2026 4th Call (December Round) for Proposals of GIMRT Collaborative Research

1. Outline and objectives of international collaborative research

Institute for Materials Research (IMR) was reorganized in 1987 as a National Collaborative Research Institute. To contribute materials science community in Japan, IMR has provided open accesses for its original world-class facilities, instruments, and knowledge of materials science for researchers belonging to universities and research institutions nationwide. Since FY2010, IMR have been authorized as a "Joint Usage / Research Center for Materials Science" by the Japanese Government.

In November 2018, IMR's Global Institute for Materials Research Tohoku (GIMRT) program was certified as an "International Joint Usage /Research Center for Materials Science" by the Government. In this new international collaboration scheme, GIMRT will play the role as a core institute for the collaborative research in materials science communities in both national and international levels. GIMRT offers open access to IMR's resources of materials science for global researchers through variety of research collaboration programs and bridges domestic and overseas researchers for multi-core international collaborative research.

From FY2024 Summer, the Center of Neutron Science for Advanced Material Science was reorganized to Quantum Beam Center for Materials Research. The new center supports neutron and X-ray related proposals. From FY2025, a new area on Humanities and Materials Science was started.

GIMRT program, Covis: Co-research visit

GIMRT is operating a new program Covis from FY2022. It is to combine the short-term research visit (Type S) and guest professorship (Type G) of International Collaboration center (ICC-IMR). By using this scheme, oversea researchers can stay for longer period as a team including a few members. It would be the route to form a strong and continuous international research partnership.

Those who are willing to apply for Covis, submit Type S proposal with the interpretation about the necessity of Covis in the research. Then apply ICC-IMR guest professorship through a host faculty of IMR. There are two kinds of guest professor, one with salary and one without salary but with title as guest researcher. We will open 10-15 positions each year.

We recommend you to contact to GIMRT user office and consult with GIMRT coordinator about your plan to have a guidance.

Covis Outline

Combination with Young Fellowship of ICC-IMR

The maximum stay of the GIMRT program is expected to be 4 weeks judging from the travel support amount. For oversea PhD student and young researcher who are willing to stay 8-12 weeks in total, additional support by ICC-IMR young fellowship is possible. For application, please read the Fellowship Outline. If you apply, please submit GIMRT single visit proposal and C.V. of the fellowship candidate in GIMRT user system. You need a permission from your host researcher of IMR for application.

Fellowship Outline

2. Area

First of all, please choose one from following 7 proposal areas and ICC-IMR sorted by section/center where users run their collaboration research.

(1) RDG: Standard collaboration at Research Divisions and Groups
(2) IRCNMS : International Research Center for Nuclear Materials Science
(3) CRDAM : Cooperative Research and Development Center for Advanced Materials
(4) HFLSM : High Field Laboratory for Superconducting Materials
(5) CCMS : Center for Computational Materials Science
(6) QBCMR: Quantum Beam Center for Materials Research
(7) IKH: Innovative Knowledge Hub for Humanities and Materials Science
(8) ICC-IMR : International Collaboration Center

The area (1) is to perform collaboration with IMR faculty members of each Research division and group (RDG) by using the related resources and instruments. In areas (2)-(7), users can access facilities, instruments and other resources installed in research centers. The area (8) accepts visiting guest professors, research fellowships for PhD course students and proposal for international workshops. For details of each area, please read the related guideline. The amount of basic financial support is independent of the choice of the area.

In area (1), there are sub-categories, 1) Challenging Research, 2) General research, 3) Workshop. The general research is the standard one to which most of user should apply. Those who stays in Japan for long-term research visit such as visiting professor can also apply proposal as oversea researchers, but the amount of support will be adjusted considering the no-need of international travel.

Applications for the international workshop must be submitted through the GIMRT website. For details, please visit the web site https://www.icc-imr.imr.tohoku.ac.jp/application. The application form is common between GIMRT and ICC-IMR. The review committee will differentiate workshop proposals into two categories during the review process, GIMRT workshop and IMR workshop. For example, a joint workshop between IMR and some overseas institution open only to limited members is categorized to IMR workshop, which is supported by IMR internal budget.

Challenging research is a proposal consists of only young members of 40 or younger as of 1st Jan. of proposal call year. The support budget which will be determined by the review scoring will be raised for challenging research. To use this benefit, please state that one is going to apply challenging research in the beginning of your proposal (background, purpose section). The challenging research can be stated for any of areas (1) -(6).

Under the current situation of increasing travel budget, the support of the travel may be increased by applying a range of flexibility for the upper limit of the travel budget.

3. Types

For each area, there are several different types of applications which are differentiate by a content of collaboration team, a range of support and places of research. Please read 7. Support budget.

