

Wildlife Research Centre of Kyoto University
FY 2026 Joint Usage/Research Application Guidelines

*The original version of these guidelines is in Japanese. This English version is for reference purpose. If there is any inconsistency between the both versions, the Japanese one shall prevail.

Wildlife Research Center of Kyoto University (WRC) has been promoting basic research and conservation research mainly on wild animals and those kept captive in zoos and aquariums. We also engage in educational activities to promote deep understanding of wildlife and the natural environment. Our Joint Usage/Research supports relevant research projects outside WRC in an effort to promote such basic research and educational activities more broadly, and to contribute to the development of wildlife conservation research nationwide. With this project as a core, we aim to build Japan's only wildlife conservation research center and make this field of study even more deeply rooted in society.

1. Eligibilities

Applicants (Principal Investigators) must be researchers or graduated students affiliated with a university, a research institution as well as zoo and aquarium staff or their equivalents as of April 1, 2026. (Those affiliated with a university or research institution abroad may be eligible to apply. Applicants who will be new graduate students on April 1, 2026, are also eligible to apply. Fifth-6th graders of a 6-year veterinary medicine program may be considered equivalent to graduate students. We also actively provide support, including advice and information, to those just beginning their research. For more information, please contact our support desk.)

2. Research Period

Desired period from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027

3. Research Category

Category A

Application deadline is January 18, 2026

A1 “research with financial support” funding is up to 200,000 yen per project.

A2 “support for conference presentation” funding is up to 50,000 yen per project

Category B “use of facilities, equipment and materials without financial support”

Applications are being accepted at any time.

Category C “Use of facilities for education and public outreach”

Applications are being accepted at any time. No financial support is provided.

4. Host researcher

You will collaborate with one of the faculty staff (host researcher) at WRC. Please be sure to

consult your host researcher prior to application. (Otherwise, your application will not be accepted.) Principal investigator should refer to the details of Joint Usage/Research (from page 5 onward). Please directly contact your host researcher whose research field is closely related to yours.

When using samples derived from the Great Ape Information Network (GAIN), please appoint one more host researcher in charge of sample management by referring to the list on page 9 and contact him/her directly in advance.

If you are unable to find a suitable host researcher, please contact our support desk.

5. Research team

The research team should consist of one principal investigator and a few collaborator(s) if necessary (only one principal investigator is acceptable). Principal investigator is responsible for his/her project and is a main contact for all administrative procedures.

Principal investigator can receive expenses for travel, equipment and supplies.

Collaborator are those who are necessary to conduct the project and can use the facilities and receive travel expenses.

Please note that those affiliated with WRC are not eligible to receive any research expenses even though they can be included in collaborators. In principle, do not include a host researcher of WRC as a collaborator.

6. Research expenses

All the budget for Category A1 and A2 is managed by WRC, but not transferred to the principal investigator or his/her institution. Please contact us for details.

7. Limitation on the number of applications

Only one proposal per person may apply for a research category A1 and A2 as a principal researcher. The same researcher can apply for both A1 and A2. Please do not apply for other competitive grants and Research Category A research funds at the same time for the same research project. In our joint usage/research program, we aim to support a wide range of research within a limited budget. We appreciate your understanding of the purpose of this program and your cooperation in the effective use of funds.

However, if you do not know whether you will receive other competitive funding at the time of application, you are not precluded from submitting our program (Category A). For example, it is possible to apply for both Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and this joint research fundings with the same research theme, but if the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research is approved, you may be asked to change the research category to Research Category B (no research funding.) There are no restrictions on applying for Research Category A as a collaborator. However, the same person may not receive research funding from more than one project (e.g., a principal investigator may not receive travel expenses as a collaborator of another research project). In

Research Category B, there is no limit to the number of applications for both principal investigators and collaborator within the same fiscal year. Research with different themes should be submitted as separate proposals.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following main criteria:

- The scientific value (or merit) of the research.
- The specific methodology and feasibility of the research.
- The suitability of the research in contributing to the objectives of our center.
- The appropriateness of the planned use of research funds for advancing the research.

9. Notification of selection results

Our Joint Usage/Research Committee will review your application and decide on the acceptance or rejection and the amount of research funds to be allocated. Notification of acceptance or rejection for Research Category A is expected in mid-March 2026.

10. Graduate students, researchers employed through project expense, etc.

If you are a graduate student, a researcher employed under a project funded by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), or its equivalent, please obtain the consent of your supervisor, employer, or other responsible party before applying.

11. Consent of affiliated institutions

If your project is accepted, it is the responsibility of a principal investigator to contact his/her institution to inform them of the implementation of the research. We will not contact his/her affiliated institution.

12. Submission of Report

After the end of research period, a principal researcher is required to submit a report. When publishing papers or presenting at conferences, please be sure to describe in the acknowledgments that the research is a Joint Usage/Research with WRC. Please visit the homepage for details.

