

January 22, 2026

**Positions Open: Postdoctoral researchers
at the Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies, Hokkaido University**

The Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies (CAIS), Hokkaido University, has launched a new research platform for Ainu Studies and Indigenous Studies, supported by the newly awarded JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) for FY2025, the Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research: International Leading Research. Through this platform, the Center will promote international collaborative research in the fields of Indigenous rights, Indigenous cultural heritage, and Indigenous well-being.

From FY2026, through the Global Research Unit for Indigenous Studies and Cultural Diversity (GRID), we invite applications for Postdoctoral researcher positions under a strategic framework designed to foster early-career scholars who will lead Indigenous Studies, including researchers of Indigenous backgrounds. The successful candidates will engage with overseas partner research institutions in a strategic and planned manner, advance international collaborative research in Indigenous Studies, and contribute to identifying and addressing universal challenges faced by Indigenous peoples.

1. Number of Positions:

Four (4)

2. Job Title:

Postdoctoral researcher (Fixed-term)

3. Work Location:

(Immediately upon appointment) Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies

(Scope of change) Locations as designated by the University

4. Job Description:

(Immediately upon appointment) This project involves eight research institutions worldwide, including the University of Alaska and the University of Melbourne. Postdoctoral researchers will be affiliated with Hokkaido University and will stay at each overseas institution for approximately three months to one year, where they will engage in collaborative research

with local researchers on Indigenous studies under the Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research, " Establishing International Platform based on Indigenous Knowledge: Indigenous Rights, Culture, and Wellbeing".

(Scope of change) None

5. Qualifications:

- (1) Holding a doctoral degree by the time of appointment
- (2) An outstanding record of research achievements in Indigenous Studies, including but not limited to history, language, culture, law and politics, and health sciences
- (3) A strong commitment to active engagement in research activities, as well as in the administration and development of the Global Research Unit for Indigenous Studies and Cultural Diversity (GRID)
- (4) Effective communication skills in both Japanese and English

6. Required Experience:

Demonstrated proficiency in English and, where relevant, local languages necessary to participate in international collaborative research overseas

7. Term of Appointment:

The appointment shall commence on April 1, 2026, or as soon as practicable thereafter (subject to mutual agreement), and shall continue through March 31, 2027.

8. Probation Period:

One month from the date of employment

9. Possibility of Renewal:

The contract is renewable on a yearly basis, subject to performance review and budget availability, with the maximum period of employment extending until March 31, 2029.

10. Salary:

- (1) Salary will be determined in accordance with the Regulations for Contract Employees of the National University Corporation Hokkaido University and will be paid on an annual salary basis.

The annual salary is approximately JPY 4.5–4.8 million, commensurate with academic

qualifications and professional experience.

(2) A commuting allowance will be provided in accordance with university regulations, if eligibility requirements are met.

Note: Travel expenses related to relocation to and from Japan will not be provided.

11. Working Conditions:

[Working Days] Monday through Friday

[Working Hours] Either a discretionary labor system for professional work* (subject to mutual agreement) or a fixed working hours system.

(*Under the discretionary labor system, working hours are deemed to be 7 hours and 45 minutes per day.)

[Holidays] Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays as prescribed by law, the year-end and New Year holidays (December 29 to January 3), and other days designated by the University.

[Leave] Annual paid leave and special paid leave, in accordance with university regulations.

12. Health Insurance, Pension, and Other Insurance:

Enrollment in the Mutual Aid Association of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Employees' Pension Insurance, Workers' Accident Compensation Insurance, and Employment Insurance

13. Name of the Recruiting Institution:

National University Corporation Hokkaido University

14. Measures to Prevent Passive Smoking:

Smoking is prohibited on campus except in designated outdoor smoking areas

15. Application Documents:

(1) Curriculum Vitae (format at the applicant's discretion)

- ❖ A photograph must be attached. The CV should include details of academic background, degrees earned, licenses and certifications, professional employment history, and memberships in academic or professional societies.
- ❖ Applicants who have been employed at Hokkaido University in any capacity (including, but not limited to, part-time lecturer, TA, RA, short-term support staff) since April 1, 2013, must provide full employment history details.

- (2) List of research achievements
- (3) Summary of research to date (within one A4 page)
- (4) Statement of future research plans and aspirations (within two A4 pages)
- (5) Names and contact information (telephone number and e-mail address) of two referees from whom opinions may be sought during the selection process
- ❖ All application documents must be written in either Japanese or English.

16. Selection Method:

Following document screening, interviews will be conducted.

- ❖ Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted regarding the interview schedule within seven (7) days of the application deadline.
- ❖ Any costs associated with attending the interview shall be borne by the applicant.
- ❖ Online interviews are available.

17. Application Deadline:

Applications must be received no later than Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (JST).

18. Application Submission:

Application materials should be submitted electronically to the following e-mail address:

E-mail: ainuATlet.hokudai.ac.jp

- ❖ Please replace “AT” with “@” when sending the e-mail.
- ❖ Please use the subject line: “Application for Postdoctoral researcher (GRID), Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies”.
- ❖ Personal information contained in the application documents will not be used for purposes other than this selection process.

19. Inquiries:

Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies, Hokkaido University

E-mail: ainuATlet.hokudai.ac.jp

- ❖ Please replace “AT” with “@” when sending the e-mail.