HIMB 2027 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 HIMB Field Intensive Courses conducted at the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), University of Hawai‘i.

2. Eligibility

Master’s or doctoral students enrolled in the Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, in the academic year 2027.

3. Course Schedule

We are recruiting students to participate in the following courses. Each course will be conducted over a period of three to five weeks.

	Course Title	**Tentative Schedule**
MBIO 630	Remote Sensing Applications in Marine Science	Aug. 23 – Sep. 17, 2027 (Tentative)
MBIO 630	Coral Reef Structure and Function	Sep. 20 – Oct.15 (Tentative)

4. Number of Participants

Up to two students per course.

5. Prerequisite

Applicants must possess an intermediate level of English proficiency to ensure effective communication and participation (approximately equivalent to a TOEFL iBT score of 32 to 61 or higher). Depending on the course, undergraduate-level knowledge and computer skills may also be required. Applicants must be committed to fulfilling their

responsibilities as exchange students, including submitting required reports and blog posts and actively participating in the post-program debriefing session. Applicants must understand that the program schedule may be subject to sudden changes due to local circumstances and be able to respond flexibly by following instructions from the University of Hawai‘i. Applicants must carefully read and fully understand all information and instructions provided in advance and comply with them.

* Students may engage in field observations using a small boat and perform snorkeling activities for scientific research. 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 stay at the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology, located in Kāne‘ohe Bay, O‘ahu or University of Hawai‘I at Mānoa.

8. Application Procedure

Application Deadline: December 16, 2026 (Wed)

Required Documents (Can be written in either English or Japanese):
Download all necessary forms from the announcement section (News) of the Uehiro Laboratory for Oceanography website.

1. Application Form (Hawaii_Field_Training_Application_Form)
2. Academic Transcript
3. Please submit the scores of English proficiency tests (e.g., TOEFL, TOEIC) taken within the past two years, if available. Submitted scores will be used only as supplementary information regarding language proficiency.
4. Copy of a residence status (e.g., residence card) – for non-Japanese nationals only.
5. Supervisor’s Confirmation Form ([StudentNumber]_Firstname_Lastname_Supervisor_Confirmation_Form_HIMB)

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_HIMB_Application
Include both student number and English name in the file name.
Email: ulo(at)fish.hokudai.ac.jp
Email subject: “[Student Number]_Firstname_Lastname_HIMB_Application”

Document 5: The supervisor must send the Supervisor’s Confirmation Form directly. Save the file as PDF and name it as

“[StudentNumber]_Firstname_Lastname_Supervisor_Confirmation_Form.pdf”.

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

9. Screening and Notification of Results

Applicants will be evaluated through a two-stage selection process consisting of a document review and an interview. Only applicants who pass the document review will be invited to an interview conducted in English in mid-January. Shortlisted applicants will be notified of their interview dates in early January via the email address provided in the application form. The final selection results will be announced by email between January and February 2026.

Evaluation Criteria:
- Alignment of motivation with the purpose of this program.
- Relevant academic knowledge and English proficiency required for the course.
- 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., regular 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

During the program, participants are required to write an article describing their activities and learning experiences. After completing the program, participants must submit a final report and present their outcomes at a reporting session or other designated event.

13. Contact Information

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