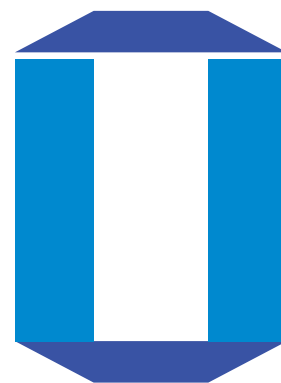


# 岡山大学

OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

DISCOVERY PROGRAM  
FOR GLOBAL LEARNERS



OKAYAMA  
UNIVERSITY

GLOBAL GATE FOR LEARNING



PROGRAM GUIDE 2024

# Why GDP?

Discovery Program for Global Learners (aka GDP)

point **01**

## Personalized Arts and Sciences Curriculum

Transcends the boundaries of faculties and departments and enables students to pursue their unique learning opportunities and experiences

point **02**

## Major Courses in English

Students with advanced Japanese proficiency have the option of taking major courses in Japanese

point **03**

## Student Collaboration

Enhances multicultural awareness and problem-finding skills through collaboration and interactive learning among students

# The keyword is



GDP is a bachelor's degree program where students from abroad (international students, returnee students, etc.) and students who graduated from high schools in Japan study together with English as a common language.

point **04**

## Emphasis on Practicums

Encourages students to become active and competent global talents through practical learning such as internships and laboratory work

point **05**

## Student Support

Assists each student's unique learning needs through multiple faculty members and staff such as Academic Advisors and Senior Project Advisors

# "Diversity"!



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# STEP UP Learning at GDP

Students will acquire the practical competencies needed to succeed in the global society by improving their knowledge and language skills and ability to take initiative and self-actualize.

Students learn the basics of their desired field of specialization until they are assigned to a seminar or lab.

I wasn't confident in my language skills at first, but I felt reassured and comfortable with the support I received!

I narrowed down the field of study I wish to pursue.

**1**  
1st Year

**2**  
2nd Year

Choose a field of interest  
Create one's curriculum

POINT!

Students can take courses across schools and tracks if they meet the requirements!

Conduct Senior Project in English with a GDP faculty member

**Discovery Track**

Choose from three interdisciplinary clusters

See **8** for more details

Conduct Senior Project in Japanese with a faculty from one of the 8 schools/1 faculty.

**Matching Track**

Select from the 8 schools/1 faculty of Okayama University

See **10** for more details

Enhancing language skills according to individual proficiency level and enriching the foundation that leads to internationalization

Select a track at the end of the first year

Pre-Sessional Program

Enrollment

SUPPORT



### Academic Advisor (AA)

Academic Advisors (AAs) will advise on course selections, exchange programs, and career paths.

### Mentors

Mentors are GDP language faculty members who support and guide students in their daily lives. They coordinate with AAs, course instructors, faculty members, and staff in other schools/faculty as needed.

How did you choose your track?



### Discovery Track

I wanted to study environmental studies and environmental anthropology in depth.



October 2020 Entrant  
**Kristen Michaela Dimacuha Guevara**  
from the Republic of the Philippines

Our graduates are active in a wide range of international and domestic fields!

The Senior Project presentation will be given in English.

Apply what I've learned so far to my Senior Project!

Senior Project

# 3rd Year

# 4th Year

STEP UP!

Work on Senior Project, the pinnacle of four years of studies, with an eye on post-graduation career paths

Deepen their studies in their field of specialization and decide on a research theme for Senior Project



Practicum Courses (Experiments)

See **13** for more details.



Degree Conferment Ceremony

Graduation

Senior Project  
Senior Project Presentation

See **14** for more details

Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science

Economics, Management, Philanthropic Studies

Environmental Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Solid State Physics

School of Letters

School of Education

Faculty of Law

School of Economics

School of Science

School of Engineering

School of Agriculture

Faculty of Health Sciences, Medical School

Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

※ Stages of a student's studies at GDP will differ depending on their field of interest, timing and duration of study abroad, etc.

### Discovery Track

The flexibility to take courses in different fields, such as Gender Studies, Sociology, and Human Resource Management, appealed to me.



