

Kamioka Extremely Rare-phenomena and Neutrino-research Laboratory
FY2026 KERNEL Joint Usage/Joint Research Call for
Proposals

Kamioka Extremely Rare-phenomena and Neutrino-research Laboratory
Director: Kunio Inoue

The Kamioka Extremely Rare-phenomena and Neutrino-research Laboratory (KERNEL) invites proposals for joint usage/joint research projects as part of its support for research activities that will contribute to the international development and advancement of rare-phenomena research. We welcome applications from all interested researchers.

Application Guidelines for KERNEL Joint Usage/Joint Research

1. Purpose of the Call
 - I. The Kamioka Extremely Rare-phenomena and Neutrino-research Laboratory (KERNEL) promotes research into extremely rare phenomena that may reveal unknown laws of physics, making full use of ultra-low-background environments and ultra-low-background technologies. Through this call, KERNEL will support research projects to be conducted jointly with KERNEL as part of its support for research activities that will contribute to the international development and advancement of rare-phenomena research.
2. Research Categories
 - I. This call solicits joint usage/joint research projects that fall under one of the following categories:
 - ① Rare-phenomena research to be conducted in an underground laboratory
 - ② Other research broadly related to rare-phenomena research
3. Project Period
 - I. For the “Facilities, Equipment, and Resources Use Track” application category, this call is for research projects to be conducted in FY2026. The project period shall be from the date of adoption through March 31, 2027.

- II. For the “Research Project Proposal Track” application category, applications for projects spanning multiple fiscal years will also be accepted.

4. Application Procedure

- I. Please submit your application using the form below:

① <https://forms.gle/DS514a9yKCiBTJ1z9>

- II. Please enter the following information in the Google Form:

① Applicant Information

- Please provide the applicant’s name, affiliation, telephone number, and email address.

② Project Title

- Please provide a title that clearly indicates the research content.

③ Project Status

- Please note that this is the first call for KERNEL Joint Usage/Joint Research proposals; therefore, only new projects will be accepted.

④ Research Category

- Please select one of the following:
- ✧ Rare-phenomena research to be conducted in an underground laboratory
 - ✧ Other research broadly related to rare-phenomena research

⑤ Application Category

- Please select one of the following:
- ✧ Research Project Proposal Track
 - Please select this option if you are proposing a research project to be conducted jointly with KERNEL.
 - In principle, a hearing will be conducted as part of the review process.
 - If you wish to continue using a dedicated KERNEL underground laboratory area in the following fiscal year or beyond, please select this option.
 - If you plan to bring radioactive sources, hazardous materials, or other legally regulated items into a KERNEL underground laboratory area, please consult the contact person in advance.

- ✧ Facilities, Equipment, and Resources Use Track
 - Please select this option if you wish only to use the facilities, equipment, and other resources listed in Section 4.II.10.
 - If you wish to use facilities, equipment, or other resources not listed in Section 4.II.10, please consult the contact person in advance before selecting this option.

⑥ List of Participating Researchers

- Please use the template file to prepare the list.
- Please provide information on the project principal investigator (name, position, email address, and affiliation) and participating researchers (name, position, email address, and affiliation).
- The first person listed in the participating researcher list must be the project principal investigator.

⑦ Contact Person

- If a KERNEL member is included among the participating researchers, please designate that member as the contact person.
- If no KERNEL member is included among the participating researchers, please check the KERNEL members listed on the website below and designate a contact person:
 - ✧ <https://www.lowbg.org/kernel/aboutKERNEL.html#link4>
- If the applicant does not designate a contact person, KERNEL will designate one.

⑧ Research Summary

- Please use the template file to prepare the research summary.

⑨ List of Included Research Projects, If Applicable

- If there is a list of included research projects, please submit the project/member list.
- Please use the template file to prepare the list.

⑩ Desired Use of Facilities, Equipment, etc.

- If you wish to use facilities, equipment, or other resources held by KERNEL, please check the applicable items.
 - ✧ Do you wish to use Ge semiconductor detectors and other low-background trace analysis equipment?

- ✧ Do you wish to use the underground network?
 - eduroam is available underground. Please indicate whether you require any network access other than eduroam.
- ✧ Do you wish to use underground vehicles?
 - Use of underground vehicles is limited to researchers who hold an underground driving permit. A separate underground vehicle use application form must be submitted.
- ✧ Do you wish to use purified water / purified air (radon-free air)?

⑪ Other Requested Support and Plan for Use of Facilities, Equipment, etc.

- Please provide information on any support you wish to request, including the use of underground laboratory space and actual-expense support for travel, consumables, and other items.
- Please also provide information on the expected frequency of use and other relevant details for the facilities, equipment, etc. selected in Section 4.II.10.
- If you wish to use any facilities, equipment, or other resources not listed in Section 4.II.10, please provide the relevant details.

5. Application Deadline and Review

I. Application Deadline

- ① September 4, 2026 (Friday)
 - The next review of joint usage/joint research proposals will be conducted at the committee meeting in September.

II. Review Process

- ① The submitted research projects will be reviewed by the KERNEL Research Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee, and adoption decisions will be made based on considerations such as academic significance and feasibility.
- ② If the Research Project Proposal Track is selected in Section 4.II.5, in principle, a hearing will be conducted as part of the review process.
- ③ Depending on the requested support described in Section 4.II.11, a hearing may be conducted as part of the review process.
- ④ Within approximately one month after submission of the application,

KERNEL will contact applicants regarding whether an additional review is necessary.

- ⑤ For the use of KERNEL facilities, equipment, or other resources, such as Ge semiconductor detectors or other low-background trace analysis equipment and underground vehicles, a separate usage application form must be submitted.

6. Contact

I. KERNEL Office

- ① Email: kernel-info@lowbg.org

7. Other Information

- I. This support does not involve the allocation or transfer of research funds to adopted projects. KERNEL may provide support only when it recognizes the necessity and feasibility of such support, through purchases arranged by KERNEL or reimbursement of actual expenses for items such as consumables including liquid nitrogen, equipment operation, sample use, and partial travel expenses to Kamioka. The details and amount of support will be adjusted individually after project adoption.
- II. If a research project is adopted, a joint usage participation application form and a list of participating researchers must be submitted separately.
- III. After project adoption, procedures related to security export control will be carried out. In some cases, participation may be denied or permitted only under certain conditions.
- IV. Adopted research projects will be announced on the KERNEL website.
- V. When publishing the results of the joint research in a paper, please clearly state in the acknowledgements section that the work was conducted as an adopted project of the KERNEL Joint Usage/Joint Research Program.
- VI. Reporting of outcomes
 - ① A report must be submitted after the end of the research period.
 - ② In some cases, researchers may also be asked to give a presentation at an outcome reporting meeting or similar event.