

# **The Network Joint Research Center (NJRC) for Materials and Devices**

## **Application Guidelines for Joint Research Programs FY2026**

These guidelines are an English translation of the original Japanese guidelines. If any differences in wording or interpretation occur between Japanese and English versions, the Japanese guidelines shall take precedence.

### **Introduction**

The Network Joint Research Center (NJRC) for Materials and Devices is a consortium of research institutions established by Research Institute of Electronic Science, Hokkaido University, Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University, Laboratory for Chemistry and Life Science, Institute of Integrated Research, Institute of Science Tokyo, SANKEN, Osaka University, and Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, Kyushu University. It serves as a joint usage and research center enabling investigators to conduct collaborative studies beyond their own institutes.

Since receiving certification as a Joint Usage/Research Center from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2010, the NJRC has vigorously promoted cooperative research in the field of materials and devices. The following are the application guidelines for the open call for proposals for FY2026.

### **Programs**

#### **Basic Joint Research Program**

The center supports bottom-up, proposal-driven joint research based on applicants' original ideas and approaches in the field of materials and devices. Research expenses are approximately 150,000 yen.

#### **Program for Utilization of Facilities and Equipment**

This program aims to enhance applicants' research infrastructure by providing access to state-of-the-art facilities and equipment owned by the five institutes. Research funds are not provided.

#### **Crossover Joint Research Program**

This is a goal-oriented program that combines, for example, materials and AI, materials and light, life science and mathematics, or materials and social science. The program fosters interdisciplinary fusion research, leading to the creation of new fields. Research expenses are approximately 250,000 yen.

*\*It is a mandatory requirement that the host researcher specializes in a different field from the applicant. In the Research Plan section of the application form, please clearly describe the specific role of the researcher from another field in the collaborative research."*

#### **Expanded Joint Research Program**

By conducting joint studies across two or more research areas (institutes), the center aims to promote personnel exchanges and develop original research through multifaceted perspectives. Research expenses are approximately 300,000 yen.

## **Collaborative Research Laboratory (CORE-Lab) Program**

A selected young investigator forms a research team as a project leader and stays at the host institute for a mid- to long-term period to conduct research activities. Through in-depth discussions with outstanding investigators, the program is expected to produce breakthrough results and innovations. The research period is for two years, and research expenses are approximately 1.8 million yen per year.

*\*In FY2026, new applications will only be accepted by two research institutes: Research Institute for Electronic Science, Hokkaido University and Laboratory for Chemistry and Life Science, Institute of Integrated Research, Institute of Science Tokyo. Please note that new applications will not be accepted by Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University, SANKEN, Osaka University, and Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, Kyushu University. If your project was newly approved in FY 2025 and you wish to continue your research in FY2026, you must submit an application.*

## **Notes**

- The NJRC website (<https://five-star.sanken.osaka-u.ac.jp/>) provides all information necessary for applications, including guidelines, a researcher database useful for finding partners for joint investigations, and a list of available equipment at the host research institutes.
- Prior to submitting an application, applicants are required to engage in thorough discussions about their project's objectives and plans with their host researchers and collaborators.
- Depending on the content of your submitted research proposal, you may be requested to make adjustments, such as applying to a more suitable program.
- The following institute will serve as hosts for collaborative research.

## **Host Institutes**

Research Institute of Electronic Science, Hokkaido University: Materials-Light-Life-Mathematics Complex Science Research Area

Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University: Material Creation and Advanced Measurements Research Area

Laboratory for Chemistry and Life Science, Institute of Integrated Research, Institute of Science Tokyo: Materials Histochemical Research Area

SANKEN, Osaka University: Nanoscience and Devices Research Area

Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, Kyushu University: Substance/Material Functions Research Area

## **Eligible Applicants**

Researchers affiliated with national, public, and private universities, public research institutes, private companies (limited to academic research content), and other equivalent institutions.

Applicants for the Collaborative Research Laboratory (CORE-lab) Program should be young researchers under approximately 45 years of age.

## How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the NJRC's online system for open calls. As the application form and manuals are provided only in Japanese, we recommend that you ask your host researcher for assistance in completing the application.