October 2020 Entrant  
**Karin Inoue**  
from Academy of Our Lady of Guam (USA)

### Discovery Track

Creating a curriculum that meets my future goals was a deciding factor!



October 2020 Entrant  
**Jnifar Gillur Yumi**  
from People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Matching Track, School of Economics

I wanted to expand my knowledge and interests in accounting and economics!



April 2022 Entrant  
**Kotaro Kimura**  
from Nagoya International High School

### Matching Track, School of Agriculture

I had a strong desire to improve Senegal's agricultural policy in reference to Japan.




October 2021 Entrant  
**Momar Moustapha Mboup**  
from the Republic of Senegal

# Examples of learning in arts and sciences across disciplinary boundaries




Aiming to STOP global warming!

I want to work for an international organization in the future!




### Here's what I'm thinking

At first, I took courses on philanthropy and NPOs while learning about environmental changes' impact on agriculture and chemistry. However, after learning about the consequences of global warming on people's health and the need to leave their familiar lands, I wanted to incorporate field research methods from sociology and cultural anthropology in my Senior Project to examine the effects of global warming from multiple perspectives.



### My curriculum

1year	2year	3year	4year
	Transdisciplinary Sciences Environmental Chemistry		
	Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Philanthropic Studies		
	Cultural Diversity and Communities Sociology and Cultural Anthropology		



Interdisciplinary studies in English have broadened my horizons!

Here are some curriculum options for the GDP students to help them achieve their goals!



I want to sell "Oh Okadai",  
a sake produced in Okayama, to the world!



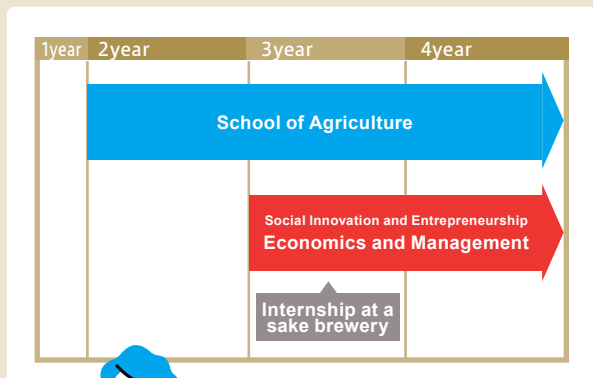
### Here's what I'm thinking

What is needed to sell "Oh Okadai", a Japanese sake made from rice produced at Okayama University, to the world? To answer this question, I started studying rice production and brewing basics at the School of Agriculture using the Matching Track. I have also been studying international trade and business administration in English since my junior year. In the future, I would like to work on sake production that also incorporates specific marketing plans.

Learning in both Japanese and English prepared me for international business!



### My curriculum



It was fun to design a curriculum to help me achieve what I wanted to learn!

Create Individualized Learning in Arts and Sciences in English

# Discovery Track

Students will study their desired topic in various fields of arts and sciences under the guidance of the Discovery faculty. Students build their learning path based on the courses they have taken in their first year and the linguistic skills they have cultivated through their language education.



## Why study in the Discovery Track?



The most appealing aspect of the Discovery Track is that students can study in the various fields of arts and sciences, such as sociology, political science, economics, and environmental chemistry, with peers with diverse backgrounds from all over the world. For example, in a class where students discuss "colonialism," they can hear directly from their classmates from countries that had been colonized in the past and learn about the history and feelings of people from those countries. Stories from some distant world known only in textbooks are realized and students are made aware of new perspectives that vary immensely depending on the country and environment in which they grew up. Only at GDP you can experience this multifaceted kind of learning - gaining knowledge and sharing your opinions with others from multiple viewpoints, deepening your learning and, ultimately, finding the subject you truly wish to explore.



## Three Interdisciplinary Clusters

### Sociology-Anthropology-Political Science

#### Cultural Diversity and Communities

There are diverse customs and ways of thinking within what is considered one culture. Sociology, anthropology, and political science value such awareness and cultivate multifaceted perspectives by questioning what we have taken for granted.



