

Application Guidelines for VISION EXPO “KU VISION PITCH 2022” —Event Commemorating Kyushu University’s 111th Anniversary—

1. Overview of Event

- Kyushu University, which will celebrate its 111th anniversary in 2022, has formulated “Kyushu University VISION 2030” with the aim of becoming a “university that drives social change with integrative knowledge” upon being selected as a Designated National University Corporation. In accordance, the university will hold various events under the name of VISION EXPO during a one-year period beginning in April 2022. The purpose of these events is to widely disseminate the various comprehensive knowledge and development possibilities currently held by Kyushu University inside and outside the university.
- KU VISION PITCH 2022 is a research pitch contest that is open to students and young researchers, and is organized as part of VISION EXPO. Generally speaking, a “pitch contest” is a contest in which participants make appeals for technology seeds and business ideas through short presentations. In recent years, pitch contests have been held in various places by researchers and start-up companies in order to obtain investment capital for commercialization.
- The content of KU VISION PITCH 2022 is not limited to commercialization; instead, it aims to enthusiastically disseminate the ideas and prospects of academic research by students and young researchers to society. Prize money will be presented to the top finishers who have made excellent pitches.
- Judging will be conducted in two stages: a preliminary round based on document screening and a final round based on presentation screening. Applicants who have passed the document screening will be required to participate in training sessions for the finalists before the final round. The purpose of the training sessions is for participants to hone their presentation skills in order to effectively convey the appeal of their research to people outside the field of specialization.
- For the final round, we will form the judging committee by inviting professionals who are active in industry, government and academia, and who possess a variety of knowledge and experience. Contest participants will be able to take advantage of a valuable opportunity to obtain advice and suggestions from various perspectives from outside the field of specialization in regard to their presentation, and to use what they have learned as a stimulus for future performance.

2. Contest Eligibility

- The applicant must be a member of Kyushu University in one of the following ways.
 - A) Doctoral Program/Postdoctoral Fellow Program Division: Ph.D. students^{*1}, postdoctoral fellows^{*2}
 - *1 Including students who are enrolled in a three-year doctoral program and students who are enrolled in similar programs
 - *2 Within three years of acquiring Ph.D.; however, this excludes faculty members
 - B) Undergraduate/Master's Program Division: 4th-year undergraduate students to master's students^{*3}
 - *3 Including students who are enrolled in a two-year master's program and students who are enrolled in similar programs
- Applicants must be able to attend the training sessions and the final round of judging

3. Awards

Prize money will be awarded to participants who achieve excellent results in the final round.

A) Doctoral Program / Postdoctoral Fellow Program Division

- 1st Place: 500,000 yen
- 2nd Place: 300,000 yen
- 3rd Place: 100,000 yen (1 awardee for each place)

B) Undergraduate / Master's Program Division

- 1st Place: 300,000 yen
- 2nd Place: 200,000 yen
- 3rd Place: 100,000 yen (1 awardee for each place)

4. How to apply

Please submit the following documents 1) and 2) in accordance with the instructions given below.

Application is complete when both document 1) and document 2) have been submitted.

◆ Submission Documents

1) Application Form (prescribed format: Excel (1 sheet))

Please enter the applicant's affiliation, name, and contact information, the title of the research application, and the name, contact information, etc., of the academic advisor who can approve this application.

2) Research Execution/Plan Form (prescribed format: PPT (1 slide))

- Please summarize the ideas and prospects of the research being conducted by the applicant himself/herself on one page (prescribed format) of Microsoft PowerPoint (PPT). In addition to the PPT file, please also submit a PDF version of the same file.
- Please summarize the research content (including the concept), its impact on society, ideas and plans for commercialization and social implementation, and other aspects of the research in a way that can be communicated to the general public outside the field of specialization.
- We will accept applications for freely-conducted research efforts which are not parts of a graduate thesis, master's thesis, or doctoral dissertation. However, even in the case of original research, a faculty member capable of providing advice from an academic perspective must be appointed as an academic advisor.
- The research to be presented does not have to be completed. If the content of the presentation includes a concept, please include information on the schedule and prospects of research implementation in the submitted materials.

*Notes for Both 1) and 2) Above

- The submitted materials can be in either Japanese or English.
- Please use the following format for all file names: "Name (Affiliation/Student Year) Application Form" or "Name (Affiliation/Student Year) Research Execution/Plan Form".
(Example: Robert Smith (Faculty of Engineering/D3) Application Form.xls)
(Example: Robert Smith (Faculty of Engineering/D3) Research Execution/Plan Form.pptx)
(Example: Robert Smith (Faculty of Engineering/D3) Research Execution/Plan Form.pdf)

◆ Submission Address

E-mail: kisinfo@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp

◆ Submission Deadline

~~July 31 (Sunday), 2022~~

August 3 (Wednesday), 2022 *Application period extended

5. Event Briefing Session (video streaming)

A video is scheduled to be posted on the dedicated website after recruitment starts in July 2022

The video will provide a detailed explanation for people who are interested in the purpose, etc., of this event.

