

To: The heads of relevant institutions
From: Tsuneta Saku, Director General, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

FY2024 Call for Joint Development Research on Open Application Basis (Notification)

The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) is issuing a call for applications for Joint Development Research. Please convey this notification to researchers at your organization.

1. Purpose

NAOJ promotes advanced research for astronomy and related fields as international research centers, and provide opportunity for open-use and collaborative research for researchers in universities or other institutions throughout the country. This program is intended to support the development and production of advanced equipment and software, or fundamental development research for astronomical observation. It is hoped that those collaborative works with NAOJ will contribute effective development research for the future.

2. Intended Research

Joint Research in collaboration with Research and Academic Staff and/or Specially Appointed Teachers (Employees on Annual salary system) at NAOJ for the development and production of new equipment, or fundamental development research related to observation as well as experimentation.

When a research plan is to install an equipment on a telescope or another facility of NAOJ, an agreement by a director of projects, centers or divisions is needed.

3. Category of Grant and Expected Number of Adaptation (Including Continued Plan)

○ Large scale research plan (multiple-year plan / single-year plan)

Budget scale: From 5 million yen to 10 million yen per year.

Expected number of adaptations: Around 1.

○ Ordinary research plan (multiple-year plan / single-year plan)

Budget scale: Less than 5 million yen per year.

Expected number of adaptations: Around 6

*It is not allowed to be applying to both categories for the same research subject.

«Regarding Application of Multiple-year Basis»

- The upper limit of multiple-year plan is 3 years.
- The project which was adapted on multiple-year plan from last year/ 2 years ago and has been supported and ongoing is eligible to apply as a continued plan.

4. Eligibility (Only applicants who meet all of the following criteria will be considered)

- (1) Researchers at national, municipal, and private universities; and national and municipal research institutions; or any person with equivalent status.
(If you are a graduate student, submit an application with your instructor.)
- (2) Those who have been accepted to apply and implement the plan by the head of the organization and submit an agreement form in the specified form.
(Applicants who employed by NAOJ do not need to submit an agreement form)
- (3) **Those who have NOT been suspended by The Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) .**

5. Period of Joint Development Research

Successful applicants should submit a research plan after receiving notification. To implement the budget in your organization, entering into a contract between NAOJ and your institution is needed.

【Period】

Implementation the budget in your organization: Contract day to Mar. 31 2025.

Implementation the budget in NAOJ: From Apr. 1 2024 to Mar. 31 2025.

6. Intended Expenses

Direct expense for the joint development research

The expenses listed below are NOT accepted.

- Employment cost in ordinary research plan.
- Cost for purchasing equipment which can be used widely (ex. PC, printer, tablet)
*The expense can be used for those items when they are particularly essential to the research
- Indirect cost, administration cost, common cost for organization of recipients’.
- Submission fee, or registration fee or travel cost for attending academic conference or workshop

«Regarding employment cost in “Large scale research plan”»

Only research plans which meet all of the following criteria will be considered as employment cost.

- (1) The cost is up to 60% of the budget.
- (2) The person must be employed and at the recipient’s organization and the organization must do the labor management.
- (3) The job title, details of work, the period of employment, and the reason why the position is required are written on the application forms.
- (4) Recipients must describe the results enabled by the employment in the research report.

*If you need to change the portion of the research budget allocated to employment costs, you need the advance approval of the Research Coordination Committee of NAOJ.

7. How to Apply and Deadline

【How to Apply】

- Web application is accepted.
The portal site of Joint Use and Joint Research “NOUS” <http://www.nins.jp/nous/>
Log in page <https://nous.nins.jp/user/signin>
- Both “Web application” and “Posting the agreement form (written by the head of the director)” are needed.
- An agreement form can be downloaded at the above website.
(Applicants who employed by NAOJ do not need to submit an agreement form.)
- When a research plan is to install an equipment on a telescope or another facility of NAOJ, an agreement by a director of projects, centers or divisions is needed. In that case, upload a copy of correspondence to the section which can be put figures on NOUS in order to show that the director agreed for the research plan.

【Deadline】

Web Application: **Friday, January 19, 2024, 17:00 (JST)**

Postal Application (only Agreement Form): Friday, February 2, 2024

*Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

【Reference】 <https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/kouryuu/koubo/kyodokaihatu/index.html>

8. Selection and Announcement of the Results

The Director General of NAOJ will make the final decisions on the adoption of research proposals and the allocation of the budget, following deliberation by the Research Coordination Committee of NAOJ.

Deliberation on proposal adoption is scheduled to be conducted in late February, 2024. Following the finalization of the FY 2024 budget, we will convey the results to the applicants and the head of their organizations.

9. Screening Criteria

Screening will be focused on the following points.

- (1) Academic significance (originality, extendability to astronomical research)
- (2) Significance of joint research to be conducted with NAOJ.
- (3) Reasonability of the direction and the method of the research (achievability of the plan within the research period, and accuracy of the annual plans).

10. Research Report

Please submit a research report in the specified format within 30 days following the completion of research. The report may be put on the webpage, and in some cases, we may request you write an article in NAOJ’s newsletter. Also, two years after the Joint Development Research concludes, we will send a questionnaire regarding its results and related effects.

11. Acknowledgements

If you publish your research products from this joint development research in academic journals etc., please be sure to clearly indicate in the acknowledgements that the program contributed to the results and include Grant Number (NAOJ-RCC-xxxx-xxxx).

*Example: (Part of) This work was supported by NAOJ Research Coordination Committee, NINS(NAOJ-RCC-xxxx-xxxx).

12. Handling of Personal Information

Personal information of applicants will be used only for selecting the proposal and carrying out the adopted research assembly. The name of the successful candidate, the title of the symposium, and part of the report will be posted on the Research Coordination Committee website etc.

13. Promotion of Gender Equality

NAOJ is committed to the realization of a society with gender equality.

Our support system for gender equality is also available to those who visit NAOJ such as for joint research or conferences. For details, see <https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/gender-equality/en/>

14. Others

When using facilities at NAOJ, please comply with the regulations of both the National Institutes of Natural Sciences and NAOJ, and follow the instructions given by the responsible person in charge of the facilities.

Once a proposal is adopted, any student or researcher with no affiliation who is to participate in the joint research must join the “Disaster and Accident Insurance for Student Education and Research” or an equivalent insurance scheme.

15. Where to Submit Agreement Forms and Inquiries

Research Support Unit, Research Promotion Division, Administration
Department National Institutes of Natural Sciences, National Astronomical
Observatory of Japan

2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8588

Phone:0422-34-3661

Email:kenkyu(at)nao.ac.jp

U R L : <https://www2.nao.ac.jp/~open-info/kouryuu/index.html>