FY 2021

NINS Joint Research Program

Outline of the Open Recruitment

August 2020
National Institutes of Natural Sciences
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Purpose of the Program

Joint utilization and joint research in the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (hereinafter referred to as “NINS”) have been previously conducted independently with respect to each field by each institute, etc., however, following the entry into the period of the third medium-term goals, we are proceeding with preparations to shift to a system to accept joint researchers regardless of the field by implementing these as NINS. This is also aimed at the development and creation of new research fields by integrating different fields along with widening the scope of joint research in relevant fields by letting down the barrier between fields.

The NINS Joint Research Program was developed from FY 2016 as a program to support research in the new integrated areas of different fields by researchers inside and outside NINS jointly conducted with researchers who belong to NINS as a precursor and is being implemented from FY 2017. In line with this, we are openly and publicly seeking research project proposals for FY 2021.

NINS consists of the five (5) research institutes of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), National Institute for Fusion Science (NIFS), National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), and Institute for Molecular Science (IMS) and the Astrobiology Center (ABC), Center for Novel Science Initiatives (CNSI), and Exploratory Research Center on Life and Living System (ExCELLS) and has developed broad-ranging joint utilization and joint research with each group of researchers who belong to research areas including astronomy, fusion science, basic biology, physiological sciences, molecular science.

This program is looking forward to research proposals of non-conventional ideas by the integration of different fields from researchers of different research fields inside and outside NINS and to develop new research fields regardless of the divisions of the research institutes beyond previous research. For this reason, we will provide a preliminary consultation for those in very different fields and those who have ideas but do not know who with in the research institute of their choice to partner-up.

1. Requirements of the Open Recruitment

We are publicly seeking the following initiatives by researchers, etc. who belong to research institutes in Japan to cooperate and promote with employees who belong to NINS (hereinafter referred to as “NINS employees”).
2. Application Qualification
Principal applicants shall be researchers who belong to universities or public research institutes in Japan or those who are recognized to have research capabilities equivalent to those by the president of NINS.

3. Application Period
From 10:00 on November 2, 2020 (Monday) to 17:00 on December 11, 2020 (Friday)

4. Application Method
The application is carried out by electronic filing (https://www.nins.jp/nous/) from November 2, 2020.

In applying, be sure to discuss the research theme, research plan, necessary expenses, etc. with a professor, associate professor, or assistant professor who belongs to NINS before submitting the application forms. For divisions, researchers, etc. in NINS, see the website of each institute listed at “7. Research Implementation Structure” or contact the information and consultation desk listed at “12. Other (6) Contact Information and Consultation Desk”.

5. Research Period
One (1) year from FY 2020

6. Fund
   ① Joint Research
   The annual fund shall be up to the limit of five (5) million yen per case.
   However, this shall not be inclusive of personnel expenses.
   Note: In the case where implementation cannot be completed within the research period due to unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstances, expenses cannot be carried over and used in the next fiscal year.

   ② Workshop, etc. for the preparation of joint research
   The annual fund shall be up to the limit of one (1) million yen per case.
   However, this shall not be inclusive of personnel expenses and facility and equipment expenses.

   Note: In the case where implementation cannot be completed within the research
period due to unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstances, expenses cannot be carried over and used in the next fiscal year.

7. Research Implementation Structure
If you intend to implement research from this program, be sure to include more than one (1) NINS employee in the joint researchers. Additionally, set one (1) person among NINS employees up as the expenses operating officer.

For principal applicants and employees affiliated with NINS, fields do not always have to be in different areas. In that case, researchers whose fields are in different areas have to be included in joint researchers.

Regarding integrated research from various fields directed toward this program, check the website of each institute for more information, etc. about the research content or those implementing the research of each institute in NINS or consult “12. Others (5) Contact Information and Consultation Desk”.

