

Call for Applications: GYSF Assistant Professors, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University (Area Studies Department)

July 28, 2026

[Overview]

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University, invites applications for assistant professor positions for next-generation researchers who have received their doctoral degree within the past five years. CSEAS promotes interdisciplinary research on the environment, culture, society, politics, and economy of Southeast Asia and beyond. The Center addresses global issues such as climate change and environmental change, digitally driven social transformation, economic development and inequality, transformations in democracy and governance, demographic change and urbanization, and responses to infectious diseases and disasters, while placing importance on collaborative research through networks of researchers in Japan and overseas as well as on creating opportunities for discussion and exchange.

We seek assistant professors who will actively participate in this research environment, are motivated to address issues facing global society in an interdisciplinary manner beyond the boundaries of their own research fields and approaches and will contribute to strengthening the Center's research and networks. These assistant professor positions will be appointed under the GYSF (Global Young Scholars into the Future) Program, jointly operated by the Area Studies Department.

The GYSF Program was established for assistant professors through the joint efforts of the three constituent units of the Area Studies Department: the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, the Institute for the Future of Human Society, and CSEAS. To develop assistant professors into university faculty members who can play an active role on the global stage, the program requires them to undertake at least one year of overseas research during their term at a world-class university outside Japan. At the host university, they are expected to promote international collaborative research and participate in educational activities. If the application for such overseas research is judged to meet the prescribed criteria, the three participating departments will jointly provide support for travel and related expenses.

[Job Duties]

1. Develop and disseminate challenging, interdisciplinary, and international research in area studies.
2. Conduct projects in collaboration with CSEAS faculty; participate in and support research meetings, seminars, and international exchange activities; and organize research meetings and seminars independently.
3. Spend one year at an overseas university or research institution, promoting international collaborative research at the host university and participating in education.
4. Teach and provide guidance to undergraduate and graduate students as requested by graduate schools and undergraduate faculties.

[Qualifications]

Applicants must meet the following conditions.

- (1) In principle, applicants must have received their doctoral degree within the past five years (on or after March 31, 2022) and be eager to disseminate research and teach in multiple languages on the themes described in the overview.
- (2) Applicants must have experience conducting field research in a specific region and be motivated to carry out collaborative research with faculty members from multiple fields.
- (3) Applicants must be able to spend approximately one year during the employment period at a top-level research institution, such as an overseas university, and conduct international collaborative research.
- (4) There is no restriction on nationality; however, applicants should preferably have sufficient Japanese-language ability to participate in various university committees, handle administrative procedures, and contribute to organizational operations.

[Desired Candidate Profile]

Early-career researchers who received their doctoral degree approximately within the past five years and are highly motivated in research and education.

[Number of Positions]

Two positions

[Employment Period]

Five years, beginning as soon as possible on or after January 1, 2027. However, based on a review conducted at the end of the fourth fiscal year, an extension of two years may be granted. No further extension is available.

Probationary period: Yes (six months)

[Work Arrangement]

Discretionary labor system for professional work (equivalent to 38 hours and 45 minutes per week, or 7 hours and 45 minutes per day).

* If the discretionary labor system for professional work is not applied, working hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., five days per week (break: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.).

* Overtime work may be required.

Holidays: Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, year-end and New Year holidays, and Kyoto University's Foundation Day.

[Place of Work]

Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University (46 Yoshida Shimoadachi-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan).

(Scope of change) Home or other location if the University permits or orders remote work.

[Salary and Allowances]

Salary will be paid in accordance with Kyoto University's payment standards.

[Social Insurance]

Enrollment in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Mutual Aid Association, employees' pension insurance, employment insurance, and workers' compensation insurance.

[Application Procedure]

Applicants should submit application documents 1) through 5) below as PDF files by email.
For item 6), applicants should ask their recommenders to upload the files.

1) Cover Letter (in Japanese or English)

In addition to contact information, indicate the preferred division within CSEAS and explain why the applicant is suitable for this assistant professor position.

(Reference) <https://kyoto.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/about-cseas/>

2) Research Statement (in Japanese or English)

Past research and research plans after appointment (approximately 1,500 Japanese characters or 800 English words).

Also describe the preferred overseas destination and the reasons for the choice. Consent from the prospective host is not required at this stage.

3) Curriculum Vitae (in Japanese or English)

Required items are name (with furigana), gender, date of birth, current position, educational background (from high school graduation onward), degrees, qualifications, and employment history.

4) List of Research Achievements (in Japanese or English)

Classify achievements into books, articles, conference presentations, and other categories, and specify author names, year of publication or presentation, title, journal name, volume, issue, pages, peer-review status, and other relevant details. Mark with a circle up to two major research achievements included with the application. If applicable, include research themes for survey and research projects in which the applicant has participated, fellowships and/or scholarships received, and competitive research funding obtained. Also specify language abilities, participation in international conferences and seminars, fieldwork experience, awards, research grants received, and whether research achievements were peer reviewed.

5) Two Major Research Achievements (in Japanese or English; copies acceptable)

One summary for each achievement (500 Japanese characters each, or 250 English words each).

6) Two Letters of Recommendation (in Japanese or English)

Ask each recommender to upload the file to the following URL by 11:59 p.m. Japan Standard Time on Wednesday, September 30, 2026: <https://u.kyoto-u.jp/qqam7>. CSEAS faculty members may not serve as recommenders.

* Additional materials may be requested during the selection process.

[Submission]

Submit application documents 1) through 6) as PDF files by email.

General Affairs Section, Area Studies Administration Office, Kyoto University

430koubo*mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp (replace * with @).

Use "Application for CSEAS GYSF Assistant Professor Position (Name)" as the email subject line.

[Application Deadline]

Applications must arrive by 11:59 p.m. Japan Standard Time on Wednesday, September 30, 2026.

* If there are many applicants or a suitable candidate is selected, recruitment may close before the deadline.

[Selection Process]

Selection will be based on the submitted documents. During the selection process, interviews may be conducted in Japanese or English, either in person or online. Details will be provided separately if applicable. Applicants are responsible for all expenses related to the selection process, including transportation and accommodation costs.

[Inquiries]

General Affairs Section, Area Studies Administration Office, Kyoto University

430koubo*mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp (replace * with @).

[Other]

- Submitted documents will be used only for the purpose of the recruitment screening. They will not be disclosed, transferred, or lent to any third party without legitimate reason. Please note that application documents will not be returned.
- Kyoto University promotes gender equality. Applications from women researchers are actively encouraged.
- Kyoto University is working to prevent passive smoking by prohibiting indoor smoking on all campuses and prohibiting outdoor smoking except in designated smoking areas.