Type S : Single visit is the standard application to support a research visit to IMR. There is no special form for Type S, but any proposal applied for areas (1)-(6) is treated as Type S proposal. Please note that each area has a few sub-proposal types under Type S group. The request amount of your travel support should be written in the research plan section. The estimated airfare, length of stay(how many days?), expected visiting time(when?) and staying expense/per day and the total amount of support request should be indicated. In case a student and a staff scientist visit IMR together, some amount of budget may be added.

If your collaborator in Japan is going to join your visit to IMR, please consider adding "TypeB" application.

(1) Type O : Type O supports a research visit of young scientist of Japan to perform

research at overseas institutes. The program provides opportunities to conduct research abroad. It requests a stay of two weeks or longer and does not support a travel to attend only an international conference. The combination of research visit and participation for conference can be accepted, if applicant pays the expense of the latter part. There is no clear age limit, however, we do not expect an application from a well-established full professor level researcher. Moreover, a priority will be given to younger researchers below 40 years old in the review process.

(2) Type B(domestic) : Bridge proposal is an attaching proposal to ask an additional travel support for multi-core collaboration research. Hence, a Type B should be combined with a Type S. In the bridge domestic, one can request a travel budget to support Japanese collaborators who will join your research visit at IMR or at some non-Tohoku Univ (TU). institutions. Examples of such non-TU institutions are J-PARC, JRR3 and SPring-8 where IMR is operating instruments. Another scheme is a supporting the travel of oversea researchers, visiting an institution of one of Japanese collaborators involved in the proposal, to conduct complemental collaboration research. More explicitly, the stay at IMR is supported by Type-S and the travel to other institute is supported by Type B. In the Type B document, necessity of such multi-core collaboration must be stated clearly.

If you do not need an additional support but is going to have a short stop at the home institution of your collaborator on the way to/from IMR, you can state that plan in the Type S proposal. The range of support for this additional part may differ from case to case. If you have any questions, please consult with GIMRT user office.

(3) Type B(overseas): In Type B overseas, one can combine Type S and Type O. Overseas researchers visit IMR by the support of Type S and a young scientist of Japan visits overseas institute by the support of Type O. The contents of Type B(overseas) form contain the contents of Type O form. Therefore, one should submit Type S and Type B(overseas) forms for this category.

(4) Type B(special): This is the special type of proposal at IRCNMS to conduct material irradiations at overseas institutions. It will be coordinated by IRCNMS.

(5) Type W(workshop): Type W is an application for domestic/international workshop organization. The maximum support is 1, 1.5 and 2 MJPY for domestic, international and the large size joint (domestic and international) meetings. In the joint meeting, one can support both domestic and overseas participants, but the latter must be more that 2/3 of the total budget. In international ones (international or joint), the language must be English throughout the meeting. The budget can be used for travel support of overseas participants, a printing cost such as abstract booklet and a cost for a venue. When a conference is supported by multiple sources, it should be stated clearly in the application. We also support online or online-onsite hybrid type meetings. International workshops should be applied by Form 2B common with ICC-IMR.

(6) Those who want to apply for area IKH: Innovative Knowledge Hub for Humanities and Materials Science, please consult with IKH coordinator in advance. They can coordinate an adequate format of collaboration research.

(7) Other types: For visiting guest professor, please apply to ICC-IMR. For details, visit ICC-IMR web site. https://www.icc-imr.imr.tohoku.ac.jp/

4. Urgent Proposal Calls for Domestic Researchers

For domestic proposal, we strongly recommend applying at December round to ensure the travel support. A limited numbers of urgent research proposal can be accepted for other calls in areas (1) to (7).

5. Applicant qualifications

(1) Full-time researchers (including postdoc researchers) belonging to national/public/ private universities, technical colleges, incorporated administrative agencies, national research and development corporations, special corporations, and national public research institutions

or equivalent institutes at overseas can apply as research representatives. Please read the "Collaborative Research Agreement" in the last pages of this call and examine if all conditions can be fullfilled.

(2) Graduate students can be included as collaborators. For domestic application, undergraduates (for technical colleges, major college students and academic advisors shall be specified) can be included. For undergraduate students, name of supervisor must be stated in the application.
(3) Participants in the Challenging Research are limited to researchers 40 years old or younger as of 1st January of proposal call year. Graduate students or domestic undergraduates (major students at technical collages) may participate.
(4) Regarding persons who have foreign nationality or persons belonging to foreign organizations, security export control procedures are required prior to conducting research. Please consult with your local contact for details.
(5) Although researchers of non-academic organizations can apply, the proposal shall be academic, and its achievement shall be published. For proprietary research, use the scheme of "Collaborative Research Program with the private sector".

