

University of Tsukuba
URA, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, ICR
In cooperation with the CEGLOC FD Committee (Event 19)
Event: Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI)
Seminar for Non-Japanese Researchers
Ai Saito : KAKENHI 101
Bruno Jactat : Perusal of a Successful Kakenhi
Hai-Tao Yu : Let's Secure that Grant
Monday July 22, 2019 9:30-11:40
Special Conference Room, University Hall, 3rd floor

The CEGLOC FD Committee cooperated with URA (University Research Administration/ Management office), ICR (Institute for Comparative Research in Human and Social Sciences) and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba to organize this event. KAKENHI seminars have up to now mainly been featuring hard sciences. This event allowed for researchers from the soft sciences to share their experience in getting such a grant.

Part I: Presentations and Q&A

The seminar first provided basic information about the KAKENHI system; then two invited researchers, specialized in respectively linguistics and Information Retrieval (IR), provided the audience with tips to prepare a successful grant application based on their experience of securing KAKENHI grants.

Ms. Ai Saito, from URA, Research Administration/Management Office, explained for first timers how and when to prepare for a grant, what type of grant to apply for and which research category to settle for. She also detailed how the reviewing process was carried out and by whom. Finally, she told us about the role URA plays in helping applicants draft their application.

Assistant Prof. Bruno Jactat (CEGLOC), led the audience through the rewriting of his application based on advice received chiefly by URA. KAKENHI's two "Ks" divided his talk in two steps : attending to "Katachi" (form) and then to "Kontentsu" (content). The main points were 1. importance of making a first good impression with the visual aspect of one's proposal; 2. that content should be concise, clear and accessible to the reviewers who do not always have knowledge of the applicant's field of research.

After giving a brief introduction to his application history, Assistant Prof. Hai-Tao Yu (Faculty of Library, Information and Media Science), a recipient of two JSPS grants, gave tips to follow before applying to a grant-in-aid and before writing. He also suggested to be ambitious and how to carefully choose collaborators, underlined the importance of ensuring that the project fits in the continuity of existing research, and finally that data should be showcased for clarity and cognitive ease for the reviewers.

A 10-minute Q&A time was allotted after each speaker's talk and generated more detail on the application process and budget procedure.

Each speaker's power point presentation can be found on the following web page:

<http://ura.sec.tsukuba.ac.jp/archives/18433>

15 people then attended a networking lunch right after the seminar at DEMI.

Part II: Survey results

Some 42 people attended the event, organizers included.

About half the attendees (19) completed the surveys (online 10, paper 9). 12 were professors and staff, 5 doctoral students and 1 a student (+1 not disclosed). Most people attended a: to hear about the experience of researchers who successfully obtained KAKENHI with an English proposal (90%); b: to get an overview of KAKENHI (37% 4

people checked a+b); and c: other reasons were not mentioned.

In order of helpfulness, presentations were rated (100%) Perusal of a Successful Kakenhi, (80%) KAKENHI 101, (60%) Let's Secure that Grant.

To item 1.3. Please let us know what you are taking away from this year's KAKENHI seminar, two main points came repeatedly: the importance of layout with visuals (7), and the writing process for clarity (6). A couple people mentioned that they would go and rewrite their proposal and 10 people said they would apply this coming year.

Although there was no specific question on satisfaction, overall comments were very positive. 2 people requested to have more focus on pure sciences in the future.

For the CEGLOC FD Committee:
Bruno Jactat (Editing Coordinator)



Ms. Ai Saito (left) is asked a question by Assistant Prof. Bruno Jactat.



Assistant Prof. Hai-Tao Yu during his talk.



Dr. Kato from URA answers audience's questions.



42 people attended the event.