

Academic Year 2026 Bio-SPM Collaborative Research Application Guidelines

The Nano Life Science Institute (WPI-NanoLSI), Kanazawa University, is calling for applications for Bio-SPM collaborative research.

1. Outline of Call for Research Proposal

1-1 Aims

The research teams at Kanazawa University have engaged in the pioneering development of original Bio-SPM technologies*, including Atomic Resolution/3D-AFM (FM-AFM), High-speed AFM, SICM (Scanning Ion Conductance Microscope), and AFM for Cell Measurement, and applied them to the life sciences. Here, we call for applications for collaborative research projects that are carried out by the applicants using our Bio-SPM, with the cooperation of the WPI-NanoLSI faculty members.

* Please refer to the document, 'Overview of each Bio-SPM technology,' for further information.

<https://nanolsi.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/en/research/applications/bio-spm/>

* To further advance collaborative research, we will begin accepting applications for the **"Extended Visiting Track"** starting this year.

Please see **✕Extended Visiting Track** (section 1-5) for details.

1-2 Program Details

You will conduct research on nano-life science and related fields using our Bio-SPM technologies as a collaborative research project with NanoLSI host researcher.

1-3 Notes Regarding Samples

The following samples cannot be accepted.

- Genetically modified organisms at P2 level or higher, pathogenic microorganisms and viruses at BSL level 2 or higher, and other regulated items
- Samples that are prohibited from being brought into Japan if you are applying from overseas.

1-4 Application Eligibility

Researchers or engineers from national and overseas public or private universities.

Note: students such as graduate students and undergraduate students are not eligible as an applicant but can be included in the research project team.

*"NanoLSI Associates" are accepted to apply even if they belong to companies.

1-5 Research Period

For applicants adopted in 1st or 2nd call, from the date of approval to January 29, 2027.

The maximum duration of the visit is 40 days.

Note: You are supposed to inform of a visit schedule within one month after the notification of approval. We may not be able to meet your request for the timing of collaboration due to circumstances. The available days are Monday to Friday.

<p>※Extended Visiting Track If the following conditions are met, the applicant may apply under the “Extended Visiting Track” for a visit of up to 90 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We accept applications from those who served as Principal Investigators in Bio-SPM Collaborative Research or NanoLSI Visiting Fellows Program from FY2018 to FY2025. - The applicant has obtained prior consent from the host researcher regarding the application. - The project involves the participation of at least one additional research member besides the applicant. - The project represents further development of research related to the outcomes of a previously selected project and requires a long-term (30 days or more) visit. -Approximately one Extended Visiting Track project will be selected for FY2026.
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Differences Between the Standard Application Track and the Extended Visiting Track

Category	Bio-SPM Collaborative Research	Extended Visiting Track
Eligibility	Researchers and engineers affiliated with national/public/private universities, national research institutes, or overseas research institutions	Individuals who have previously participated as Principal Investigator in Bio-SPM Collaborative Research or the NanoLSI Visiting Fellows Program
Number of Visiting Days	Up to a total of 40 days	A total of 30 days or more, up to a total of 90 days
Prior Approval	Prior approval of the host researcher: Not required	Prior approval of the host researcher: Required
Expected Number of Awards (FY2026)	Approximately 30	Approximately 1
Maximum Travel Support	Domestic: 200,000 JPY Overseas: 350,000 JPY	Domestic: 400,000 JPY Overseas: 700,000 JPY

1-6 How to Apply

Application Items

Please submit the following two documents to the submission destination.

Form 1	'Academic Year 2026 Bio-SPM Collaborative Research, Application and Collaborative Researcher Approval Form'
Free Format	'Curriculum vitae for the principal investigator (applicant) only'

Please download the form 1 from the website below.

<https://nanolsi.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/en/research/applications/bio-spm/>

Please indicate on the application form if you have pre-consulted with our host researcher.

Submission Deadlines

1st in 2026: May 27, 2026 (Wednesday), 17:00 JST.

2nd in 2026: Sep 16, 2026 (Wednesday), 17:00 JST

* 3rd call will NOT be available in FY 2026.

Note: For urgent cases, applications will be accepted regardless of the deadline. However, this procedure is only available after coordination with the researchers in WPI-NanoLSI. If an urgent application is adopted, the implementation may be in the following fiscal year.

Submission Destination

Bio-SPM Collaborative Research Office
 Nano Life Science Institute, Kanazawa University,
 Kakuma-Machi, Kanazawa, 920-1192, Japan.

E-mail: nanolsi_opf002*ml.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

※Please replace the asterisks (*) with @.

1-7 Selection Method and Notification of Results

The NanoLSI director will make a decision after the careful review by the Expert Committee members, and the applicant will be notified of the decision.

*Research applications that match our policy described in “1-1. Aims” will be preferentially approved. It is preferable that applicants have already conducted sample preparations and preliminary experiments, for example, biochemical experiments, test of observation conditions, and microscopic analysis by optical microscope, electron microscope, SPM, etc. However, applications without any preliminary results will also be approved depending on the contents.

