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## **Basic Policy on the Development and Promotion of Shared Use of Research Facilities and Equipment at Kyushu University**

March 7, 2024

Revised on May 13, 2026

Resolution of the Strategic Research Committee

Kyushu University aims to become a “university that drives social change with integrative knowledge” by 2030.

To achieve this goal, Kyushu University formulated “Kyushu University VISION 2030”. The University will strengthen research capabilities across a broad spectrum, from fundamental research to applied research that contributes to social transformation.

Kyushu University will enhance international competitiveness and contribute to solving social issues. The University will also improve research environments that enable free and open research activities by promoting the shared use of research facilities and equipment.

Research facilities and equipment are essential management resources that form the foundation of education and research activities. The personnel who support these resources also play a critical role.

In advancing these reforms, Kyushu University will promote the development and shared use of research facilities and equipment under a university-wide cooperative framework in accordance with the following basic policies.

### **1. Establishment of a University-wide Management System for Promoting Shared Use**

- Kyushu University will establish the Academic Research Promotion Office (Core Facilities Division) as a university-wide coordinating organization that oversees the development and operation of research facilities and equipment. This office will centrally manage both development and shared use and implement comprehensive management of research facilities and equipment across the University.

### **2. Strategic Development of the Research Environment**

- Research facilities and equipment are essential for Kyushu University to advance as a world-class research hub. Shared research facilities are particularly important for enabling early-career researchers to conduct independent research.

- Kyushu University will promote the “Research Environment Development Project” from a university-wide perspective to strategically develop facilities and equipment required for a research university.
- The University will assess usage status, needs, timing for updates or new acquisitions, and funding sources. Based on this assessment, Kyushu University will formulate a mid-to long-term “Research Environment Development Plan”<sup>※1</sup> and implement strategic development.

※1 This will be formulated in accordance with the ‘Guidelines for Promoting the Shared Use of Research Facilities and Equipment’ issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, March 2022.

### **3. Scope of Shared Research Facilities and Equipment**

- Given the limited financial resources available at both national and institutional levels, and to maximize research outcomes and promote continuous innovation, research facilities and equipment that have versatility<sup>※2</sup> and are of a certain scale<sup>※3</sup> should, in principle, be shared.
- To promote effective shared use, priorities will be assigned according to acquisition cost. Equipment costing 50 million yen or more will be prioritized for early sharing, with a target of implementation by the end of FY2024. Equipment costing 5 million yen or more will be shared sequentially, with a target of implementation by the end of FY2026.
- Research facilities and equipment procured through competitive research funding may also be shared during the project period<sup>※4</sup> where feasible. If sharing during the project period is difficult, they should be shared after the project is completed.

※2 “Versatility” refers to equipment that can be used by groups beyond the same research group and can allocate sufficient usage time to such users.

※3 “A certain scale” generally refers to equipment with an acquisition cost of 5 million yen or more.

※4 Shared use during the project period shall be considered in accordance with the “Agreement on the Handling of Competitive Research Funds” (March 5, 2021), within a scope that does not hinder the implementation of the research project, taking into account usage status, versatility, and user needs.

#### **4. Environment for Promoting Shared Use**

**1. Improving visibility of research facilities and equipment:**

- It is important to make information on available research facilities and equipment clearly visible to both internal and external users.
- In principle, equipment that can be shared across the University will be registered in the Research Equipment and Facilities Sharing Support Portal (ShareAid) to promote visibility.

**2. Operation of a common reservation management system:**

- ShareAid will be operated as a common reservation system for shared equipment across the University.
- Existing systems that have been optimized at the department or center level will be taken into consideration.
- ShareAid will be enhanced to incorporate such practices and improve usability.

**3. Effective use of unnecessary equipment:**

- Equipment that is no longer needed or is underutilized will be actively reused where possible.
- Matching of transfers will be facilitated through the ShareAid reuse bulletin board.

**4. Setting of appropriate usage fees:**

- Usage fees are recognized as an important factor for ensuring sustainable operation and development of research facilities and equipment. Based on the 'Kyushu University Equipment Usage Fee Calculation Standards, appropriate and flexible fees will be set according to the characteristics of each piece of equipment and the attributes of users.
- For large- and medium-scale equipment that requires substantial maintenance and management costs, it is difficult to sustain operation solely through usage fees. Therefore, strategic maintenance and operation will be implemented from a university-wide perspective.

**5. Promotion of digital transformation:**

- The University will promote digital transformation of research facilities and equipment. This includes data-driven research, remote use, and automation of experiments to enhance research environments for a new era.

**6. Enhancement of technical support staff:**

- Technical staff possess advanced and specialized knowledge and skills for maintaining and managing research facilities and equipment. They are essential partners in solving research challenges.

- Kyushu University will establish a centralized system for technical support, improve career development and training systems, and enhance visibility of contributions. Through these efforts, the University will recruit and develop talented personnel and create an environment in which they can continue to contribute over the long term.