

FY2026 Second Semester Application Guidelines for
Joint Use/Research Center for Drilling Earth Science
Marine Core Research Institute, Kochi University

Marine Core Research Institute, Kochi University (MaCRI, hereafter) operates the Joint Usage/Research Center for Drilling Earth Science (JURC-DES, hereafter). The purpose of JURC-DES is to promote the advancement of Drilling Earth Science and related fields by encouraging researchers to utilize its state-of-the-art research facilities and sediment cores. To further this objective, JURC-DES is calling for applications for research projects for the fiscal year 2026 as follows:

1) Categories (Please also refer to the table provided on page 2)

(A) **Joint Use Program:** Research projects that utilize the analysis equipment (*1) managed by MaCRI. NO faculty members of MaCRI (who are full-time faculties excluding specially-appointed lecturers) (*2) is included in the applicants' research partners or groups.

(AY) **Joint Use Program (for Early Careers):** Applicants for the Joint Use Program (A) who are 35 years old and younger as of April 1st, 2026.

(B) **Joint Research Program (Equipment Usage):** Research projects that utilize the analysis equipment (*1) managed by MaCRI. Faculty members of MaCRI, excluding specially-appointed lecturers (*2), will serve as “co-investigators” for the applicants. This includes research projects adopted by competitive research funds such as Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research or *KAKENHI*. It is recommended that applicants utilize sediment cores curated at MaCRI (not a mandatory requirement).

(BY) **Joint Research Program (for Early Careers):** Applicants for the Joint Use Program (B) who are 35 years old and younger as of April 1st, 2026.

(C): **Joint Research Program (General):** Research projects that DO NOT utilize the analysis equipment (*1) managed by MaCRI. Faculty members of MaCRI, excluding specially-appointed lecturers (*2), will serve as “co-investigators” for the applicants. This includes research projects adopted by competitive research funds such as Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, or *KAKENHI*.

(M) Research Meeting: Please refer to the Application Guidelines for Research Meeting.

(*1) Please refer to the List of Primary Facilities for JURC-DES (Item 3)

(*2) Please refer to the following URL for MaCRI Faculty Members

<https://www.kochi-u.ac.jp/marine-core/en/about/member.html>

Joint Usage/Research Center for Drilling Earth Science

Overview of Applications for Joint Use, Joint Research, and Research Meeting

	A Joint Use	AY Joint Use (Early Career)	B Joint Research (Equipment Usage)	BY Joint Research (Equipment Usage) (Early Career)	C Joint Research (General)	M Research Meeting
Primary Applicants	Not belong to MaCRI (Domestic Residence)	Not belong to MaCRI (Domestic Residence) (35 y.o. or under)	Not belong to MaCRI (Domestic Residence)	Not belong to MaCRI (Domestic Residence) (35 y.o. or under)	Not belong to MaCRI (Domestic Residence)	Not belong to MaCRI (Domestic Residence)
Collaborator at MaCRI	×	×	○ Collaborator	○ Collaborator	○ Collaborator	○ Respective persons
Equipment Usage	○	○	○	○	×	×
Utilizing Sediment Cores curated at MaCRI	×	×	△	△	△	×
Application Period	February August	February August	February August	February August	February August	February (August)
Research Period	Half of the year (First or Second Semester) or 1 year (2 semesters)	Half of the year (First or Second Semester) or 1 year (2 semesters)	Half of the year (First or Second Semester) or 1 year (2 semesters)	Half of the year (First or Second Semester) or 1 year (2 semesters)	Half of the year (First or Second Semester) or 1 year (2 semesters)	—
Cost for Equipment Usage	Free	Free	Free	Free	—	—
Research Grant from MaCRI	None	Paying travel expense /per research project (1 time a year)	None	Paying travel expense /per research project (1 time a year)	None	• Meeting operating expense • A part of travel expense

○: Required, △: Recommended, ×: No need

2) Eligible Research Projects

Research projects relating to the following research fields:

- a) Research projects on Drilling Earth Science regarding International Ocean Discovery Project (IODP³), its predecessor program (such as IODP), and International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP)
- b) Research projects on Drilling Earth Science NOT regarding IODP³ (including IODP)/ICDP
- c) Basic research on Earth Planetary Science
- d) Research projects on submarine energy and mineral resources
- e) Interdisciplinary research such as Earth Planetary Science, Life Science, or others

3) Equipment and Facility Usage:

Please refer to the “The List of Primary Facilities for JURC-DES” available on the MaCRI website (*3) to check which research instruments could be utilized.

