



New

The First Group of ESL Summer Program to the University of Alberta

August 6 – 26



A three-week English Language & Cultural Program was held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada from August 6 to 26 and a total of 29 Gifu University undergraduate students participated for the first time this year.

Prior to studying abroad, the participants undertook a two-month long ESL Pre-Departure Course on campus where they were provided both language and intercultural awareness training. Upon arriving at the University of Alberta, the students were given an orientation before embarking on their main course of study which included regular English language classes in the mornings, various social functions, excursions, outdoor activities, and science laboratory tours in the afternoons. Throughout the entire program, each individual student was placed with a Canadian host family where they could learn to understand Canadian culture and lifestyle while improving their communication skills.

The group returned to Japan gaining a stronger confidence in their English proficiency and deeper insights into cultural differences between Japan and Canada. We believe that their short study-abroad experiences this summer have contributed to their personal growth and maturity.



Every April

Study Abroad Fair

April 19

The Study Abroad Fair was held on April 19 and was attended by a total of 77 students including freshmen wishing to study abroad in the near future. This fair has taken place every April since 2012 with the aim of providing information on studying abroad such as the required language ability and different study programs. Another aim is to increase the number of students studying overseas.

Participants obtained additional useful information concerning the pre-study abroad program conducted at Gifu University, an overview of the English proficiency test, reports by students who had studied abroad, and self-management of health overseas.

The attentive audience showed their enthusiasm through asking questions before and after closing the fair. Gifu University will continue to arrange such opportunities to provide information and advice for students.





Every Year

Emergency & Risk Management Orientation during Traveling Abroad

July 5



On July 5, the Emergency & Risk Management Orientation was held on campus for students intending to travel abroad, with the aim of providing a wide range of information regarding ways to deal with and avoid risks while overseas as well as enhancing their self-awareness capabilities against emergencies.

The guest speakers delivered useful topics and advice to a total of 104 students, professors and administrative members on current public safety issues in different countries, matters requiring appropriate conduct when staying overseas, and ways to deal with unexpected accidents.

Most of the audience who normally have little access to information pertaining to crime and risk overseas listened attentively to the presentations. Gifu University will continue to hold such information sessions and offer advice.



Renewal

English Circle of Friends

Gifu University Head Office for Glocalization (GHOGL) launched a new English conversation gathering on campus called, "English Circle of Friends" in place of "English Lounge." This new circle, coordinated by Gifu University faculty members with rich overseas experiences is a place for Japanese students, international students, faculty and administrative staff to enjoy English conversations in a casual setting.

On June 19 and July 3, Ms. Gaelle Lagrouas (from France), Mr. Peter Collins (from the U.K.), and Ms. Sevgi Cevik (from Turkey), current Coordinators for International Relations at Gifu Prefectural Government office were invited to our campus as special guest speakers to share about their own study-abroad experiences and provided many practical tips for living abroad.

The English Circle of Friends usually meets during the lunch hour break (12:10~12:50) on Mondays throughout the academic year (see schedule announcement). Each meeting, we focus on a different topic. The Circle welcomes anyone on campus who wants to improve their English speaking skills and make friends through sharing cultural experiences!



Messages from International Students Studying at Gifu University



Everything Shall Pass Away

GO SIAN HUAI

Doctoral Program, Graduate School of Engineering



Myanmar

Two years have already passed since I came to Gifu University in 2015. Since living in Japan, I have encountered so many unfamiliar things and a lot of challenging experiences.

Two years later, the one insight that I have gained is "living abroad is a good instructor for one's whole life." Therefore, I would like to encourage all international students via this Newsletter to believe in yourself and that whatever happens to you matters. Never consider giving up in whatever situations you find yourself in. Don't compare yourself to others. Human beings have their own ethical values and always think "I am who I am."

Difficulties may make you feel bitter when you are actually facing them; however, after you have overcome them, share your experiences with others so that the memories of those experiences will become really invaluable. You are never alone.

Gifu city (where the University is located) is surrounded by beautiful mountains and has an abundance of clear water where students can enjoy a rich natural environment. Let's study hard to become good students not only for our mother land, but also for Japan.

Everything shall pass, but the things you have learned will remain with you forever.

Everybody, let's fight!





Every Summer

Summer School Program Inbound

June 28 – July 26



Gifu University Summer School Program, a one-month short-term summer program, offered to international students from June 28 through July 26 provided participants from overseas partner universities an opportunity to study the Japanese language as well as learn traditional Japanese culture in Gifu.

This year, a total of 18 students from Northern Kentucky University (USA), the University of Technology Sydney (Australia), Mokpo National University (South Korea), University of Electronic Science and Technology of China and The National University of Malaysia took Japanese language classes and enjoyed a variety of cultural activities such as pottery making, homestay in Gujo City, watching live sumo bouts, viewing cormorant fishing, yukata wearing, and Noh and Kyogen workshops.

We hope these international students were able to deepen their insights into the cultural differences between Japan and their own countries through such wonderful study experiences.



Every Summer

International Students Field Trip

September 6 – 7

Gifu University Head Office for Glocalization (GHOGL) organizes a field trip for international students every year as part of the educational curriculum to help them understand Japan, Japanese culture, history and industry as well as develop friendships among each other. A total of 43 participants including 40 international students and 3 GHOGL staff members took part in this year's tour.

