

○ Guidelines for Application and Accreditation for a Center for Key Interdisciplinary Research

April 1, 2017

Approved by the Director of the Organization for
Research Promotion and Support of Research Activities

1. Objective

On the basis of Article 4 of the Organizational Operations Policy for a Center for Key Interdisciplinary Research of Organization for the Promotion and Support of Research Activities at Tohoku University (approved by the Director of the Organization for the Promotion and Support of Research Activities on June 20, 2017; hereinafter referred to as the “Organizational Operations Policy”), these Guidelines set forth the matters necessary for making an application for and for the accreditation of a Center for Key Interdisciplinary Research (hereinafter referred to as “Center”).

2. Purpose

Tohoku University has, since its foundation, been committed to making and delivering numerous achievements as a “knowledge creator,” under the principles of “Research First,” “Practice-Oriented Research and Education,” and “Open-Door.” Meanwhile, amid rapid academic and social advancement today, there are demands for the creation of new values through interdisciplinary collaboration and the development of new disciplines, and for the cultivation of human resources based on such new value creation.

The Centers for Key Interdisciplinary Research cover the diverse areas of research of Tohoku University as new research bases beyond the borders of departments, promote strategic research, develop new areas of research such as emerging fields and interdisciplinary fields, and set forward research activities in an effective and strategic manner to create world-leading research outcomes.

3. Application Requirement

In order to make an application, the consent of the heads of the departments to which the manager defined in Article 3 of the Organizational Operations Policy (hereinafter referred to as the “Manager”) and the researchers of the research unit concerned belong shall be obtained in advance.

4. Application Procedure

When making an application, the department to which the Manager belongs shall coordinate the application with the attached “Application Form for Accreditation of a Center for Key Interdisciplinary Research,” and file it to the General Manager of the Promotion Office for the Center for Key Interdisciplinary Research as defined in Article 16 (2) of the Regulations on the Organization for the Promotion and Support of Research Activities at Tohoku University (hereinafter referred to as the “Office Manager”).

5. Accreditation Procedure

For accreditation, the Committee of Accreditation of Centers for Key Interdisciplinary Research composed of the Office Manager and persons appointed thereby conducts document review and, where necessary, hearing review, and on the basis of such reviews, the Office Manager makes a decision on accreditation.

6. Perspectives of Accreditation Reviews

For accreditation, the reviews will be carried out from the following perspectives:

- Whether the research project specified for the establishment of a Center is expected to lead to the development of a new area of research and to exponential progress in academic research, or whether the project addresses issues in society, and is expected to set forward the construction and deepening of an arena of co-creation with enterprises, etc. and to generate research results with significant impact on society in the future;
- Whether the research project plan is clear and the formation of a Center is expected to make exponential progress in the relevant research and to generate world-leading research results in the future;
- Whether the accreditation is expected to enhance the international presence of Tohoku University and to contribute to the expansion of researchers' networks, for example, through cooperation with overseas research institutions; and
- Whether the implementation of the research concerned at the existing organizations is difficult.

7. Progression after the Establishment of a Center

Serving as research bases to create world-leading research results through the construction of unique, cutting-edge research structures (Strategy [2]), and as research bases to develop new areas of research that have an impact on society, such as emerging fields and interdisciplinary fields to contribute to future industrial structure formation, social reforms, etc. (Strategy [4]), both of which are efforts to enhance the functions of Tohoku University under the Third Evaluation for Current Mid-Term Goals, "Centers for Key Interdisciplinary Research" make budget requests, and contribute to making exponential progress in academic research and resolving social issues by making applications for large-scale competitive research funds such as national projects and applications for projects, etc. that aim to create emerging fields and interdisciplinary fields.

Moreover, in the management and promotion of the research unit concerned as a Center for Key Interdisciplinary Research, when the Center becomes recognized as a research base at which the world's best domestic and overseas researchers gather together, and which is considered to have developed an excellent international research environment and a research support structure, and is regarded as able to deliver research results at the top international level to the world, the Center may potentially be established as a new research unit within the Organization for Advanced Studies.

8. Other

In addition to the provisions set forth in these Guidelines, other matters necessary for the accreditation of Centers shall be prescribed by the Office Manager.

Supplementary Provision

These Guidelines shall come into force and apply on and after April 1, 2017.

Supplementary Provision (Revised on June 7, 2018)

These Guidelines shall come into force on June 7, 2018.

5. Research Project (setting of issues and goals)

* When filling in this section, widen the section size as necessary.

* As a research project, specify such issues as those that cannot be advanced unless a new area of research, for instance an emerging or interdisciplinary field, is developed, issues regarding which society longs for resolution for the future, or issues that lead to the enrichment of future society.

6. Research Project Plan

* When filling in this section, widen the section size as necessary.

* Concisely state a plan for the resolution/advancement of issues under “5. Research Project.”

(1) Organization of issues

(Why it is difficult to implement the research project by utilizing the existing organizations and why the advancement of the relevant issues requires the development of a new area of research such as an emerging/interdisciplinary field; or why the resolution of the issues is essential for society)

(2) Organization of Tohoku University’s advantages (the university’s achievements that back up the resolution of the issues and the implementation of the research, and the past achievements, environment and researcher lineup of “4. Research Unit”)

(3) Long-term and organizational scenario toward the resolution of the issues

(4) The composition of the research unit and a specific research plan

(5) Other

7. Overview Diagram

Summarize the descriptions in Items (1) to (4) of “6. Research Project Plan” in an overview diagram (one sheet), and attach it to the application form.