



GU Selected for FY2025 Inter-University Exchange Project —Support for Academic Exchange with Global South Countries



GU will conduct the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)'s FY2025 Inter-University Exchange Project—Support for Building Academic Exchange with Global South Countries. The project which GU will lead is titled, *Seamless Engineer Training Program for Students and Professionals through Japan–India Micro-Credentials* in Intelligent Manufacturing*. This is GU' s second selection after FY2022. As before, the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) will partner GU.



Together, GU and IITG will develop 1) an Intelligent Manufacturing Program (IMP), a technical education program based on micro-credentials for both students and working adults, 2) the AI4GLOCAL Ideathon Program, an exchange program open to all students, fostering global co-creation skills in AI and information science through collaboration with students from the Global South and through understanding of regional challenges, and 3) a community for the students and alumni involved, promoting exchange and encouraging Indian students to form long-term ties with Tokai.

In December, GU welcomed IITG Director Devendra Jalihal and his delegation to sign a Letter of Intent and a Memorandum of Understanding. It also hosted The Academic Session as part of Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2025, which was attended by the IITG delegation. Three IITG students joined a pilot version of the AI4GLOCAL Ideathon at GU.

Through these new initiatives, GU-GLOCAL seeks to strengthen international collaborative education and research while benefiting our community with the outcomes.

*Short, focused learning programs in which learners study a specific field intensively and receive official certification based on achievements



GU President Visits UKM, University of Malaya, and Andalas University | September 8-15



In September, President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro and a GU delegation visited the National University of Malaysia (UKM), the University of Malaya (Malaysia), and Andalas University in Indonesia.

At UKM—one of GU' s Joint Degree Program (JDP) partners—the delegation met with the new Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Sufian Jusoh to discuss student exchange, academic collaboration, and JDP expansion. They also toured the university hospital to explore opportunities for medical collaboration.

At the University of Malaya, GU held a signing ceremony for a Letter of Intent to begin cooperation in education and research. The delegation also met Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Hasniza Binti Zaman Huri, to discuss joint research and student- and faculty-exchange.

The delegation then visited the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and met Ambassador SHIKATA Noriyuki, Counselor KITAOKA Tatsuya—who helped draft the JDP guidelines—and Third Secretary YASUE Shunji. Discussions focused on strengthening GU activities in Malaysia.

The delegation next traveled to Andalas University, GU' s longest-standing partner. President Yoshida met Rector, Dr. Efa Yonnedi, and Vice Rector Dr. Syukri Arief, and delivered a keynote speech at the university' s 69th anniversary ceremony, highlighting his medical achievements and introducing GU and the Tokai National Higher Education and Research System (THERS).

The visit concluded with an informal gathering with about 30 members of the Gifu University Indonesia Alumni Association, who shared memories and discussed future cooperation.

This visit is expected to further strengthen educational and research ties between Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia.





The Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2025 was held in December 5 at iGCORE and other venues on the GU campus. The main symposium, hosted by THERS¹, welcomed 95 visiting and online participants. It opened with remarks by THERS Chancellor MATSUO Seiichi and GU President Yoshida (THERS Executive Trustee and Vice Chancellor), followed by a keynote speech from MEXT Senior Specialist Ms. FURUYA Kaori on promoting international student mobility and university globalization.

Next, IITG Director Devendra Jalihal introduced IITG. After that, video messages were shown from JDP students at the University of Tsukuba and Nagoya University, as well as a GU JDP graduate.

A panel discussion on “Student Exchange with Global South Countries” brought together representatives from Nagoya University, the University of Tsukuba, Yamaguchi University, and GU to discuss the significance, challenges, and future of exchange with Global South institutions.

In the afternoon, there was an Industry–Academia–Finance–Government Collaboration Session focusing on Corporate Activities Driving the Transition to a Sustainable Society. It welcomed 114 visitors and online attendees (including 41 company officials). Part I highlighted the GU JDP Consortium and corporate initiatives using bamboo-based biomass. Part II, Nature-Positive Agriculture and Biomass Utilization, featured case studies from the Tokai Regional Agricultural Administration Office and Kirin Holdings.

Booths presenting local companies and cultural exhibits filled the University Library entrance hall, attracting many local and international visitors.

The symposium was highly productive, and GU will continue promoting regional internationalization through similar initiatives.

1) Tokai National Higher Education and Research System



Studying Abroad

GU–GLOCAL Hosts Study Abroad Fair Fall 2025

November 19

Since 2012, this annual event has offered information on overseas learning opportunities, GU study abroad programs, and language requirements.

