Four Joint Degree Programs Launched in April 2019

Starting from the 2019 academic year (April), Gifu University launched four joint degree programs (Master's and PhD) with its two overseas partner universities, the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) and the National University of Malaysia (UKM). While enrolled at the home and host universities, the program allows the JD student to study and engage in research activities at the affiliated overseas university for a designated term in the same duration normally required to undertake a graduate study at the home university. After successful completion of the program, a single degree shall be granted jointly by both institutions to the individual.

What are the joint degree (JD) programs?

As expected, I found stark differences in culture, language, and operation of classes between India and Japan. Since my arrival, many unforeseen events and problems occur almost every day, but I am fully enjoying my life in India owing to the great support from my friends at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG). The university has abundant nature and provides not only research facilities but also sports gym, food court, etc., which help me spend a fulfilling break with friends away from my studies. While in India, I would like to use the precious opportunity to be positively stimulated through meeting and interacting with people of diverse values and languages.

Message from India by First-Year JD Student, Haruka Maruyama

International Joint Department of Food Science and Technology between Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Gifu University (Master’s program), the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology.
Students from China, Thailand, and Ukraine concluded their Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course at the Center for Japanese Language and Culture by making presentations in Japanese on various topics such as contemporary Japanese society, distinctiveness of Japanese language, and comparison between Japan and their home countries. The students were able to demonstrate their remarkable accomplishments in Guif University by responding appropriately to the audience’s questions.

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Emergency and Risk Management During Travel Abroad Orientation
Guif University's Summer School 2019. They took ESL Program Aug. 11 – Sep. 7

Guif Language and Culture hosted "Telugu Workshop" at its newly refurbished 80-tatami mat room. Noh drama main actors ("Shite") from Kanze School and Kyogen drama performers from Okura School were invited to help students develop their understanding of Japanese classical dramas and comedic plays. Besides observing the kimonos-wearing demonstration, students tried Noh's complex set of movement patterns and practiced the art of profound laughter typically expressed in Kyogen plays.

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Imaginative English Communication
Keigo Iwamura Faculty of Education

I became increasingly convinced of the need to improve my English communication skills while studying and spending time with my host family in Australia. For many Japanese students, communicating in English is not an easy task; therefore, I chose to immerse myself in an English environment by studying at Griffith University. All the experiences I went through in Australia have significantly contributed to my progress in English. I would like to thank my parents and everyone who concerned who gave me this opportunity. I am determined to continue to improve my English to reciprocate their kindness and meet their expectations placed on me. Finally, I would like to encourage my juniors to pluck up their courage and venture out into the world!

The importance of health was also addressed. About potentially dangerous offenses, incidents, and accidents are planning to study or travel abroad in the near future. University staff and a risk management expert were invited to talk on the campus hosted by GU-GLOCAL where Japanese students, communicating in English is not a forte; studying and spending time with my host family in Australia is not a fortune. Therefore, I chose to immerse myself in an English environment by studying at Griffith University. All the experiences I went through in Australia have significantly contributed to my progress in English. I would like to thank my parents and everyone who concerned who gave me this opportunity. I am determined to continue to improve my English to reciprocate their kindness and meet their expectations placed on me. Finally, I would like to encourage my juniors to pluck up their courage and venture out into the world!

June 5
The English Circle of Friends

The "English Circle of Friends" is a bimonthly lunch hour gathering on campus hosted by GU-GLOCAL where Japanese students, international students and university staff converse for a fun and casual English chat. Participants engage in various fun activities such as group discussions on a wide range of interesting topics, music and communication games. On some occasions, Griffith University (Guif) students and instructors on how to dance

"Gujo Dance Workshop" at its newly refurbished 80-tatami mat room. Noh drama main actors ("Shite") from Kanze School and Kyogen drama performers from Okura School were invited to help students develop their understanding of Japanese classical dramas and comedic plays. Besides observing the kimonos-wearing demonstration, students tried Noh's complex set of movement patterns and practiced the art of profound laughter typically expressed in Kyogen plays.

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Gifu University Organization for Promotion of Glocalization (GU-GLOCAL) was established on April 1, 2019 jointly with the Center for Japanese Language and Culture and four main functional divisions: International Collaborative Education Promotion Division, Glocalization Promotion Division, Study Abroad Promotion Division, and International Affairs and Planning Division.

As a major driving force propelling the University’s internationalization efforts in realizing its primal goal of “giving the benefits from the University’s global efforts back to the community”, GU-GLOCAL not only supports and assists outbound programs for Japanese students but also inbound programs for international students. In April 2019, under GU-GLOCAL’s strong leadership, four international joint degree programs were successfully actualized with IITG and UKM.

A delegation of thirty-five students and staff from the University of South Florida visited Gifu University. This type of annual visits has been conducted since the official agreement for collaboration between Gifu University School of Medicine, Health Administration Center (HAC) and USF Health in October 2016.

A warm reception hosted by the nursing students was held in the School of Medicine to welcome the USF delegates. USF students attended Medical English classes with the nursing students and health insurance seminars conducted by Dr. Mayumi Yamamoto (Director/Professor of HAC). They also toured the University Hospital and experienced care for the elderly. During their visit to Hachiman Elementary School in Gujo City (Gifu), USF participants joined the students for school lunch and the Japanese school tradition of “classroom clean-up.” A night out watching cormorant fishing on the Nagara River with GU medical students was also on the agenda.

The Faculty of Engineering hosted a series of four Lithuania study meetings to increase awareness in the relation between Republic of Lithuania and Chiune Sugihara (1900 – 1986), a native of Gifu who served as vice-consul for the Japanese Empire in Kaunas, Lithuania during the Second World War. Sugihara saved the lives of some six thousand Jews fleeing Europe by issuing transit visas thus risking his job and his family. In the first meeting, a visiting researcher in Gifu University and Project Manager of Sugihara House (Kaunas, Lithuania), Dr. Arvydas Kumpis, and his wife, Mrs. Simona Vasilevskyte (Coordinator for International Relations working for the Gifu Prefectural Government) were invited. Their presentations gave the audience an insight into some of the unique aspects of Lithuania including local food, natural beauty, etc.

As part of the Overseas Study on Culture Course, Education students attend a three-week overseas study program every summer in order to enhance their English proficiency and experience American culture firsthand.

Gifu University signed an exchange agreement with Northern Kentucky University (NKU) in 1990, which mobilized the expansion of inbound and outbound exchanges between the two institutions. In the summer of 2019, twelve GU students attended English language classes at NKU and also introduced some unique aspects of Japanese culture to local school kids (including Japanese School students). GU students were warmly welcomed by the local residents.