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To Dean/Director of Gifu University

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Guideline for Student/Staff Outbound and Inbound Regulations under COVID-19

Since July 19, 2021, Gifu University has been determined whether GU students can go abroad to obtain credits at universities/institutions overseas, or study at the University's overseas partner universities for more than one year (actual months of studying abroad is more than nine months) based on the facts/information of infection measures being in place in the said universities/institutions.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan announced that it will resume the scholarship programs of Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) for students who intend to study abroad at their sister universities overseas for less than one year (actual months of studying abroad is less than nine months). In view of this MEXT decision, Gifu University has laid down the rules as follows concerning student/staff outbound and inbound regulations under COVID-19 from April 2022 onwards.

1. Gifu University makes a decision to permit student/staff to go abroad based on the infection warning levels of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website ("Overseas Travel Safety Information")(<https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/masters/explanation.html>).
2. Student/staff must comply with the advices of Level 2 (Avoid Non-essential travel: Japanese nationals are advised to avoid non-essential travel, and to stay alert to the security situation and to take appropriate safety measures should they decide to travel.) or Level 3 (Avoid all travel: All Japanese nationals are urged to avoid all travel regardless of purposes. Japanese residents might be advised to consider the possibility of evacuation or to prepare for evacuation.) if these warnings are already issued at their destinations (including stopover countries/territories). However, if the Dean/Director of your faculty permits student/staff's going abroad after acknowledged the following I. and II., students/staff are allowed to go overseas when an approval from the Executive Director of Gifu University Organization for Promotion of Glocalization (GU-

GLOCAL) is given to them:

- I. Going abroad is a request from the Government of Japan or the government of a host country
- II. Those who meet the following requirements:
 - i. Not able to change the period of going abroad or no alternatives are available such as video conferencing, etc.
 - ii. Significant damages could be caused if students/staff are not able to go abroad (see “a.” and “b.” for students, and “c.” for faculty below). However, permissions can be given only when students/staff know the risks of going abroad very well, yet strongly wish to go. Significant damages include:
 - a. Loss of opportunities to earn degrees (excluding bachelor’s degree)(limited to the cases that no changes in research plans are possible)
 - b. Loss of opportunities to study abroad while enrolled in Gifu University (programs to join are limited to “*Tobitate!* (Leap for Tomorrow) Study Abroad Initiative” of MEXT, or study at Gifu University’s partner universities overseas)
 - c. Irreparable loss of research opportunities (limited to programs stretching more than six months of staying abroad). However if Dean/Director of your faculty acknowledges the necessity of students/staff’s going abroad under special circumstances, they are allowed to stay abroad for less than six months after an approval from the Executive Director of GU-GLOCAL is given to them.
 - iii. Safety is secured against the infections in writing (e.g. people are vaccinated, infection prevention measures are taken by host institutions, medical system is well developed) in host countries/territories
- III. Students/staff also need to comply with the said regulations if they go abroad for private purposes.
- IV. Inbound students/staff are accepted in accordance with the “Border Measures Japan” of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan.
- V. “Guideline for Student/Staff Outbound Inbound Regulations under COVID-19” issued on March 22, 2022 will replace the “Guideline for Student/Staff Outbound Inbound Regulations” issued on March 3, 2020 and the “Guideline for Student/Staff Outbound Inbound Regulations” issued on July 19, 2021.