6) Preliminary Round: Document Screening

1) Material to be examined

- Submitted documents as listed in 4.2)

2) Judges

- Several faculty members of Kyushu University

3) Judging criteria

- Do the materials express the research background, purpose, method, expected results, and other elements of the research concept in an easy-to-understand manner?
- If the research plan is realized, will it have a significant impact on society?

4) Notification of examination results

- Applicants will be notified by e-mail by the fourth week of August.
- All applicants who pass the preliminary round (about 10 finalists) are required to participate in training sessions to prepare for giving a research pitch in the final round.

7. Training Sessions for Finalists

First Training Session: September 1 (Thursday); 1:00 pm to 4:20 pm

Venue: BasE, 2nd Floor of Center Zone 6, Ito Campus

Training Content: We will conduct training for the research pitch in the final round.

Participants will learn how to pitch more effectively while learning the difference between a pitch and regular presentations.

Second Training Session: September 22 (Thursday); 1:00 pm to 4:20 pm

Venue: BasE, 2nd Floor of Center Zone 6, Ito Campus

Training Content: We will conduct final preparation for the research pitch in the final round. Participations will adjust their pitch to be even more effective while actually giving a pitch based on what they learned in the First Session.

8. Final Round: Presentation Screening

Schedule: October 1 (Saturday), 2022; 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm (scheduled)

Venue: Large Meeting Room, 7th Floor of ACROS Fukuoka

(1-1-1 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka 810-0001)

Other: Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation will be prepared if necessary

(if a finalist is giving a presentation in English)

1) Targets of screening

- The targets of screening are the research content (including the concept), its impact on society, and ideas/plans for commercialization and social implementation. These topics are covered in a 3-minute presentation (using a screen) and a 5-minute Q&A session with the judges.

2) Judges

- Professionals (including Kyushu University alumni) who are active in fields such as regional collaboration, industry-academia collaboration, and international collaboration.
- Faculty members of Kyushu University.

3) Judging perspective

- Is the finalist able to appropriately present his/her own research plan? Is he/she able to appropriately answer questions regarding the presentation?
- If the research plan is realized, will it have a significant impact on society?

4) Screening results

- Announcement of results and presentation of awards is scheduled for the same day as the final round.

9. Schedule

- July Start accepting applications, hold the event briefing session
(video distribution; video scheduled to be posted on the dedicated website)
- July 31 Stop accepting applications
(deadline for submitting Application Form and Research Execution/Plan Form)
- During August Hold the preliminary round, decide on finalists, notify applicants of results
- September 1, 22 Hold training sessions for finalists
- October 1 Hold final round and present awards

10. Other

◆ Notes on Application

- The submitted research is limited to the applicant's own original research. The secretariat will confirm with the academic advisor in order to determine whether or not the research is the applicant's original research. Therefore, please obtain approval from your academic advisor before submitting research for this contest.
- We may inquire to the applicant regarding the submitted research.

◆ Stipulation of Rights

- Kyushu University may publish and post the submitted research on its website or in various media issued by Kyushu University. At this time, we may disclose applicant information (university name, faculty name, department name, grade, etc.).
- Kyushu University may issue press releases, etc., that provide the media with award information such as the names, affiliations, grades, and job titles of applicants who submitted award-winning research (hereinafter, “winners”).
- Kyushu University may use photographs of the award-winning research and winners taken by the organizer at the awards ceremony, etc., in various media (websites, reports, etc.) issued by Kyushu University.
- If it becomes necessary to decide on matters other than those listed in the application guidelines, Kyushu University will make those decisions at its own discretion.
- Even after awards have been announced, an award may be canceled if the submitted research is the same as or very similar to previously published research, or if it infringes the intellectual property rights of a third party (including the case of infringement after application).

◆ Handling of Personal Information

- Personal information will be used when accepting and making inquiries on the submitted research, when announcing the results of screenings, for other matters considered necessary for holding KU VISION PITCH 2022, and for providing information on other activities of Kyushu University. In principle, Kyushu University will not use personal information or provide it to a third party for any other purpose without the consent of the individual, except in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations.

11. Inquiries

KU VISION PITCH 2022, Secretariat Office

(in the Research Planning Division of the Research and Industrial Collaboration Promotion

Department of Kyushu University)

TEL: +81-92-802-2321

E-mail: kisinfo@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp