

北陸先端科学技術大学院大学研究室教育指針
Laboratory Education Guideline

研究室教育指針は、学則第30条の3に基づき、研究指導の方法及び内容並びに修了までの研究指導の計画をあらかじめ明示するものです。

Based on the Article 30-3 of the general academic rules, the Laboratory Education Guideline is intended to clearly outline the methods and content of research guidance, as well as the plan for research guidance until completion.

氏名 / name : Yasunobu ITO 役職 / official position : Professor

1. 研究テーマ / Research Theme

Our laboratory focuses on two main pillars: (1) Anthropology of Knowledge, and (2) Transdisciplinary applied research in anthropology and ethnography. While strictly adhering to the "tactile feel" of the field, we view diverse forms of knowledge within communities and organisations—ranging from everyday knowledge to specialised academic expertise (including that of anthropologists)—as being embedded in the body, society, and history. Our primary theme is to refine the "Anthropology of Knowledge" by exploring the processes of its generation, transmission, and creation. Furthermore, under the slogan "Enriching by anthropology / Enriching anthropology," the entire laboratory aims to pioneer transdisciplinary and applied ethnographic research in fields such as science and technology, medicine, and industry. On one hand, we attempt to "Enrich by anthropology"—enriching research and practices in other fields using anthropological insights. On the other hand, through interactions with researchers and practitioners from these fields, we aim for "Enriching anthropology"—developing cultural anthropology itself into an open discipline that contributes to society and other domains.

2. 修得が期待される能力 / Competencies expected to be acquired

研究室教育は必修 A 科目（先端）又は研究支援科目（融合）の一部として単位化されており、この欄はそれら科目のシラバス上の達成目標の一部となります。

Laboratory Education is accredited as a part of the Required courses A (Division of Advanced Science and Technology) or Research Support Courses (Division of Transdisciplinary Sciences), and this section constitutes a part of the course goals stated in the syllabus for such subjects.

Our laboratory researches the knowledge within various communities and organisations from a social scientific perspective (primarily cultural anthropology and sociology). Students will develop the ability to grasp social phenomena analytically and acquire advanced ethnographic research skills. In corporations, hospitals, schools, and research laboratories, there exist many things taken for granted—undisputable knowledge that often goes unquestioned. We describe and analyse these through ethnography, utilising methods of "defamiliarisation" and "reframing". Ethnography is invaluable for discovering latent needs at the field site and providing insights by uncovering the hidden, unmet needs of consumers in their daily lives. To this end, ethnography is highly prized in business and engineering design, leading to the recruitment of ethnographers by large corporations across Japan and North America. Students will cultivate these essential skills within our lab.

3. 研究指導方針 / Research Guiding Principle

[Theme Selection and Transdisciplinary Environment] We provide careful guidance on selecting research themes. While many graduate schools in Japan teach cultural anthropology and sociology in a strict sense, studying these subjects in JAIST's transdisciplinary environment—where undergraduate background is not a barrier—allows students to produce unique research results unlike those of any other institution. For example, a student with a background in mechanical engineering can leverage their undergraduate knowledge while learning anthropology in our lab to conduct ethnographic research aimed at identifying and solving issues on a precision manufacturing floor. Such attempts hold the potential to create unique ethnographic research not possible for students who have only specialised in anthropology or sociology.

[Education for Working Professionals and "Unlearning"] The Ito Laboratory places great emphasis on educating working professionals. Our lab (Tokyo Satellite) includes diverse professionals such as doctors, nurses, designers, and engineers. While their expertise can lead to excellent research if applied well at JAIST, professional experience and pride can sometimes hinder graduate-level research. Professionals may tend to select knowledge based solely on their experience (1), or be less flexible in accepting advice (2). To acquire new values and knowledge, it is sometimes necessary to "unlearn" familiar ones—a process that often becomes more difficult with more experience (3). We ask students to tackle their research patiently, keeping these points in mind.

[Seminar Operations] Laboratory seminars are held once a week during the term. There are two types of seminars held alternately every other week: "Progress Report Seminars" and "Literature Review Seminars". In the Progress Report Seminar, about two students report on their research progress each time. In the Literature Review Seminar, we decipher and discuss papers beneficial to research. Individual meetings for research guidance are held irregularly as needed. Seminars for working professionals are similarly divided into Progress Reports and Literature Reviews, each held once a month.

4. 研究室活動の内容及び方法 / Content and Methods of Laboratory Activities

Daily Activities: Autonomous research (We do not have core time).

Weekly Activities: Laboratory Seminar (once a week). We alternate between "Progress Report Seminars" (bi-weekly) and "Literature Review Seminars" (bi-weekly).

Monthly Activities: Laboratory Seminar for Tokyo working professionals (once a month) and Literature Review Seminar (once a month).

Occasional Activities: Individual guidance meetings, presentation practice sessions, joint seminars between Ishikawa and Tokyo campuses, laboratory training camps, and seminars hosted by the lab inviting external lecturers.

5. 年間スケジュール / Annual Schedule

本学の全学共通の年間スケジュールは「履修案内」の「学位取得に至るスケジュール」を参照してください。(本学HP参照：ホーム>教育>履修関係>履修案内)

Please refer to the "Degree conferment schedule for the master's program/doctoral program" in the "Degree Completion Guide" for university-wide common schedule (JAIST website: Home > Education > Taking Courses > Degree Completion Guide)

Depending on whether students enroll in April or October, and whether they are at the Ishikawa main campus or are working professionals at the Tokyo Satellite, we support new students in getting their life and studies on track. For the first few months after enrollment, students are guided to focus on taking courses that form the basis of their research. We also guide students to broaden and deepen their research through reviews of preceding literature. In particular, acquiring new knowledge sometimes requires "unlearning" familiar knowledge; students are expected to learn this through literature reviews and discussions. April enrollees are expected to concretize their research plans by December, and October enrollees by June (within the first six months).

In parallel, students will acquire etiquette for presentations and Q&A sessions through opportunities such as seminar progress reports. Through classes and lab seminars, students will also learn about fieldwork techniques and ethics. By experiencing the role of advising junior students in seminars and training camps, students will enhance their own research capabilities.

For working professional students, self-management of research time is required. We encourage them to secure time autonomously and proceed with their research (voluntarily reporting to faculty members at their own timing when they can report some progress, through co-creation seminars and other opportunities).