

Kansai University Research Institute for Socionetwork Strategies

2026 Publicly Offered Research Application Guidelines

January 19, 2026

Research Institute for Socionetwork Strategies (RISS) at Kansai University, certified as a Joint Usage/Research Center by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology since October 2008, has been conducting comprehensive policy research. To contribute to comprehensive policy research through evidence-based collaborative research utilizing shared research resources, we are inviting research groups from both inside and outside the university as follows.

For an overview of RISS, please refer to the following URL:

<<https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/riss/en/>>

Note: If you only wish to use the institute's shared facilities (Experimental Economics Lab, Eye-tracking Lab, Small-Scale Laboratory, Synthetic Population Data, Experiment Participants Pool) and do not require research funding, you do not need to apply for this publicly offered research. Please apply separately for shared use.

1. Purpose

We widely seek research groups that conduct creative research contributing to the development of policy science research.

2. Overview of Research Topics for Application

(1) Priority Research Topics

In the selection process, priority will be given to:

“Research that can provide proposals for economic policy or management strategy through data analysis.”

From FY2026, you will be required to belong to at least one of the three newly established core research units (Public Policy Unit, Management Science Unit, Data Creation Unit).

Please describe in your research plan (in either Japanese or English) the relevance between your research topic and the desired core research unit.

Overview of Core Research Units:

- Public Policy Unit: This unit conducts research using various types of data, focusing on keywords such as competition policy, industrial policy, consumer policy, health promotion policy, and social system design. It aims to identify challenges in the rapidly changing socio-economic landscape driven by new technologies such as AI and to propose solutions to address these issues.
- Management Science Unit: This unit primarily conducts research based on various types of data, focusing on keywords such as consumer purchasing behavior analysis, designing marketing policies utilizing LLMs, investor relations (IR) activities, and corporate system design. Its goal is to propose solutions to social and economic challenges from the perspective of businesses.
- Data Creation Unit: This unit focuses on generating original data through social science experiments, behavioral economics, eye-tracking experiments, social surveys, and social simulations. In addition to its own research, it also aims to provide data useful for the other two units.

Additionally, research topics are expected to meet at least one of the following criteria (①–④), and for FY2026, topics corresponding to ② and ③ are especially encouraged:

① Research involving early-career researchers*, particularly studies that contribute to the development of human resources in the fields of AI and data science.

* early-career researchers: Those who have obtained a doctoral degree less than 8 years ago (as of April 1, 2026)

If a research topic matching ① is adopted, the institute's executive office will conduct progress interviews with the principal researcher about once every six months.

② International collaborative research, interdisciplinary research*, or research leading to industry-academia-government collaboration

*Interdisciplinary research: Research conducted by groups of researchers specializing in different fields, such as “psychology and economics,” “computer science and management.”

③ Research leading to joint research with overseas universities or research institutions with which the institute has concluded basic agreements on international exchange plans

④ Research utilizing RISS shared facilities (Experimental Economics Lab, Eye-tracking Lab, Small scale Experiment Lab, Synthetic Population Data, Experiment Participants Pool)

Note: Research topics may overlap with those receiving or applying for other research grants.

(2) Research Period

June 1, 2026 – March 31, 2028

(3) Research Expenses (Upper Limit)

FY2026: 500,000 yen; FY2027: 500,000 yen (Total: 1,000,000 yen)

Please specify the desired allocation amount for each fiscal year in your research plan. Depending on the applicant's situation, the allocation may not be as requested. Carryover to the next fiscal year is not allowed.

The allocation amount (per year and total for two years) may be changed after adoption.

Usage: Expenses directly related to the execution of the research plan and the presentation of research results, as described in the research plan.

Examples: Expenses for conducting experiments, surveys, purchasing data, purchasing equipment such as computers (items or sets priced at 50,000 yen or more are treated as the university's equipment and must be returned at the end of the research period in principle; however, if the user remains a full-time faculty member, institute researcher, or principal researcher/co-researcher of another publicly offered research unit after the research period, continued use is permitted), hiring research assistants, holding research meetings, attending academic conferences, etc.

Expenses not permitted: Those not approved by the university regulations or not directly related to the execution of the research plan or presentation of research results.

(4) Number of Projects to be Accepted

approximately 5

3. Eligibility

Applicants must meet all three of the following conditions:

(1) A or B

A: Research groups including any of the following:

- RISS researchers (including those outside Kansai University) (*Note 1)
- Specially appointed faculty members of RISS
- Full-time faculty members of Kansai University (including specially contracted professors) (*Note 2)

B: Research groups mainly utilizing RISS shared facilities (Experimental Economics Lab, Eye-tracking Lab, Small scale Experiment Lab, Synthetic Population Data, Experimental Participant Pool) (*Note 3)

(2) Research group of three or more members

(3) The proportion of specially appointed faculty members of the institute and full-time faculty members of Kansai University (including specially contracted professors) in the research group must be less than half.