Introduction to Political Science

### Economics-Management-Philanthropic Studies

#### Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Students learn knowledge, skills, and how to manage organizations to solve various social problems such as poverty, unemployment, and environmental degradation through economics, management, international development, and philanthropic studies.



Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship Practicum

### Environmental Chemistry-Physical Chemistry-Solid State Physics

#### Transdisciplinary Sciences

Integrating and developing knowledge and technologies from various fields such as environmental chemistry, physical chemistry, solid state physics, and agriculture is essential to pioneer a sustainable future for our earth.



Quantum Physics and Atomic Structure

### Faculty Members Research Keywords

We are Academic Advisors (AAs) and Senior Project Advisors (SPAs)!

#### Cultural Diversity and Communities



**Haeng-ja Chung**  
Ph.D. (Sociocultural Anthropology),  
UCLA

Cultural Anthropology,  
The Intersectionality of  
Ethnicity and Gender,  
Japanese Studies



**Haruna Miyagawa**  
Ph.D. (Sociology),  
Arizona State University

Global Sociology,  
Migration, Gender



**Kimiko Osawa**  
Ph.D. (Political Science),  
University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

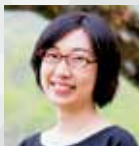
Gender and Politics



**Tak Uesugi**  
Ph.D. (Anthropology),  
McGill University

Medical Anthropology &  
Environmental Anthropology

#### Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship



**Yuanyuan Gong**  
Ph.D. (Management),  
The Chinese University  
of Hong Kong

Leadership, International  
Management, Human  
Resources Management



**Yumiko Yamamoto**  
Ph.D. (Economics),  
University of Utah

Gender and Development,  
Care Economy



**Takayuki Yoshioka**  
Ph.D.  
(Philanthropic Studies),  
Indiana University

NPO/NGO, Philanthropy,  
Co-production



**Michinobu Mino**  
Ph.D. (Physics),  
Okayama University

Solid State Physics,  
Nonlinear Phenomena  
in Magnetic Materials



**Jian Tang**  
Ph.D. (Physical Chemistry),  
Graduate University for  
Advanced Studies

Physical Chemistry,  
Laser Spectroscopy,  
Applied Analytical Chemistry



**Md Azhar Uddin**  
Ph.D. (Chemistry),  
Tokyo Institute of  
Technology

Catalysis; Adsorption;  
Energy Conversion

## Graduate Interview

Class of  
2021

September 2021 Graduate/  
Transdisciplinary Sciences, Discovery Track

**Thilini Bhagya Kolamunna**  
from Sri Lanka

Place of Employment

**Toyota Tsusho (Dubai)**

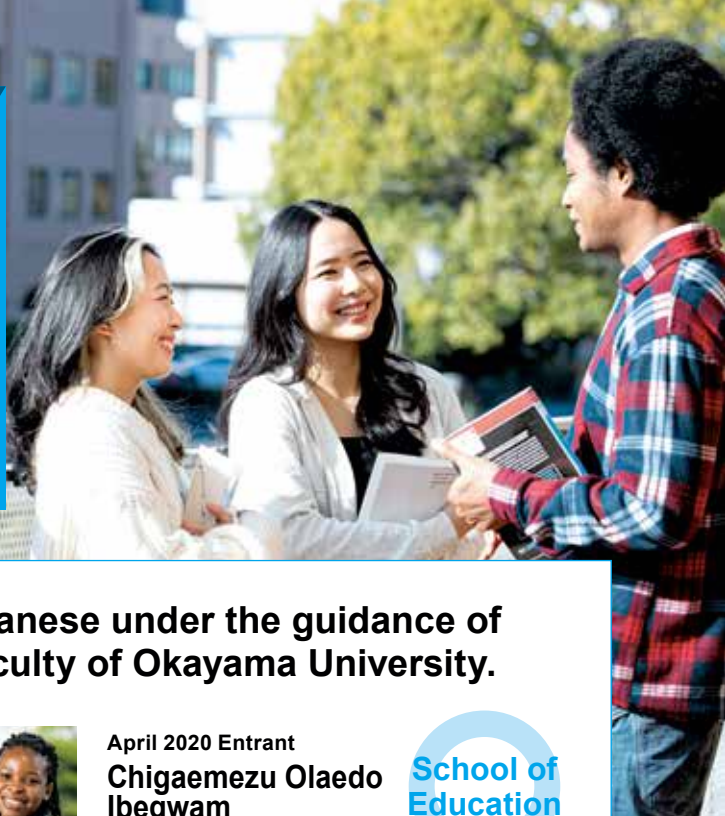


**Encounters with fields  
I had not expected  
have helped me grow!**

I started my new job as Assistant HR Manager for Middle East and Central Asia in Toyota Tsusho Corporation. Here, I have to deal with many employees in the engineering and invention departments. Therefore, in my current position, apart from my expertise in science, I have to know social sciences, especially in global sustainability, urban development, and management skills. I am glad I had the opportunity to learn both fields in the Discovery Track. The Discovery Program also helped me to improve my presentation and communication skills. For me, academic life and other activities such as Karate, Art Society, voluntary services, and conversations between close friends also improved my university life. My time at the GDP will remain one of the most memorable years of my life.

Studying Specialized Field in Japanese

# Matching Track



Study the field of your interest in Japanese under the guidance of faculty advisors from 8 schools/ 1 faculty of Okayama University.



April 2021 Entrant  
**Kei Fukushima**

from Senri & Osaka International  
