

The Network Joint Research Center (NJRC) for Materials and Devices Application Guidelines for Next Generation Young Researchers Programs FY2026

These guidelines are an English translation of the original Japanese guidelines. If any differences in wording or interpretation should 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 of activity authorization 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 of Next Generation Young Researchers Programs for FY2026.

Outline of the Program

Graduate students, undergraduate students, or other types of students may serve as project leaders and conduct joint research to further develop their research activities in close collaboration with host faculty members belonging to the following five research areas (research institutes).

Before submitting a proposal for the open call, please be sure to obtain approval from your supervisor and engage in sufficient discussions with the host faculty member with whom you wish to conduct the joint 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

An investigator affiliated with one of the five institutes above will serve as a coresearcher (a host faculty member).

Eligible Applicants

Graduate students, undergraduate students, and other types of students listed below who meet either of the following conditions:

1. Students directly supervised by faculty members (researchers) who are conducting, or have previously conducted, joint research at the Network Joint Research Center (NJRC) for Materials and Devices.
2. Students directly supervised by faculty members (researchers) belonging to the five institutes listed above.

**Postgraduate students and students majoring at technical colleges are also eligible for the program, in addition to graduate and undergraduate students.*

**After research projects are approved, applicants must obtain permission to conduct joint research as principal investigators from their affiliated institutions. (It is required to submit a compliance certification form signed by the head of the institution or department to which the applicant belongs.)*

How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the NJRC's online system for open calls. As the application form and the 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

** If you are unable to submit an application within the designated period for a valid reason, it may still be accepted after the deadline. In such cases, please contact a host faculty member or the administrative staff at the relevant host institute.*

Amount of Research Grant

Around 100,000 yen per a research project.

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 the 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.

Research funds are not directly allocated to the principal investigator. After an application is approved, guidance on fund usage of the funds will be provided to the applicant by the host institute. Research funds must be used appropriately 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's website along with the names and affiliation of the principal investigators.

Submission of a Report on the Research Result

Please submit a report describing the progress and the results of your research through the online system for open calls. The report will be published on NJRC's 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 the 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 intellectual property rights should be promptly discussed among researchers' institutions. In principle, the allocations of rights will depend on the degree of each researcher's contribution to inventions and so on.

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.*

Certification of NJRC Excellent Student Researcher

The title NJRC Excellent Student Researcher will be awarded to applicants whose research project applications are approved. Certificates of NJRC Excellent Student Researcher will also be issued to them.

Contact

- **Materials-Light-Life-Mathematics Complex Science Research Area**

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- **Material Creation and Advanced Measurements Research Area**

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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

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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

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TEL : +81-6-6879-4300 FAX : +81-6-6879-8509

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- **Substance/Material Functions Research Area**

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