The Kochi Core Center Open Facility System (KOFS, hereafter) (*4) allows applicants to use several fee-based facilities managed by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science for Technology (JAMSTEC, hereafter). If applicants wish to use KOFS, they should **consult with the respective persons in charge**.

Applicants should also refer to the “Facility Usage Guidelines for Joint Use/Research at Marine Core Research Institute, Kochi University” and adhere to the instructions provided by the MaCRI Director when utilizing the research facilities.

Please note that the research equipment and facilities managed by MaCRI and JAMSTEC are jointly operated under KOFS. This is an initiative of the Project for Promoting Public Utilization of Advanced Research Infrastructure, funded by the Ministry of Education, Sports, Science, Culture, and Technology.

(*3) <https://www.kochi-u.ac.jp/marine-core/share/national.html>

(*4) https://www.kochi-core.jp/kyoyo/en/index_e.html

4) Research Period

[First Semester]

Specific periods between April 1st and September 30th, 2026

[Second Semester]

Specific periods between October 1st, 2026 and March 31st, 2027

5) Eligibility

a) Researchers affiliated with universities or research institutes (including graduate students)

b) Individuals deemed suitable by the MaCRI Director

NOTE: Graduate students are eligible to be applicants and collaborators, while undergraduate students are NOT.

6) Application Method (Please refer to the Application Flow Chart):

An online application system using Microsoft Forms has been introduced from this fiscal year. As a result, part of the application procedure has changed from the previous process. When applying, please follow the instructions below. Applicants are also required to consult with the respective MaCRI faculty member in charge (for Categories A and AY) or their co-investigators at MaCRI (for Categories B, BY, and C) before submitting an application.

0. Review the Application Guidelines and prepare all required application documents and materials.

1. Submit a Prior Consultation Form via Microsoft Forms.

2. After submitting the Prior Consultation Form, applicants will receive an automatic confirmation email. Following receipt of this email, please discuss your proposed application with the appropriate MaCRI faculty member or co-investigators.

3. Complete and submit the Formal Application Form online via Microsoft Forms based on the outcome of the prior consultation.

*If an applicant intends to submit multiple applications, a separate Prior Consultation Form and Formal Application Form must be submitted for each application.

Please upload the following forms based on your application categories:

AB1 style: A: Joint Use Program, AY: Joint Use Program (for Early Career), B: Joint Research (Equipment Usage), BY: Joint Research (Equipment Usage for Early Career)

Attached for AB1 style – ITRAX machine time arrangement survey: If applicants require the use of the “XRF Core Scanner (ITRAX)” in the above categories, please attach the survey. ITRAX receives many applications compared to its limited availability. Therefore, applicants must provide information about “Preferred number of days for use” and also submit this attached survey to indicate their minimum required periods for its usage.

C1 style: Joint Research Program (General)

M1 style: M Research Meeting

[Submitting Application Forms]

Please submit the appropriate Microsoft Forms for your application category:

For Prior Consultation [A, AY, B, and BY]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/LKEZALpRg3>

For Prior Consultation [C and M]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/UVr7B0JUca>

For Formal Application [A, AY, B, and BY]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Xwaph9Xgnf>

For Formal Application [C]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Rzg0uhaQwG>

For Formal Application [M]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/pZHwfl7tjc>

Applicants whose applications are approved will be required to submit a consent form signed by the head, supervisor, or director of their affiliated institution.

