

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature
Research Projects
2020 (Fall) Call for Proposals for Feasibility Studies

Since the call for proposals this time is on research themes based on the third Medium-Term Goals and Plans period (FY2016-2021), we will not call any IS proposals this time and FY2021; We will call FS proposals only. From 2022, RIHN's programs and the research themes to be requested may change, but there is no need to change the research theme of the adopted FS and the research can continue based on the original research plan.

I The Purpose of RIHN

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) is an inter-university research institute founded in 2001 for the purpose of conducting multidisciplinary research aimed at generating fields of academic inquiry for solving environmental issues.

The mission of RIHN is to bring together research efforts from multiple fields to shed light on the fundamental nature of environmental issues and present comprehensive ideas on the relationship of humans and nature. Since our founding, we have taken the view that problems of human cultures lie at the root of environmental issues. Accordingly, we have always promoted solution-oriented research through a diverse range of research projects characterized as interdisciplinary projects which span the natural sciences and humanities and as transdisciplinary projects* which involve direct collaboration with social stakeholders.

*Transdisciplinary research: In transdisciplinary research projects, researchers collaborate with various social stakeholders with the aim of generating new knowledge. These projects involve a number of processes, including identifying the stakeholders, planning the collaboration, organizing the collaborative research, communicating the study's findings, and applying these findings in society.

II Research Projects within RIHN's Program-Project Management System

In fiscal 2016, we introduced a new system of program and project organization under which we comprehensively manage and integrate projects that have been developed in a bottom-up manner in order to facilitate the generation of robust comprehensive knowledge. Our programs now consist of Research Programs and the Core Program.

There are three research programs, each administered by a separate program director. Each research program covers multiple research projects.

Program 1: Societal transformation under environmental change

(Program Director: Professor Kaoru Sugihara Contact: sugihara[at]chikyu.ac.jp*)

Program 2: Fair use and management of diverse resources

(Acting Program Director: Professor Hein Mallee Contact: hmallee[at]chikyu.ac.jp*)

Program 3: Designing lifeworlds of sustainability and wellbeing

(Program Director: Professor Tatsuyoshi Saijo Contact: [saijo\[at\]chikyu.ac.jp](mailto:saijo[at]chikyu.ac.jp)*)

*Please change [at] to @.

Under the leadership of each program director, the research projects conduct research in line with the priorities of the relevant research program. Research Project Leaders are employed by RIHN and form research teams inside RIHN while collaborating with universities, research institutes, companies, and regional public organizations. In doing so, they leverage the various resources available within RIHN. In this way, the projects can make use of all the resources at RIHN. In the end, it is expected that this scholarly research, in collaboration with social stakeholders, is aimed at solving global environmental issues and produces options for social transformations to reshape public attitudes and values or usher in new social models.

III Project Trajectory

The project trajectory for research projects aims to fine-tune research proposals by having projects pass through internal reviews at RIHN as well as an external review. The trajectory of a project includes three stages: the Incubation Study stage, the Feasibility Study stage, and the Full Research stage. Before entering the Full Research stage, projects may go through a preparatory Pre-Research phase.

As described in “IV Content of the Call for Research Proposal/2. Possible Feasibility Studies” below, proposals with the potential to contribute to a research program swiftly may skip the Incubation Study stage and move directly to the Feasibility Study stage. Please note that there is no call for IS proposals this time.



* The schedule in the figure above is for the studies starting in April. The Feasibility Study period for the studies starting in October is half a year.

Feasibility Studies

Feasibility Studies are joint research projects that aim to verify the potential of a project as a fully implemented Full Research project. Feasibility Studies are meant to lead to Full Research projects. RIHN will provide a maximum grant of ¥2 million during this stage.

When a project is approved as a Feasibility Study, the project representative must become a Visiting Professor or Visiting Associate Professor of RIHN. (The FS project representative who is affiliated with RIHN will undergo a personnel review to become a full-time researcher at RIHN.) For example, a Feasibility Study that commences in April 2020 and passes an internal review by RIHN (usually held in late November) and an external review by the Japanese and overseas members of the External Research-Evaluation Committee (usually held in February) will then be authorized by RIHN's Board of Advisors and advance to the Full Research stage in April 2021 at the earliest. (See "V Submitting Documents/4. Schedule Following Application" and "VII After the Project is Approved" below.)

Pre-Research

After a project is recommended for Full Research status by the external review, it may go through a one-year preparatory phase. RIHN will provide a maximum annual budget of ¥16 million during this stage (reduced by the appropriate monthly amount if the preparatory phase is less than one year). Project leaders can use this preparatory phase to assemble their team and make other preparations necessary to ensure that research can commence smoothly as soon as the project enters the Full Research stage.

