

RIHN Visiting Research Fellow Program 2027 Call for Visiting Research Fellows

1. Program description

Scope of the program

The **RIHN Visiting Research Fellow Program** brings overseas researchers to the Institute for periods of two to three months to engage in specific research in the context of one of the RIHN Programs, Projects, Divisions, or Centers.

Selection Criteria

Applications are evaluated by the criteria below and candidates are advised to take these into account in preparing an application:

1. Does the research proposal fit with the substance and direction of the program, project division, center or unit at which the fellow would be based?
2. Is the research plan coherent and appropriately prepared?
3. Are expected outputs clearly outlined?
4. Are academic ability and experience of the applicant sufficient for this collaboration?
5. Was the host researcher informed of, and did he/she consent with the research proposal prior to submission? (If an applicant has no host, he/she receives only 1 point)

*If an applicant has no host, please check the list below and contact International Affairs Subsection before submission.

*Considering that the selection process also involves researchers outside the relevant specialty, the application is expected to be written in plain, clear language that is easy for such researchers to understand.

Research units and host researchers

Each Visiting Research Fellow works with a RIHN host researcher who acts as the main point of contact with the Institute. Applicants are advised to develop plans for research and activities during their stay at RIHN in consultation with the intended host researcher. In most cases, candidates will already have interacted with a potential host researcher prior to the application, but a list of potential hosts is shown below. It is required that the initial contact with a provisional host researcher is made at the latest 3 weeks prior to the application deadline. If you would like to contact a potential host you have not interacted with before, please send an email to kokusai@chikyu.ac.jp and your email will be forwarded.

Research Programs and Projects

Research Program	
Global Environmental Culture Program	
Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/program/01/
Research Keywords	Dialogue between Science and Culture
Program Director	MATSUDA Motoji Specially Appointed Professor — Cultural Anthropology, Sociology
Project	Building up organic material circulation system among urban and rural area: Toward the integration of local perception and scientific knowledge
Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/detail/25/
Research Keywords	organic matter circulation, waste valorization, urban and rural, land restoration
Project Leader	OYAMA Shuichi Professor — Geography, land restoration study, peace study, African area study
Project	High-resolution reconstruction of resilient indigenous lifestyle in environmental changes to future collective knowledge deduced from the fusion of science and arts
Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/detail/26/
Research Keywords	Coral annual bands, High resolution paleoenvironment reconstruction, Drama and theater, Phenomenological reduction
Project Leader	WATANABE Tsuyoshi Associate Professor — Environmental Earth Sciences
Project	Fair and Sustainable Hunting Management through Dialogues between Local Knowledge and Science
Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/detail/23/
Research Keywords	wild meat (bushmeat), tropical rainforests, hunting, wildlife monitoring, Indigenous and local knowledge
Project Leader	HONGO Shun Associate Professor — Conservation Science, Wildlife Management, Primatology
Combining Knowledge for a Fundamental Innovation of Land Use Program	

Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/program/02/
Research Keywords	Land use governance, Agri-environmental and resources policy
Program Director	SHOBAYASHI Mikitaro Specially Appointed Professor — Agriculture and agri-environmental policies, Water resources policies, rural development, agricultural economics
Research Project	Satoyama Reconnections: Engaging communities in resilient, nature- and climate-positive land use futures
Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/detail/24/
Research Keywords	Multifunctional land use, Satoyama and Social-Ecological Production Landscapes, Rural regeneration, Resilience and sustainability, Systemic transdisciplinary appraisal, Participatory action-oriented research, Living labs, Policy influence and impact
Project Leader	Janet Dwyer Professor — Agricultural economics; policy analysis, agri-environmental policy, sustainable agriculture and rural development, rural enterprise, participatory social science research, action-oriented methods, transdisciplinary project management, social-ecological systems, social capital, capacity-building.
Research Project	Pluriversal Land Use: Exploring Institutions, Values and Worldviews
Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/detail/74.html
Research Keywords	Pluriverse, Land Use, TD as Practice, Pattern Language, Local Certification, Relational Values
Project Leader	TAMURA Norie Associate Professor — Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Policy, Natural Resource Management, Commons
Co-creation of the Earth-human System Program	
Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/program/03/
Research Keywords	Human-Earth System, Trade-off and synergy, Homogeneity and diversity, Benefits and harms
Program Director	TANIGUCHI Makoto Professor — Hydrology, Global Environmental Studies, Sustainability Science
Project	Towards Sustainable Nitrogen Use Connecting Human Society and Nature