7) Notes for Application Forms Preparation

- Applicants should submit the Prior Consultation Form via Microsoft Forms after carefully discussing their proposed application with the appropriate MaCRI faculty member or the equipment manager responsible for the equipment to be used. Applicants are required to provide detailed descriptions of their research project in a format comparable to that used for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (*KAKENHI*) applications. If the applicants are graduate students, they should seek their supervisor's support to prepare the applications.
- Applicant Details (Formal Application Form): If a research project is a continuation of a previous approved project under the same project title, applicants should select "Continuation Project" in the Formal Application Microsoft Forms A, B, and C. Research projects that have been suspended for a period of 6 months and two years may still be considered continuation projects at the discretion of JURC-DES.
- Sample Information (Application Form_Word/PDF): Applicants are required to provide detailed information about the samples analyzed using research equipment at MaCRI. This is fundamental information for determining the appropriateness of equipment usage and the machine time for each piece of equipment. Applicants are also required to provide information confirming whether they have obtained permissions for each sample from the respective owners. This is an essential standard to prevent improper research practices. Please refer to the following lists for information regarding sample owners.
 - * Samples obtained by researchers: Name of individual researchers
 - * Samples obtained by research expeditions conducted by research vessels owned by JAMSTEC: JAMSTEC
 - * Marine Sediment Core Samples obtained by *Chikyu*: JAMSTEC

* Marine Sediment Core Samples obtained by JOIDES Resolution: NSF

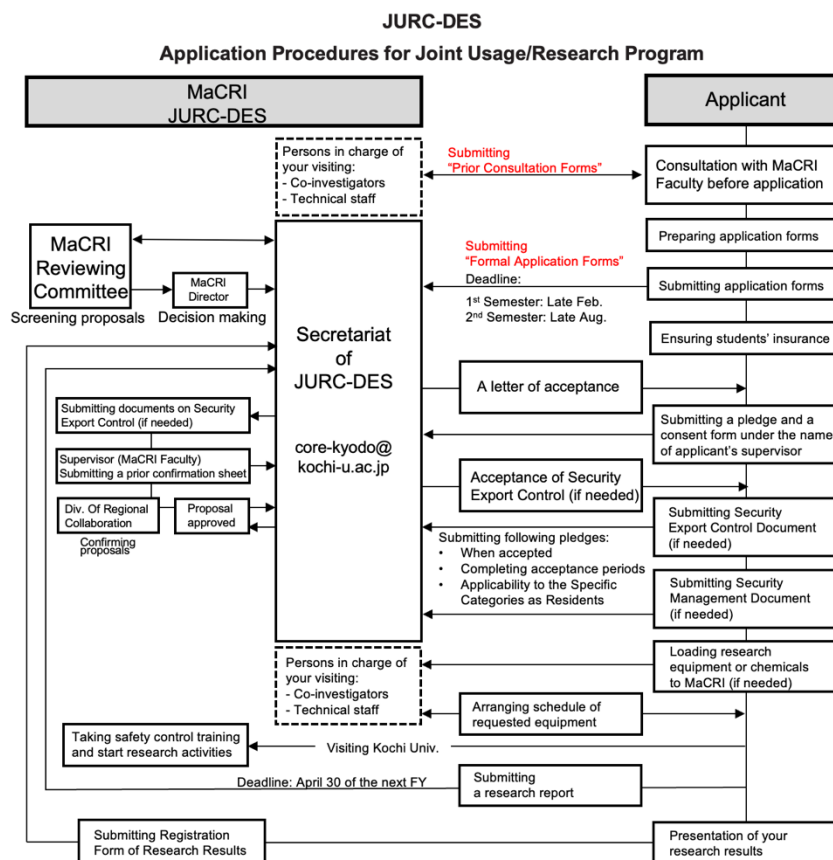
* Marine Sediment Core Samples obtained by Mission Specific Platform: ESO (ECORD Science Operator)

8) Legal Compliance

If samples are protected under regulations or laws (including biological samples), applicants are required to refer to the “Laws and Regulations” section and select appropriate items.

