



Application Guidelines for the Global Collaborative Research Project FY2026 Brain Research Institute, Niigata University

Brain Research Institute at Niigata University has received certification as a Joint Usage/Research Center from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

The Collaborative Research Center for Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders
April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2028

BRI is pleased to announce an open call for joint research projects aimed at elucidating the pathogenesis of neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders and developing treatments for these conditions. This initiative represents a concerted effort to harness BRI's diverse research resources and technological infrastructure. BRI welcomes proposals for advanced research projects in which scientists from Japan and overseas will collaborate with BRI faculty.

I. Research Collaboration Categories

i. Neuropathological specimens of brain disease

Resources available at BRI include:

Provision, preservation, analysis and assessment on fixed samples of brain disease, on frozen tissue of brain, and on brain genome resource.

ii. Genome analysis on brain disease

Resources available at BRI include: Individual SNP analysis, DNA sequencing analysis, and expression analysis on brain disease-associated gene.

iii. Production and analysis on animal resources of brain disease

Resources available at BRI include:

Production of transgenic mouse models of brain disease with C57BL/6-strain embryonic stem cell, provision of brain disease inserted animal models (mice and rats), microbiologic cleanings of mice and rats, cryopreservation of embryos and sperms, breeding of scarce cross-fertilization animals, biochemical test, and behavior analysis.

iv. Translational research focused on the development of non-invasive imaging analysis technique

Resources available at BRI include: Technical development of non-invasive imaging diagnostics on neurological disease and of imaging processing, and collaboration of translational research on developing treatment.

v. Open research utilizing BRI resources

II. Available BRI Facility, Equipment and Resource

Brain disease specimen resource, Electron microscope system, Information analysis laboratory in neuropathology, Non-invasive brain function analyzer, Gene testing facility, Gene analyzer, Biological sample preservatory, Genomic data, Animal experiment facility, Recombinant DNA laboratory, Incubation room, Special animal experiment laboratory / Embryo culture laboratory, Gene expression profiling in the brain with schizophrenia

III. Applicant Eligibility

Researchers affiliated with universities or public research institutes worldwide are eligible to apply. Under specific circumstances, BRI may also consider applications from equivalent researchers.

IV. Project Dates

One year (April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027)

*The project period can be extended up to three years.

V. Application Procedure

- 1) An application and research proposal (Form1) along with a copy of the curriculum vitae of the principal investigator (PI) should be submitted to BRI. The forms are available for download from the BRI website (<https://www.bri.niigata-u.ac.jp/en/joint/download/index.html>).
- 2) Research studies involving the ethical code must conform to the ethical guidelines and regulations for genome, animal, and human researches at the relevant facilities.
- 3) When renewing the previous year's project, a progress report (Form2) must be submitted for a period extension.
- 4) Prior to submitting an application, applicants should discuss their proposals including the research topic, visiting schedule, necessary costs, and requests, with their BRI collaborators.

VI. Closing Date for Applications

January 31, 2026 (Late application shall not be accepted.)

All forms and required documents should be submitted via email to noukyoudo@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp.

*The application must be sent with the following subject line:

"Application for the Global Collaborative Research Project FY2026"

VII. Selection Process

Applications are primarily sent to the BRI Global Research Board for screening, followed by the Joint Research Board for the final decision. We will inform each applicant of the decision in the middle of March 2026.

VIII. Research Funding Restrictions

- 1) Travel expenses will be supported up to 500,000 JPY in accordance with Niigata University Travel Expense Regulations. Funding is expected to cover the travel expenses for PI and co-investigators from overseas institutes to BRI. Funding is also expected to cover the travel expenses for BRI collaborator and co-investigators from BRI to the overseas partnership institutes.
- 2) Visitors must submit a summary of their travel plan at least two months before the intended visit via the following link (<https://forms.office.com/r/raxSst4auk>).
- 3) The reimbursement is normally transferred to the designated bank account after the visit is completed.
- 4) Applicants must request prior approval from their superiors for their travel to BRI.

IX. Requirement of Project Report

PI is required to submit a project report (Form3) by **April 30, 2027**. Subject to the PI's agreement, the submitted report will be published as part of an annual report and posted on the BRI website. In cases where an agreement for public disclosure cannot be reached with PI, general information of the project (the title and PI's details [name, title and affiliation]) will be listed.

X. Intellectual Property

Before filing patent application(s), intellectual property rights for inventions jointly developed by researchers during the Global Collaborative Research will be addressed separately. This may involve a joint application agreement that reflects the individual contributions of researchers and their respective institutes.

XI. Publications

- 1) Publications resulting from the research must include an acknowledgement of the Global Collaborative Research Project of BRI. Please refer to the following example:

"This work was supported by the Global Collaborative Research Project [Project Number] of Brain Research Institute, Niigata University."

- 2) A PDF copy of the publication needs to be submitted to BRI.

XII. Contacts

Administration Office, Brain Research Institute, Niigata University
1-757 Asahimachidori, Chuo-ku, Niigata 951-8585 Japan
Phone: +81 (0)25-227-0565 Fax: +81 (0)25-227-0507
Email: noukyoudo@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

Contact person as regards administrative and procedural inquiries:
Azusa Yamada
Phone: +81 (0)25-227-0388
Email: a.yamada@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp