

Idea Challenge (IC) Application Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Idea Challenge (IC) aims to provide students with opportunities to transform their ideas into reality through practical activities. By planning, designing, and carrying out unique research, investigation, or implementation projects on their own initiative, graduate and undergraduate students will experience the joy of creativity while developing the ability to think and act with an entrepreneurial mindset.

2. Program Overview

The Idea Challenge (IC) is a program designed to help students refine their original, early-stage ideas by validating their hypotheses and increasing the feasibility of their proposed projects.

Over a period of approximately two months, selected participants will investigate and evaluate their ideas through research, interviews, prototype development, and other validation activities. Participants are also encouraged to form project teams to support implementation. At the end of the program, participants will present the outcomes of their hypothesis validation at the final presentation session, receive feedback to further improve their ideas, and prepare for the next stage of development.

This program is supported by the Kyushu University Fund.

3. Eligible Projects

Projects based on applicants' own interests and awareness of issues.

The following types of ideas are not eligible for support:

- **Ideas in which the applicant is not the primary driving force.**
 - Example: Projects intended solely to support the activities of another company or organization.
- **Ideas that lack social value or contribution.**
 - Example: Projects intended only for personal hobbies or private interests.
- **Ideas that can be realized without this support.**
 - Example: Simple cleaning activities or projects that do not involve creating new value or validating a hypothesis.
- **Ideas that violate laws or public order and morals.**
 - Example: Projects promoting illegal activities or distributing pornographic content.
- **Ideas related to businesses that have already been commercialized.**
 - Example: Projects focused on improving or expanding an existing business.

4. Eligibility and Requirements

Applicants must meet the following conditions:

- The project theme must be the applicant's own original idea. The topic does not need to be related to the applicant's academic major.
(However, projects directly based on degree research, such as bachelor's, master's, or doctoral theses, are not eligible.)

- The team must consist of undergraduate and/or graduate students of Kyushu University.
- Individual applications are accepted. However, applicants are expected to form a team by the end of the program.
- Students from other universities and working professionals may participate only if Kyushu University students lead the project. In such cases, non-Kyushu University members must not constitute more than half of the team.
- One person may serve as the representative of only one project. However, a representative of one project may participate as a member of another project.
- Incorporated businesses or legally established companies are not eligible.
- Students on a leave of absence are not eligible.
- Continuing projects may apply for support up to two times.
- In accordance with the University's policy, participants are, in principle, required to be enrolled in the **Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (Gakkensai)** and the **Liability Insurance Coupled with Gakkensai (Futai Baiseki)**. To ensure appropriate coverage for any accidents or damages that may occur during the program, we will confirm each participant's insurance enrollment status. If a participant is not enrolled in these insurance programs, the University and QREC shall not be held liable for any accidents, injuries, losses, or damages that may occur during participation in this program.
- As this program is conducted within a limited period, selected participants are expected to secure sufficient time for project activities. Applicants should carefully consider the feasibility of carrying out the project before applying.

5. Grant Amount

Each selected project may receive funding of up to JPY 30,000, or JPY 100,000.

6. Application method

Download the application form from the program website and submit it through the online application portal.

7. Selection method

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of QREC faculty members.

(1) Evaluation Method

Applicants will be evaluated based on a presentation (a 1-minute pitch followed by a Q&A session) and the application documents. No computers or other electronic devices may be used during the presentation.

(2) Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on the following:

i) **Personal Motivation**

Whether the background and motivation behind the idea are compelling and inspire empathy.

ii) **Social Impact**

Whether the project addresses an important social issue and has the potential to contribute to its solution.

iii) **Hypothesis Validation Plan**

Whether the proposed method for validating the idea is concrete, appropriate, and feasible.

8. Assistance after adoption

(1) Use of Grant Funding

- Grant funds may be used beginning on the day of the orientation for selected participants and only during the designated funding period.
- Expenses should follow the project's implementation plan.
- The maximum amount available is the grant approved at the time of selection (up to JPY 30,000 or JPY 100,000). However, the use of grant funds is limited to Kyushu University students.

(2) Support During the Program

- Participants may receive mentoring from QREC faculty members regarding their projects.
- During the support period, participants may apply to use QREC facilities (Workshop, ToP, and BasE).

9. Reporting of Project Results

Teams selected for the IC program are required to participate in the following activities and submit the required reports.

(1) Orientation for selected participants

- An orientation session explaining the program schedule, grant usage rules, and administrative procedures.

(2) Progress sharing session

- A session where project teams share their progress, discuss challenges, and receive feedback to help determine future directions.

(3) Final presentation session

- A presentation session where participants report the outcomes and progress of their projects.

(4) Submission of required reports

- As the IC program is funded by public resources, all selected teams are required to submit the designated reports, regardless of project outcomes. These reports include: project activity report, financial report on the use of grant funds, final project report and outcomes.

10. Contact information

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