

Call for Applications: 2026 Summer Course in Malmö

Inter-University Exchange Project (Europe-Japan)

August 19 – 27, 2026

at World Maritime University in Sweden



“AI Applications in Maritime and Ocean Studies”

1. Background and Program Objective

Maritime and ocean-related fields are deeply connected to global sustainable development and environmental protection. Covering approximately 70% of the Earth’s surface, the ocean plays a vital role in biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, and global trade. Consequently, challenges such as marine resource management and the optimization of ship operations have become critical global issues, while innovation in marine technology continues to attract students from a wide range of disciplines.

In response to these challenges, Hiroshima University (HU) was selected in the fall of 2024 for the MEXT “Inter-University Exchange Project” and is implementing the five-year program “Training Program for Next Generation Leaders in AI in Maritime Economic Security and Sustainability” in collaboration with five leading European universities: Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, University of Graz, World Maritime University (WMU), University of the Basque Country, and Leipzig University. As part of this initiative, WMU will host a summer course focusing on case studies of big data and AI applications in the maritime and ocean fields. The course will consist of lectures, group work, and excursions, providing participants with interdisciplinary perspectives and practical insights into sustainable maritime development.

Learning Objectives

Through a combination of workshops, classroom instruction, excursions, & independent research, the program will enable students to:

- (1) The ability to conceptualize scientifically grounded solutions to societal issues contributing to the SDGs in the marine and maritime sectors using AI and big data.
- (2) The ability to integrate knowledge and methods from multiple disciplines and apply them to complex, real-world problems.
- (3) The ability to collaborate with international students from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds, engage in constructive discussions, and work toward consensus on shared goals.
- (4) The ability to autonomously advance research-related activities—including data analysis and planning—within a limited timeframe, and to make decisions based on evidence.

2. **Program (TENTATIVE.** Will be updated once the details are finalized.)

(1) Program in WMU (in-person)

	Date	Contents
DAY0	Aug Tue 18	Arrival in Sweden (Hotel check-in)
DAY1	Aug Wed 19	What is AI? / Ethical Aspects of AI / Regulatory Aspects of AI
Day 2	Aug Thu 20	AI Applications in Offshore Energy Generation/ Mini Tour around WMU
Day 3	Aug Fri 21	AI Applications in Fisheries and Aquaculture / Mini Tour around WMU
Day 4	Aug Sat 22	Excursion in Malmö (Cultural Experience)
Day 5	Aug Sun 23	OFF (reserve day)
Day 6	Aug Mon 24	AI in Maritime Security and Domain Awareness (incl. enforcement at sea)
Day 7	Aug Tue 25	Ship Automation and Navigation
Day 8	Aug Wed 26	Excursion in Copenhagen (Cultural Experience)
Day 9	Aug Thu 27	Excursion in Copenhagen (Cultural Experience)
Day 10	Aug Fri 28	Departure from Copenhagen

(2) Number of Participants: 15 students (5 from HU. 10 from HU's collaborating universities; Ca' Foscari University of Venice (2), University of Graz (2), World Maritime University (2), University of the Basque Country (2), Leipzig University (2)) A limited number of external applicants may also join (maximum 20 participants in total).

3. Application

(1) Number of positions: Up to **5 students** (A selection process will be applied if the number of applicants exceed the quota.

(2) Requirements:

- ✓ Be a graduate student (Master's or Doctoral) enrolled in Hiroshima University.
- ✓ Have an equivalent of TOEIC L&R score of 680 or higher.
- ✓ Have an interest in marine and maritime issues (open to students from any field).
- ✓ Be able to attend a pre-program online seminar (approximately two hours).
- ✓ Be able to attend all classes throughout the program period.
 - * Selected students are expected to bring their own PC.
- ✓ Comply with program rules and regulations and fully participate in the entire program.

(3) How to apply

Please submit your application through the link below by Wednesday, May 6.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/hF0kv0KpM7>

(4) Selection result

If the number of applicants exceeds the limit, a selection will be made.

The selection result will be informed by the end of May (planned).

4. Fees

- ✓ **Program fee:** Free of charge (includes lectures and excursion facility fees)
- ✓ **Costs to be covered by participants (approximately JPY 250,000–300,000):**
 - Part of airfare (HU will pay up to 200,000yen).
 - Transportation fee in Malmö
 - Meals
 - Accommodation (Hotels in Malmö will be arranged by Hiroshima University; however, the cost will be borne by participants. Only accommodation for the last two nights in Copenhagen will be covered by Hiroshima University.)

5. Credit and Certificate (Digital badge)

- ✓ Participants will receive a digital badge as a certificate from Hiroshima University upon completion of the course.
- ✓ Please ask your university's office in charge for details about credit transfer.

6. Points of Contact

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