

FY 2026 ArCS III Finland/Arctic Field Course

1. Overview and Objectives of the Field Course

This field course will be conducted in northern Finland in collaboration with the University of Lapland, the University of Oulu, and the Arctic Space Centre of the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI). Through field experiences and lectures by experts, participants will comprehensively study the climate, environment, society, and culture of the Arctic region and deepen their understanding of the practice and methodology of Arctic research. The course aims to provide young Japanese researchers with practical learning opportunities and experience for conducting research in the Arctic region, serving as a foundation for carrying out independent research. It will also promote interaction and networking with researchers of the same generation from overseas, as well as with experienced researchers.

2. Participants

Master's and doctoral students enrolled at Japanese universities (all fields related to the Arctic are eligible). The number of participants will be determined based on the number of applications, budget, and necessary expenses.

3. Faculty/Accompanying Staff

Juha Saunavaara (Associate Professor, Arctic Research Center, Hokkaido University)

Takafumi Hirata (Specially Appointed Associate Professor, Arctic Research Center, Hokkaido University)

4. Tentative Program (January 23–31, 2027)

Day 1: Depart Japan

Day 2: Arrival in Rovaniemi; city orientation and visit to Santa Claus Village

Day 3: University of Lapland Arctic Centre (lectures on international relations, Arctic governance and law, Arctic anthropology and Indigenous studies, green transition, northern ecosystems, geoengineering, etc.; science communication; visit to the Arktikum Science Centre and Regional Museum of Lapland); programs around Rovaniemi

Day 4: Continue lectures at the University of Lapland Arctic Centre; travel to Sodankylä

Day 5: Finnish Meteorological Institute / Arctic Space Centre / Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory (facility tours, introduction to research and observations, practical training in snow cover observations); travel to Rovaniemi

Day 6: Travel to Oulu; lectures at the University of Oulu (changes in biodiversity and their

impacts on ecosystems, permafrost, snow dynamics and hydrology in cold regions, Sámi Indigenous culture and resilience, health in the Arctic, sustainable use of northern natural resources, economics, history); programs around Oulu (including a visit to the frozen sea)

Day 7: Lectures at the University of Oulu

Day 8: Concluding discussion, reflection on learning outcomes, collection of feedback; departure from Finland

Day 9: Arrival back in Japan

4. Expenses Covered

- (1) Transportation expenses: Round-trip transportation, local transportation, etc.
- (2) Daily allowances and accommodation expenses: Provided in accordance with the regulations established by Hokkaido University.
- (3) Visa application fee: Costs associated with obtaining a visa and other required entry documents for Finland.
- (4) Overseas travel insurance
- (5) Other expenses: Admission fees and other expenses deemed necessary for participation in this field course.

5. Application and Selection

September 25–October 16, 2026: Open call for applications

October 30, 2026: Notification of selection results

Mid-November: Orientation (online)

Application Documents:

- Statement of purpose (motivation for applying, relevance of the field course to the applicant's own research activities, how participation in the field course will be beneficial, and achievements demonstrating the applicant's suitability for participation)
- Degree certificate or certificate of enrollment
- Residence card or other document certifying status of residence (foreign nationals only)
- Documentation certifying language proficiency

Selection Criteria:

- Whether the applicant's motivation is consistent with the content and objectives of the program
- Whether the applicant has sufficient language and communication skills

Requirements After Completion of the Program:

- Submission of a report reflecting on the learning and experiences gained
- Presentation on activities undertaken if a special session for this program is held
- Cooperation with outreach activities (website, public events, etc.)

6. Contact Information

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