Schools of Kwansai Gakuin

School of  
Letters

I took German classes for three years in high school, and I wished further to pursue the language as my specialization, so I chose the Matching Track to study German at the School of Letters. Through my studies, learning a third language will positively impact my first and second languages, Japanese and English. I am interested in sports journalism and hope to work in this area in the future using the language skills I have developed in GDP and the School of Letters.



April 2020 Entrant  
**Chigaamezu Olaedo  
Ibegwam**

from the Federal Republic of Nigeria

School of  
Education

I am primarily taking courses offered in Japanese in the School of Education under the Matching Track. During the corona pandemic, I had difficulties adjusting to taking classes online and on-demand, but the professors and the Academic Advisor were very kind to help me overcome this difficulty. I also take classes in English at GDP; GDP provides an environment where students can acquire the skills and knowledge required in a global society. Overall, GDP provides a fulfilling learning environment with many opportunities for development. In the future, I would like to apply my knowledge and experience to provide a fair learning environment for children with intellectual disabilities.



April 2020 Entrant  
**Taichi Inoue**

from Hyogo Prefectural  
Aioi High School

Faculty of  
Law

I chose GDP because I thought I would make interesting friends. I was interested in international law, but as I took lectures in my first year, I became fascinated with legal thought, such as *On Liberty*, and decided to pursue the Faculty of Law under the Matching Track. If you are a domestic student moving on to the Matching Track, I recommend taking as many discussion-based classes of the Discovery Track, especially during your first year. By trying to express my opinions without fear of failure, I could communicate and discuss in English, which I could have been better at. I also contribute novels and poems to *Polyphony*. GDP provides many opportunities for putting yourself out there.



April 2019 Entrant  
**Yuka Ueno**

from Okayama Sozan  
Senior High School

School of  
Economics

I joined GDP because I was attracted to the fact that I could experience an environment as if I were studying abroad while staying in my hometown Okayama. Since entering the university, I have participated in countless discussions and presentations in English with my fellow students from various backgrounds. Having spent four years with a group of such active peers, I have become more confident in myself and better at expressing my opinions. Using these skills, I tried to proactively learn on my own in my classes at the School of Economics, such as through joint lectures with Thai students and company visits. After graduating, I plan to work for a company in the fashion industry in Okayama. I plan to give back to society through hard work and dedication.



October 2019 Entrant  
**Minkyung Jeong**

from the Republic of Korea

School of  
Science

I have chosen the Matching Track, and studying in the Department of Biology, School of Science, was superlative. As an international student with limited Japanese language proficiency, my first year in university was extremely challenging when I started taking lectures in Japanese. However, a well-structured GDP system with supportive professors has eased the difficulties and made my new adventure enjoyable. This new chapter made me acquire a wide range of in-depth knowledge and the significance of acknowledging flaws and seeking others' advice. After graduation, I would like to pursue a master's degree in biology to deepen my knowledge.