WRC Web Site > Joint Research > Procedures after Adoption
<https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/joint-research/forms.html>

13. Disclosure of results

Accepted research application may be disclosed except for personally identifiable information if an outside party requests disclosure of such information. If you do not want any part of your research to be made public (e.g., originality), underline or mark it in the margin of the application form and indicate that you do not want it to be so. In principle, the name and affiliation of the principal investigator and collaborators, the title of the research project, and the research results of the selected research project will be made public on our website and in our

annual report. If you wish to keep the name and affiliation of the representative private for any reason, please explain the reason in the application e-mail. We will consider how to address your request.

14. Handling of personal information

We will comply with the Kyoto University Privacy Policy and will make every effort to protect the personal information obtained in connection with this solicitation. Please refer to the following Kyoto University web page for the details of the privacy policy.

<https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/privacy-policy>

15. Application procedures

Download the designated application form file, fill it out, and submit it via “googleforms”. Please refer to the below link for the details.

WRC Web Site > Joint Research > Application

<https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/joint-research/apply.html>

For your reference, we have also posted last year's screening on our website as a “general review”.

WRC Web Site > Joint Research > Past Projects

<https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/joint-research/data.html>

16. Application deadline

Research categories A1 and A2 must arrive no later than January 18, 2026 (Sun). We recommend that you contact your host researcher at the latest in early January and, if necessary, review a draft of your application with him/her prior to submission. Application for Research Category B and C will be open throughout the year. Please submit the application at least two weeks prior to the start of use. In the case of using samples derived from the Great Ape Information Network (GAIN), the interval between the submission of the application form and the start of the use of the samples is not required. If applications are received by the end of February 2026, we will notify you of the result in mid-March 2026. Please note this process if you wish to use the facilities at the beginning of the fiscal year.

17. Contact information

Wildlife Research Center of Kyoto University

2-24 Tanaka-Sekiden-cho, Sakyo, Kyoto, 606-8203, Japan

Tel: 075-771-4393 Fax: 075-771-4394

E-mail: wrc_kyodo@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

WRC Web page: <https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/>

Details of Joint Usage/Research

Handling of research content, guidelines, inventions, etc.

In accordance with the basic policy of WRC, invasive medical, pharmacological, and physiological experiments, and all activities that may cause significant behavioral changes, are prohibited in this joint usage/joint research project. This call for proposals is being conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as a “Research Center for Conservation of Endangered Wild Animals (Large Mammals, etc.)”. [Joint usage and joint research](#) in accordance with the objectives, outline, and roles of the center are required.

Please keep these points in mind when submitting your application. Please be sure to read the “Guidelines for Research on Wild Animals” and the “Guidelines for Ethics in Animal Research” provided by WRC before applying. Research that does not comply with these guidelines will not be accepted.

Guidelines for Research on Wild Animals

<https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/guidelines/wild.html>

Guidelines for Ethics in Animal Research

<https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/guidelines/captive.html>

Please be aware that you may be subject to penalties, including suspension of your eligibility to apply for joint usage/joint research, if you do not comply with the above guidelines. If you wish to purchase supplies or receive travel expenses with your research funds (category A1), you are required to follow the regulations of Kyoto University. Please note that if you violate the regulations, we may take measures such as suspending your research or suspending your eligibility to apply for the subsequent years. Please refer to the latest “Administrative Guidelines” for details. The contents of this guide are subject to change without notice. Please always refer to the latest version.

Administrative Guidelines

<https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/joint-research/forms.html>

When using our facilities (Koshima, Yakushima, Kumamoto Sanctuary, etc.), please follow the rules and regulations of each facility. Details will be provided when your research project is adopted. Your research results of this joint research are subject to the Kyoto University Intellectual Property Policy. Please note that a contract must be signed with Kyoto University regarding the handling of inventions, etc. (patent rights, utility model rights, design rights, and trademark rights) obtained as a result of this joint usage/research program.

Kyoto University Intellectual Property Policy

<https://www.saci.kyoto-u.ac.jp/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/eb385359446c630aeb2784c0ba90c7a3.pdf>

Research Category

The following research categories are available.

A1: Research with financial support”

A2: Support for conference presentation”

B: Usage of facilities, equipment, and materials (available at any time)

C: Use of facilities for education and public outreach

A1, A2, and B will be reviewed by the “Joint Research Committee,” which includes at least half of the committee members from outside of Kyoto University, to review the research project. For A1 and A2 (funded research), the call for proposals will open around December and close in mid-January.

A1 Research with financial support

As part of our joint usage/research program, we welcome applications for three “assigned research” projects on themes we are particularly encouraging, as well as open projects that do not fall within the framework of the assigned research. The maximum amount of research expenses per project is 200,000 yen. The average for FY2024 was approximately 90,000 yen. For more information, please see “Past Projects” on the website below.

<https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/joint-research/data.html>

Please note that depending on the content of the application, the proposal may be adopted as a different proposal category from the original application, after the acceptance. In addition, depending on the results of the screening, you may be asked to apply for Category B, “Use of Facilities, Equipment, and Materials” for which no research funds will be provided.