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Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/project/17/
Research Keywords	Food, Industry, Energy, Nitrogen issue, Nitrogen management, Nitrogen pollution
Project Leader	HAYASHI Kentaro Professor – Biogeochemistry, Soil Science
Project	Towards an Ethical Economy: Addressing the Impacts of Commodity Trade and Consumption on Indigenous Land and Survival
Information	https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/detail/77.html
Research Keywords	Socio-environmental footprints, Indigenous peoples, Ethical trade, Deforestation, Biodiversity conservation, Remote sensing, Spatial data science, LULC change
Project Leader	NGUYEN, Tien Hoang Associate Professor – Geoinformatics, Human Ecology, Planetary Health

Fundamental Research Department

Division	Laboratory and Analysis Division
Role	Conducts interdisciplinary environmental research using stable isotope analysis systems
Research Keywords	Environmental isotope study, Multi-isotopes
Staff	TAYASU Ichiro Professor, Head of Fundamental Research Department, Head of the Unit – Isotope ecology, Environmental isotope study SHIN Ki-Cheol Associate Professor – Petrology, Geochemistry, Isotope geology
Division	Information and Planning Division
Role	Develops, manages, and operates information systems such as the in-house network and various servers, as well as implements information security measures for the facilities and services operated by the Institute. Operates the RIHN archives and institutional repository to collect and manage research materials and provide a linking function for knowledge and information resources Builds and strengthens collaboration in research activities with external institutions, and provides support in disseminating research results to researchers outside the institute, as an Inter-University Research Institute Corporation, in order to develop collaborative research with various

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	external research institutes and their researchers
Research Keywords	Interdisciplinary Research
Staff	FUKAZAWA Keiichiro Professor, Head of the Division — High performance computing, Numerical simulation, Solar-Terrestrial environment, IoT ISHII Reiichiro Associate Professor — Theoretical and modeling study on ecosystem and biodiversity
Division	Education Division
Role	To establish educational methods for the Global Environmental Studies and foster diverse human resources through the operation of the Global Environmental Studies Program, Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI, the support for students, the educational practice in the field, and the development and use of teaching materials
Research Keywords	Global environmental studies, Environmental / Sustainability Education, Transdisciplinary Methodologies, Capacity building, Education material development, Waste management and material cycles, Archaeological Geography
Staff	KONDO Yasuhisa Professor, Head of the Division – Archaeological Geography, Transdisciplinary Methodologies ASARI Misuzu Professor, Head of the Division — Environmental Engineering, Education and dialogue for Sustainable Development
Division	Knowledge Networks Division
Role	Develops a coherent strategy to disseminate the RIHN activities and research results internationally, increase the RIHN's visibility as an institution, and foster collaboration with international partners and networks Clarifies the synergistic effects of collaboration with the broader research community and advance cultural approaches in environmental research, utilizing the RIHN's research network. Plans and supports the RIHN's overall international activities
Research Keywords	Science communication, science illustration, graphic communication, public understanding of science, transdisciplinarity, Environmental Humanities, Future Earth, Geography, Material culture, Agriculture