April 2020 Entrant  
**INGYIN PHOO**

from the Republic of  
the Union of Myanmar

School of  
Engineering

I have been taking courses from the Mechanical and Systems Engineering program of the School of Engineering under the Matching Track since my first year. Due to the corona pandemic, my first face-to-face class was in my third year, but I passed all the courses thanks to the professors and their efforts in making the courses enjoyable for students. The most challenging part for me was that I did not have friends at the beginning, but I joined a Weight Training club and was able to form new friendships through it. I am currently considering entering graduate school and finding a job in Japan in the future.



**October 2019 Entrant**  
**Made Dayita Priya**  
 from the Republic of Indonesia



I am studying Resource Management in the School of Agriculture under the Matching Track. It wasn't easy initially because I was the only international student in my Agriculture class. But after a while, I took it as my opportunity to practice my Japanese language abilities. I am also taking business management and economics courses. Such learning opportunities were something I could only have had with GDP. Studying at the university has helped me to become more independent and responsible for myself. I am planning to pursue my master's degree in ecosystem services.

GDP has two faculty members and two assistant faculty members from the School of Agriculture to provide guidance and necessary advice to students.

**Faculty Members Research Keywords**



**Takashi Tamura**  
 Ph.D. (Agriculture),  
 Kyoto University

Applied Microbiology,  
 Computation Chemistry,  
 Protein Engineering



**Hisashi Datai**  
 Ph.D. (Agriculture),  
 Okayama University

Agricultural economics,  
 Resource management,  
 Econometrics

A present of peaches from the Okadai farm from the professor

**Classes in the School of Agriculture**



Chemistry of Mineral Elements



Science of Fruits



**Agricultural Science**  
 (English-Japanese Hybrid Program)

In the School of Agriculture under the Matching Track, international students can take basic science and agriculture courses in English while studying Japanese languages during their first two years of university. From their second year, students begin taking classes offered in Japanese at the School of Agriculture while taking "Academic Japanese." They will take courses with the School of Agriculture students from their third year. Considering this, it is recommended that students begin learning Japanese on their own before enrolling in the program.

**Before Choosing the Matching Track**

**Matching Advisor (MA) for consultation!**

Students who wish to pursue a Matching Track can consult the Matching Advisor (MA). MA liaises and coordinates with faculty members of other departments and provides support and guidance to GDP students who wish to study and conduct their Senior Projects in Japanese.



**About Senior Project**

The Senior Project Advisor (SPA) of each school/faculty will supervise students who have advanced to the Matching Track for their Senior Projects.

**Graduate Interviews**

March 2022 Graduate/  
 School of Science, Matching Track

**Masataka Ishida**

from Okayama Prefectural Wakeshizutani Senior High School



Graduate School Name

Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Okayama University

**A valuable chance to try out everything you wish to learn**

The fantastic aspect of GDP is that you can try various things you want to learn besides your department or major. I started mainly studying anthropology and sociology but became interested in geochemistry and environmental chemistry and studied at the School of Science under the Matching Track. The subject of environmental chemistry I was studying required scientific knowledge and an understanding of human life, such as anthropology and sociology. Studying at GDP, regardless of department or faculty, was a valuable experience in understanding topics requiring interdisciplinary knowledge. After graduation, I am currently pursuing further studies in environmental chemistry at the graduate school of Okayama University.

March 2022 Graduate/  
 School of Economics, Matching Track

**Miyu Inoue**

from International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main, Germany



Place of Employment

Ernst & Young ShinNihon LLC

**Taking on the challenge of the USCPA exam by utilizing my strengths in English and Accounting**

At GDP, I could study across faculties, and my interests expanded from sociology and cultural anthropology to economics. While at GDP, I lived with international students, and the language and communication skills I acquired at an international baccalaureate high school in Germany helped me a lot. Through this shared living experience, I learned about the cultures and customs of different countries. Aside from that, I took advantage of my two vital points, English and Accounting, and successfully passed the USCPA exam. I am currently working for a major auditing firm. From now on, I would like to grow as an accountant and a businessperson, as well as to be active not only in Japan but also all around the world.

