

National Museum of Japanese History **FY 2026 Application Guidelines for Collaborative Research**

*All applications have to be completed in Japanese.

1. Overview

The purpose of collaborative research hosted by **the National Museum of Japanese History (Rekihaku)**, a member institution of the National Institutes for the Humanities, is to conduct collaborative, interdisciplinary, and empirical research in the fields of history, archaeology, and the study of folklore and folklife, as well as other related areas. To further facilitate the collaborative and interdisciplinary character of the research projects, and, in line with the mission as an Inter-University Research Institute, to provide opportunities in research and education at universities and other institutions, applications from both within and outside the Museum are invited through this open call.

2. Categories of Collaborative Research

Applications for FY 2026 can be made under the following categories:

(1) Principal Research

Principal research refers to collaborative research that aims for interdisciplinary collaboration based on the core research topics of Rekihaku.

Principal research consists of two categories: 1) research challenges to pioneer advanced historical research through examination of resources and methodological considerations; 2) research into contemporary issues based on a broad overview of the history and culture of Japan. The first category is for topics geared towards innovation in historical research with emphasis on interdisciplinary and international perspectives. The second category is for topics in a leading position in academia that are interdisciplinary and respond to social circumstances and demands. Principal research is particularly expected to put an emphasis on the sophistication and visibility of research achievements.

For the FY 2026, we are looking for 2 research projects within the range of Principal Research II "History and Culture of Life and Death".

The Objective of "Principal Research II"

The purpose of this principal research is to comprehensively examine the historical activities of people from the perspective of life and death. Based on the various matters such as the relationship between power and community, development of the religion and ritual, the transformation through healthcare and industry, the personal life and community, and the memory and material culture, we conduct interdisciplinary research that includes not only humanities such as documentary history, archeology, and folklore study, but also social and natural sciences through the various materials such as field research, documents, paintings,

and images.

Research Topic	Research projects related to Principal Research II " History and Culture of Life and Death."
Research Period	3 years, starting from FY 2026
Research Meetings	3 to 4 times per year, at the Rekihaku etc.
Principal Investigator (PI)	The PI is responsible for preparing the research plan, organizing team meetings, and synthesizing research achievements. In addition, the PI is required to submit a report for each FY and present a report at the outcome report meeting after the end of the research period.
Deputy Principal Investigator (DPI)	The DPI must be a faculty member of the Rekihaku
Research Team Organization	Up to 15 members , including researchers who are able to carry out research collaboratively and faculty members of the Rekihaku
Research Budget	Up to 2,700,000 yen per year (travel expenses, expendable supplies etc.)
Planned number of approvals	2

(2) Fundamental Research 2 (Pre-selected topics on the Rekihaku collections)

This type of fundamental research is designed for research topics and research proposals focusing on materials included in the Rekihaku's collections. For a list of applicable materials, please refer to the "Rekihaku Target Collections" table below.

Research Topic	Collaborative research on resources held and designated by the Rekihaku (to be selected from the items listed below)
Rekihaku Target collections [] : collection No. () : Responsible researcher	1. The Clothing Materials of the Mizushima Family Collections [H-1911-1] (Assoc. Prof. SAWADA, Museum Science Division) 2. Iwami Kamei Family Documents[H-1031] (Assoc. Prof. AMANO, History Division) 3. Asakawa Noritaka Collection of Ceramics Found in Kiln Sites of the Korean Peninsula [A-229] (Assoc. Prof. MURAKI, Archaeology Division) 4. Medical Nishiki-e Collection [F-431](Prof. SEKIZAWA, & Prof. KOIKE, Folklore Division)
Research Period	3 years, starting from FY 2026
Research Meetings	3 to 4 times per year, at the Rekihaku etc.
Principal Investigator (PI)	The PI is responsible for preparing the research plan, organizing team meetings, and synthesizing research achievements. In addition, the PI is

	required to submit a report for each FY and to present a report at the outcome report meeting after the end of the research period.
Deputy Principal Investigator (DPI)	The DPI must be a faculty member of the Rekihaku.
Research Team Organization	About 10 members, including researchers who are able to carry out research collaboratively and faculty members of Rekihaku
Research Budget	Up to approximately 2,250,000 yen per year (travel expenses, expendable supplies etc.)
Planned number of approvals	1

3. Eligibility

- 1) Researchers employed by universities or other research institutions in Japan or overseas (full-time or part-time)
- 2) Researchers who have research capabilities equivalent to criteria (1) above (not including graduate students)

4. Application procedure

- Applicants are asked fill out the designated “FY2026 Collaborative Research Proposal” application form (download URL below, form in Japanese only), and to obtain the approval of their immediate superior or supervisor at the research institution of their employment, *prior* to submitting their application. A written notice of approval will not be required at the time of the application, but has to be submitted after the research project has been approved.
- If graduate students enrolled in a doctoral program are being included in the members of a proposed research project, please add an outline of their peer-reviewed papers to the “Achievements” column of the research proposal and attach a letter of recommendation (designated form) from the student’s supervising faculty member.

[Download URL for “FY2026 Collaborative Research Proposal” and letter of recommendation forms Rekihaku official web site)]

https://www.rekihaku.ac.jp/research/list/public_offering/

Before making a formal application and preparing the research proposal, applicants should contact the Rekihaku faculty member expected to act as Deputy Principal Investigator and adequately discuss the research plan and research methods. Contact information for the faculty members is available upon request at following.

The Research and Education Section of the Research Affairs Division
E-mail : kenkyo@ml.rekihaku.ac.jp

5. How to Apply

Please submit the completed application form (“FY2026 Collaborative Research Proposal”) as

an e-mail attachment to the e-mail address listed under [11. Contact & Inquiries]. (Please submit the document by email.)

6. Submission Deadline for Proposals

Deadline : August 26, 2025 at 17:00

7. Selection Process and Notification of Results

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the collaborative research proposals by faculty members of the Rekihaku and external members of the Collaborative Research Committee of the Executive Council in a first screening between September and October. If necessary, interviews will be held in addition to the review of the application documents. In a second screening, to be held between mid November and early December, the Collaborative Research Committee of the Executive Council will interview selected applicants. The Director-General will make the final decision based on the recommendations of the Executive Council. Applicants will be notified about the results of the first screening in October. The results of the second screening will be announced in late December.

Research proposals and other documents submitted will not be returned.

8. Use of Facilities

Collaborative researchers gain access to the Rekihaku facilities, library resources, the museum collections, computers, and various research instruments.

9. Report of Research Achievements

- An annual report is to be submitted each year.
- Publication of the research achievements in the Rekihaku research bulletin (“Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History”) is required within 3 years from the completion of the research.

10. Other

Budget allocations may be adjusted after the approval of the respective research proposals.

11. Contact & Inquiries

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