

SmaSo×IDEC Challenge Project 2026 Young Researchers Research Grant Application Guidelines

Purpose

「The Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Smart Society (SmaSo)」, which promotes transdisciplinary research across research fields with the participation and cooperation of faculty members from four graduate schools, and 「The IDEC Institute」 which aims to lead the globalization of the entire university and form a world-class center for practical research and human resource development that contributes to international contributions, will support young researchers as follows as part of the SmaSo ×IDEC Challenge Project, based on the common philosophy of aiming for the international expansion of Society 5.0 through transdisciplinary and international education and research.

SmaSo : https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/smart_society

The IDEC Institute : <https://idec.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/>

Details of Support

We will support following research:

1. transdisciplinary research across research fields
2. international practical research

Research grant: Up to 500,000 yen per project (about 10 projects to be selected)

※Furthermore, an additional grant of 500,000 yen will be awarded to one research project recognized as the most outstanding from a transdisciplinary perspective in the form of the "SmaSo Award," and one research project recognized as the most outstanding from an international perspective in the form of the "The IDEC Institute Award."

Support will be given to research that can be expected to produce certain results within approximately one year from the date of selection.

Eligibility

All of the following conditions must be met at the time of application. Note that applicants who received support for 「SmaSo×IDEC Challenge Project 2025 Young Researchers Research Grant」 are not eligible to apply. (Those who received the aforementioned research grant in FY2024 may apply, but applications for the same research content will not be accepted.)

1. The applicant must be a faculty (associate professor or below) or a full-time contracted education and research-related employee (specially-appointed faculty, endowed chair faculty, researcher, or faculty in collaborative research laboratories) of Hiroshima University who are eligible for “KAKENHI”
2. The applicant must be 40 years old or younger by the end of FY2026

How to apply

Please submit the required documents in the following manner.

Application period: Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 5:00 p.m. (must arrive)

Submission address: IDEC Support Office

Submission method: E-mail (koku-soumu@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp)

Required Documents

Please submit all of the following. One application per person.

1. Application form (as prescribed Word format, either in Japanese or English)
2. Punch picture (as prescribed PowerPoint format, A4 size, 1 page)

Selection Criteria

The selection will be made according to the selection criteria specified separately to ensure that the content of the application is appropriate for the transdisciplinary, international, and practical research that SmaSo and the IDEC Institute are aiming for.

Selection and Notification of Results

After the selection by the SmaSo×IDEC Challenge Project and the Steering Committee, the applicants will be notified of the results in mid-October 2026.

Others

The selected candidates will be asked to make a presentation at the results reporting meeting or FD hosted by SmaSo and the IDEC Institute.