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## Guidelines for Application for the FY2026 Trust Research Grant Program

Trust Companies Association of Japan

### 1. Background and Purposes

The Trust Companies Association of Japan (TCAJ) provides grants for research projects to contribute toward the further development of the trust system in Japan. We are seeking grant applications for FY2026 to promote trust-related research.

### 2. Eligibility

Individuals or joint research groups (including those planning to start research) studying the trust system in jurisprudence or economics are eligible. The categories are as follows:

- **Class 1:** Professor, associate professor, or lecturer in universities, or researcher with equivalent careers at research institutes, or joint research group consisting of those persons.
- **Class 2:** Assistant professor in universities, graduate student, or researcher with equivalent careers at research institutes, or joint research group consisting of those persons.
- **Class 3:** Joint research group consisting of assistant professors, graduate students, or undergraduate students, under the guidance of their professors (Note: Groups consisting solely of undergraduate students are excluded).

#### Note for previous recipients:

- Previous individual recipients can reapply only if they have already submitted their previous research results.
- For previous joint research, the representative, and members with a contribution ratio of 50% or more can reapply only if the results for that research have been submitted.

### 3. The Amount of Grant

- **Total Amount:** Up to **15 million yen** for the current fiscal year.
- **Standard Amount per Grant:** Generally **500,000 yen** for Class 1 and Class 2, and **300,000 yen** for Class 3.
- **Maximum Amount:** Up to **1 million yen** for individuals and **1.1 million yen** for joint research groups.
- **Evaluation:** Decisions are based on the research theme and the applicant's potential.

Applicants who are 45 years old or younger as of April 1, 2026, will be proactively evaluated for their future potential.

#### 4. Theme

Research themes must be related to trusts. Applicants may choose from:

1. **Free Research:** Any theme related to trusts.
2. **Assigned Research :** Specific themes such as "Trusts contributing to solving social issues," "Digital innovation and trust," "Financial regulations of trusts," or "Taxation of trusts". *There is no difference in the selection process between Free Research and Selected Themes.*

#### 5. Grant Period

The grant period is **up to two years**, from **February 2027 to the end of January 2029**. An extension of up to one year may be granted if the Selection Committee finds legitimate reasons halfway through the period.

#### 6. Application Procedure

Application forms must be downloaded from the TCAJ website and submitted **in Japanese language** (except for the essay/thesis) via e-mail in principle.

##### Required Documents:

1. **Application form**
2. **Project proposal form**
3. **C.V.**
4. **Essay/Thesis(1):** Can be previously published or unpublished. A **Japanese abstract** (up to 4,000 characters) must be attached.
5. **Letter of Recommendation:** Can be omitted if no appropriate recommender is available.

*For Class 1 and 2 joint research, C.V.s and essays for all members are required. For Class 3, only the group's documents are required.*

Please refer to the following URL: [<https://www.shintaku-kyokai.or.jp/profile/business/research.html#promotionbusiness>]

#### 7. Due Date for Application

**Wednesday, September 30, 2026**

#### 8. Determination, Notification, and Announcement

The formal decision will be made by the Board of Directors of TCAJ based on the Selection Committee's deliberation. Applicants will be notified by the **end of December 2026**. Successful applicants' names, affiliations, and themes will be announced on the TCAJ website and in "*Kaiho Shintaku* (Bulletin of the TCAJ)". An awarding ceremony is scheduled for late January 2027.

## 9. Obligations of Recipients

1. **Progress Report:** Submit every year by the end of August.
2. **Final Report:** Submit within three months after the grant period ends (approx. 10,000 to 30,000 Japanese characters). For Class 3, a report from the guiding professor may be accepted instead.
3. **Pledge:** Recipients must submit a written pledge to comply with the requirement to submit the final research paper.
4. **Refund:** Failure to comply with requirements may result in a request to return the grant.

## 10. Publication of Research Results

Final reports will be published in the "*Shintaku Kenkyu Shoreikin Ronshu* (Collection of Papers on Trust Research Grants)" and on the TCAJ website. Recipients may also be invited to speak at TCAJ seminars.

## 11. Members of the Selection Committee (as of April 1, 2026)

- **Chairman:** Yoshihisa NOMI (Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo)
- Motoshige ITO (Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo)
- Hideki KANDA (Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo)
- Atsushi KINAMI (Professor Emeritus at Kyoto University)
- Noriyuki YANAGAWA (Professor at the University of Tokyo)
- Yoshikazu YAMASHITA (Professor at Gakushuin University)
- Naoyuki YOSHINO (Professor Emeritus at Keio University)

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