NINS https://www.nins.jp/
NAOJ http://www.nao.ac.jp/
NIFS http://www.nifs.ac.jp/
NIBB http://www.nibb.ac.jp/
NIPS http://www.nips.ac.jp/
IMS https://www.ims.ac.jp/
CNSI http://www.nins.jp/cnsi/
ABC http://abc-nins.jp/
ExCELLS https://www.excells.orion.ac.jp/
IRCC https://www.nins.jp/site/activity/1724.html

8. Number of Cases Scheduled to be Accepted
① Joint Research
5 cases each (dependent on budget)

② Workshop, etc. for the preparation of joint research
5 cases each (dependent on budget)

9. Expenses
For expenses in this program, the operating expenses officer (NINS employee) shall allocate the budget. In operating expenses, the expenses operating officer will
operate expenses. Please also abide by the rules, etc. of NINS in the operation of the expenses.

(1) Use of Expenses

The necessary expenses (expenses for goods, travel expenses, honorarium, etc., and other expenses such as for printing and binding expenses, communication and transport expenses, meeting expenses, etc.) can be used for the implementation of this program. Regarding each expense, please use the following for reference. Goods can be delivered to the affiliated institute of the principal applicant and joint researcher as may be necessary. However, goods that need equipment management, etc. shall be managed by NINS and belong to NINS at the end of this program.

A) Joint Research

① Expenses for goods (Facility and equipment expenses and supplies expenses)
   Expenses to purchase facilities, equipment, and supplies

② Travel Expenses
   Expenses for business trips inside and outside Japan of the principal applicant and joint researcher and for invitation

③ Honorarium, etc.
   Expenses for honorarium, remuneration, and payment to a temp agency for those who cooperate in the research (data organization, experiment assistance, translation and proofreading, provision of specialized knowledge and skills, etc.).

④ Other
   Except for expenses in ① to ③, expenses to implement research (For example, communication expenses, transport expenses, meeting expenses (except alcohol), printing expenses, binding expenses, etc.)

B) Workshop, etc. for the preparation of joint research

① Expenses for goods (supplies expenses)
   Expenses to purchase supplies

② Travel Expenses
   Expenses for business trips inside and outside Japan of the principal applicant and joint researcher and for invitation

③ Honorarium, etc.
   Expenses for honorarium, remuneration, and payment to a temp agency for those who cooperate in the research (data organization, experiment assistance, translation and proofreading, provision of specialized knowledge and skills, etc.).
4 Other
Except for expenses in ① to ③, expenses to implement research
(For example, communication expenses, transport expenses, meeting expenses (except alcohol), printing expenses, binding expenses, etc.)

10. Screening, etc.
The screening of this program shall be made by means of documents and interview by the NINS Research Cooperation and Liaison Committee and based on the results, shall be settled in the NINS Research Base Strategy Meeting. The screening shall be closed to the public. (If accepted, some of the information shall be disclosed.)

(1) Screening
① First Screening (Document Screening)
The document screening shall be conducted by the NINS Research Cooperation and Liaison Committee.
② Second Screening (Interview)
Based on the results of the first screening (document screening), the NINS Research Cooperation and Liaison Committee shall select the research theme to be subjected to an interview.

(2) Screening Schedule
① First Screening (Document Screening)
(Scheduled around mid-January 2021)
② Second Screening (Interview)
(Scheduled around mid- and late February 2021)
③ Screening Decision (Research Base Strategy Meeting)
(Scheduled around mid-March 2021)

(3) Main Points of the Screening
In the screening in this program, screening shall be made in consideration of the following perspectives.
① Is the research objective and content on the basis of a new cross-disciplinary cooperation with a flexible mindset and novel technique?
② Is the research outline concrete and is it a research that is highly feasible within the specified time frame and where future ripple effects can be expected?
③ Can ripple effects be expected including developments into the creation of an “exploratory research” based on a medium or long-term perspective?
④ In light of the research goals and outline, are the research expenses reasonable?

(4) Announcement of the Screening Result
   ① The screening result of the research theme to be subjected to the interview will be announced in writing around late January and early February 2022.
   ② The acceptance or rejection based on the screening result will be announced in writing. (Scheduled around mid-March 2021)

11. Research Outcome and Evaluation
An implementation report of the research theme shall be submitted by January 31, 2022 (Monday) and a performance debriefing session is scheduled to be held in late February 2022.

If publishing the outcome of this program with a research paper, etc., the acknowledgment or funding for the research paper, etc. must include that the outcome of the research is on the expense of the NINS Joint Research Program.