A project cannot enter the Pre-Research phase until the project leader has become employed by RIHN and (if necessary and appropriate) joint-appointment arrangements have been made so that the project leader is a full-time researcher at RIHN.

Full Research

Depending on its research plan, a project can spend a maximum of five years in the Full Research stage. RIHN will provide a maximum annual budget of ¥50 million during this stage. Note that ¥50 million is the upper limit for annual budgets. Depending on the characteristics of the research fields involved, project proposals may also aim for annual budgets of, for example, ¥25 million or ¥30 million. While it is possible to request slightly different amounts from year to year, so long as the amount does not exceed ¥50 million, the amount of all annual budgets should be approximately the same throughout the Full Research period.

Before applying, please check that your proposal aligns with one of the RIHN Research Programs. For more details on how RIHN categorizes and organizes Research Projects and on the requirements for Research Projects, please review the references in 6 below (particularly the information on "Expectations towards Research Projects").

IV Content of the Call for Research Proposals

1. Possible Feasibility Studies

If you wish to submit a proposal starting from the Feasibility Study stage, please refer to the overview of research areas below and decide on a specific research topic. We welcome proposals that meet the conditions outlined in "Expectations towards Research" items 1 to 9 and that have the potential to contribute to a research program swiftly.

Feel free to direct any questions about the research areas contained in each program and similar matters to the program directors listed under “II Research Projects within RIHN’s Program and Project Management System.” (For administrative matters, please contact the staff listed in “VIII Other Matters.”)

Programs and Research Themes	Overview of research areas
<p>(Research Program 1) Societal transformation under environmental change</p>	<p>Program 1 aims to foster three kinds of studies: studies that focus on Asia’s long-term paths of development, studies in which the team works with stakeholders to explore the conditions necessary for securing and maintaining basic livelihoods, and high quality solution-oriented scholarly research. We are looking for projects that fall under at least one of these three categories and that can play a central role in strengthening and expanding the program.</p>
<p>(Research Program 2) Fair use and management of diverse resources</p>	<p>In line with the aims of Program 2, we are looking for projects that focus on enabling fair use of diverse resources that takes tradeoffs and synergy between diverse stakeholders into account.</p>
<p>(Research Program 3) Designing lifeworlds of sustainability and wellbeing</p>	<p>The aim of this program is to reshape popular notions of the lifeworld and to elucidate the interfaces between different lifeworlds (such as those between urban and rural spaces). The program also seeks to work with stakeholders to solve problems, outline a vision for a sustainable lifeworld, and examine the feasibility of such a vision. We especially welcome scholarly research focused on designing social models (“future design”) that will transform the behavior, attitudes, and decisions of today’s generation.</p>

2. Types of Projects

From the Feasibility Study stage on, projects are divided into two types: Independently Organized and Institutional Collaboration. If you wish to propose a project for the Feasibility Study stage, you need to choose the appropriate type.

Independently Organized Type

In projects of this type, an individual researcher organizes a research project at RIHN and conducts joint research there. If the project advances to the Full Research stage, the researcher must become a full-time researcher at RIHN and serve as project leader. A project leader must be a professor or associate professor. RIHN will consult extensively with the project representative’s institution of affiliation about employment and related personnel matters.

For Independently Organized Type projects, the joint-appointment system cannot be used. Note that this is different for Institutional Collaboration Type projects.

Institutional Collaboration Type

In projects of this type, a researcher from a university or research institute (or department thereof) partnered with RIHN organizes a research project at RIHN and conducts joint research there. The researcher's organization need not have concluded a partnership agreement with RIHN at the time of application. After a project is selected, RIHN will begin negotiations with the organization in question. The necessary procedures will be finalized by the time the project enters the Pre-Research or Full Research stage, after which the project will be officially launched.

When a project advances to the Full Research stage, the project leader should be seconded or dispatched to RIHN from the institution of affiliation. Alternatively, the project leader can become a full-time researcher at RIHN. A project leader must be a professor or associate professor. RIHN will consult extensively with the project representative's institution of affiliation about employment and related personnel matters.

If the project leader plans to use the joint-appointment system, RIHN and the institution of affiliation will enter into discussions to establish the percentage of time the project leader will devote to research at RIHN before FS to FR transition screening at the RIHN General Meeting in November.

To encourage project leaders to make research at RIHN their primary focus to the maximum extent possible, RIHN requires those who use the joint-appointment system to devote **at least 70% of their work time** to research at RIHN (including participation in meetings at RIHN). This will be stipulated in the partnership agreement or memorandum of understanding between RIHN and the institution of affiliation.

3. Eligibility

Applicants must:

- 1) be a professor, associate professor, lecturer, or assistant lecturer at a national, public, or private university or similar institution; or
- 2) those who are equivalent to 1) above. (Please provide name, phone number and email address of two people to contact for referral.)

