

Kyushu University Research Activity Support Program

**Call for Applicants for FY 2020: “Support for Women Returning from Maternity and Parental Leave”**

1. Description of the Support

The Support for Women Returning from Maternity and Parental Leave (referred to herein as SRW) is part of Kyushu University’s Research Activity Support Program. To promote the diversity of research environments and to foster and support female researchers, Kyushu University supports research activities that facilitate the smooth reintegration of outstanding researchers who are returning after suspending their research for maternity and parental leave. It should be noted that SRW was selected as a pilot project of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology’s “Initiative for Realizing Diversity in the Research Environment” program.

2. Eligibility

Qualified applicants are those female faculty members and female academic researchers<sup>\*1</sup> at Kyushu University who suspended their research activities for a period of three or more months because of childbirth and childrearing<sup>\*2</sup> beginning on April 1, 2017 to the present and have returned to their research positions at the time of application. However, an applicant is not eligible if, at the time of application, she was a lead researcher of an externally-funded project<sup>\*3</sup> with direct expenses exceeding a predetermined annual sum (JPY 6 million per year) or if she is selected in the current year as a “Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Special Researcher.”

<sup>\*1</sup> Academic researchers (and so on) comprise researchers or clinical fellows employed by Kyushu University (students and research students are ineligible) for whom Kyushu University is the primary research affiliation and whose Researcher Information is registered in e-Rad as “Eligible to Apply for Grants-in-Aid for Research.”

<sup>\*2</sup> Three or more months includes prenatal and postnatal leave.

<sup>\*3</sup> Directly expensed competitive research funds, joint research funds, contracted research funds, and donations.

3. Funding Amount and Anticipated Number of Selected Applicants

Number of Applicants Selected: Approximately 10

Funding amount per person: JPY 500,000 (maximum amount)

Program Period: April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021

- \* As a rule, this support is provided for up to one year per reason for application. Individuals who have been selected in the past cannot apply for this support more than one time, unless there is a new reason for application (research was interrupted for three months or longer due to the birth/care of the individual’s second or subsequent child, and the individual has been reinstated to work).

**【Examples of allowable expenditures under the SRW】**

<Equipment expenses>

- Low-cost equipment, such as computers, that is necessary for research
- \* As a rule, equipment exceeding 50% of the funding amount is ineligible under the SRW.
- \* Expenses to purchase desks, chairs, copiers, and other items that normally should be provided by the department are not covered.
- \* Expenses to purchase PCs are not covered unless there are special reasons to do so. When purchasing PCs, clearly describe the need for those expenses to carry out research, on the application form (the research plan

section).

<Other expenses>

- Software and related supplies
- Tools and reagents needed for research

<Personnel expenses>

- Expenses related to the employment of research assistants
  - \*Recipients of funding for employment of research assistants under “Research Assisting Worker Employment Support (Short Term)” or “Research Assisting Worker Employment Support (Childcare Support for Professors and Associate Professors)” cannot receive funding under the SRW for expenses related to the employment of research assistants.
  - \*Please confirm with your research coordinator whether the employment of research assistants under the SRW is permissible.

<Travel expenses>

- Travel expenses to attend conferences, investigations, meetings, and so on
  - \*Daily stipends and lodging expenses are calculated according to the rules of Kyushu University’s travel allowance system. Transportation expenses are based on Kyushu University’s travel allowance rules and are limited to economical and usual routes and methods.

<Expenses for miscellaneous services>

- Expenses for participation in conferences
- Expenses for foreign language proofreading services for academic papers
  - \*Recipients of funding for proofreading services under the “English/Japanese Proofreading Expenses Support” may not receive overlapping funding under the SRW for the same paper.
- Submission fees for academic papers

#### 4. Application Procedure

Materials to be submitted:

- Support for Women Returning from Maternity and Parental Leave Application Form (Form 1)
- Consent Form (Form 2), which only applies to persons employed through external funding or those granted the title of researcher by their departments
- Copy of *boshikenkotecho* (maternity record book)

Submission deadline: June 19, 2020 (Friday) by 16:00 (4:00 PM)

- \*Please submit your application through the administrative office that oversees your department, addressed to the program coordinator.

#### 5. Selection Process and Notification

The Kyushu University Expert Advisory Committee for Research Activity Support conducts the recipient selection. The department heads will be notified of the selection results.

[Selection results notification schedule]

Mid-July2020

## 6. Submitting Reports

Within 1 month after the support period, a report (Form 3) must be submitted through the appropriate administrative office that oversees your department, addressed to the program coordinator. Note that successful candidates must cooperate by answering questionnaires to aid future system design, and they may be asked to contribute to the website, newsletter, and so on.

## 7. Other

1. The SRW is funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology's "Funds for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology." Persons employed through external funding should verify with their funding agencies whether they are eligible to receive support from this grant (some external funders may prohibit receipt of this support).

2. According to the rules, changes to a candidate's application or support details are not accepted once the application deadline has passed.

3. If, while receiving support under the SRW, the reasons for support are no longer valid, or if there are changes to matters detailed in the application, the recipient must immediately notify the program coordinator.

4. The names of the selected applicants will be disclosed on our website.

## 8. Program coordinator

Planning Section Research Planning Division Research and Industrial Collaboration Promotion Department

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