



A monthly newsletter featuring updates and highlights related to J-PEAKS.

Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS NOW Vol.6

2026
April
4

FEATURE

Call for Proposals: J-PEAKS Strategic Leap Program (SLP) Application Deadline: May 14, 2026

As part of the J-PEAKS program, our university has opened a call for proposals for the Strategic Leap Program (SLP) to strengthen research capacity and innovation.

The program strategically supports the development of research frameworks and infrastructure, with a focus on high-impact publications, new research areas, and outcomes that contribute to social implementation and regional development.

We welcome ambitious research proposals!

Details of the call are available below. (Internal access only)

<https://app.cais.niigata-u.ac.jp/shuri/fw/ZYBMRV>

[Call for Proposals]

The program consists of two stages: the Core Stage (FY 2026–2027) and the Leap Stage (FY 2028–2029). The current call is for the Core Stage and follows a two-step review: a preliminary application and a full application.

Category: Core Stage

Funding Period: Two years (FY 2026–2027)

Funding Amount: ¥3–5 million per year (plans with varying annual amounts are acceptable)

Expected Number of Selected Projects: Approximately 25

[Application Period]

Preliminary Application: April 1 – May 14, 2026 (by 5:00 p.m.)

Full Application: July 1 – July 30, 2026 (by 5:00 p.m.)



Highlights of Major Shared Equipment in J-PEAKS

One of the three core requirements of the Strategic Leap Program (SLP) is the integration of J-PEAKS facilities, partner institutions, shared equipment, and existing field-based facilities. In this issue, we introduce high-profile shared research equipment made available through the J-PEAKS program.

Multi-Biosafety Level Cell Sorting System

Enables high-throughput isolation of specific cell populations for improved downstream analysis. Applicable to gene editing, stem cell biology, immunology, and genomics, and supports P1/BSL1 and P2/BSL2 levels.



2nd Floor, Joint Research Building
(School of Medicine)

Laser Microdissection System Leica LMD7

Used for omics analysis, single-cell recovery, and micro-area analysis of tissues, including pathological and fluorescently labeled samples.



2nd Floor, Joint Research Building
(School of Medicine)

Orbitrap Astral Zoom Mass Spectrometry System

Supports high-depth, high-throughput proteomic analysis, including ultra-low-amount samples.



3rd Floor, Joint Research Building
(School of Medicine)

★ The featured equipment can be found by searching “J-PEAKS” in [the shared equipment reservation system, OFaRS II](#).

新潟大学研究者の皆さまへ

研究の次元を上げ、さらなる飛躍へ

全学対象公募事業
戦略的飛躍プログラム
Strategic Leap Program SLP

R8-9コアステージ公募開始
2026.4.1(水)-5.14(木)17時締切

SLPでは、現在得られている成果・実績をもとに、J-PEAKS R&Iシステム（センター・連携機関・UA等）を活用して研究の次元を上げ、次の成果の創出を目指す取組を募集します。ふるってご応募ください。

SLPは2ステージ
R8-9年度 コアステージ ※今年度公募
最大500万円/件×2年
R10-11年度 飛躍ステージ
最大1,000万円/件×2年
R9ステージゲート審査も着手済み

SLP3つの必須要件

1. 研究の「質」と「量」のいずれも、または両方に飛躍したチームの研究であり、飛躍ステージへの飛躍を見据えたスタートアップとして、産学連携や産学プロジェクトの立ち上げに資すること。
2. SLP資金による大型外部資金の獲得も併せて飛躍的飛躍の促進が示されていること。
3. J-PEAKS新施設、連携機関、共同施設、既存施設施設と有機的に連携（連携・活用）していること。（対象施設等公募要項参照）

対象者 以下以下の本学教職研究員を主務者とする研究チーム（学外分担者可）
定員金額・期間 300-500万円/件・2年間
採択予定件数 25件程度
採育・応募方法（専任制）
<https://app.cais.niigata-u.ac.jp/shuri/fw/ZYBMRV>
お問い合わせ 研究推進課研究拠点係
kenkyu@cais.niigata-u.ac.jp

LAUNCH

Two New Research Centers Launched on April 1, 2026

ChBRI

Center for Human Brain Resource Initiative

Building on Our Research Resources for Continued Growth

The Center for Human Brain Resource Initiative (ChBRI) advances internationally competitive research and innovation by leveraging brain resources.