6. Items to Note

(1) Each research representative is advised to submit one international proposal in each year. If proposals are totally independent, applications to multiple areas are accepted, but the budget support will be reduced. It means that applicant is requested to perform multiple proposal in one-time visit. Multiple visits by adding user's own budget can be accepted. Please understand that GIMRT is willing to support researchers from varieties of institutions and nations. Hence it is our policy to avoid the multiple supports for a specific researcher.
(2) The allocation of research expenses will be adjusted based on the evaluation of the proposal, status of research implementation and achievement submission, the total number of proposals and budget allocation, and will be confirmed through discussions by the proposal committee.
(3) If you continue with the same research subject, one can submit a renewed proposal as a continuing one. The renewal is accepted up to two times. However, one must show good research results to have supports in successive years. Please understand that the supporting rate might be lower for successive proposals to encourage new users.
(4) When graduate students and undergraduate students (major students for technical colleges) use the laboratory in IMR, they must have Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research or equivalent one. All other users also must hold a proper insurance. IMR will not provide any insurance for users.
(5) Foreign research is not permitted to apply the proposal to use of the supercomputer of CCMS because of the export control regulation. Use as collaborator needs the export control clearance.
(6) It had been able to use the supercomputer in the RDG proposal. However, from the perspective of user management and security export control procedures, from this call, a separate proposal application will be required to the Center for use of the Center for Computational Materials Science.

7. Support Budget

The maximum travel support amount is summarized below. The allocation is determined by considering the review rating.
Type S(Domestic) in RDG, CRDAM, QBCMR and IKH 250, 000 JPY
Type S(Domestic) in HFLSM and IRCNMS 300, 000 JPY
Type S(Oversea) 500,000JPY

Type O 600,000JPY
Type B(domestic) 100,000JPY
Type B(oversea) 500,000JPY
Type W See 3-(5)

8. Application procedure

(1) Apply electronically via the GIMRT user system at the following URL. To submit a proposal, one must obtain User ID of the system. It will take one or two working days to activate your user ID and so please register in advance.
https://gimrt.appli.imr.tohoku.ac.jp/login

(2) Application deadlines
December 11, 2026 in Japan Standard Time (JST). Considering the time difference, the application will be cut at the beginning of December 12, JST. Next call is expected in February 2027. Please note that there is no technical support in the weekend.

(3) Applications should be either in Japanese or English. For the review process, all overseas applications are requested to be written in English.

9. Research period

The research period for domestic application for December round is from April 2027 to March 31, 2028. For overseas applications, one year from the acceptance.

10. Contact address

GIMRT-office, Research Cooperation Division, General Affairs Section,
Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University
2-1-1 Katahira, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8577, Japan
Phone +81-22-215-2183
FAX +81-22-215-2184
Email gimrt-office@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

User office
E-mail uogimrt-imr@grp.tohoku.ac.jp
X:https://x.com/User_Office_IMR
Instagram：https://www.instagram.com/user_office_imr/
Threads：https://www.threads.net/@user_office_imr

11. Review process and selection

Each proposal is reviewed by three referees, and decision is made by the corresponding proposal committee based on the review results. The review of the continuing proposals includes the status of the previous proposal and the registration status of the research results on the previously accepted proposal. For new proposal, please be sure to include related research activities in the “Previous Research Results” column.

Applicants will be notified of the review results in March 2027.

12. Research Report

The research representative of the accepted proposal shall register the “Research Report” and the output results such as publications via GIMRT user system. Every result that is obtained in the collaborative research, even partly, shall be included in the results. The deadline of research report of the December call is the mid. April of 2028. For other call, it will be informed after the finish of your research visit. We request users to publish research results within 3 years. Papers may be published after the research period and thus please be sure to register at the GIMRT user system even after submitting the research report for each fiscal year.

If the collaborative research was not carried out due to some reasons, submit a Usage Status Report. After the approval by the committee, register it in place of the report.

13. Submission of paper, Miscellaneous

Register the paper published as research achievements by using the GIMRT user system or send a copy reprint to the Collaboration Research Office. Please be sure the acknowledgement is included as in the example below. Since the important objective of the GIMRT is to train young researchers, please register Master's or Doctoral thesis, if the thesis partially includes results of collaborative research as well as awards, promotion, project launch, patent or industrial application through the use achievements. Documenting these achievements is important to maintain the collaboration budget.

Examples acknowledgment are as follows.

1) Other than CCMS

This work was performed at (Name of Center) under the GIMRT Program of the Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University (Proposal No. *******).

2) Center for Computational Materials Science

We acknowledge Center for Computational Materials Science, Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University for the use of MASAMUNE-II
(Project No**SC****).

