



ArCS II Overseas Fellowship Program
Application Guidelines of the Program for Short-Term Visit
for Graduate Students and Researchers for FY2021

1. Purpose

One of the aims of the ArCS II project is to train early careers who actively participate in international discussions on various problems concerning the Arctic, and to promote international partnerships through them. This program supports graduate students and early career researchers based in universities/research institutes of Japan to participate in international conferences, give presentations, collect information, visit universities/research institutes overseas, have discussions, exchange ideas, conduct field work, etc. Through this dispatch, we expect further developments of graduate students' and researchers' researches and international research network.

Due to the global spread of COVID-19, we conducted only short-term dispatch programs in FY2020 and also supported those who attended international conferences and courses held online or in Japan, considering the fact that many international conferences were held online. In FY2021, we start middle- and long-term dispatch program (1-6 months) in addition to the short-term one and continuously support those who attend international conferences online or in Japan.

Examples of international conferences to be held in FY2021 (including online ones)
as of February, 2021. Please check the latest information by yourself.

- EGU General Assembly (Germany) April 19 to 30, 2021, online
- Arctic Circle Japan Forum (Tokyo) May 7 to 10, 2021
- The 26th International Conference on Port and Ocean Engineering Under Arctic Conditions (Russia) July 14 to 18, 2021, online or hybrid format
- The 10th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (Russia) July 15 to 19, 2021
- ISOPE 2021-The 31st International Ocean and Polar Engineering Conference (Greece) July 20 to 25, online
- International Symposium on Interactions of Ice Sheets and Glaciers with the Ocean (U.S.A.) July 27 to June 2, 2021
- AGU Fall Meeting 2021 (U.S.A.) December 13 to 17, 2021

2. Framework

- (1) Target fields

All fields related to the Arctic

(2) Examples of eligible projects

-To participate in international conferences/training courses, collect information, build a network of people, and acquire knowledge and skills. We also support to participate in online international conferences and courses.

*In FY2021, we support those held in Japan if they are international events.

*Applicable to researchers: in case of attending international conferences, you are required to give presentations, in principle.

-To visit universities/research institutes related to the Arctic research, have discussions and exchange research information.

-To conduct field work in the Arctic, visit co-researchers at their laboratories and carry out research activities

(3) Period of visits

In principle, within one month from the departure date from Japan.

3. Number of candidates

Several candidates for the first period of dispatch

4. Eligible person

① A Master's/Doctoral student who belongs to university in Japan*¹

② A researcher who has obtained his/her Master's/Doctoral degree within 10 years as of April 1, 2021*²

*¹ Undergraduate/research students are eligible if they are expected to enter graduate school by the time when the dispatch starts

*² Within 10 years excluding the periods of maternity/childcare leave

5. Application procedures

(1) Application forms

Please submit a copy of each of the following documents from ① to ⑥.

① Application form

② Itinerary and budget plan

③ Certificate of student status at graduate school (graduate students)

Certificate of degree or copy of graduation certificate (researchers)

④ Copy of the documents showing the status of residence (resident card, alien registration card, etc.) *only for those who have foreign nationality

⑤ Materials showing an overview of your plan

- Documents showing the consent of your host researcher if you visit universities/research institutes

- Research plan if you conduct field work
 - Conferences and courses details (such as pages of their websites) and an abstract (draft) if you give a presentation
 - ⑥ Materials showing information on your destination's immigration restriction and activity limitation for travelers from Japan (copy of the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, etc.) Please submit this even if there is no restriction or limitation.
- *If you have any questions concerning application documents, please contact us.

(2) Period of application

First recruiting round

Recruitment period: from Monday, February 1st, 2021 to Friday, February 26th (3 pm), 2021

Starting period of the visits: from late-April 2021 to late-March 2022

*We are planning the second recruiting round in summer.

*The dispatch will be cancelled in case it becomes impossible to travel due to COVID-19.

(3) Application method

Please send a complete set of application documents converted into a PDF file to the following e-mail address with the subject “Application Form for ArCS II Overseas Fellowship Program.

E-Mail: arcs2_HU_EC@arc.hokudai.ac.jp

6. Assessment and decision

The working group formed for ArCS II Priority Subject 1: “Capacity Building and Research Promotion” will assess the applications and decide on the successful candidates. The results will be sent by e-mail to the e-mail address in the application form approximately one month after the end of the application period.

The following criteria are used for assessment (for your reference in preparing the application form)

(1) Requirements

- Whether the applicant has the consent from the current supervisor
- Whether conditions such as target fields, eligibility and the period of the visit are met
- Whether the applicant has materials showing an overview of the plan

(2) Assessment criteria

- Suitability with the purpose of the ArCS II project
- Whether description of the purpose and plan of the travel is specific
- Whether the applicant is well prepared to accomplish the plan
- Whether the plan and budget of the travel are consistent for the purpose
- Whether this dispatch program can enhance applicant’s Arctic research afterwards

- Sufficient language and communication skills

(3) Others

- For those who have applied, or have been accepted and dispatched by GRENE, ArCS or ArCS II projects in the past are eligible for this program.
- All applicants can apply again next year regardless of whether you apply or will be dispatched by this year's program

7. Processes for successful applicants

For successful applicants, the procedures for the visit are as follows:

Participants of the program must begin the necessary actions according to the instructions by the person in charge of the ArCS II Overseas Fellowship Program of Hokkaido University

(1) Orientation

All successful applicants will have an orientation regarding the aim of the program, explanations about the reviewers' comments on the visit, and logistics information via online and e-mails.