In late March 2026, two divisions of the Brain Research Institute relocated to the new “Brain and Life” Innovation Hub (BIH), and brain bank specimens were successfully transferred with their quality fully maintained.

ChBRI will continue to develop its research activities.



3rd–4th Floors, “Brain and Life” Innovation Hub (BIH)



Director: Akiyoshi Kakita (Professor, Brain Research Institute)
Head of Strategic Planning Office: Tomoko Abe
(Senior UA, UA Office, Headquarters for Management Strategy)
Tel: 025-227-0636 (Administrative Office)
Website : <https://pathology-bri-niigata-u.jp/>

iRICE

International Rice Co-Creation Innovation Center for Climate and Environmental Resilience



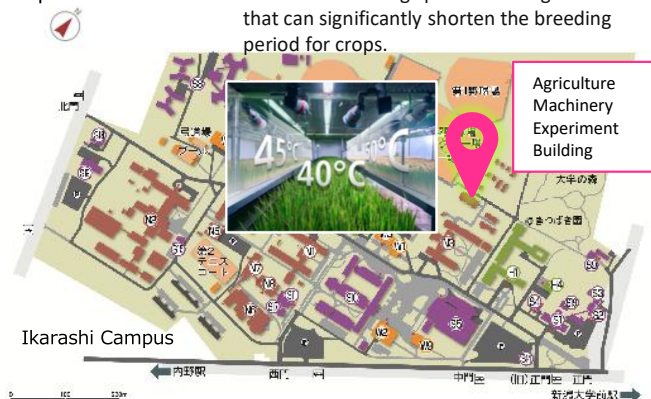
Solving Global Rice Challenges from Niigata

Rice sustains around five billion people worldwide, yet climate change is increasingly threatening stable production through stresses such as extreme heat, drought, and salinity. In response, Niigata University has established the International Rice Co-Creation Innovation Center for Climate and Environmental Resilience (iRICE) to advance research that supports Japan’s rice agriculture and global food security.

Four Key Features of iRICE

1. Addressing climate change and greenhouse gas reduction head-on
2. Tackling global challenges through international academia–industry–government collaboration
3. Advancing solutions for rice cultivation by bringing together global expertise
4. Moving beyond research to achieve real-world implementation

We are introducing speed breeding facilities that can significantly shorten the breeding period for crops.



Director: Masanori Yamazaki (Professor, Institute of Science and Technology)
Head of Strategic Planning Office: Yoshihiro Fujimaki
(Specially Appointed Professor, Organization for Social Collaboration and Innovation)
Tel: 025-262-7554 Email : kyoso@ccr.niigata-u.ac.jp
Website : <https://irice.nu.niigata-u.ac.jp/>

J-PEAKS Mini Column—Voices from the Field

Several months have passed since our move to BIH, and we still occasionally explain to visitors that the building was formerly known as Ikehara Hall. As BIH is increasingly used for meetings with researchers, these brief introductions often become starting points for dialogue.

Looking ahead, use of the space for engagement with companies will expand. We hope BIH will develop into a place where people and ideas naturally come together, serving as a hub that connects research on the brain and life with society. (TA)

Contact & Website

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○Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS Website

<https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/j-peaks/>

Updates on J-PEAKS–related events and activities are available here.



○Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS Internal Website

<https://app.cais.niigata-u.ac.jp/shurl/fw/2PLWiy>

To support timely information sharing and ensure transparency, materials such as the program’s overall design, budget allocations, and meeting documents are available to internal users. For more detailed information, please scan the QR code.

