

(Posted on December 26, 2025)

## **Transdisciplinary Exploratory Research Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Eligibility**

Q.	I previously conducted research activities in the private sector, but I am currently not affiliated with any specific organization and have not been involved in research recently. Am I eligible to apply? What should be included in my CV?
A.	Affiliation with a specific organization is not required for eligibility. Eligibility will be determined in accordance with the eligibility requirements stipulated in the Call for Proposals. In the CV, please describe your activity and achievement relevant to the proposed research, regardless of the time period.

Q.	Is there an age limit for Applicants?
A.	There is no age limit, provided that the Applicant can responsibly conduct the research throughout the entire one-year research period.

Q.	May an Applicant submit more than one research proposal?
A.	Each Applicant may submit only one research proposal.

### **Preparing the Application**

Q.	Global environmental issues encompass a wide range of topics, including social and cultural dimensions. May proposed research focus on such aspects, or must it address specific issues such as climate change or natural disasters?
A.	Any research proposal related to global environmental issues is eligible. Proposals may address specific environmental issues as well as methodological, conceptual, social, or cultural themes.

Q.	If farmers or other stakeholders are expected to cooperate in the research and may serve as research subjects, should they be listed as collaborative researcher?
A.	If collaborative research activities are planned from the outset, they should be listed as collaborative researchers. However, individuals who participate solely as research subjects (e.g., interviewees or invited speakers) do not need to be listed, and please note that honoraria cannot be paid to collaborative researchers. Collaborative researchers may be added after the start of the research period, as necessary.

Q.	Should the Principal Investigator (PI) be listed among the Research Team?
A.	The Principal Investigator does not need to be listed in that section.

Q.	When involving government officials in the research, obtaining prior consent from senior officials may be difficult at the application stage. Should they be listed as individuals or in their official capacity?
A.	This depends on the content of the research. They do not need to be listed as planned participants at the application stage. They may participate in a manner equivalent to collaborative researchers and be formally added as collaborative researchers at a later stage, if necessary.

Q.	The space provided for the budget plan in the application form is limited. May the layout be modified?
A.	There is no page limit for the budget plan section. If additional space is required, please retain the original format and continue the budget details on subsequent pages.

Q.	At the time of application, collaboration with non-researchers or private-sector organizations has not yet been established. Is this acceptable?
A.	Yes. Such collaborations do not need to be established at the time of application. If collaboration is anticipated during the research period, Applicants should describe their plans in the research proposal.

Q.	Is there an upper limit for expenses allocated to each budget category?
A.	There is no upper limit for individual budget categories.

Q.	Under which budget category should expenses for online surveys be listed?
A.	If outsourcing is involved, such expenses are generally listed under the "Other" category. Differences between the budget categories used at the application stage and RIHN's internal accounting categories will not affect the selection process.

#### **Accompanying Support by Specially Appointed Faculty**

Q.	If a research proposal spans multiple disciplines, how will Accompanying Support Faculty Members be assigned? Is it possible to assign more than one?
A.	Multiple Accompanying Support Faculty Members may be assigned. Assignment will be determined based on the Applicant's preferences and the content of the research proposal.

Q.	If the proposal is selected, when may research preparation and meetings with Accompanying Support Faculty Members begin?
A.	Research activities may commence on or after April 1 of the relevant fiscal year.

Q.	How do Accompanying Support Faculty Members contribute to the research, and how frequently is support provided?
A.	Accompanying Support Faculty Members provide advice and support based on their experience in transdisciplinary research and their areas of expertise. The frequency and format of support will vary depending on the research content and the preferences of the Principal Investigator.

Q.	May Applicants contact Accompanying Support Faculty Members prior to submission?
A.	Prior contact is not anticipated. Accompanying Support Faculty Members will be coordinated by RIHN based on the Applicant's preferences and the content of the research proposal.

Q.	May Accompanying Support Faculty Members formally join the research team as members?
A.	Accompanying Support Faculty Members are not expected to participate as members of specific research teams.

## Other

Q.	May this research be conducted in combination with other external funding sources, such as KAKENHI?
A.	Yes. However, Applicants must ensure that research outputs and expenditures, including travel expenses, are clearly attributable to this research. Applicants are also responsible for confirming and complying with the rules of any other funding sources used.

Q.	This call offers a one-year research period, which differs from usual RIHN project schemes (IS/FS/FR). Should these proposals aim to lead to IS or FS projects?
A.	This call is independent of usual RIHN project schemes. Research proposals should be designed to be completed within the one-year research period.

Q.	Must the research be conducted in Japan?
A.	While financial management will be conducted by RIHN in Japan, the research itself does not need to be conducted in Japan. Since Accompanying Support Faculty Members are based in Japan, there may be opportunities to visit Japan; however, such visits are not mandatory.

Q.	Is it possible to transfer research funds overseas?
A.	Overseas transfers are permitted; however, prior approval is required. Applicants must consult with RIHN administrative staff in advance.

Q.	May project funds be used to pay salaries to the Principal Investigator or collaborative researchers?
A.	Project funds may not be used for the employment or salary payments of the Principal Investigator or collaborative researchers.

Q.	May low-cash-value items be provided as incentives for survey respondents?
A.	In principle, this is permitted. Details should be discussed with RIHN administrative staff, and all expenditures must comply with the accounting rules of the National Institutes for the Humanities.

Q.	Will this call for Transdisciplinary Exploratory Research be offered in future fiscal years?
A.	At present, implementation in future fiscal years has not been determined.