The fair began with opening remarks by Professor TATSUMI Toru, Associate Division Head of the Study Abroad Promotion Division. Staff from the Inbound and Outbound Student Affairs Office then introduced GU study abroad programs and support services. Students who participated in the year’s short-term programs then gave presentations on their experiences abroad. After a short break, students from previous years’ exchange and short-term dispatch programs, and from MEXT’s Tobitate! Ryugaku JAPAN, were invited to present as well. They spoke about how studying abroad helped them build confidence in English, improve problem-solving and communication skills, and develop an interest in working overseas. Lively Q&A sessions after each presentation reflected the strong interest students have in following such examples.



Studying Abroad



SHIMIZU Ryoma
Graduate School of
Natural Science and Technology

GU-IITG
GEP Program



Study Abroad in India

As part of the Glocal Expert Program (GEP), I participated in a research exchange at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG). I decided to study abroad not only to broaden my knowledge regarding my research field but also because I wanted to experience firsthand the rapid growth that India has been undergoing in recent years. Although this was my first time traveling abroad and I felt some anxiety, I was able to have a fulfilling experience thanks to the warm support of the International Affairs Office and the local people. Through this experience, I deeply learned the importance of “doing as the Romans do” without being bound by my previous conventions.



From August to December, students from GU (5), IITG (3), and UKM (3) worked in three mixed groups to create videos for the Collaborative Video Making Program (CVMP) 2025. Each group received training in smartphone video production from a producer at an Australian creative agency and created videos on the theme “Unique points seen by comparing student life.”

On December 11, the CVMP Final Competition was held in a hybrid format via Zoom Webinar and at the presentation area on the first floor of OKB Gifu University Plaza. Scores from special judges and audience votes selected the winner as Group 3’s video, Our Universities, Our Stories.

All videos are available on the GU-GLOCAL Channel to encourage more students from the three universities to consider studying abroad.



Studying in Japan

Winter School Program 2025

December 3-18

GU-GLOCAL held the ninth, annual, two-week Winter School Program¹ 2025 in December. Seven students from IITG and two from UKM—two of our partners in the Joint Degree Program (JDP)—participated.

The theme was Studying the Science of Japanese Food, and included were the Gifu JDP Symposium, special lectures, company visits, and interactions with students from GU and from local high schools. They experimented on tea leaves and Japanese food, learned traditional cooking methods, took Japanese classes, and experienced cultural activities, including a Jūnihitoe (twelve-layered kimono) workshop and visits to a vinegar brewery and a tea plantation.

Finally, at the Accomplishment Reports and Closing Ceremony, they gave presentations on what they had learnt.

1) Supported by MEXT’s Inter-University Exchange Project



Initiatives of the Center for Japanese Language and Culture (CJLC)

Japanese Cultural Workshop: Donnig and Experiencing the Jūnihitoe—Traditional Japanese Attire

December 10

In December, the Center for Japanese Language and Culture hosted a Japanese cultural workshop, Donnig and Experiencing the Jūnihitoe. The event welcomed over 50 participants, including students from IITG and UKM, who were attending the Winter School Program 2025, international students enrolled in the Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course, or the Japanese Society and Culture Program, as well as other international and Japanese students and faculty members of GU.

The workshop featured instruction by Ms. ITO Keiko (known professionally as Houshoukei), a master in Jūnihitoe dressing, along with four other instructors. A live performance of the koto harp added to the solemn and elegant atmosphere, enhancing everyone’s appreciation of the beauty of the Jūnihitoe.

Professor TSUCHIYA Momoko of the Center provided Japanese and English explanations of historical points and the details of the Jūnihitoe. Following this, Ms. ZHU JIAOMEI, an international student from China served as the dressing model. After preparing the kosode¹ and nagabakama², the layers, called hitoe, itsutsuginu, uwagi, karaginu, and mo were put on this order. Participants asked questions such as “Was the Jūnihitoe worn every day?” and “How did a wearer use the restroom?” to which the instructors responded carefully.

After the demonstration, volunteers had the opportunity to try on the Jūnihitoe themselves. They were surprised at how heavy it was but enjoyed having their photos taken. Many shared positive opinions, like “I was able to fully appreciate the depth and beauty of traditional Japanese culture,” showing this to be a meaningful opportunity and important element in enriching anyone’s Japanese cultural education.

