

SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS DISPATCH REPORT

Hokkaido Summer Institute (HSI) 2026 Academic Program | Hokkaido University

1. Dispatch Overview & Participant Profile

Host Institution	Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan
Program Name	Hokkaido Summer Institute (HSI) 2026
Dispatch Period	July 11 ~ August 10
Dispatched Student	Sun Minjae (School of Business Administration)
Academic Focus	Sociology of International Migration & Indigenous Studies

2. Background & Program Purpose

The primary objective of participating in the Hokkaido Summer Institute (HSI) 2026 at Hokkaido University was to expand academic horizons through intensive English-taught coursework, cultivate a deeper understanding of global and regional social dynamics, and experience the research ecosystem of a top-tier Japanese national university.

Hokkaido University's HSI program brings together world-class scholars and international students to engage in specialized interdisciplinary topics. Through two specific modules—*Social Change: Sociology of International Migration 2026* and *Introduction to Ainu and Indigenous Studies: Global Issues and Solutions*— this dispatch aimed to analyze pressing contemporary issues: global migration patterns, immigrant integration, ethnic diversity, indigenous heritage, and cultural intellectual property rights.

3. Photo Documentation: Arrival & Orientation

Visual documentation of arrival at Hokkaido University campus and program orientation activities.



Campus tour session



Short visit to nearby historical site: Akarenga

4. Course 1 Summary: Sociology of International Migration 2026

Course Title	Social Change (Subtitle: Sociology of International Migration 2026)
Course Number	004244 (Numbering Code: HUM 3431) / 2 Credits
Instructor	Prof. HIRAMATSU Makoto (Faculty of Humanities and Human Sciences)
Language / Format	English / Face-to-Face Intensive Lectures & Seminars

4.1 Academic Curriculum & Theoretical Frameworks

This course provided a comprehensive sociological exploration of cross-border human mobility, which currently encompasses approximately 3.5% of the global population. The curriculum combined theoretical foundations with empirical research, examining why individuals migrate, how sovereign states formulate immigrant selection systems, and how host societies adapt to increasing demographic diversity.

- **Theoretical Foundations:** Analyzed classical and contemporary migration theories (Massey et al., FitzGerald) to understand push-pull drivers, cumulative causation, and transnational social networks.
- **Selection Systems & Integration:** Investigated point-based systems, labor migration policies (Akbari & MacDonald), occupational trajectories of legal immigrants (Akresh), and multidimensional integration metrics.
- **Anti-Immigrant Sentiment & Public Attitudes:** Evaluated dynamic shifts in public sentiment towards immigration, specifically examining Laurence, Igarashi, & Ishida's empirical findings on Japan as an emerging diversifying society.
- **Hokkaido Regional Context:** Explored the historical trajectory of labor migration to Hokkaido, local integration initiatives, and regional demographic challenges.

4.2 Class Structure, Discussions & Final Project

The course emphasized active student participation and critical discourse. Daily sessions included lecture segments followed by small-group workshops and plenary discussions based on mandatory 500-word reading reflections submitted prior to class.

Key Output — Current Event Essay & Presentation: Selected a recent migration event (post-July 2024), analyzing two reputable English news sources through the lens of course readings and external peerreviewed literature. The analysis synthesized causal factors, current societal impacts, and predictive future outcomes.

4.3 Photo Documentation: Sociology

Course



Group discussion and presentation sessions



5. Course 2 Summary: Studies

Introduction to Ainu and Indigenous

Course Title	Inter-Faculty Classes: Introduction to Ainu and Indigenous Studies: Global Issues and Solutions
Course Number	800014 (Numbering Code: INTF_HSS 3141) / 2 Credits
Instructor	Prof. KATOH Hirofumi, Dr. SAI Akira, Dr. HIRASAWA Yu (Center for Ainu & Indigenous Studies)
Language / Format	English / Face-to-Face Class & Fieldwork Inquiry

5.1 Academic Curriculum & Comparative Perspective

Offered by the renowned Center for Ainu & Indigenous Studies, this course delivered a global perspective on Indigenous studies, focusing on the history, culture, and rights of the Indigenous Ainu people of Hokkaido, alongside comparative cases from Northern Europe (Sámi), Canada (First Nations), and Australia.

- **Ainu History & Cultural Heritage:** Examined the history of Hokkaido's Indigenous population, traditional ecological knowledge, language preservation efforts, and contemporary socio-political status.
- **Global Comparative Frameworks:** Compared Indigenous rights, land governance, and heritage preservation models across Scandinavia, North America, and Australia.
- **Repatriation & Intellectual Property:** Addressed international ethical standards regarding the repatriation of ancestral human remains, cultural artifacts, and Indigenous intellectual property rights.
- **UNESCO World Heritage & Indigenous Rights:** Analyzed the intersection and conflicts between World Heritage site designations and local Indigenous land management rights.

5.2 Learning Activities & Group Presentations

Classes combined expert lectures with interactive group discussions on global heritage conflicts. Students evaluated practical solutions for balancing cultural preservation, tourism development, and Indigenous selfdetermination. The course culminated in a collaborative group presentation and a rigorous academic final report.

5.3 Photo Documentation: Indigenous

Studies & Field Experience



6. Core Achievements & Key

Takeaways

Participation in the Hokkaido Summer Institute 2026 yielded significant academic, cultural, and personal growth across several dimensions:

- **Interdisciplinary Academic Synergy:** Connecting global migration trends with indigenous cultural heritage broadened my analytical framework. Understanding how local demographic shifts interact with historical regional identity enriched my perspective as a business administration student considering global human resource management and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles.
- **Global English Communication & Collaboration:** Engaging daily in high-level academic debate, analytical writing (APA style), and public presentation with international peers significantly strengthened my English fluency and cross-cultural communication skills.
- **Insight into Japanese Social Dynamics:** Studying Japan's migration policy evolution and Ainu heritage in Sapporo provided first-hand exposure to how contemporary Japanese society addresses multicultural coexistence (Tabunka Kyōsei) and regional sustainability.

7. Future Application Plan & Conclusion

The knowledge and global competencies acquired during this short-term dispatch will directly inform my future academic endeavors and career preparation:

- **Academic Application:** The insights gained into societal mobility and diversity management will be integrated into my upcoming upper-level undergraduate coursework in Business Administration, particularly in organizational behavior, corporate social responsibility, and international marketing.
- **Institutional Sharing:** I plan to share my dispatch experiences with university peers through exchange student information sessions, encouraging broader participation in international short-term academic programs.
- **Long-term Career Goals:** The international research exposure and problem-solving skills built at Hokkaido University serve as a solid foundation for pursuing future global exchange programs, graduate studies, or international business roles.