Example:
(Japanese) 本研究は、大学共同利用機関法人自然科学研究機構分野融合型共同研究事業（******）の助成を受けたものである。
(English) This research was supported by the grant of the NINS Joint Research Program (NINS Program No. ____).
   The grant number is included in the Notice of Acceptance.

12. Other
(1) Various Deliverables, etc.
The applicant for this program, after acceptance, needs to submit the following documents before the start of the research depending on the research to be implemented or content of the experiment. Except for those described below, other necessary documents may be needed for submission depending on the application content. In accomplishing this program, after discussing with NINS employees, arrangements may also be needed to be made when using facilities available for joint research in NINS.

   ① Written approval from the NINS president for engaging in this program (including joint researchers)
   ② Proof of taking the research ethics education course
③ Confirmation of taking out the Disaster and Accident Insurance for Student Education and Research if there are graduate students among the cooperators

④ Radiation work certification application form
Each joint utilization and research and joint utilization and experiment require radiation worker registration after acceptance if radio isotopes are to be used at NINS.

⑤ Submission of the recombinant DNA experiment design
Each joint utilization and research and joint utilization and experiment are supposed to submit the experiment design from the associated division in NINS if accompanied by recombinant DNA experiments.

⑥ Submission of the animal experiment design
Each joint utilization and research and joint utilization and experiment are supposed to submit the experiment design if accompanied by animal experiments.

⑦ Human genome and gene analysis research
Each joint utilization and research and joint utilization and experiment require screening after acceptance if human genome and gene analysis research are to be used at NINS.

⑧ Research of physiological sciences targeted at humans and specimens obtained from humans and other relevant fields
Each joint utilization and research and joint utilization and experiment require preliminary approval of the ethics committee of the affiliated institute if “research of physiological sciences targeted at humans and specimens obtained from humans and other relevant fields” are to be used at the National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS). If there is no ethics committee in the affiliated institute, a confirmation letter stating that there is no ethical problem from the head of the affiliated institute is required. The ethics committee of NIPS will also make a screening after acceptance.

(2) Handling of intellectual property
This shall be as prescribed in Inventions by Employee Rules of the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS Rules No. 12 of 2004).

(3) Handling of personal information
Personal information included in the application documents will be under tight control based on the “Act on the Protection of Personal Information Held by Incorporated Administrative Agencies, etc.” and “Personal Information Protection Rules” of NINS and used for operation purposes of this program only.

(4) Accommodation facilities
Accommodation facilities may be used in NINS if implementing joint research in each institute. For details, contact the information and consultation desk listed at “12. Other (6) Contact Information and Consultation Desk”.

(Examples of accommodation facilities)
① NAOJ
   Cosmos Lodge
② NIFS
   Researcher accommodation facility (Helicon Club)
③ Okazaki Area (NIBB, NIPS, and IMS)
   Okazaki area accommodation facilities for researchers (Mishima Lodge and Myodaiji Lodge)

(5) Child care support
Child care support may be used in NINS if implementing joint research in each institute. However, the capacity is limited so contact the following desks in advance.
① NAOJ
   The nursing room can be used if implementing joint utilization and joint research in NAOJ (Mitaka area only). Contact the following in advance if you wish to use it.
   Employee Affairs Section, General Affairs Division, Administration Department, NAOJ
   Tel: 0422-34-3654 (Direct number)
② NIFS
   A part of the temporary daycare use fee of a child is supported if implementing joint utilization and joint research in NIFS. Contact the following in advance if you wish to use it.
   Personnel and Payroll Section, General Affairs Division, Department of Administration, NIFS
   Tel: 0572-58-2012 (Direct number)
③ NIBB, NIPS, and IMS
The nursing facility within the place of business can be used if there is an opening when implementing joint utilization and joint research in NIBB, NIPS, and IMS. Contact the following roughly 6 weeks prior to the preferred date of use if you wish to use it.
General Affairs Section, General Affairs Division, General Affairs Department, Okazaki Administration Center
Tel: 0564-55-7112 (Direct number)

(6) Contact Information and Consultation Desk
If you have any questions, consultations, etc. about this open recruitment, please contact the following.
(Contact Information and Consultation Desk)
Liaison and Planning Division
Administrative Bureau
NINS
Tel: 03-5425-1325
Fax: 03-5425-2049
E-mail: nins-jr@nins.jp