the “Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research and Exchange Projects” and “Implementation of Foundational English Proficiency Acquisition Program for Keio students” projects were implemented.
- 7 researchers selected for the “Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers” project traveled to 7 universities and institutions in 5 countries.
- Under the “Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research and Exchange Projects” initiative, “Medical-Engineering Collaboration” was designated as a research project by the project steering committee, and 12 researchers were selected for the project.
- 98 Keio students were selected for the “Implementation of Foundational English Proficiency Acquisition Program for Keio students” project.

■ AY 2019

- 8 researchers selected for the “Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers” project traveled to 9 universities and institutions in 7 countries.
- Under the “Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research and Exchange Projects”

initiative, “Medical-Engineering Collaboration” was designated as a research project by the project steering committee, and 12 researchers were selected for the project.

- 45 Keio students were selected for the “Implementation of Foundational English Proficiency Acquisition Program for Keio students” project.

■AY 2020

- 2 researchers selected for the “Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers” project were unable to travel abroad due to the impact of COVID-19.
- Under the “Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research and Exchange Projects” initiative, “Medical-Engineering Collaboration” was designated as a research project by the project steering committee, and 3 researchers were selected for the project.
- 17 Keio students were selected for the “Implementation of Foundational English Proficiency Acquisition Program for Keio students” project.
- The “Implementation of Foundational English Proficiency Acquisition Program for Keio students” project ended in AY 2020.

■AY 2021

- Researchers could not be financially supported under the “Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers” project due to the impact of COVID-19, which prevented overseas travel.
- 5 researchers were selected for the “Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research and Exchange Projects” initiative.

■AY 2022

- 5 researchers were selected for the “Promotion of International Joint Research for Early Career Researchers” project.
- 4 researchers were selected for the “Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research and Exchange Projects” initiative.