

Call for Applications — Kyushu University (for PhD students)



— An Immersive Field Course across Ecuador’s Diverse Forest Ecosystems

Exploring the Frontiers of Forest Ecosystems and International Collaborative Research —

APRU FELLI Research-Intensive Field Course

Foundations of Living Lab Research:

Collaboration and Design in Forest Ecosystems in Ecuador



July 20 – August 16 2026

1. Course Overview

Kyushu University invites applications from PhD students to participate in the “**APRU FELLI Research-Intensive Field Course 2026**,” a field-based intensive course organized by the **Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)**. The course is conducted as part of APRU’s **Forest Ecosystems Living Lab Initiative (FELLI)**, which brings together universities with research forests and experimental field sites across Asia, North America, and Latin America.

Through immersive fieldwork, participants will develop and apply **research design and implementation strategies** to address complex socio-ecological issues in real-world contexts. For detailed course information, please visit the official APRU website: <https://www.apru.org/event/apru-felli-research-intensive-field-course-2026/>

Key Features of the Course

- **An immersive field course across Ecuador’s diverse forest ecosystems**, including the Amazon region, cloud forests, and highland páramo ecosystems
- **Intensive training in research design for interdisciplinary and intercultural collaboration**, emphasizing critical thinking, reflexivity, and the appreciation of multiple perspectives
- **Hands-on experience with Living Lab–based research approaches**, designed for international collaborative research contexts
- **Long-term international research networking opportunities** with doctoral students and faculty members from APRU member universities

2. Course Schedule and Structure

Period and Format:

- **Online sessions:** July 20–23, 2026
- **On-site field course:** July 25–August 16, 2026

Location: Ecuador (various forest stations in the country)

Host Universities:

- Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador)
- The University of British Columbia (Canada)

3. Call for Applications from Kyushu University

Kyushu University strategically promotes the development of **globally engaged early career researchers (ECRs)** through international university consortia such as APRU. In line with this policy, Kyushu University will select **PhD students** to participate in this course as follows:

Number of Participants

- **Up to two (2) students**, selected through an internal screening process

Course Fee

- **USD 5,000 (approximately JPY 800,000)**

The course fee includes accommodation, meals, in-country transportation within Ecuador, and all field-course-related activities. Participants approved by APRU are required to pay a **deposit of USD 1,500 by May 18, 2026**. Please note that **international airfare between Japan and Ecuador**, travel insurance, and visa-related expenses are **not included** and must be covered by the participant.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be enrolled in a **doctoral program at Kyushu University** during the program period and as of **October 1, 2026**
- Have a strong interest in international and interdisciplinary research (Applicants from all academic fields are welcome, including—but not limited to—environmental studies, forestry, ecosystem science, social sciences, policy studies, community-based research, and comparative studies.)
- Demonstrate a high level of motivation to participate actively in **discussions, fieldwork**, and international research network building
- Be willing to contribute to broader **APRU-related academic activities**

Internal Application Deadline

17:00, Monday April 13, 2026

Financial Support for Outstanding Candidate

Based on the internal selection, **one (1) outstanding candidate** may receive **full financial support from Kyushu University for round-trip airfare between Japan and Ecuador**. This support may also include accommodation and per diem expenses required due to travel scheduling before or after the course period.

- Applicants receiving other scholarships must confirm in advance whether combined funding is permitted.
- Air tickets will be arranged by Kyushu University.
- Participants are required to enroll in designated overseas travel insurance and risk management services, and to complete Kyushu University's online risk management training prior to departure.

4. Application Procedure and Notification of Results

Required Documents

1. **Entry Form & Essay** (designated format)
2. **Letter of Recommendation from Academic Supervisor at Kyushu University**
(No fixed format; must be written in English)

Submission

Please submit all documents by email to **International Affairs Department, Kyushu University**:

E-mail: intlsenryaku@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp

Selection Results

All applicants will be notified of the results by email.

5. Contact Information

Global Partnership and Alliance, International Affairs Department, Kyushu University

E-mail: intlsenryaku@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp

Tel: 092-802-2206 / 2297