*Note 1: For information about RISS researchers, please refer to the following URL:
<URL <https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/riss/en/researchers/>>

*Note 2: Full-time faculty members of Kansai University (including Specially Appointed Professors) who are not RISS researchers at the time of selection will be appointed as RISS researchers after selection. This also includes those scheduled to join Kansai University as full-time faculty members (including Specially Appointed Professors) in FY2026.

*Note 3: For information about the Experimental Economics Lab and Synthetic Population Data, please refer to the following URLs:

<URL <https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/riss/en/eel/>>
<URL <https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/riss/en/shareduse/database/>>

4. Application Restrictions

- (1) Principal researchers of projects adopted in FY2025 cannot apply as principal researchers for FY2026 projects.
- (2) For FY2026, the same researcher may apply for only one project as principal investigator and one project as co-researcher.
- (3) Among principal researchers of previously adopted projects, those who have not published research results by the deadline (except those granted an extension) cannot apply.

5. Application Procedure

The principal researcher should apply as follows:

- (1) Application Documents (may be prepared in Japanese or English)
 - ① FY2026 Research Plan (Cover and Form A) [PDF]
 - Download the form from the following URL:
<https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/riss/shareduse/offered_projects/>
 - (Kansai University Research Institute for Socionetwork Strategies – Publicly Offered Research)
 - Submit either a Japanese or English version. Form A may be expanded up to 3 pages.
 - ② PDF copy of an email or other document confirming that each co-researcher agrees to participate in the project
- (2) Submission Deadline (by email, must arrive by the deadline)

March 12, 2026 (Thursday), Japan Standard Time (JST)

(3) Submit via email to:

riss@ml.kandai.jp

Please note that application documents will not be returned.

6. Screening Method and Evaluation Criteria

(1) Screening Method:

Document review (in addition to application documents, researchmap may be referenced as needed)

(2) Screening Committee:

Screening will be conducted by committee members who are not affiliated with Kansai University.

(3) Evaluation Criteria:

The reviewers will conduct a comprehensive evaluation based on the following assessment criteria.

- Consistency between the research topic and the institute's objectives
- Academic importance of the research topic
- Appropriateness of research methods
- Research execution capability and suitability of the research environment

(4) Selection Method:

Selection will be based on the comprehensive evaluation scores of the screeners.

7. Notification of Screening Results

After the screening is completed (scheduled for mid-May 2026), notification will be sent by email to the address of the principal researcher in the research plan.

8. Management of Research Funds

The principal researcher is responsible for managing the execution of research funds related to the research topic (monitoring execution status, judging the appropriateness of expenditures in light of the research plan, etc.).

9. Reporting of Results

(1) Within one year after the end of the research period, it is mandatory to publish the results of the joint research in one of the following:

- The institute's Discussion Paper
- The institute's peer-reviewed journal "The Review of Socionetwork Strategies"
- Books
- Any peer-reviewed academic journal

- Any peer-reviewed proceedings

- Presentation at an international academic conference with paper review

For peer-reviewed academic journals and proceedings, submission of an acceptance letter may be considered as publication (however, the institute may extend the publication deadline if deemed appropriate).

(2) It is mandatory to present your research outcomes at the workshop organized by the institute, which is scheduled to be held at the end of each fiscal year.

(3) For the preparation of the “Implementation Status Report” submitted annually to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in June, you may be asked to report on the achievement status and research results. Your cooperation is appreciated.

10. Publication of Results

When publishing results, please ensure that the acknowledgement section clearly states that the research was supported by our organization. For presentations at international academic conferences with paper review, include the acknowledgment in the presentation materials.

Example (English):

“This research was (partly) supported by the Joint Usage and Research Center, Research Institute for Sconetwork Strategies, Kansai University.”

11. Application for External Funding

Adopted research groups are expected to apply for research funds publicly offered by the government, independent administrative agencies, foundations, etc. You will also be asked to report whether you have applied during the research period.

12. Others

(1) The contents of these guidelines may be revised or changed during the fiscal year depending on the application status, budget execution status, and the establishment of the project budget.

(2) If your project is adopted, after notification of the results, principal researchers and co-researchers whose primary affiliation is not Kansai University will be required to submit a letter of consent (details will be provided at the time of notification).

(3) If your project is adopted, you will be required to submit a spending plan after notification of the results.

(4) Changes to the research organization (such as changes or additions of co-researchers) are generally not permitted. However, if changes are necessary due to unavoidable circumstances, please consult in advance.

(5) The institute will appropriately manage personal information related to publicly offered research in accordance with the university's personal information protection regulations. Personal information described in the research plan and other documents will be used for the following purposes:

- ① Sending materials to screeners
- ② Distributing materials at committee meetings
- ③ Posting on the institute's website
- ④ Applications, notifications, reports, and communications to government agencies based on relevant laws and regulations
- ⑤ Other operations similar or related to the above

Contact Information:

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