

Call for applications: Joint Research & Conference Programs, the Institute of Nature and Environmental Technology, Kanazawa University

The Institute of Nature and Environmental Technology, Kanazawa University (K-INET) consists of four divisions (Atmospheric Environmental Studies, Marine Environmental Studies, Terrestrial Environmental Studies, and Integrated Environmental Studies) and investigates environmental issues in the Japan Sea region. The K-INET collaborates with research staff to support and organize joint research programs and research conferences.

1) Purpose

To promote joint research activities specific to the Japan Sea region and to support young researchers in this specific field, the K-INET supports joint research programs and organizes conferences.

Successful applications must specifically address the establishment of world leading studies on core environmental issues (e.g., elucidating the mechanisms of environmental processes, the effects of pollution and anthropogenic impacts) and take advantage of global joint research and observation networks in addition to the research resources within the K-INET.

2) Research priorities

Basic and applied research topics related to the Japan Sea region are encouraged:

- a) Understanding environmental pollution, environmental fluctuations and the mechanisms behind these factors
- b) Investigating the effects of environmental change on human health
- c) Researching the effects of human societies on ecosystems
- d) Developing method for the prediction of changes to local environments
- e) Researching topics related to sustainable development

3) Funding categories

Applicants choose one of four funding categories when preparing proposals (listed below). Proposals must include the K-INET research staff. A domestic or international research program exists for each funding category. Applicants to the international program must belong to overseas institutions. The International Joint Research Program supports the K-INET research staff visits to the applicant's institution for collaborative studies, as well as research activities within the K-INET by program members. International conference grants provide support for conferences held at or near an applicant's institution.

a) Key Joint Research Program (domestic/international)

Three applications will be accepted. The research period can be one or two years. Up to 1,000,000 JPY per year is available per application. The fund can cover travel expenses to Kanazawa University and consumables necessary for research. Successful applications must cover more than two research categories. More than five researchers must contribute to the research program. Those who have a two-year Key Joint Research Program adopted in FY 2018 must submit an application for further implementation in FY 2019.

b) Joint Research Program (domestic/international)

30 applications will be accepted. 100,000–300,000 JPY is available per application. The fund can cover travel expenses to Kanazawa University and consumables necessary for research.

c) PhD student Support Program (domestic/international)

Two applications will be accepted. 100,000–300,000 JPY is available per application. Applicants must be PhD students. Please discuss applications with a potential supervisor beforehand.

d) Conference Grant (domestic/international)

Three proposals will be accepted. 400,000–600,000 JPY is available per application. The fund can cover, for example, travel expenses, consumables,

and facility rental fees. Domestic grants support conferences held in Ishikawa prefecture, Japan. International grants support conferences held at or near the applicant's institution.

4) Facilities and instruments

A list of facilities and instruments open for the joint research program is available at the K-INET website (<http://www.ki-net.kanazawa-u.ac.jp>). Please refer to The Guidebook for Joint Research and Conference Program (in Japanese only) for details related to the use of facilities and instruments, and follow instructions by the K-INET Director.

5) Program period

One-year programs: From April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

Two-year programs (available for Key Joint Research Program only):

From April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2021

6) Applicant requirements

a) Researchers or PhD students whose main affiliation is a university or research institute.

b) Researchers who are approved by the K-INET Director.

* PhD students apply under funding category c) listed above.

* The applicant's obligation is to publish (or at least submit) results in related research journals within two years after the research period.

(Please see section "13) Final reports" for detailed information.)

7) How to apply

Please discuss with the K-INET research staff in preparing the application and submit form 1 (application form for joint research) or form 2 (application form for the conference grant) via e-mail with the e-mail title of "Application to the joint research program or conference grant." Please take care to note that a recommendation letter must be received from the director (or manager) of the applicant's organization after acceptance of the proposal.

<Special reminder: legal requirements>

Special notice should be included in the application form to handle samples that must be treated under particular laws (e.g., plants and animals protected under CITES). Please obtain permission from related organizations before the start of the joint research program.

Correspondence: The K-INET office (Accounting Division, Science and Engineering Administration Department), Kanazawa University, Kakuma Kanazawa 9210-1192, Japan
e-mail: k-inet.jurc@adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

8) Deadline of submission

Please submit application forms (form 1 or form 2) before February 15, 2019.

* When the K-INET director admits research topics that are highly important and urgent, submission of the application form might be accepted after the deadline. In this case, the application form should be submitted at least one month before the program starts.

9) Notice of acceptance

A letter of acceptance will be sent via e-mail to applicants from the K-INET director, after discussion among committee members, by early March 2019. Members of successful programs are appointed as visiting researchers at the K-INET.

Successful applicants must submit a Pledge and Recommendation from the director (or manager) of the applicant's organization immediately after the applicant receives the notice of acceptance.

The applicant must confirm a research schedule after discussion with the corresponding K-INET research staff. When the applicant fails to accomplish a research schedule, written notice must be submitted to the K-INET office to inform on the reasons, et cetera. In addition, the program number, title, applicant name, and affiliation will be listed on the K-INET website. If the applicant has a certain reason to avoid being listed on the website, the applicant's wishes will be respected.

10) Change of the research plan

There should be notification of a new plan after discussion with the corresponding K-INET research staff (the change may not be approved without valid reason) if the applicant wishes to change part of the research plan. When the applicant's affiliation is changed, please notify the K-INET office and resubmit the Pledge and Recommendation from the director. Nominal changes do not need to be reported.

11) Financial support

Consumables necessary for the joint research program must be covered by the applicants themselves, except for the parts covered by the fund. The joint research fund is available from the K-INET through the corresponding research staff. Travel expenses will be covered only when the project members visit the K-INET and related institutions. International programs enable research staff from the K-INET to visit the applicant's institution. Travel expenses will be covered by the fund.

When applicants are invited to present their research results in the symposium organized by the K-INET, travel expenses will be covered.

12) Intellectual property

The right to intellectual property is fundamentally protected by the regulations in the applicant's organization. When the contribution by the research staff from K-INET is considered, discussion among organizations is necessary under Kanazawa University Regulations (Article 2, paragraph (7) and (9) of the Kanazawa University Invention on Job Rules). Immediate notice will be appreciated.

When an applicant's organization follows the process to protect the right for intellectual property, notice given to the K-INET office will be appreciated.

13) Final report

Applicants must submit form 3 or form 4 by 30 April 2020. (Those who

have a two-year Key Joint Research Program adopted in FY 2018 need to submit form 3 as a progress report.) Research results will be published on the website and in the K-INET annual report. Presentation of research results in a symposium organized by the K-INET is also requested. The applicants' obligations include publication of the research results in scientific journals with acknowledgement of support from the joint research program (see example below). Two sets of reprints should be submitted to the K-INET office. Information related to published articles will be listed on the K-INET website. When a certain reason exists to refrain from publication of the research results, applicants must report the reason and the expected duration of delay to the K-INET office.

*Example: This study was conducted under the cooperative research program of Institute of Nature and Environmental Technology, Kanazawa University

<Acceptance No.>.