

Program Overview **F-REI Summer Internship** “Regional Environmental Co-Creation Unit

Objectives of the research experience	<p>F-REI Summer Internship offers an opportunity to experience cutting-edge research in environmental dynamics through fieldwork and hands-on experiments in Fukushima, with focus on forest and river environments. Participants will engage in the full research process from field sampling, data analysis, to having discussions with research supervisors. By joining this program, participants can expect to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain insight into the challenges and appeal of interdisciplinary research 2. Reflect on their own interests and aptitudes in scientific field 3. Develop a clearer vision for their future research and career paths
Eligibility	<p>Undergraduate students in their 3rd or 4th year, master’s students, and doctoral students (3–4 participants)</p>
Desired qualifications and attributes	<p>Science or engineering students with an interest in environmental dynamics research</p>
Research location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field sites in the Tsushima area of Namie Town and the upper Ota River basin (for environmental sample collection) - Regional Environment Co-creation Unit Laboratory, Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation (CEC), Miharu Town (+ Commutan Fukushima) - F-REI Headquarters, Namie Town (+ a study tour on recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear disaster)
Research activity	<p>Fieldwork (specimen sampling at forest and river sites), data analysis, seminars, and a visit to Commutan Fukushima</p>
Schedule	<p>Aug 7 (Fri), 15:00: Pre-program orientation session (online) Aug 17 (Mon): Travel day to Koriyama City (for participants coming from outside Koriyama City or Miharu Town) Aug 18 (Tue) – Day 1: Safety and ethics training, seminar, and visit to Commutan Fukushima (at CEC) Aug 19 (Wed) – Day 2: Sample collection at field site (Fieldwork 1), followed by sample pre-processing at CEC lab Aug 20 (Thu) – Day 3: Sample collection at field site (Fieldwork 2), followed by sample pre-processing at CEC lab Aug 21 (Fri) – Day 4: Sample analysis and wrap-up session (CEC lab) Aug 22 (Sat) – Day 5: Study tour (Koriyama City→Ukedo Elementary School→Fukushima Memorial Park for Reconstruction→The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum) Aug 23 (Sun) – Day 6: Preparation for presentations (self-study) / free day Aug 24 (Mon) – Day 7: Final presentations and feedback (F-REI Headquarters) → Visit to construction site of F-REI facility → Dismissal</p>
Supervising researchers	<p>Dr. Yumiko ISHII, Dr. Yoshito SASAKI, Dr. Seiji HAYASHI (Unit Leader)</p>
Recruitment	<p>Open call and selection Application period: April 20 (Mon) to June 5 (Fri), 2026</p>

F-REI Summer School Internship Application Guidelines

【Regional Environmental Co-Creation Unit】

1. Program Name

Fukushima Institute for Research, Education and Innovation (F-REI)

Summer Internship 2026 at the Regional Environmental Co-Creation Unit (Short-Term Research Experience).

Important Information for Applicants

Please note that this program includes fieldwork conducted within the Difficult-to-Return Zone of Namie Town, Futaba District, Fukushima Prefecture.

The “Difficult-To-Return Zone (*kikan-konnan-kuiki*)” is a designated area where access is limited because the radiation levels there remain high compared with the surrounding areas following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident. All activities within this Difficult-to-Return Zone will be carried out in strict compliance with national and municipal regulations, under the supervision of researchers of the Regional Environment Co-Creation Unit. Comprehensive safety management measures, including radiation dose monitoring for each individual, will be implemented.

Note: This program will be conducted in accordance with the “Fukushima Institute for Research, Education and Innovation Internship Trainee Acceptance Bylaws (Bylaws No. 8 of 2024).”

2. Purpose

This summer school is conducted in Fukushima based on the following concepts:

1. “Measure in the field, think with data, and discover your research direction in one week”
2. “Test yourself as a researcher in the Fukushima field”
3. “More than an experience—connect it to your future career”

This program is organized by the Regional Environmental Co-creation Unit of the Fukushima Institute for Research, Education and Innovation (F-REI). This internship program offers an opportunity to experience cutting-edge environmental dynamics research through fieldwork (sample collection) in forest and river sites and data analysis in the laboratory.

By experiencing the full research process—from fieldwork, data analysis, to having discussions with researchers—participants can expect to:

- Gain insight into the challenges and appeal of interdisciplinary research

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- Reflect on their own interests and aptitudes
- Develop a clear vision for their future research and career paths

For your reference, please visit the links below:

*F-REI Researcher Brochure

[F-REI Research File](#)

*F-REI Regional Environmental Co-Creation Unit Web Page

[Regional environmental Co-Creation Unit](#)

3. Internship Period

Morning of Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – Late afternoon of Monday, August 24, 2026

Note: In addition to the above dates, a pre-program online orientation will be held on Friday, August 7 at 15:00. In addition, Saturday, August 22 will be designated as a study tour day to reflect on the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

4. Venues

1. F-REI Regional Environmental Co-Creation Unit Laboratory within the Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation (Days 1–4)

(Address: 10-2 Fukazaku, Miharu-machi, Tamura-gun, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan 963-7700)

[Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation](#)

3. F-REI Headquarters (Day 7 only)

(Address: 6-1 Yazawamachi, Oaza Gongendo, Namie-machi, Futaba-gun, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan 979 1521)

5. Eligible candidates

Applicants must be currently enrolled as third- or fourth-year undergraduate students, master's students, or doctoral (PhD) students. There are no restrictions regarding specific universities or programs.

Number of participants: 3–4 (we accept only a small cohort of participants to ensure safety and enable close supervision.)

