

2025 Graphic Culture Research Grants Application Requirements

1. Aim

Grants are awarded to support research related to graphic design or graphic art from the perspectives of diverse disciplines, including both the humanities and sciences. The principal aim of the program is to contribute to the development of graphic culture and the promotion of academic research in Japan and around the world.

2. Target research fields

Category A: Research on graphic design or graphic art in general

Research on a wide range of academic fields related to graphic culture, including graphic design, typography, printing, printmaking, and photography. For example: art history, design history, aesthetics, art theory, museology, art education, comparative culture theory, image engineering, technique materials & conservation science, psychology, law, economics, etc.

Category B: Research on graphic culture-related archives

For example: creation of an archive related to graphic culture, including graphic design, typography, printing, printmaking, and photography; study and analysis of historical materials contained in an existing archive; basic research on archives per se, including proposals of an organization method or data model.

3. Eligibility

Grant candidates must be scholars—either individuals or groups—engaging in research relating to graphic design or graphic art.

- (1) Full-time researchers (teachers, curators, researchers, archivists, librarians, etc.) enrolled at universities, museums and other research institutions.
- (2) Part-time researchers or postgraduate students enrolled at universities, museums, or other research institutions whom a university professor, director, or equivalent recommend.
- (3) Individual researchers who do not belong to a specific institution, etc., and who are recommended by a university professor, director, or equivalent.

* The nominator must be a person with expertise in the field, such as a supervisor (past supervisors are also acceptable) or someone in a higher position.

4. Grant period

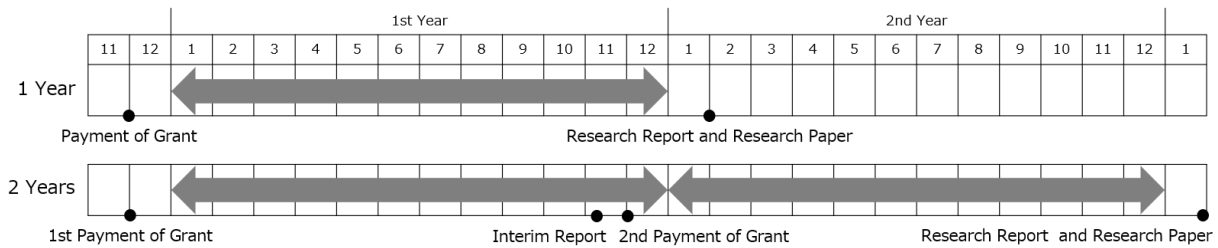
- (1) The grant period is either:

One year: January 1st, 2026, to December 31st, 2026

Two years: January 1st, 2026, to December 31st, 2027

Please specify when applying.

- (2) If the grant period is two years, the judgment regarding a grant for the second year will be determined by the screening committee based on an interim report. If not approved, the grantee shall submit a final report by January 31st, 2027, on the research conducted up to that date.



5. Grant amount

- (1) The screening committee decides the number of grants each year and their respective amounts. Award amounts vary according to the content of the intended research, with an upper limit of 500,000 JPY per year.
- (2) In the case of two years, please indicate the application amount separately for the first year and the second year when applying for the first year. The amount of each year is determined by the screening committee when applying for the first year. The second-year grant will be paid in January 2027.
- (3) In the case of two years, grantees can carry over the remainder of the first-year grant to the second year.
- (4) Grantee shall return the remainder of the grant that was not used after the grant period ends.

6. Grant usage

- (1) The grant may be used only to cover expenses directly related to the research. These include costs incurred for related travel, attendance at conferences, fees and honorariums, reference materials and supplies.
- (2) The grant may not be used to cover indirect costs incurred by the grantee or the affiliated organization, the grantee’s daily allowance, general and administrative expenses, overhead costs, publication and printing costs, exhibition expense, etc. Please consult the Foundation if the affiliated organization has made payment of administrative expenses an obligation.
- (3) Grantees shall specify usage of the grant funds when applying for the first year. Any change to the use of the grant requires the permission of the Foundation in advance.