1) a traditional Japanese garment with small cuffs 2) a type of traditional Japanese trousers with long, trailing legs that cover the feet and extend into a train at the back



Studying at GU



KUMARI SAPNA
United Graduate School of
Agricultural Science



India

My Study Abroad Experience in Japan: Learning, Connection, and Personal Growth”

I have visited Japan twice, and both times have been amazing and enriching experiences for me. My first visit was during the IMDFST exchange program between IIT Guwahati and Gifu University, where I gained exposure to Japan’s advanced research environment, disciplined work culture, and collaborative academic approach. During this period, I also visited many beautiful places with my Japanese friends, making it a memorable experience. This exchange program motivated me to pursue higher studies in Japan. Currently, I am in Japan for the second time as a PhD student under the MEXT scholarship. Although the language barrier was challenging at first, Japanese people are very kind and always helped me whenever I faced difficulties. Through IOSAS activities such as home visits and cultural events, I have had many opportunities to interact with people and feel more connected to Japanese society. My special thanks go to my supervisor, Imaizumi Teppei, for giving me the opportunity to return to Japan for the second time and for creating such a welcoming and supportive research environment, which helped me adapt easily to life in Japan and continue my academic journey with confidence.





Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students: Gifu Region Workshop

November 26

In November, GU hosted the Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students: Gifu Region Workshop 2025. 13 representatives from eight companies and 22 international students from 12 countries (attending GU and Asahi University) participated.



Now in its eighth year, the workshop is jointly organized by four consortium members—Gifu University, the Gifu Prefectural Government, the Gifu Employers' Association, and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Gifu—to create job-matching opportunities between international students and local companies.

The workshop consisted of two parts. This year, the first part was changed to include interactive group discussions under the theme “Understanding the Real Perspectives of International Students and Companies.” Students and companies exchanged views openly in small groups and discussed how to create a society where foreign talent can thrive. In the second part, students visited company booths for individual networking.

Feedback from participants was highly positive. Some international students commented, "I gained useful information for future job hunting in Japan" and "I had so much to share that there wasn't enough time in either session." Various company representatives said, "Hearing the real concerns and expectations of international students was helpful for recruitment," "We were impressed by their strong motivation and commitment to long-term employment," and "We definitely want to participate again next year."

GU will continue working to connect international students with local businesses and support global talent in the region.



Delegation from HEP-UKM Visits Gifu University

January 7



GU welcomed a six-member delegation from the Center for Student Affairs of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (HEP-UKM), in January led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs and Alumni, Prof. Ts Dr. Norinsan Kamil Othman. The visit concerned an overseas GU staff training program at UKM in February 2026.

During the courtesy meeting with President Yoshida, they discussed his September 2025 UKM visit (refer to p1) where he met Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Sufian Jusoh, toured the Faculty of Science and Technology, and visited the university hospital. Both sides expressed hopes to further expand student, researcher, and faculty exchanges.

Vice-President Lim Lee Wah (Global Outreach, Diversity, Gender and Library) then introduced GU, followed by an overview of the Organization for Promotion of Higher Education and Student Support by Vice Director-General, Professor TAKAHASHI Shuhei. The delegation also toured the Intelligent Production Technology Research & Development Center for Aerospace to observe the advanced facilities.

The visit has further strengthened both student- and faculty- ties between our universities, so expansion of exchange, such as the JDP, should result.



President and Delegates from Chiang Mai University, the Kingdom of Thailand, visit GU

October 9



In October, six representatives from Chiang Mai University in the Kingdom of Thailand, including President Prof. Pongruk Sribanditmongkol, visited GU.

Friendship between GU and Chiang Mai University began in the 1980s through active exchanges in the field of medicine. In 2003, the two signed a Memorandum of Agreement of Student and Faculty Exchange, and mutual visits have continued since. This time, a signing ceremony was held to renew the Agreement on Student and Faculty Exchanges. President Yoshida expressed gratitude for the opportunity to strengthen collaboration between the two universities. Later, they discussed broadening cooperation in diverse fields, such as medicine, engineering, and agriculture.

With the agreement renewal, the universities will deepen student and academic exchanges and strengthen educational and research collaboration.



Message from an Alumnus

Growth is the harvest of seeds planted with dedication and nurtured by excellence

My journey at Gifu University provided fertile ground for my professional life. Following my PhD, I served as Technical Manager of the Chromatography Unit at Alexandria University, Egypt. Applying the expertise gained at Gifu University, I helped the unit achieve a fourfold revenue increase in just two years. Currently, I am back serving as a Collaborative Special Researcher at Gifu University. It is a privilege to return to the institution that shaped my perspective, allowing me to further expand my skills and contribute to our shared scientific future.



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