

ILRE 2026 Call for Applications

1. Purpose

The Uehiro Laboratory for Oceanography conducts research and education based on oceanography, aiming to foster human resources capable of contributing globally to the realization of a sustainable society through a comprehensive understanding and conservation of the Earth's environment under global warming, as well as education focused on practical training and international exchange. As part of this effort, undergraduate and graduate students are dispatched to field training programs related to oceanography provided by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Through this program, participants are expected to interact with faculty and students from diverse backgrounds at the University of Hawai'i, gain a deeper understanding of the tropical environment and culture of Hawai'i—completely different from Hokkaido—and acquire knowledge and skills that will enable them to contribute to solving various issues surrounding the marine environment.

This call is open to students who wish to participate in the Instructor-Led Research Experience (ILRE) conducted at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

2. Eligibility

Fourth-year undergraduate students enrolled in the School of Fisheries Sciences, and master's or doctoral students enrolled in the Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, in the academic year 2026.

3. Training Contents and Schedule

Students will engage in practical research activities on specific topics in oceanography, collaborating with faculty and researchers at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, within the laboratories affiliated with the Uehiro Center for the Advancement of Oceanography, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology.

Training Period: August 31 – September 26, 2026 (tentative; details will be arranged after selection in consultation with the hosting faculty)

Expected Supervising Faculty:

- Dr. Hyodae Seo (Oceans, Climate, and Renewable Energy Research)
- Dr. Nyssa Silbiger (Understanding how coastal ecosystems function and respond to change)
- Dr. Sachiko Yoshida (Ocean circulation, dynamics, spatial and temporal changes in water properties)

4. Number of Participants

One student per faculty member.

5. Requirements

Applicants must possess an intermediate level of English proficiency to ensure effective communication and participation (approximately equivalent to a TOEFL iBT total score of 32 or higher).

* Students will engage in field observations using a small boat and perform snorkeling activities for scientific research during Dr. Silbiger's lecture. We kindly request that only those who are physically able and comfortable with such fieldwork apply.

6. Financial Support

Travel expenses from Hakodate to Hawai'i, local accommodation costs, and overseas travel insurance fees will be covered. If a visa is required, the cost for obtaining it will also be provided.

7. Accommodation

During the program, participants will primarily stay at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

8. Application Procedure

Application Deadline: Sunday, December 21, 2025

Required Documents: (All application documents must be prepared in English)

Download all necessary forms from the announcement section of the Uehiro Laboratory for Oceanography

1. Application Form (Hawaii_Field_Training_Application_Form)
2. Academic Transcript
3. Please submit your TOEFL, TOEIC, or other English proficiency test scores taken within the past two years (optional). Submitted scores will be used only as supplementary information to assess language proficiency.
4. Copy of residence status (e.g., residence card) – for non-Japanese nationals only.
5. Letter of Recommendation from the supervisor
([StudentNumber]_Firstname_Lastname_Letter_of_Rec_ILRE)

Submission Method:

Documents 1–4: Convert into a single PDF file and send via email to the address below. Name the file “[Student

Number]_Firstname_Lastname_ILRE_application.pdf”.

Include both student number and English name in the file name.

Email: [ulo\(at\)fish.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:ulo(at)fish.hokudai.ac.jp)

Email subject: “[Student Number]_Firstname_Lastname_ILRE_Application”

Document 5: The supervisor should send the recommendation letter directly. Save as PDF and name it as

[Student Number]_Firstname_Lastname_Letter_of_Rec_ILRE”.

Please send the email with the subject “[Student Number]_Firstname_Lastname_ILRE_Letter_of_Rec” to the address below.
Email: ulo(at)fish.hokudai.ac.jp

9. Screening and Notification of Results

Applicants will undergo a document review and an interview. After the document review, successful candidates will be invited for an English interview in mid-January. Interview dates will be announced in early January via email to the contact address provided in the application form. The screening will be conducted fairly by faculty members from both the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, and the University of Hawai‘i. Final results will be announced by email around February–March 2026.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Alignment of motivation with the purpose of this program.
- Relevant academic knowledge and English proficiency required for the training.
- Communication skills.

10. Withdrawal Policy

In principle, withdrawal after notification of selection is not permitted. Applicants should confirm and coordinate with other important schedules (e.g., exams, entrance exams, or job hunting) before applying. If unable to participate due to illness or injury, contact the organizers immediately.

11. Handling of Personal Information

Personal information included in the application materials will be strictly managed and used only for the following purposes, except when required by law:

- (1) Screening and notification of acceptance by the selection committee.
- (2) Providing information to travel agencies for arranging flights, accommodation, and travel insurance.
- (3) Sharing with responsible faculty and staff for safety management during the program.
- (4) Providing information to Hokkaido University, the Uehiro Foundation, and media organizations for public relations purposes (affiliation, year, and name may be used for publicity).

12. Other Notes

After the training program, participants must submit a report and may be asked to present their results at a debriefing session.

13. Contact Information

Uehiro Laboratory for Oceanography, School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University

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