7. Awards from other foundations

Grantees shall be permitted to simultaneously receive a separate grant from another organization, as well as to apply for a grant or grants from other sources simultaneously.

8. Documents for submission

Grantees shall be required to submit the following documents using prescribed forms. If the interim report, research execution report, and accounting report is not submitted within the specified deadline without a reasonable reason, the grantee must return all the grant amount. The prescribed forms for submissions are available on the Foundation website.

- (1) Written oath
- (2) Remittance request
- (3) Interim report
Not necessary in the case of one year. If two years, please submit by November 6, 2026.
- (4) Accounting report
In the case of one year, the grantee shall submit it within one month after the end of the grant period.
In the case of two years, the grantee shall submit it twice, for the first year by November 6, 2026, and the remainder one month after the grant period ends.
- (5) Research execution report
All grantees shall be required to submit this within one month after the end of the grant period.

(6) Research paper

Abstract: In both Japanese (400 to 600 characters) and English (180 to 270 words)

Body: In Japanese (7,000 to 10,000 characters) or English (2,800 to 4,600 words). The cited length requirement excludes endnotes, bibliography, figures, archive lists, etc.

All grantees who have finished the grant period shall submit the research paper within one month after the end of the grant period.

9. Obligation to report

If there is any change in the contents stated in the application, please notify the Foundation immediately. Especially, but without limitation, the following items require reporting.

- (1) Change of affiliation and contact address
- (2) Change of usage of the grant
- (3) When it becomes difficult to continue the research

10. Publication of research results

- (1) Any time a grantee subsequently publishes a paper on the assisted research in an academic journal or as a separate publication, clear mention should be made that the research was funded (in part or otherwise) by the DNP Foundation for Cultural Promotion.
- (2) The Foundation reserves the right to feature the research paper mentioned in Article 8 (6) in its *The Bulletin of Graphic Culture Research Grants*, without financial remuneration. (The Foundation will also post the abstract on its website.)

11. Application procedure

Submit your research proposal online using the Graphic Culture Research Grants Application System. For more information, see the Foundation's website. The languages supported are Japanese and English.

DNP Foundation for Cultural Promotion website

https://www.dnpfc.jp/foundation_e/grants/

12. Screening process and notification of results

The screening committee will select the grant winners, and the applicants will be notified of the results on the Application System. The adopted research will be published on the Foundation's website. In the event of rejection, the selection process and reasons will not be disclosed.

13. Timetable

Application period: April 1, 2025, to June 16, 2025 (arrival)

Notification of results: October 2025

Award payment: December 2025

14. Payment of grant

- (1) Together with notification of their grant, grant winners will receive a payment request form. Upon receipt of the completed form, the Foundation will transfer the grant amount to the grantee's designated bank account.
- (2) It also is possible to make the payee of the grant the affiliated organization. Accounting of grant can be managed by either of the grantee his/herself and the affiliated organization.

15. Handling of personal information

The Foundation will use the personal information acquired through this research grants program only for this program and not for any other purpose. The data will not be provided to a third party without the prior consent of the person, except for the subcontractor required for the implementation of this program or cases

specified by laws and regulations.

16. Handling of anti-social forces

Any application by an anti-social force or person related to anti-social force will not be accepted. If it becomes clear after payment of the grant that the grantee relates to anti-social forces, the grantee shall return the grant.

17. Inquiries

Research Grants

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18. 2025 Screening Committee

Toshino Iguchi, Professor, Saitama University

Kenji Kajiya, Professor, The University of Tokyo

Yuko Kikuchi, Professor, Kanazawa college of art

Fujio Maeda, Visiting Professor, Chubu University; Professor Emeritus, Keio University

Seishi Namiki, Professor, Kyoto Institute of Technology; Director, KIT Museum and Archives

Yasuhito Nagahara, Professor, Tama Art University; Graphic Designer

Akira Tatehata, President, Tama Art University; Director, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama