

ESPEC Foundation for Global Environment Research and Technology (Charitable Trust)

=Application Requirements for 2026=

1. Purpose

The purpose of this charitable trust is to contribute to overcoming global environmental problems by subsidizing some or all of the expenses for various activities to enhance scientific and technical knowledge on global environmental conservation or for education and enlightenment of the importance of greening as one prescription against global warming.

2. Eligibility to apply

All of the following requirements must be met:

- The themes to be implemented are related to research study and technological development that contribute to the solution of global environmental problems.

It must be one that is currently being or will be studied.

- The grantee shall be a member or group of a university, graduate school or technical college located in Japan and an affiliated research institution.

- The applicant must not have received or not plan to receive dual grants from other foundations for the same theme.

3. Amount and duration of the grant

(1) In fiscal 2026, we plan to grant approximately 10 ~ 20 grants *, with a total grant amount of up to 9 million yen.

(2) The grant period is, in principle, one year from the grant date.

(* FY 2025 research grants: 17 projects totaling 9 million yen)

4. Use of the grant

Expenses related to research and development that contribute to solving global environmental problems include equipment, supplies, travel expenses, and honorarium. For details, please refer to "Permitted Uses of Grants" (Attachment 1).

5. Handling overhead

No overhead will be charged for research expenses.

6. Duty to report

Grant recipients are required to submit a grant research report (Form No. 2) and a grant use report (Form No. 3) within two months of the end of the grant period based on their application.

7. Selection method

The selection and screening will be strictly conducted by a steering committee consisting of academic experts.

8. Selection committee members (in Japanese alphabetical order)

IMANISHI Junichi, Professor at Kyoto University, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies / Graduate School of Agriculture

OMASA Kenji, Professor Emeritus at The University of Tokyo, Professor and Dean of Faculty of Agriculture at Takasaki University of Health and Welfare

SAYAMA Hiroshi, Professor at Kwansei Gakuin University, School of Policy Studies

FUKUSHIGE Shinichi, Professor at Waseda University, Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering, Faculty of Science and Engineering

MATSUSHITA Kazuo, Professor Emeritus at Kyoto University, Senior Fellow at Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

9. How to apply

Please fill in the required information in the application form (Form No. 1) and the declaration and affirmation that you are not an anti-social force, and send it together with the required data to Mizuho Trust & Banking Co., Ltd.

10. Application deadline

Applications must arrive no later than May 29th, 2026.

11. Grant delivery

This grant is scheduled to be awarded in August 2026 (tentative)

12. Inquiries and Where to Send Applications

Mizuho Marunouchi Tower, 1-3-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8241

Mizuho Trust & Banking Co., Ltd.

Wealth Management Promotion Department, Trust Business Development Team

Attn: Charitable Trust Section

TEL: 03-6631-7638

E-mail: koueki.tb@mizuhotb.co.jp

*When making an inquiry, please state the name of this foundation.

13. Other precautions

*We will not return the application form you submitted.

*All applicants will be notified in writing of the selection results.

*An award ceremony for grant recipients is scheduled for August 27th, 2026. Please adjust the schedule.

(Location: Kobe R & D Center, Espec Corporation)

More details will be provided by Espec Corporation after the grant decision is made.

*The results of the research funded by this grant will be published only if the Steering Committee deems it necessary and has the approval of the grantee.

In addition, when you present your work at an academic conference, in an academic journal, in a book, or by any other means, please note that your research is funded by "The ESPEC Foundation for Global Environment Research and Technology (Charitable Trust)" in English.

In addition, the name of the award will be "ESPEC Prize for the Encouragement of Environmental Studies."

*When suspending research activities, please contact Mizuho Trust & Banking Inc. without delay with documents explaining the reason for suspension. In this case, as a general rule, the granted grant shall be returned to our fund.

Permitted Uses of Grants

The table below lists the expected uses of the grants. Certain expenditures may be deemed ineligible. If you have any questions, please consult the administration office in advance.

Category	Permitted uses
Labor expenses / honorariums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees paid to research assistants for experiments, measurements, field surveys, material organization, counting, etc. <p>Note: Labor expenses for the grantees and their co-researchers are ineligible.</p>
Equipment and supplies expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books and literature necessary for research activities, general office supplies, equipment for analysis and measurement, etc.
Printing and bookbinding expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing expenses for research-related papers and documents • Copying expenses for literature, written materials, etc. • Expenses for English proofreading, paper submission, etc.
Investigation expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenses for outsourcing questionnaire surveys, experiments and trials, part of data processing, etc. • Expenses for field surveys, etc.
Travel and transportation expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and accommodation expenses necessary for research activities and attendance at meetings, etc. <p>Ineligible: Travel expenses that cannot be clearly distinguished from those for routine operations</p> <p>Ineligible: Expenses for meals and beverages during travel, as well as travel or daily allowances</p> <p>Note: When recording expenses, details (objective, destination, means of transportation, itinerary, number of accompanying persons, etc.) must be stated on the grant use report.</p>
Communications expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications expenses necessary for research activities, including telephone and internet fees • Expenses for transporting research materials, etc.
Rental and leasing expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease fees for computers, experimental and trial devices, vehicles used for research activities, etc. • Fees for renting conference rooms for research-related meetings, etc.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other expenses approved by the foundation in advance