6. Required Qualifications and Expertise

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- **Field of study (required):** Science and engineering fields
- **Basic skills (preferred):** No specific skills required
- **Motivation:** An interest in environmental dynamics research

7. Program Details

The Regional Environmental Co-Creation Unit conduct research to understand how radioactive materials released into the environment move through ecosystems and interact with plants, organisms, and human activities. Their findings will serve as an important basis for future works to achieve the environmental recovery and reconstruction of Fukushima.

In this program, participants will collect environmental samples—such as leaf litter, soil, tree bark, and riverine attached algae—from field sites including the restricted areas (Difficult-to-Return Zone) of Namie Town, Futaba District, Fukushima Prefecture. After that, participants will analyze these samples themselves, therefore gaining hands-on experience in the process of investigating the relationship between radioactive materials and ecosystems. Through this integrated approach from fieldwork to analysis, participants will learn the fundamental methods of environmental dynamics research.

Note: This program will be provided in both Japanese and English, as needed.

8. Schedule

August 7 (Fri) – Day 0 (Online):

Pre-program session: Orientation (introduction to the laboratory and instructors, overview of research themes, important information, participant self-introductions, etc.)

August 18 (Tue) – Day 1 (Laboratory at the Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation):

Safety and ethics training, seminar, and visit to Commutan Fukushima (located within the Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation)

August 19 (Wed) – Day 2 (Field + Laboratory):

Fieldwork *1 (sample collection) + sample pre-treatment

August 20 (Thu) – Day 3 (Field + Laboratory):

Fieldwork *2 (sample collection) + sample pre-treatment

August 21 (Fri) – Day 4 (Laboratory at the Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation):

Sample analysis. Wrap-up session.

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August 22 (Sat) – Day 5 (Study tour on recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear disaster, and stay overnight around Namie town):

Visits to:

1. [Remains of the earthquake Namie Town Ukedo Elementary School \(Namie Town\)](#),
2. [The Fukushima March 11 Memorial Park \(Futaba Town and Namie Town\)](#), and
3. [The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum \(Futaba Town\)](#)

August 23 (Sun) – Day 6 (Hotel or home around Namie town):

Preparation for presentations (self-study) and rest day

August 24 (Mon) – Day 7 (F-REI Headquarters):

Final presentations and overall feedback

Notes

1. Fieldwork is planned to take place in the Tsushima area of Namie Town and the upper reaches of the Ota River, which are part of the Difficult-to-Return Zone. Detailed schedules will be provided to selected participants at a later date. As activities will be conducted outdoors, the program may be subject to change depending on weather and other conditions.
2. Detailed information about the study tour on 22nd Aug will be provided to selected participants at a later date.

9. Fees and Expenses

- **Registration fee:** None
- **Salary and food expenses support:** None
- **Travel expenses will be covered.**

Note:

1. Participants commuting from outside Miharu Town and those living outside of the Koriyama Station area may be eligible for hotel accommodation in Koriyama City, arranged by F-REI (application required).

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2. Transportation, accommodation, and related costs for the study tour on August 22, as well as accommodation on August 23 and transportation on August 24 (Hotel – F-REI Headquarters – JR Namie station or Koriyama station), will be arranged and covered by F-REI.

10. Application Deadline

June 5th, 2026

Note: Participation in all sessions, including the pre-program online training, is mandatory. As this program involves fieldwork within the Difficult-to-Return Zone, only applicants who meet all the following conditions are eligible to apply:

1. Be willing and able to submit, after selection, a consent form that includes provisions regarding entry into the Difficult-to-Return Zone;
2. Have obtained approval from their academic supervisor (e.g., your university or graduate school advisor) to participate in the program;
3. Be able to understand and agree to comply with all requirements after receiving pre-program training on safety management and radioactivity/radiation.

11. Required Documents

- Application Form (MS Forms format)

Please refer to item 12 below.

12. Submission of Application Materials (MS Forms)

- Submission of Application Materials: Please complete the Microsoft Forms via the link below.

Apply here: [Registration form for F-REI Summer internship](#)

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- **Email for inquiries:** F-REI_jiniku@f-rei.go.jp

Contact person: Education Administrator (EA) Suzuki and EA Arime

Human Capital Development Division

Department of Research and Development Promotion

13. Selection Results

Successful applicants will receive notification by email around 12th June. The notification will also be sent (by cc) to the academic supervisor whose contact details are provided in the application form.

14. Selection Criteria

Applicants will be selected for participation based on the following criteria:

- Enthusiasm for research and interest in a research career
- Alignment with the field of study
- Approval from their academic supervisor for participation in this program

15. Supervision

- **Primary Research Supervisors:**
Dr. Yumiko ISHII and Dr. Yoshito SASAKI
- **Overall Research Supervisor:**
Dr. Seiji HAYASHI (Unit Leader)
- **Consultations:** Available throughout the program period

16. Evaluation

Based on a comprehensive assessment of research attitude and skills acquired during participation, a certificate of completion will be issued to participants who meet the standards set by the research supervisors.

17. Ethics

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Selected participants will be required to submit the following document:

- Consent Form (confirmation of agreement to research ethics regulations, deliverables regulations, photo usage, confirmation of agreement to safety management measures for radiation and fieldwork activities, etc.)

18. Insurance

Selected participants will be required to submit **one** of the following documents.

- Certificate of enrollment in Student Education and Research Accident Insurance and Gakken-sai Liability Insurance OR proof of enrollment in insurance with equivalent coverage
- Proof of enrollment in insurance with equivalent coverage

19. Others

- Applicants' personal information will be used only for selection and communication purposes.
- In accordance with the consent form, photographs taken during this summer school may be published on our organization's website, social media, reports, etc.