On the first day, the group visited Himeji Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a National Treasure with a tour guide. On the next day, participants enjoyed traveling the facilities of Glicopia Kobe, a well-known confectionary factory as well as visiting Kobe Animation Street, and Chinatown.

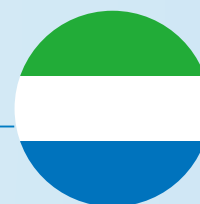
The international students were able to directly experience a variety of Japanese culture, making their trip a memorable one.



I Look Forward to the Future

Daramy Moses Ahmed

Doctoral Program, United Graduate School of Agricultural Science



Sierra Leone

Like anyone living in a developing country, I am aware that studying in Japan is a big opportunity to improve my career. However, when the study opportunity came I was a bit worried considering the differences in socio-cultural behaviors, food, climate and so on between Japan and my country Sierra Leone. But after my arrival, I realized that despite all the many differences between the two countries, I am able to cope and life has been enjoyable so far. What I enjoy the most is my late evening walks around Gifu city's quiet residential areas seeing the gorgeous mountains and ancient houses.

Even though I am yet to experience lots of social activities in Gifu, I was fortunate to attend this year's fireworks festival. It was actually my first time to see a large fireworks display; it was fantastic and I look forward to attending the festival in the coming years during my stay in Japan.

My future goal is to be able to contribute to crop production

improvement in Sierra Leone, whose soils are known to be inherently low in essential nutrients resulting in low yields of crop especially the staple, rice. Therefore, after graduation from Gifu University, I would like to work as an agricultural researcher in Sierra Leone focusing on issues related to soil fertility management and improvement of crop production.





The 1st International Symposium on Education for Persons with Special Needs

August 29 – 30

The Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC), the Ministry of Education, Kingdom of Thailand hosted "The 1st International Symposium on Education for Persons with Special Needs: Transition from School to Work" in Bangkok, Thailand from August 29 to 30. Approximately 500 people from eight different countries attended the symposium. Gifu University and OBEC signed the Framework of Agreement in March 2015 to promote research exchanges with regard to special needs education. The symposium was supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, and Gifu University.

The President of Gifu University gave a congratulatory opening speech, which was followed by a keynote speech by the Deputy Director-General, Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau (MEXT), in which he introduced Japan's advanced education system. Through the presentations by international guests including Dean of the Faculty of Education of Gifu University, and Professor of the Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences as well as informative poster sessions, the symposium was a huge success.

Gifu University remains committed to being a strong partner with OBEC in their endeavor to provide better education for Thai people with special needs in the years ahead.



UGSAS



The 4th International Workshop 2017 at Andalas University

July 17 – 18



The United Graduate School of Agricultural Science (UGSAS) in a joint effort with Andalas University, Indonesia held "The 4th International Workshop 2017" at Andalas University on July 17 and 18. This workshop has been held since 2014 in an effort to promote Gifu University's globalization and exchange with local industries.

On July 17, the workshop conducted topics under the title of "Recent Postharvest Technology for Sustainable Agriculture and Food" with a total of 121 attendees.

On July 18, an opening ceremony of a joint laboratory between the two universities was held. This laboratory is available to the teaching staff and students of IC-GU12 member universities and is expected to become a core research base for postharvest technology in the near future.

School of Medicine



The 10th Anniversary of International Exchange Program between Chungbuk National University College of Medicine and Gifu University School of Medicine

August 9 – 13

On August 10, the 10th Anniversary of the International Exchange Program between Chungbuk National University College of Medicine, South Korea and Gifu University School of Medicine was held at the hall of the School of Medicine, Gifu University with around 40 participants.

The program was created in 2008 to promote medical student exchanges between the two universities. Both Korean and Japanese institutions have alternately accepted and dispatched students annually since its introduction and the number of students and professors who have participated from each institution has amounted to over 250 people as of today.

The 10th Anniversary program included a visit to Gifu Municipal Hospital and the symposium held in English was conducted by both students from August 9 to 13. In addition, Korean medical professors made a courtesy call on the Dean of the School of Medicine, Gifu University.



UGSAS



International Symposium 2017

August 28 – 30



The United Graduate School of Agricultural Science (UGSAS) held "The International Symposium 2017" from August 28 through 30 at its research building in Gifu University. Keynote speeches and presentations under the theme "Soil Management for Sustainable Agriculture" were delivered on the 28 and 29, with a total of 59 students and university staff in attendance. Shizuoka University (Japan) and Sebelas Maret University (Indonesia) also contributed to this symposium through video conference system. In the afternoon of the second day, 25 students gave poster sessions, and the top 4 presenters were conferred Poster Awards.

On the third day, 17 international researchers (from China, Indonesia and Vietnam) and 8 staff members of Gifu University took part in the Study Tour including a visit to the reservoir facility of the Tanigumi Pond and the Tokuyama Dam in Gifu Prefecture. Through this enlightening tour, participants developed an understanding of the present situation of flood control and the importance of environmental conservation in the surrounding areas.