4. Research Period

Feasibility Studies

October 2020 to end of March 2021

5. Expenses

RIHN will cover the cost of travel and expendable items within the scope of the project's budget. Please prepare a plan with a budget of maximum ¥2 million for the Feasibility Study. Please note that we do not subsidize fixtures and fittings with a purchase price of ¥100,000 or more during the Feasibility Study periods.

6. References

For more information on creating a proposal, consult the following guidelines and “RIHN’s mission” and other content on the RIHN website.

- RIHN Prospectus : <https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/publicity/publications/brochure/>
- RIHN’s mission: https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/mission.html
- RIHN Philosophy and Approach : https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/about.html#structure
- Expectations towards RIHN Projects:
https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn/project/recruitment/img/2018IS/project_eng.pdf
(Feasibility Studies will be screened based on items 1–9.)
- Research Program mission statements and trajectory to the Full Research stage:
Posted on RIHN’s website in English under “RIHN Programs”
https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/about.html#programs

V Submitting Documents

1. Documents to Submit

Feasibility Studies

- Form 1–7a and 7b: Application Form for 2020 (Fall) Feasibility Study (FS)
*RIHN staff are to use Form 7b: Only difference is “Certificate of Authorization”
- Form 1–8: Research Project Feasibility Study Proposal
- Curriculum Vitae of Applicant
- Names and contact information of two people who can be contacted for referral (only for those in section IV Content of the Call for Research Proposals/ 3. Eligibility (2).

2. **Deadline:** Documents must arrive no later than 10:00 a.m., Monday, August 17, 2020 (JST)

(Please email the documents as attached PDF files. The PDF of Form 1–7 should be a scanned copy of a printed form bearing the necessary seal (signature). In the subject line, please write “Re. 2020 Call for Proposals for Feasibility Studies” followed by your name and the name of your institution. You will receive a confirmation email after you email the documents. Please contact us if this confirmation email does not reach you by 13:00, Wednesday, August 19. Please send us Form 1-7 by postal mail, or deliver it to us by hand, by Thursday, August 20, 2020.)

3. **Where to submit:** Email:

opencall[at]chikyu.ac.jp (Please change [at] to @.)

Sending by postal mail or delivering in person:

Research Planning Subsection, Planning and Collaboration Section,

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature,
457-4 Motoyama, Kamigamo, Kita-ku, Kyoto, 603-8047

4. Schedule Following Application (subject to change)

Feasibility Studies

• Deadline	Monday, August 17, 2020
• Result of document screening	Friday, August 21, 2020
• Research proposal presentation (of proposals that passed document screening) (@RIHN)	Monday, August 31, 2020 (Possible second day*) Tuesday, September 1, 2020
• Research project commences	Thursday, October 1, 2020
• Presentation at RIHN General Meeting (@Kyoto city)	Wednesday, November 25, 2020 to Friday, November 27, 2020
• External Research-Evaluation Committee hearing (@RIHN)	Wednesday, February 3, 2021 to Friday, February 5, 2021

*The possible second day is planned just in case, due to a large number of applicants, the presentations cannot be finished in one day. The second day is therefore not an option applicant can choose according to their schedules.

VI Review Process

Research proposals will be reviewed by RIHN's Project Review Committee. The committee will review the documents you submitted in your application, including your budget plan. If your application passes this step, you will be invited to present your proposal at a public seminar at RIHN for comprehensive review.

VII After the Project is Approved

- After a project is approved to advance to the Feasibility Study stage, the project leader will present a Feasibility Study report and a plan to transition the project to the Full Research stage at the RIHN General Meeting in November 2020. If the project passes an internal review by RIHN's Project Review Committee, it will advance to review by the External Research-Evaluation Committee in February 2021. At RIHN, all FSs will be subject to transition screening because ISs and FSs are adopted on the assumption that they will transit to FRs in the future.

VIII Other Matters

- When preparing the documents to submit, please be aware that certain sections must be completed in the language indicated. Where there is no such indication, you can use either English or Japanese.

- As noted in “VI Review Process,” RIHN’s project system calls for a research proposal presentation (hearing of proposals that passed document screening) that will be attended not only by reviewers but also by RIHN researchers and others. All application documents will be made available to these RIHN researchers. Please take care not to include research data that may not be disclosed.
- For the research proposal presentation (presentation of proposals that passed document screening), you may use either Japanese or English. RIHN does not subsidize any travel expenses for attending the research proposal presentation.
- RIHN General Meeting may be conducted in Japanese or English, but the External Research-Evaluation Committee uses English exclusively.
- As a general rule, you will give presentations at the respective presentation venue.
- Inquiries
Planning and Collaboration Section (Research Planning Subsection) of the Administrative Office
Email: opencall[at]chikyu.ac.jp (Please change [at] to @.)