(2) Administrative procedures

Successful applicants will receive forms such as a bank-account registration form together with a copy of the program guidebook by e-mail. Please start the administrative procedures according to the guidebook.

8. Expenses covered

The following allowances will be covered by Hokkaido University according to the university's rules.

- (1) Travel: Expenses for the round trip travel between the institution of the applicant and the visiting institution. Hokkaido University will purchase flight tickets.
- (2) Accommodation: Expenses for accommodation will be paid according to the rules prescribed in the program. Please reserve accommodation by yourself.
- (3) Electronic Travel Authorization (ESTA, eTA etc.) application: Expenses for the application for ESTA, etc. Please apply for it by yourself.
- (4) Miscellaneous: The fees for attending international conferences and/or courses.
- (5) Other: PCR test expenses

9. Restriction on dispatch support due to COVID-19

The dispatch will be cancelled in case it becomes impossible to travel due to COVID-19, even after the applicants are selected for this program. Cancellation charges for flight tickets, accommodation, insurance, etc. will be covered by Hokkaido University.

Participants cannot travel to the following regions/countries. Furthermore, it is required that

both Hokkaido University and your current affiliation approve your travel.

- Countries prohibiting the entries of travelers from Japan.
- Countries/regions requiring you to obtain a visa for short-term stay. (except ESTA etc.)
(Please refer to https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html for information on exemption of short-term stay visa.)
- Countries requiring several days or weeks of quarantine at hotels or other places after entering the country

The following costs will NOT be covered by Hokkaido University.

-Any costs incurred in association with self-quarantine after returning to Japan, such as accommodation fees.

*If you have any questions, please contact us.

Please check by yourself the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/covid19/pdfhistory_world.html) for the latest COVID-19 information on your destination's immigration restriction and activity limitation after entering the country from Japan.

10. Travel insurance

During the dispatch, participants must be covered by overseas travel insurance contracted by Hokkaido University. The basic insurance premiums, including the followings, will be covered by the university.

- ① Death from a disability/disease
- ② Disabilities after injuries
- ③ Liability
- ④ Expenses for medical treatment/rescue (including those for COVID-19)

11. Personal information

Personal information in the application documents will be treated with the utmost care and used exclusively for conducting work by Hokkaido University and the ArCS II project. The submitted applications will be disposed by the office after the assessments are completed. When participants are chosen for the program, their names, the organization, and reports submitted after their return to Japan will be published in a report.

12. Participants' obligations

(1) During the dispatch

Participants of the program have an obligation to focus on the activities as per their travel plans submitted in the application documents. See item 13 below for details.

(2) After the dispatch

① The obligation to submit a report

Participants have to submit a report in a prescribed form to Hokkaido University and the ArCS II office within two weeks after the end of the visit. The submitted reports will be published on the ArCS II website.

② The obligation to present the results

After the dispatch, participants will be requested to present the research results of their visits in the ArCS II meetings such as its general meeting. *Travel expenses for the meetings will be covered by Hokkaido University.

③ The obligation for cooperation

Participants need to cooperate with Hokkaido University and the ArCS II office by answering a questionnaire concerning the Arctic research and capacity building supported by ArCS II.

④ The obligation to participate in the information exchange groups

Participants need to participate in the SNS community and gatherings consisting of the participants of the ArCS and ArCS II dispatch programs.

13. Compliance requirements

Participants must comply with the following requirements during and after the visit.

① To carry out participants' obligations

② Not to accept any other financial support overlapping the cost provided by this program

③ Not to receive money fraudulently

④ Not to use the research fund fraudulently

⑤ Not to act against public order and morals

If participants have violated the above compliance matters or if they have been judged to fall under any of the followings by Hokkaido University, the university may take the following actions retroactively: cancel their acceptance, suspend the fund payment, and request the repayment of the fund. Participants have to submit a written pledge on the compliance requirements after their successful applications.

① The participant cannot continue his/her research due to illness, etc.

② There is a serious issue with the progress of the research, and it is judged that achieving the expected goal is either impossible or extremely difficult.

③ A serious misstatement was found in the application documents.

④ The participant has been found not qualified for the program.

⑤ The participant has been found to have fraudulently used the research fund, committed fraud in relation thereto, or acted against public order and morals in the past.

⑥ The participant has made unauthorized changes to the plan such as a temporary return to Japan or shortening the period of the visit

- ⑦ The participant has failed to follow the instructions given by Hokkaido University in violation of the conditions written in the program's guidebook

14. Information regarding international conferences and courses

Information on the international conferences and courses on the Arctic are found at the following websites:

○ARCUS (Arctic Research Consortium of the United States)

URL: <https://www.arcus.org/>

○Arctic Portal

The Arctic Gateway

URL: <http://arcticportal.org/>

15. Contact information

c/o the person in charge of the ArCS II Overseas Fellowship Program

Arctic Research Center, Hokkaido University

2F North Campus Integrated Research Center (the Frontier Research Center for Advanced Material and Life Science)

Nishi 11-Chome, Kita 21-Jo, Kita-Ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido

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