

7 July 2026

Shimane University Diversity Promotion Office
2026 Shimane University Program for Nurturing Female Research Leaders
(Project Development Type)
Application Guidelines

The Diversity Promotion Office at Shimane University is launching the following call for proposals with the aim of fostering female researchers who possess interdisciplinary skills and project management capabilities, by supporting the creation of new research projects led by women.

In particular, the program places emphasis on research that can serve as a catalyst for collaboration between female researchers and local businesses—promoting industry-academia partnerships—in order to further advance the spread of diversity across the entire San'in region.

1. Target Projects

We support initiatives that aim to generate new knowledge, solve social challenges that span multiple fields, pioneer new areas of research, and promote industry-academia collaborative research and development through cooperation and integration that transcend the boundaries of academic disciplines.

2. Eligible applicants

Full-time female researchers affiliated with Shimane University (including specially appointed faculty members and researchers, but excluding those employed at affiliated schools and those hired through nationally funded subsidy programs) who meet either of the following criteria:

1. **Early-career researchers who have not yet secured other external research funding for FY2026; or**
2. **Researchers who took childcare leave, family-care leave, or similar leave and returned to work during FY2025 or FY2026.**

3. Support Details

- ① Planned number of selected projects: Approximately 7 projects will be selected.
- ② Total budget for this project : 700,000 yen (Maximum of 200,000 yen per application).
- ③ Support period: from (the day of selection in) September 2026 to 31 March 2027.

Selectees are asked to fully expend their grant by March 12, 2027

Please note that, based on the results of the review, the approved support amount may be reduced from the originally requested amount.

In such cases, you will be required to resubmit the support plan based on the finalized amount.

④ Expenditure eligibility ¹

Supplies expenses: expenses for supplies directly used for research such as reagents, materials and the like (including books and magazines). Moreover, when purchasing prepaid cards for books used as compensation fee, the unit amount is limited to 1,000 yen per person.

Travel expenses: (domestic travel expenses): travel expenses when attending academic meetings for the presentation of the results of the project concerned, or meetings in connection with the research, or the collecting of material. Expenses for the invitation of external collaborators within the country.

(foreign travel expenses): available only when attending academic meetings for presentation of project results. However, in some cases a maximum limit may be put on the amount.

(travel expenses for the invitation of foreigners): travel expenses for the invitation of collaborators from abroad.

Honoraria: financial or other rewards for experiment collaborators.

Miscellaneous services expenses: expenses for the outsourcing of data analysis, paper submission, English proofreading and the like.

*Expenses for facilities and equipment (assets) fall outside the scope of the grant.

⑤ Target Research Projects

< Examples of target projects >

- Research projects aiming at applications to enterprises requiring team building

with researchers from different fields.

- Bottom-up type research projects in fields with latent potential for cooperation and newly emerging fields, based on unfettered thought and dialogue
- Research projects relying on a multi-faceted and inter-disciplinary approach for solving social issues.
- Educational research projects working on the basis of multi-institutional cooperation for the fostering of next-generation researchers.
- (Research projects based on industry-academia collaboration) providing an approach instrumental in creating new products or services and which embodies practical applications of research results.

4. Obligations of Selectees

- ① Selectees are required to submit a research result report by the day determined in the course of April, 2027. Selectees will be further notified as to the time limit, proper format and the like.
- ② Selectees are asked to lend their cooperation with the implementation of the follow-up survey of their research achievements upon termination of the support period to produce the results report of the Initiative for Realizing Diversity in the Research Environment (Promotional type).

5. Application Method

Submit the application form mentioned below by email.

- ① Application form for the 2026 Shimane University Support Program for Female Researcher-led Joint Research Projects (Project Creation Type).

Submit your application to: diversity@office.shimane-u.ac.jp at the Shimane University Diversity Promotion Office.

6. Application Period.

From 7 July to 23 July 2026

7. Evaluation Method.

Assessment of the advisability of the project will be carried out at a Diversity

Promotion Office meeting upon examination by the screening committee of the program (planned for September). The assessment by the screening committee will be made in the light of the following criteria, on the basis of the submitted documents.

< Assessment Criteria >

- ① Does the subject matter relate to important scientific or social demands?
- ② Does the subject matter show scientific originality and creativity?
- ③ Is the research plan sufficiently thought out and highly likely to achieve the goal??
- ④ Does the applicant have sufficient and suitable abilities to conduct the research plan?

※Applications will be reviewed based on the submitted documents. Support will be provided to either **early-career researchers who have not yet secured external funding this year** or **researchers who have taken childcare leave, family-care leave, or similar leave and have returned to work this year.**

8. Management of Research Results.

It is desirable that the results of research originating from this program be published not only in the result report of this program but also in scientific journals and other publications in Japan and abroad. When presented at an academic society or published in a scientific journal or publication, reference should be made to the support received under this program and added to the project product in the manner formulated below.

(Example)

This research was supported by a grant from the Shimane University Diversity Promotion Office under the “Project Creation–Type Support Program for Fostering Women Researchers as Leaders at Shimane University.”

9. Contact Point for Information on this Program.

Shimane University Diversity Promotion Office

Email: diversity@office.shimane-u.ac.jp

Extension number: 2157