



Four Joint Degree Programs Launched in April 2019



What are the joint degree (JD) programs?

Starting from 2019 academic year (in 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.

Joint Degree Programs: Past, Present & Future

April 1
Commencement of Joint Degree (JD) Program

May 16 – 19
Gifu University delegates visited IITG

June 14 – 27
Lectures held by IITG professors

July 9
First JD students paid a courtesy call on the President

July 16
First JD cohort depart for IITG

October 7 and 8
Opening of Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2019

December
Start of Winter School AY2019

March 2020
Start of Spring School AY2019



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

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.



Study Abroad Fair AY 2019

April 17

"Study Abroad Fair AY 2019" was held with the aim to spark students' interest in international studies. Topics discussed included language proficiency requirements to study abroad and details of various types of support programs on offer. Students who returned from their studies abroad were invited to share their personal experiences and achievements including the progress they have made in their communication skills.



Emergency and Risk Management During Travel Abroad Orientation

June 5

GU-GLOCAL hosted "Emergency and Risk Management Orientation During Travel Abroad 2019" for students who are planning to study or travel abroad in the near future. University staff and a risk management expert were invited to talk about potentially dangerous offenses, incidents, and accidents that can take place while traveling or staying in foreign countries. The importance of health was also addressed.



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 convene 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, Gifu Prefectural coordinators of international relations (CIRs) are invited as special guests.



University of Alberta

ESL Program Aug. 12 – Aug. 30
EST Program Aug. 12 – Sep. 20



What I Have Learned From My Study Abroad (ESL)

Chisa Suzuki Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences

To meet people with different values, to gain meaningful experiences, and to immerse myself in an English-only environment 24/7 – these were the three major goals I set before going to study at the University of Alberta (UofA) in Edmonton, Canada this summer. In retrospect, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do" spirit in my communication classes, and participation in volunteer activities exposed me to human relationships which helped me grown as a person and gave me a new awareness of the importance of interacting with diverse people. I would like to convey my sincerest gratitude for the support that I have received from the staff of Gifu University, the UofA, my family and friends who helped me realize my dream.



Griffith University

ESL Program Aug. 11 – Sep. 7



Importance of 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 a forte; 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 concerned who gave me this opportunity. I am determined to do my utmost 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!



Overseas Administrative Training Program

Administrative Training Program University of Alberta

Aug. 12 – Aug. 30

Ayano Imai

Faculty Administration Office, Faculty of Engineering



As one of the selected staff, I participated in this summer's University of Alberta's Administrative Training Program focusing on English communication in the workplace and job internship where I had the opportunity to observe and work alongside UofA staff. Through this training program, I keenly felt the importance of enhancing my English skills as well as broadening my intercultural knowledge and education, etc. both in Japan and abroad. I feel very fortunate to interact directly with Canada's diverse cultures and traditions. This exposure has inspired me to become more receptive to intercultural matters that were foreign to me. It is my hope that the university's staff development programs will continue to foster and nurture personnel with deep awareness of intercultural issues and global mindset.



Staff Development Program The University of New South Wales

Aug. 19 – Aug. 30

Ayaka Hirota

Accounting Division, Financial Affairs Department



This summer, I attended the University of New South Wales (UNSW) staff development program in Australia with six other Japanese national universities members. At UNSW, we took part in practical English language conversation classes to facilitate smooth conversations with local staff. We also had a chance to shadow a UNSW staff to observe and learn UNSW's real-time job operations. On the final day of the program, individual presentations were made about our impressions and life in Australia. While at UNSW, I was particularly impressed with frequent interdepartmental and interdisciplinary opinion exchanges and discussions among academic and administrative staff about their research work, class operations, etc.



Hosted by Center for Japanese Language and Culture, GU-GLOCAL

Studying at Gifu University

Gujo Dance Workshop

May 15

The Center for Japanese Language and Culture hosted "Gujo Dance Workshop" for international students. Gujo City (Gifu) is the birthplace of the famed Gujo dance, which was designated as Japan's important intangible cultural heritage in 1996. Participants were dressed in summer kimonos with the help of "Sepia Kai" staff (international exchange support group, Mino City, Gifu), and were coached by invited instructors on how to dance "Kawasaki" and "Harukoma."



Nohgaku Workshop

July 10

The Center for Japanese Language and Culture hosted "Nohgaku 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 kimono-wearing demonstration, students tried Noh's complex set of movement patterns and practiced the art of profound laughter typically expressed in Kyogen plays.



Course Completion Presentation

August 4

Six 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 varied 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 Gifu University by responding appropriately to the audience's questions.



Summer School 2019

June 26 – July 24

Ten students from Northern Kentucky University (US), Mokpo National University (South Korea), Guangxi University (China), University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China) and the National University of Malaysia participated in Gifu University's Summer School 2019. They took part in the following activities and events: Japanese language classes, bird watching, haiku poetry, University Hospital tour, medical English workshop with nursing students, swordmaking demonstration at Seki Knife Museum (Gifu), kimono wearing, nohgaku workshop, homestay in Gujo City (Gifu), university farm tour, and soft-serve ice cream making.



My Dream Has Come True

Nikolai Shamaev

United Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences



All my life, I wanted to see and experience everyday life in Japan. The «gift of fate» to come here and do my favorite research was a significant event and opened a new path for my mental and academic development. Every day as I pass through beautiful surroundings, I am reminded of how lucky I am to be here.

Just as a bee is constantly hard at work for the good of the hive, people in Japan care about common interests and set their sights on achieving the welfare and prosperity of society.

Despite the fact that I have not yet succeeded in mastering Japanese, I already found friends with whom I can practice the language here. The multicultural environment with purposeful and benevolent people from beautiful countries has made my daily life and studies here much more enjoyable.



My Wonderful Three Years in Gifu

Kang soyeon

Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology



My decision to study abroad was simply to experience life outside South Korea, and now I am completing my graduate studies. I never realized that I would utter the words "nothing is predictable in life" as I anticipate graduation in six months, with many fond memories. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with my research as well as job-hunting. I look forward to being a contributing member of society from next year. I owe these to everyone who assisted and guided me throughout my university life.





GU-GLOCAL Getting Off the Ground!



岐阜大学
グローバル推進機構

Gifu University Organization for Promotion of Globalization (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, Globalization 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.



School of Medicine

Delegation from the University of South Florida visits Gifu University



May 21 - 23

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.



Faculty of Engineering

Lithuania Study Meetings



May 15, June 12,
July 10 and July 31

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.



Faculty of Education

Short-Term Study Abroad Program at NKU



August 23 – September 13

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.