1-8 Inquiries Regarding Research Contents

Send an inquiry to the e-mail address below. The inquiry should include the type of Bio-SPM you wish to use (either Atomic Resolution/3D-AFM, High-speed AFM, SICM, and AFM for Cell Measurement). The reply will come from the person in charge of the specific Bio-SPM technology.

Bio-SPM Collaborative Research Office

E-mail: nanolsi_opf002*ml.kanazawa-u.ac.jp ※Please replace the asterisks (*) with @.

1-9 Travel Expenses

If it is necessary to support the travel expenses including transportation and accommodation for staying at Kanazawa University, mention it in the appropriate part of Form 1. Travel expenses will be supported up to 200K JPY for domestic applicants and 350K JPY for overseas applicants based on the travel expense regulations of Kanazawa University after the review by the Expert Committee of WPI-NanoLSI. (However, if the airfare is very expensive, WPI-NanoLSI may support up to one person's round-trip travel expenses plus one week's accommodation expenses, exceeding the maximum limit.) In the case of collaborative research by sending samples, WPI-NanoLSI will bear the shipping costs for the samples without travel fees.

Project selected for the Extended Visiting Track may have their travel expense support limits raised to 400,000 JPY for domestic applicants and 700,000 JPY for international applicants.

2. Post-Acceptance Procedures

2-1 Time of implementation

Upon receipt of the acceptance notification, please consult with the host researcher to determine the timing of the visit and submit the itinerary within one month of receiving the notification. (The visit must be completed by January 29, 2027. If you are late in letting us know when you will be travelling, even if you have been selected for travel expenses support, we may not be able to secure the budget, and you may have to pay for your own travel expenses.

※At this time, it is undecided whether the call for proposals for the Bio-SPM Collaborative Research in the next academic year will be conducted.

- If the host researcher's schedule, equipment availability, and participants availability cannot be coordinated to allow implementation by January 29, 2027, **the project cannot be carried over into the following fiscal year.**

- If this program continues after 2027, reapplication will be possible. However, rules regarding travel expenses support and other provisions may change at that time.

2-2 Research Report

An approved researcher has an obligation to report the research results when the research period is over. Using Forms 2 and 3, prepare and submit the research report. The deadline is March 26, 2027. The summary of research results (Form 3) will be publicly posted on the NanoLSI Bio-SPM Collaborative Research website in 2026 academic year.

Form 2	'Academic Year 2026 Bio-SPM Collaborative Research, Research Report'
Form 3	'Academic Year 2026 Bio-SPM Collaborative Research, Research Report Summary'

※ Forms 2 and 3 can be downloaded from the Bio-SPM Collaborative Research <https://nanolsi.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/en/research/applications/bio-spm/>

2-3 When the Research Papers are Published

To measure the effectiveness of this program, we would like to collect the data of research papers published through Bio-SPM Collaborative Research carried out. When publishing paper, please consult with the host researcher regarding authorship. Please include the following statement in your paper: **"This work was partly supported by the Kanazawa University WPI-NanoLSI 2026 Bio-SPM Collaborative Research Program."** Additionally, please report the publication of your paper to the contact listed in section 1-8.

3. Others

- a. If your samples or methods are quite new to Bio-SPM measurements, we will select your proposal as a "Preliminary Investigation". In Preliminary Investigation, experts of Bio-SPM will perform some experiments to search for the measurement conditions. When the measurement conditions for your proposal are fixed, you can start full research.
- b. When a submitted application is approved, the principal investigator (PI) responsible for the collaborative research and the collaborative partner researchers should be a collaborative researcher of WPI-NanoLSI, Kanazawa University. All members who participate in the approved research project can stay at Kakuma Guest House (fee applies). If no room is available at Kakuma Guest House, stay at hotels downtown.
- c. For the outstanding proposals related to cancer research, travel expenses will be supported up to 200K JPY for domestic applicants and 350K JPY for overseas applicants by the Cancer Research Institute, Kanazawa University based on the travel expense regulations of Kanazawa University. Adopted should mention as

follows when the results are

published, **“This work was partly supported by Extramural Collaborative Research Grant of Cancer Research Institute, Kanazawa University.”**

- d. Graduate and undergraduate students can also participate in a collaborative research team. In such cases, approval from their supervisor is absolutely necessary. The approval form is available in Form 1. Travel expenses can be covered for only graduate students, but not for undergraduate students.
- e. The following types of applications may be difficult to accept.
 - It is unclear from the application documents whether samples suitable for SPM observation can be prepared. *(Please note that observation with crude or partially purified samples may be challenging.)*
 - The proposed research lacks sufficient novelty, as similar studies have already been conducted.
 - It is unclear from the application what specific measurements are intended to be performed using Bio-SPM technologies.

Supplementary Information

- **Regarding the Date of Birth, Age, and Sex fields in the Application**

These fields are necessary for statistics in the evaluation report by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and related organization, in which the ages and genders of collaborative researchers must be presented. The information provided will not influence any decisions. In addition, the personal information provided will be handled with the utmost caution.