A2 Support for conference presentation

We will support you in presenting the results of research conducted as part of our joint usage/research program at academic conferences. We have been collaboratively working with zoos and aquariums staff, who are not always adequately supported to present their research results at conferences and in academic journals. Therefore, we will provide some financial support for their travel expenses to present the results of their joint research with us at conferences. The maximum amount per project is approximately 50,000 yen and we plan to adopt about two projects in FY2026.

B Usage of facilities, equipment, and materials (available at any time)

You can conduct research using our field stations, analyze genomes, hormones, cells, etc. using our laboratory facilities, and use materials from the information-derived death drum corps in Great Ape Information Network (GAIN). We will also support the realization of research ideas through our network of partner zoos and aquariums and overseas research institutions.

Applications are accepted at any time. Research funding is not provided.

C Use of facilities for education and public outreach

We support educational and promotional activities using Koshima and Yakushima field stations, etc. Applications are accepted at any time. Research fund is not provided.

Research topics

[1] Conservation research on wild animals

We promote conservation research in the field for wildlife. This includes not only research aimed at specific conservation, but also basic research that contributes to conservation by deepening our understanding of the target animals.

[2] Research for species conservation in zoos and aquariums

We promote conservation research outside the habitat of animals such as in zoos, aquariums, and other captive and breeding facilities. This includes studies of endangered large mammals as well as other wild species, and also includes not only research aimed at ex-situ conservation, but also basic research that contributes to conservation by deepening our understanding of the target animals. We welcome zoo and aquarium staff as well as those affiliated with universities and other research institutions.

[3] Research for coexistence between human and wild animals

Changes in human living areas and an increase in natural disasters have raised concerns about the impact of human activities on wildlife and the environment. We will promote research that will enable us to propose new ways of coexistence between humans and animals.

[4] Open research

We welcome wildlife research based on the applicant's free ideas that do not fit into the above topics.

Research facilities

1) Koshima field station

The facility can be used for research on Japanese macaques as well as for educational purposes such as nature observation. To get to Koshima Island, visitors must use a private boat service, which costs about 3,000 yen round-trip. For more information, please contact your host researcher or our support desk.

2) Yakushima field station

Available for research in Yakushima. Please note that you may need your own transportation (e.g., cars) from the field station to the research site, which we do not provide. For more information, please contact your host researcher or our support desk.

3) Kumamoto Sanctuary

Non-invasive research can be conducted on chimpanzees and bonobos. In addition, you can conduct experiments using samples collected from them.

4) Genetic Analysis Facility

DNA analysis utilizing the facility's equipment is available for genetic diversity analysis, individual identification, parent-child determination, phylogenetic analysis, plate separation, and data analysis. We can also provide advice and information on how to perform DNA analysis.

5) Cell and Physiological Analysis Facility

Utilizing the facility's equipment, you can perform cell culture and bioactive substance analysis. Non-invasive analysis of components in samples by microplate reader and near-infrared spectrometer is also available. We can provide advice and information on germ cell collection and preservation, hormone analysis methods and data analysis.

6) Wild Animal Genetic Resource Database

We jointly operate a database on wildlife genetic resources with National Institute for Environmental Studies. Anyone can search the database at any time. Some of the materials listed in this database are kept at WRC and may be available for joint research.

http://www.nies.go.jp/time_capsule/search.php

7) Great Ape Information Network (GAIN)

As part of the National BioResource Project, WRC, in collaboration with the National Institute of Genetics, is the core center for GAIN Project. This project collects information on individual apes kept in Japan, compiles it into a database, and discloses it to the general public to promote academic research. The use of materials derived from this project will be conducted within the framework of joint usage and joint research by WRC. Please refer to the following link for more information on GAIN.

<https://shigen.nig.ac.jp/gain/top.jsp>

8) Miscellaneous

Samples, materials, equipment, etc.

Photographs, other visual materials and DNA samples of various animals owned by WRC are available for joint research. Equipment for field research can be lent for joint research or for educational activities at our facilities. Please contact us for details.

Partnership with zoos and aquariums

We have been working with zoos and aquariums for research cooperation and information exchange. For more information, please visit the website below.

<https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/organizations.html>

For more information, please contact your host researcher or our support desk.

Host researcher

Below is the list of our faculty members. Please directly contact one whose research field is closely related to yours. If you are unable to select an appropriate host researcher, or if you have any difficulty reaching him/her, please contact our support desk.

Miho Murayama, Satoshi Hirata, Yoko Mitani, Ikki Matsuda
Hideki Sugiura, Mayako Fujihara, Chie Hashimoto
Yu Sato, Aru Toyoda, Takafumi Suzumura

Faculty members are subject to change, so please refer to the following web page for the latest information. <https://www.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/members.html>

If you wish to use samples derived from the Great Ape Information Network (GAIN), in addition to the faculty members listed above, you should also contact one of the following members who will manage the storage and distribution of the samples. When submitting an application, please designate a faculty member affiliated with WRC as host researcher 1 and one more member listed below as host researcher 2.

Hiroo Imai (Center for the Evolutionary Origins of Human Behavior, Kyoto University)
Takeshi Nishimura (School of Humann Sciences, Osaka University)