



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

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Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS NOW Vol.5

FEATURE

Strategic Leap Program (SLP): Application Guidance Video Now Available (Internal Access Only) Ahead of Apr. 1 Call for Proposals

As previously announced, Niigata University will launch the Strategic Leap Program (SLP) in April, a university-wide call for proposals supported by J-PEAKS funding. To encourage more members of the university community to consider applying, we have released an internally available overview video explaining the background of the SLP, the goals of J-PEAKS, the future Niigata University envisions, and what the SLP is designed to support.

We hope the video will help you gain a clear understanding of the aims of the SLP and the overall framework of the call. In this newsletter, we present the key points of the call for proposals.



✓ The SLP is Structured in Two Stages: the Core Stage (FY2026–2027) and the Leap Stage (FY2028–2029)

Number of Projects to be Selected

Approximately 25 projects will be selected in this call for the Core Stage.

Review Process

To reduce the burden on applicants and ensure a timely review process, selection will be conducted in two stages: a pre-application, followed by a full application for proposals that advance from the pre-application stage. Required application documents will be kept to a minimum.

Schedule

- Pre-application: April 1–May 14, 5:00 p.m. deadline
- Notification of pre-screening results: Late June
- Full application: July 1–30, 5:00 p.m. deadline
- Notification of final results and start of funding: Early September

✓ The SLP Seeks Research Proposals Meeting All Three Requirements

- 1 The project must be a team-based research effort related to one or both priority areas: "Brain and Life" or "Food and Health." It should serve as a startup initiative aimed at the leap stage, helping to build a research framework and launch new research activities.
- 2 The project must demonstrate a clear pathway for future growth, including plans to secure large-scale external funding with SLP support.
- 3 The project must collaborate with and make effective use of J-PEAKS new facilities, partner institutions, shared equipment, and other available resources."

For internal use only

For more details, please visit the link below!

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



Category	Facilities	(Partner Institutions)
J-PEAKS New Centers	Center for Human Brain Resource Initiative (Scheduled to open in April 2026)	Tohoku University, QST, Aarhus University, IISc
	AI and Big Data Science Integration Research Core (Scheduled to open in Fall 2026)	Chubu University, University of Sherbrooke
	Research Centre on Emerging Technology and Governance	University of Osaka
	Center for Food & Health Innovation and Social Co-Creation (Established in January 2026)	Miyagi University, University of Bordeaux (Contact point: Sakeology Center)
	International Rice Co-Creation Innovation Center for Climate and Environmental Resilience (Scheduled to open in April 2026)	Can Tho University
J-PEAKS New Facilities	Such as Ultra-Deep / Ultra-High-Throughput Mass Spectrometry System (The list of target devices will be released soon.)	
Existing On-site Facilities	Sado Island Center for Ecological Sustainability (University Forest/Research Station for Toki and Ecological Restoration/Marine Biological Station)	
	Field Center for Sustainable Agriculture (Muramatsu/Shindori)	
	University Attached Schools	

Elevate your research. Achieve results using these facilities!!



※Details are subject to change. Please refer to the Niigata University J-PEAKS website for the most up-to-date information.

LAUNCH

"Center for Food & Health Innovation and Social Co-Creation" Launches — A New Facility Pioneering the Future of Food and Health!!

On January 1, 2026, the Center for Food & Health Innovation and Social Co-Creation (FHI) was established as a university-wide joint education and research organization.*

As the core organization for research, education, and social co-creation in the "Food and Health" field, one of the priority areas of Niigata University's J-PEAKS initiative, FHI will build on the university's achievements in technological innovation and social contribution in food-related fields through industry-academia-government collaboration and interdisciplinary efforts, with the aim of creating new value in food and health.

*A strategic organization established to strengthen priority education and research activities across the university and foster talent and knowledge in response to societal needs.



Advancing Together: Research, Regional Collaboration, Human Resource Development, and Strategic Planning

Division of Advanced Research

Advancing cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research in food and health to achieve world-class outcomes.

Division of Regional Collaborative Research

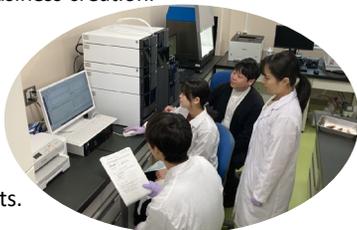
Translating research into society through industry-academia-government collaboration, driving regional industry growth and new business creation.

Division of Regional Human Resource Development

Enhancing food and health literacy while fostering next-generation leaders for regional industries.

Joint Research Lab

Establishing joint labs with domestic and international partners, sharing advanced knowledge through researcher cross-appointments.



Strategic Planning Office for FHI

UA serves as the command center, leading strategy, industry-academia-government collaboration, fundraising, and outreach to maximize results.

Launch Project: Niigata 2km Oishisa DX — Industry-Academia-Government Co-creation Project (Selected for Cabinet Office "Grant for Local Universities and Regional Industrial Revitalization")

A Data-Driven Initiative to Strengthen Niigata's Food Industry



Visualizing the "deliciousness" of Niigata's food and accelerating product improvement and development with food-specialized AI. University, government, and industry working together to drive growth, create jobs, and build a thriving local economy.

- Visit the [center website](#) (Available in Japanese only)
- Featured in Niigata University's web magazine [Evergreen](#) (Available in Japanese only)



J-PEAKS Mini Column—Voices from the Field

Now that the Oishisa DX project is underway, I find myself reflecting on how research, social implementation, and human development naturally advance together within real-world settings. Challenges and insights from the field give shape to research questions; the knowledge gained is then refined through practice with companies and communities, leading to new challenges and fresh initiatives. Underpinning this cycle is the deep expertise and rich sensibility cultivated over the years by the people of Niigata's food industry. Through this project, we hope to learn from that accumulated knowledge and build a future — together with the region and industry — where both "delicious" and "joyful" are woven into local life. (KK)

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.