For example:

1. Fauna, flora, and processed goods (such as corals, giant clam, or ivory) protected under the Washington Treaty. For more information, refer to the following related website:
https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/CITES/index.html
2. Geological and biological samples, such as rocks, minerals, and animals, collected in areas designated as World Heritage Sites, National Historic Sites, Scenic Sites, and Natural Monuments
3. Geological and biological samples such as rocks, minerals, and animals, collected in areas of National/Quasi-National Park or Special Protection Zones
4. Applicants must adhere to the “Convention on Biological Diversity” and the “Nagoya Protocol” with respect to access to genetic resources and access and benefit-sharing, especially when using genetic resources from overseas. Research projects in the field of biology that use marine sediment cores (those collected in exclusive economic zones) or soil samples collected overseas are subjected to the Nagoya Protocol. For more information, refer to the related website:
<https://www.cbd.int/abs>
5. Samples (such as soil samples) related to the Plant Protection Act Chapter 7
For more information, refer to the related website:



9) Application Period

Applicants must submit each application form via Microsoft Forms

Style AB1 (and Style AB1 Attachment – ITRAX Machine Time Arrangement Questionnaire) or Style

C1 documents **before the deadline**.

[For First Semester Only /Both First and Second Semesters]

The application period:

From Monday, February 2, 2026 to Friday, February 20, 2026, by noon

[Only Second Semester]

The application period:

From Monday, July 27, 2026 to Sunday August 23, 2026, by noon (*5)

If applicants wish to submit the application documents outside of these periods, they should submit the All-Year-Round Application Form (*5). It will be reviewed based on its academic and educational necessity and urgency. It also must be submitted at least one month prior to the research periods. Style

AB3

For Prior Consultation [A, AY, B, and BY]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/LKEZALpRg3>

For Prior Consultation [C and M]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/UVr7B0JUca>

For Formal Application [A, AY, B, and BY]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Xwaph9Xgnf>

For Formal Application [C]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Rzg0uhaQwG>

For Formal Application [M]: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/pZHwfl7tjc>

*5: If the total number of days operating the “XRF Core Scanner (ITRAX)” exceeds the determined maximum allowable operating period (50% of the total available days) by the February application round, no additional applications for ITRAX use will not be accepted in the August application round (application deadline: August 23). (Applicants who plan to use the ITRAX during the second semester are therefore encourage to apply for the category covering both the 1st and 2nd semesters.) Applicants can obtain the latest information of the ITRAX availability and operating schedules during the prior consultation process with the respective MaCRI faculty member responsible for their application.

10) Adoption or Rejections (Referring to the Application Flow Chart)

The MaCRI Reviewing Committee screens all research projects, and the MaCRI Director determines the results. Each applicant will receive their results via email.

[For First Semester Only /Both First and Second Semesters]

Results will be shared at late March 2026.

[Only Second Semester]

Results will be shared at late September 2026.

[AB3 Application] Appropriately three weeks after application submission

Selected applicants are required to submit a pledge and a consent form signed by their supervisors after receiving a letter of acceptance.

Selected applicants are required to determine the date and time for equipment usage at MaCRI by consulting with a respective MaCRI faculty member in charge (A and AY) or co-investigators (B, BY, C). If the selected projects cannot be conducted according to the planned schedule, please contact the secretariat with written documents explaining the reasons.

Information about selected applicants, such as approved number, research title, applicant name, and affiliation, will be published on the MaCRI website. If there is an issue with public disclosure, please inform the secretariat.

11) Change Request

If applicants wish to modify any part of the research project, including the addition or alternation of individuals using the MaCRI facilities, they should consult with a respective MaCRI faculty member in charge (A and AY) or co-investigators (B, BY, C) and promptly submit a change request to the secretariat (The request may not be accepted due to reasons).

12) Expenses

All expenses related to the use of research facilities and the receipt of technology will essentially be free for the selected research projects. Selected applicants may need to cover costs for commodities related to research activities.

