

Guidelines for Nomination for the Seventh (2025) NIHU International Prize in Japanese Studies

1. Objective

The Inter-University Research Institute Corporation National Institutes for the Humanities (hereinafter, “NIHU”) established the NIHU International Prize in Japanese Studies in January 2019 with cooperation from the Kuraray Foundation. This award is aimed at not only promoting the international development of Japanese studies, but also deepening and boosting the comprehension of Japan in academia.

The prize is awarded to a researcher based outside of Japan who has achieved outstanding academic achievements in Japanese philosophy, religion, thought, art, literature, language, history, folklore, society, environment, and other fields in the Humanities, and who has made a significant contribution to the international development of Japanese studies, and honors his/her performance.

2. Eligible fields

The prize is awarded to studies in fields related to Japan and the humanities, including philosophy, religion, thought, art, literature, language, history, folklore, society, and environmental studies.

3. Number of laureates: 1

The laureate of the prize will be presented with a certificate of merit, a trophy, and a cash prize of 20,000 U.S. dollars.

The laureate will also be invited to the presentation ceremony to be held in Japan (Planned for December 2025 - March 2026) and a commemorative lecture meeting will also be held.

Round-trip airfare to and from Japan will also be provided for the laureate and his/her partner, with an additional 500,000 yen for the cost of two persons' stay in Japan.

4. Eligible persons

1) The prize is granted to a researcher based outside of Japan who has greatly contributed to the international development of Japanese studies by making an outstanding academic achievement in one of the eligible fields shown in Section 2.

*In addition to researchers residing outside of Japan, eligible persons also include those who have a track record in research activities based outside of Japan.

*No restrictions according to nationality.

- 2) Persons who were nominated for the prize in the past remain eligible for three years (three times including the one when they were nominated), in principle.

5. Right to nominate

Nominations for the award are accepted from the heads of organizations related to humanities research listed below. There is no upper limit to the number of nominations. It is not necessary to obtain the approval of the nomination from the candidate for the award at the stage of making the nomination. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

- 1) Heads of Japanese and foreign universities (including heads of faculties, graduate schools, research institutes, and other departments).

- 2) Heads of Inter-University Research Institutes

- 3) Heads of academic associations and research institutions in Japan and abroad.

* The term 'research institutions' refers to institutions and organisations, excluding universities and inter-university research institutions, that are engaged in academic research, as well as museums, libraries, art galleries, government agencies and foundations that make ongoing efforts to promote and support research in the fields listed in '2. (This also includes the centres and divisions of each organisation).

Please note that, if necessary, we may check the eligibility of nominees.

6. How to nominate

For each candidate for the award, please fill in the Nomination Form (separate form) should be prepared and sent by post (Only in Japan) or e-mail in the name of the head of the university or other institution who is the nominating authority to "11. Where to submit the nomination documents".

* Please use either Form 1 (Japanese version) or Form 2 (English version) for the recommendation form.

7. Deadline

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

By postal mail (Only in Japan): Wednesday, June 25, 2025 (postmarked)

By email: No later than Wednesday, June 25 17:00, 2025 (JST)

8. Selection and notification of the result

Around September 2025, nominees for the prize will be selected by the International Prize in Japanese Studies Selection Committee, which will be set up in NIHU, and the results of the selection will be sent to the organizations that submitted nominees for the prize.

The result of the selection will be published on the website of NIHU after confirming whether the laureate has accepted the prize.

Even where multiple organizations nominate an identical nominee, the selection of a laureate will be made strictly by the committee based on the contents of each nomination document, without considering the number of nomination documents.

9. Presentation ceremony and commemorative lecture meeting

The prize presentation ceremony and commemorative lecture meeting are planned to be held around December 2025 - March 2026.

10. Others

- 1) No change or addition to the information provided in the nomination documents will be accepted after they are submitted.
- 2) Submitted nomination documents will not be returned.
- 3) Regardless of the provisions of the above "4. Eligible persons 2)," nomination documents may be submitted again for this year's selection if there is any change to their contents.
- 4) No inquiries will be accepted about the results of the selection.
- 5) Please note that the information to be disclosed includes the name and a brief history of the laureate as well as the research achievements for which the Prize will be granted. The brief history of the laureate as well as the research achievements will be made public after confirmation from NIHU to the laureate.
- 6) The laureate may be requested to cooperate in the formation of an international network concerning Japanese studies, which is being promoted by NIHU.
- 7) Personal information contained in nomination documents will be tightly controlled under the Regulations on the Protection of Personal Information held by the National Institutes for the Humanities and relevant laws and will only be used for the selection. The information will be responsibly and subsequently discarded.

11. Where to submit the nomination documents

Please submit the nomination documents to the following address by postal mail or email. If you choose to submit by postal mail, please make sure to choose a delivery method that can track your mail and confirm the delivery of the documents to NIHU using the tracking number of your documents, to ensure that the documents have reached NIHU.

General Affairs Division, Head Office,
National Institutes for the Humanities
2nd Floor, Huli Kamiyacho Bldg., 4-3-13 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo,
105-0001 Japan
E-mail: soumu☆nihu.jp

*Please replace ☆ with @ to send an e-mail.

12. For inquiries

Dr. Masaki WAKAO, Executive Director, National Institutes for the Humanities

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105-0001 Japan

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*Please replace☆with @ to send an e-mail.

NIHU website: https://www.nihu.jp/en/about/international_prize.html