	sustainability
Staff	Daniel Niles Professor, Head of the Division – Human-environmental geography LAMBINO, Ria Adoracion Apostol Specially-Appointed Specialist, Head of the Center — Global Environmental Studies, Environmental Governance, Transdisciplinarity, Capacity Building
Center	Green Knowledge Center
Role	The GKC was established to develop green human resources (who can create a sustainable environment, including economic activities, based on the concept of the global commons) and to plan and implement measures to utilize green human resources in order to build a society that simultaneously achieves carbon neutrality, circular economy, and nature positive, which are considered the three important pillars for solving global environmental problems. In addition to universities and research institutions nationwide, we aim to co-create an intellectual infrastructure that accelerates the development and utilization of green human resources in cooperation with industry (companies, etc.) and the public (local governments, NGOs, etc.).
Research Keywords	Sustainability, Co-creation, Human resources development, Material Cycle, Climate change, Biodiversity, Sustainability Management and Finance, Environmental Market Creation, Environmental Behavioral Change, PR, Science Communication, Environmental Communication, Environmental Systems Analysis, Hazardous Chemical Management, River Basin Management, Water Environment Conservation, Environmentally Sustainable Technology
Staff	ASARI Misuzu Professor, Head of the Division — Environmental Engineering, Education and dialogue for Sustainable Development SUDO Tomonori Professor — Environmental and Resource Economics, Environmental Policy, Development Economics, International Development Policy OKADA Saeko Associate Professor — Environmental communication, Science communication KOSHIBA Junichiro Specially Appointed Assistant Professor — Environmental Engineering MIWA Akimasa

	Specially Appointed Assistant Professor — Environmental Engineering
Center	Future Earth Center
Role	Mission: Providing leadership and coherence to the Future Earth network in Japan, advancing an Asian-based vision of sustainability science that moves beyond Western-centric approaches to address urgent global challenges, with relevance for scholars and networks globally. It also aims to build transdisciplinary capacity, especially for early career researchers.
Keywords	Science Mission, Transdisciplinarity, Sustainability Transformations, Research and Innovation, Co-design, Science-Policy-Finance, Global Research Networks
Staff	LAMBINO, Ria Adoracion Apostol Specially-Appointed Specialist, Head of the Center — Global Environmental Studies, Environmental Governance, Transdisciplinarity, Capacity Building
Center	Uehiro Research Center for Japan Environmental Studies
Role	<Mission> 1. "Japan Environmental Studies", disseminate it domestically and internationally, and aim for its diffusion and practice. 2. Focusing on environmental issues at the boundary between Humans and Nature, which is becoming increasingly homogenized, the department aims to uncover the sensitivity hidden in traditional Japanese knowledge and indigenous knowledge, and to regenerate communities. 3. Foster dynamic commons values that span local, national, and global stages in collaboration with local communities, aiming to cultivate human resources <Activities> 1. Development of international research and educational programs on the question, "What is the environment for humans?" 2. Evoking a cultural community that connects the present and the future with the "power of the field" generated in the area where humans and nature are inseparable. 3. Design a systematic framework for the 'Japan Environmental Studies' program integrating theory and practice, and to curate it from Japan to the world.
Research Keywords	Culture, Environment, Nature, Human, Between

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Staff	YOSHIKAWA Narumi Specially Appointed Professor, Head of the Center – Agricultural Economics AKIYAMA Tomohiro Specially Appointed Associate Professor – Integral Studies
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(Organization is current as of September 8, 2026)

Period of Research at RIHN

The research period ranges from 2 months up to 3 months, within the fiscal year 2027 (August 1, 2027-March 25, 2028). Subject to budgetary conditions, an extension of the research period by up to six months may be considered. Should such an extension be desired, applicants must clearly indicate their desired maximum period of stay on their application. (Applications that do not include this information will not be considered for a possible extension, and indicating a desired period will not guarantee the extension.)

Expectations and Duties

Visiting Research Fellows are expected to engage specific research in the context of one of the RIHN Programs, Projects, or Fundamental Research Division. They are also encouraged to interact with RIHN faculty and staff and to provide feedback and advice concerning operation and activities at RIHN.

Visiting Research Fellows are also required to:

- Give one or more lectures at a Seminar
- Submit a short activity report

Eligibility

Applicants must

- have a Ph.D. or equivalent qualification/experience,
- be a researcher who is employed in an overseas research institute (including those with Japanese nationality) or a non-Japanese researcher who is employed at a university or a research institute in Japan (Applicants should maintain their employment status at the home institution until the end of placement at RIHN).

Maintenance Allowance

RIHN covers expenses for accommodation and basic daily expenses during the stay according to RIHN Regulations. The amount is 237,000 JPY (for 30 days of stay).

Note: It is reduced to 90 % (after 30 days of stay) and 80 % (after 60 days of stay) of the amount stated above. Visiting Fellows can stay at the RIHN House at a reduced fee.