The formal names of the center/facilities of IMR are given in the section 2. Area.

14. Accommodations

Visitors may use the accommodation facility of the Institute (three single rooms, two twin rooms: total capacity of seven). To apply, contact your local contact or GIMRT user office. For details of the accommodation facility, please consult with your local contact.

15. Handling of intellectual property rights

Intellectual property rights generated as a result of research shall conform to the Tohoku University Joint Research Regulations.

16. Security export control for use of supercomputers

As of FY2014, applicants for the use of supercomputers who are of foreign nationality or belong to a foreign organization must demonstrate necessity. Such applicants must submit a permission application to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan through the Security Export Control Office of Tohoku University. Note that the applicants cannot use the supercomputers until the application is approved. Upon approval, we may ask such applicants to submit additional documents such as certificate of enrollment.

17. Other important notes

(1) When graduate students and undergraduate students (major students for technical colleges) use the laboratory in IMR, they must have Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research or equivalent one. All other users also must hold a proper insurance. IMR will not provide any insurance for users.

(2) Please submit a Collaborative Research Agreement (Attachment 1) by the three weeks before your visit. It is requested only for accepted proposal. Submit the Agreement signed by the head of visitor's home institution by postal mail or by e-mail. We accept electronic signature, if this is the standard procedure at user's home institution.

(3) As of April 2019, an income tax will be applied for a travel budget payment of overseas users unless a proper tax exemption document is submitted. However, the

tax will not be requested if an air ticket and a hotel coupon are purchased by IMR and these are provided to user instead of reimbursement. Hence, GIMRT strongly recommend for us to purchase your tickets and coupons.

(4) Travel support is determined by our regulations and guidelines. A small amount of commuting fee is included in the daily support.

18. Code of Conduct

GIMRT set up a code of conduct. Please follow it in any activities of collaboration research.
https://gimrt.www.imr.tohoku.ac.jp/en/about/conductcode.html

19. Day Business Trip for career support

GIMRT is supporting the career formation of young researchers. If a researcher cannot conduct an overnight business trip to support child-rearing etc., it is possible to make continuous one-day business trips instead of overnight business trips. Whether or not we can accommodate additional travel support will be determined considering multiple factors such as the budget situation and the necessity, so please contact us as soon as possible if you wish to do so.

Attachment 1

Collaborative Research Agreement

To Director of Institute for Materials Research
National University Corporation Tohoku University

Proposal Number:
Proposal Title:

Name	Job Title	Home Organization

We acknowledge that the above persons will work as joint researchers in this proposal. We will have the above-mentioned joint researchers confirm and comply with the important matters for health and safety management (written in the reverse side of this form), the conditions stated in the call for proposals, and the code of conduct, and we will be responsible as our affiliated institution for their compliance.

Day Month Year

Director of Home Institution
Affiliation/Title/Name Personal Seal or Signature

[Domestic only] I acknowledge that the undergraduate (major student for technical colleges) among the aforementioned persons will become collaborators.

Supervisor: Personal Seal or Signature

Safety and Health Management Requirements

1. The activities of the joint researchers will be conducted as regular research activities of a student at the affiliated institution or as regular work at the affiliated institution that employs the joint researcher.

2. 2. If joint a researcher suffers an injury, sickness and etc., due to an accident or other incident that occurs during the activities of the joint research, the affiliated institution will be responsible for ensuring that the researcher is covered by appropriate insurance applicable for such cases.

3. We confirm that a student enrolled in a university or other institution in Japan are covered by the Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Reserch (Gakkensai) or an accident insurance of equal or higher quality.

4. If a collaborative researcher intentionally or negligently causes injury to another person or damages equipment or facilities managed by the Institute for Materials Research, the affiliated research institution is responsible for compensating such incidents.

5. The Institute for Materials Research (IMR) does not cover or provide insurance for any injuries or damages incurred by collaborative researchers. IMR shall not be liable for any damages incurred as a result of this activity, except in cases of willful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of the Institute.

6. Intellectual property arising from the collaborative research will be handled in accordance with the Tohoku University Collaborative Research Handling Regulations, as stated in the application guidelines.

7. Collaborative researchers will receive sufficient education and training from their affiliated institutions regarding the equipment and facilities they will use and the necessary safety and health management procedures. Furthermore, when using these facilities, they will pay close attention to safety management, comply with the IMR's safety and health management guidelines, manuals, and usage rules established for each piece of equipment and facility, and follow safety management instructions from the Institute's faculty and staff and other relevant parties.

8. In the event of an accident, injury, or damage to facilities or equipment during the course of an activity, the Joint Researcher shall immediately report the matter to the relevant faculty member or staff member of the IMR and follow their instructions.