13) Travel Expenses

JURC-DES covers travel expenses, including accommodation fees, for selected applicants of the (AY) Joint Use Program for Early Career and the (BY) Joint Research Program for Early Career, as needed. Please check the appropriate section on the Formal Application Form of Microsoft Forms and provide details about the travel expenses support. Since the amount of support is limited, JURC-DES has established the following criteria:

- a) Travel expense subsidy is provided only once per fiscal year for one applicant. Same applicant with different research projects must not apply for the travel expense subsidy multiple times in the same fiscal year.
- b) Only February and August applications can apply the travel expense subsidy, and AB3 applicants (the all-year-round application) are not eligible for it
- c) Only the applicant's travel expenses are covered
- d) The total cost must not exceed ¥100,000. Accommodation fees should reflect the actual expenses, and applicants should primarily use on-campus or similar accommodation facilities. No daily allowance will be paid.
- e) The maximum number of approvals for travel expenses will be around 20 in the fiscal year of 2026 (Not all applicants may be offered travel expenses). If the February application exceeds the maximum number, the August application might not be eligible for the travel expense subsidy.

14) Intellectual Property Right

All intellectual property rights shall, in principle, be vested in the institutions/organizations to which the applicants and equipment users belong, in accordance with the respective regulations concerning inventions. In instances where a MaCRI faculty member's intellectual contribution is recognized, it is incumbent upon the applicants to engage in discussions pertaining to the ownership of the rights. Should the research project of the applicant yield, or be anticipated to yield, inventions as delineated in Section 2, Chapter 1 of the Kochi University Regulations on Inventions, it is mandatory for the applicant to submit a report to the Secretariat. In the event that the institutions/organizations to which the equipment users belong undertake the application procedures for inventions themselves, it is incumbent upon them to submit a report to the Secretariat prior to the application for intellectual property rights pertaining to the relevant inventions.

NOTES:

Section 2, Chapter 1 of the Kochi University Regulations on Inventions defines “invention” as follows:

- An entity subject to a patent right is referred to as “invention”
- An entity subject to utility model rights is referred to as “device”
- An entity subject to a design right, a trademark right, layout design license, or a copyright of programs is referred to as “creation”
- An entity relating to variety registration rights is referred to as “breeding”
- An entity subject to know-hows is referred to as “conception”

15) Research Results (Please refer to the Application Flow Chart)

Applicants selected for the FY2026 Joint Use and Research Program are required to submit a research report in either **Style AB2** or **Style C2** to the Secretariat upon completion of the program, no later than April 30, 2027, by 5:00 PM. These research reports will be published in MaCRI’s annual report and on its official website. Selected applicants are also required to submit a “Registration Form of Research Results (excel)” along with their research outcomes such as published papers, conference presentations, or degree theses. The form should be submitted with electronic data (PDF) or hard copies of these materials. The author’s name, affiliation, co-authors, paper title, journal volume, and research number will be disclosed as achievements of MaCRI. Selected applicants may be invited to present their research results at symposiums organized by MaCRI.

【Acknowledgement】

Upon publication of the research results, it is required to appropriately acknowledge that the work was conducted in collaboration with JURC-DES, either as Joint Use or Joint Research. An example is shown below:

This study was performed under the cooperative research program of Marine Core Research Institute (MaCRI) , Kochi University

<Accept No.> (with the support of JAMSTEC)※.

*The Content within brackets should be included only when utilizing equipment marked with # in the List of Equipment for Joint Use/Research Program.

Please note that only research papers that include this acknowledgement will be recognized as JURC-DES achievements and will be subject to evaluation by MEXT. Therefore, it is imperative for applicants to ensure this acknowledgement is present in their papers.

16) Contact Information

The Secretariat of Joint Use and Research Center,
Marine Core Research Institute, Kochi University
B200, Monobe, Nankoku-shi, Kochi 7838502 JAPAN

TEL: 088-864-6712

Email: core-kyodo@kochi-u.ac.jp

Kochi University and JAMSTEC jointly manage a research facility known as the Kochi Core Center. The Joint Use and Joint Research Programs are operated in close collaboration with JAMSTEC.