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Travel Expenses

Travel expenses for one round trip economy-class ticket between the area of residence or affiliation of the Visiting Research Fellow and RIHN will be reimbursed according to the rules and regulations of RIHN.

Insurance

Please purchase overseas a travel insurance by yourself before you come to Japan. If you stay more than 3 months, you need to join National Health Insurance in Japan.

Research Support Allowance

A research support allowance of 150,000 JPY is available to cover cooperative research-related expenses.

Accommodation

Visiting Fellows can stay at the RIHN House at a reduced fee.

Facilities

A desk, extension cell phone (PHS) , 24/7 entrance card to the secured area (including office and library), and network connection are provided.

Research Hours and Holidays

There are no fixed research hours and holidays for Visiting Research Fellows as they are not employed by RIHN. For your information, office hours at RIHN are 8:30AM – 12:15PM and 1:00PM – 5:00PM on weekdays except public holidays and special holidays in mid-August (for three days) and around New Year's Day (normally from December 29 to January 3).

2. How to apply

Deadline for applications

All application documents must be submitted by email no later than Friday, December 11, 2026.

What needs to be submitted?

1. Completed RIHN FY2027 Visiting Research Fellow application form.
2. CV with the following information:
 1. Major field of research, degree(s) and dates received;
 2. Employment history;
 3. List of major publications and whether peer-reviewed.
3. A letter confirming the employment from home institute until the end of proposed

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placement at RIHN. If the letter is written in a language other than Japanese or English, please attach an official translation of the letter into either Japanese or English. (There is no template for this letter.)

4. A recommendation letter from someone who is in a position to judge the applicant's experience and qualities. This letter should be emailed directly by the referee to kokusai@chikyu.ac.jp (International Affairs Subsection at RIHN).
5. Check Sheet for application documents

***Points to notice**

1. Documents must be written in either Japanese or English.
2. Use the RIHN application form of FY2027 version (photocopy is acceptable). Other forms cannot be accepted.
3. Make sure that your home institution approves the application as well as the period of absence for the research visit to RIHN. The letter confirming the employment can be sent electronically to RIHN in a PDF format by either applicant or home institution. The letters written for other purposes cannot be accepted.
4. One RIHN faculty member could serve as the Host Researcher for up to two Visiting Research Fellows.
5. It is required that the initial contact with a provisional host researcher is made at the latest 3 weeks prior to the application deadline.
6. Application will not be considered if it contains omissions, mistakes or falsehoods, or if any unrequested documents are submitted.
7. Submitted documents will not be returned to applicants. Personal information will be treated securely according to Japanese laws and regulations and will be used for the selection only.

3. Selection schedule

The selection of Visiting Research Fellows takes place from December 2026 to April 2027. The International Affairs Subsection will notify the result of selection to every applicant by the end of April 2027. Please note that selection of candidates is competitive and subject to budget availability. RIHN cannot respond to inquiries about the method of selection and details of the selection process.

Friday, September 11, 2026 – Friday, December 11, 2026	Application Application forms and related guidelines to potential applicants are available on the website.
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Friday, December 11, 2026	Deadline for applications Applications must be sent by e-mail to the International Affairs Subsection (kokusai@chikyu.ac.jp) at RIHN, no later than this date*. *Please note that the initial contact with a provisional host researcher has to be made at the latest 3 weeks prior to the application deadline (November 20, 2026).
December, 2026	Notification of receipt of applications will be sent to every applicant by email.
December, 2026 - April, 2027	Review and selection RIHN examines the applications and selects the Visiting Research Fellows at the selection meeting
Mid April, 2027	Official Notification The International Affairs Subsection will notify the selected Visiting Research Fellow of the result with an invitation letter. RIHN cannot respond to inquiries about the selection until notification.
From Mid April, 2027	Selected Visiting Research Fellows will receive detailed information about the relevant procedures from the International Affairs Subsection. (Arrangements for coming to Japan start around three months before arrival.)
From August, 2027	Visiting Research Fellows come to Japan to start their research.

For further information and application, please contact:

International Affairs Subsection, Research Support Section,
Administrative Office, RIHN

Email : kokusai@chikyu.ac.jp

Tel : +81-75-707-2152