## Application period

From 8 January 2026 to 29 January 2026

*\*Applications for the Program for Utilization of Facilities and Equipment will be accepted even after the application period when there is a need to use facilities and equipment. In such cases, please contact a host researcher or the administration office at each institute.*

## Research Funds

The allocation amounts are as stated in the Programs above. However, if the applicant and the host researcher belong to the same university, a reduced allocation (approximately two-thirds of the listed amount for each program) will be applied due to expected savings on travel expenses. Please note that long-distance travel between campuses will be considered separately.

Research funds can be used for travel expenses, article submission fees, and expendables (such as reagents) necessary to conduct joint research. For the Collaborative Research Laboratory (CORE-Lab) Program only, research funds can also be used for equipment necessary to conduct joint research.

Research funds are not directly allocated to the principal investigator. After an application is approved, guidance on fund usage will be provided to the applicant by the host institute. Research funds must be used in accordance with this guidance.

## Research Period

From 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027

## Notification of a result of an application

Applicants will be notified by email regarding the selection results in late March 2026. Please log in to the application system to confirm your results.

Successful proposals will be posted on the NJRC website along with the names and affiliations of the principal investigators.

## Submission of a Report on the Research Result

Please submit a report describing the progress and results of your research through the online system for open calls. The report will be published on NJRC website.

*\*The closing date for submission is scheduled on the end of March 2027. Details will be provided as the date approaches.*

## Publication of the Research Results

When publishing research results, please include a statement equivalent to ‘*This work was performed under the Cooperative Research Program of “Network Joint Research Center for Materials and Devices (MEXT)”*’.

## Handling of Intellectual Property Rights

When intellectual property is created during research, the ownership of rights should be promptly discussed among researchers’ institutions. In principle, the allocation of rights will depend on the degree of each researcher’s contribution to inventions.

## Others

When it is necessary to handle radioactive rays or materials at a host institute to conduct joint research, please submit a certificate issued by your affiliated institution proving that you are registered as a person authorized to handle radioactive rays or materials.

*\*In your research program involves the use of Research Laboratory for Quantum Beam Science at SANKEN, Osaka University, you must apply for a safety inquiry regarding the use of radioactive rays or materials through the website of Research Laboratory for Quantum Beam Science. (<http://osku.jp/z0170>) As the website is provided only in Japanese, please ask your host researcher for assistance in applying.*

## Contact

- **Materials-Light-Life-Mathematics Complex Science Research Area**  
Research Institute for Electronic Science (RIES), Hokkaido University  
N21W10, Kita-Ward Sapporo 001-0021, Japan  
TEL : +81-11-706-9202      FAX : +81-11-706-9110  
Email : kyoten@es.hokudai.ac.jp
- **Material Creation and Advanced Measurements Research Area**  
Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University  
Katahira 2-1-1, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8577, Japan  
TEL: +81-22-217-5822      FAX: +81-22-217-5211  
Email : tagen.alliance@grp.tohoku.ac.jp
- **Materials Histochemical Research Area**  
Laboratory for Chemistry and Life Science, Institute of Integrated Research, Institute of Science Tokyo  
R1-32, 4259 Nagatsutacho, Midori-ku, Yokohama, 226-8503, Japan  
TEL: +81-45-924-5961      FAX: +81-45-924-5976  
Email : cls-njrc@cls.iir.isct.ac.jp
- **Nanoscience and Devices Research Area**  
SANKEN (The Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research), Osaka University  
8-1 Mihogaoka, Ibaraki, Osaka, 567-0047, Japan  
TEL : +81-6-6879-4300      FAX : +81-6-6879-8509  
Email : NJRC@sanken.osaka-u.ac.jp

- **Substance/Material Functions Research Area**

Institute for Materials Chemistry and Engineering, Kyushu University

6-1 Kasugakoen, Kasuga-shi, Fukuoka 816-8580, Japan

TEL : +81-92-583-8898      FAX : +81-92-583-8898

Email : [kyoten@cm.kyushu-u.ac.jp](mailto:kyoten@cm.kyushu-u.ac.jp)