

Hiroshima Biodesign Fellowship Program

Call for Fellows (FY2026)

[Issued: January 30, 2026]

1. Purpose

Hiroshima University (HU) advances 'Social Cooperation' as a core mission alongside education and research, strengthening collaboration with society and industry through industry–government–academia initiatives.

Within this framework, HU's Open Innovation Platform (HOIP) and the Hiroshima Biodesign (Biodesign Unit) develop talent and support the creation and development of medical devices and healthcare technologies.

Hiroshima Biodesign hereby invites applications for the FY2026 Hiroshima Biodesign Fellowship Program (the "Program").

2. Program Overview

- Biodesign refers to an innovation process for medical device development. Originating in 2001 at Stanford University under Dr. Paul Yock and colleagues, it integrates design thinking with a disciplined pathway from clinical needs to solutions.

Hiroshima University has delivered a program aligned with this framework since FY2019.

- The Program seeks to form interdisciplinary teams. Applicants may include (but are not limited to) clinicians and other healthcare professionals, engineers, business professionals (e.g., corporate planning/management, finance, or those with industry experience), and designers.

- The Program is informed primarily by the Stanford Biodesign approach. Hiroshima Biodesign also maintains an MOU with the School of International Biodesign (SIB, India), enabling optional participation in SIB's annual MedTech Summit.

- Fellows will identify and define unmet clinical needs through structured clinical observations and stakeholder engagement, and will pursue early-stage concept development toward medical/healthcare device solutions. The methods acquired (including design thinking as an innovation practice) are also transferable to product development and innovation processes beyond medtech.

3. Locations

(1) Lectures and workshops: Hiroshima University Kasumi Campus, Hiroshima Biodesign Lab (Room 414, Kasumi Shared Building 1, 1-2-3 Kasumi, Minami-ku, Hiroshima).

(2) Clinical observations: Hiroshima University Hospital (1-2-3 Kasumi, Minami-ku, Hiroshima) and/or affiliated clinical sites.

4. Program Period (tentative)

Six months, from July to December 2026 (tentative).

5. Cohort Size

4–5 fellows.

6. Eligibility

Applicants must demonstrate strong interest in medical device innovation, startup entrepreneurship, and/or design thinking.

Applicants must be able to commit approximately 15–20 hours per week to Program activities.

As a working schedule reference, sessions and staff meetings are currently planned for Tuesdays and Wednesdays (evenings), subject to change.

7. Application Package

(1) Application form.

(2) Short essay (approximately one A4 page): what you wish to learn through biodesign and/or what you intend to achieve by applying biodesign.

(3) Curriculum vitae (CV).

8. Timeline and Selection

(1) Application window: January 30, 2026 (Fri) to April 30, 2026 (Thu).

(2) Review period: early May 2026.

(3) Selection method: document screening (an interview may be conducted if necessary).

9. Fees and Expenses

(1) Tuition: A fee will be charged to participants who are not Hiroshima University staff members or students. Please inquire for details.

(2) Other costs: Meals, transportation, accommodation, and any other incidental expenses incurred during Program participation are the responsibility of each fellow.

10. Instructional Team (indicative)

Hiroshima Biodesign: Takehito Hananouchi (full-time), Hiroto Imada (full-time), and others (additional external lecturers may be appointed).

Additional external lecturers may be appointed.

11. Post-Completion Arrangements

(1) Intellectual property (IP) and related outputs: IP generated, and any needs, concepts, or ideas that may lead to IP, arising from team activities within the fellowship course shall, in principle, belong to Hiroshima University, subject to applicable institutional policies and agreements.

(2) Certificate: Upon successful completion, fellows will receive a certificate of completion (this Program does not confer an academic degree).

12. Contact and Submission

Hiroshima University

Social Cooperation — Open Innovation Platform (HOIP)

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