# Language Education

## Academic English

GDP offers English courses for students to strengthen their communication and academic language skills necessary to take classes in English.



## Nihongo Cafe Sakura

Nihongo Cafe Sakura is where international and Japanese students can interact and communicate with Japanese as a common language. Why don't you deepen exchanges while discussing various topics in this relaxed, welcoming space?



## Graduate Interview

### Thanks to the English and Japanese language skills I acquired at GDP, I was able to land the job I wanted!

I learned sociology and anthropology, which I had been interested in before entering the GDP, through discussions with great professors and open-minded students. When I began thinking about my career path after graduation, I decided to do job-hunting in Japan to be a member of Japanese society to experience things I could not learn as a student. Speaking and writing Japanese at a native level was an essential requirement for competing with Japanese students. Having prioritized English study over Japanese study until now, I needed to work hard to speak and write Japanese fluently. Still, by maximizing the language abilities I accumulated during my four years in GDP, I got my desired job at a logistics company headquartered in Tokyo.

## Faculty Members Research Keywords



**Aubra Bulin**  
Ed.D. (Educational Leadership),  
Dallas Baptist University

TESOL (Teaching English to  
Speakers of Other Languages),  
Higher Education



**Yuka Hayashi**  
Doctor of Letters,  
Kyoto University

Linguistics,  
Japanese Linguistics,  
Ryukyuan Languages

## Discovery Writing Service

Students can bring the draft of their essays and other assignments to Writing Service to acquire more appropriate English expressions by answering questions from tutors and instructors or explaining their intentions in English.

We will also be  
there to guide you!

### Student Tutors



October 2019 Entrant  
**Martha Paterno Balagat**  
from the Republic of the  
Philippines



October 2020 Entrant  
**Andreas Ken Hananto Seto**  
from the Republic of  
Indonesia

## Japanese Language Courses

Okayama University's Japanese language courses offer seven levels to strengthen the linguistic skills and proficiency necessary for international students. Students can choose the class that best suits their Japanese language level and academic objectives.

## Academic Japanese

International students in GDP who plan to take courses offered in Japanese by other Schools or to find employment in Japan are welcome to take Academic Japanese and Career Japanese courses.



March 2023 Graduate/Social Innovation  
and Entrepreneurship, Discovery Track

**Cho Ryeong Kim**  
from the Republic of Korea

Place of Employment  
**Yusen Logistics**

# Practicum Courses

## Study Abroad

GDP can grant credits for short-term overseas language training and exchange programs (EPOK) organized by the Okayama University Global Human Resource Development Institute and International Affairs Department as well as privately-funded study abroad programs. EPOK is an exchange program open to all undergraduate students of Okayama University. We currently have exchange program partnerships with 58 universities.



Debriefing Session upon Returning from Study Abroad

## Internship

As an intern, I worked as a volunteer Japanese interpreter for a Japanese organization and a government agency promoting food security in Madagascar's rural areas. As I am interested in development economics, this internship was a great opportunity for me to apply the economic concepts acquired at university and work on a governmental project. By working with experts, I not only gained a deeper understanding of the issue of "food insecurity," but also many indispensable skills such as leadership, networking, critical thinking, and research skills.



October 2019 Entrant/Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Discovery Track  
**Urick Andriambalo Ambinintsoa**  
from the Republic of Madagascar

## ✈ Study Abroad Experience

April 2020 Entrant/  
Cultural Diversity and Community,  
Discovery Track

### Ayaka Ohara

from Konko Gakuen Senior High School



Study Abroad at

**Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul,  
Republic of Korea**

**My study abroad experience inspired me to pursue a new goal of "creating a society where foreigners in Japan can live comfortably."**

I decided to study abroad because I was interested in traditional costumes and wanted to compare and analyze Korean *hanbok* and Japanese *kimono* for my Senior Project. The experience of leaving Japan and becoming a "foreigner" made me realize many things. I became aware of how inconvenient it is to not be in one's home country, and I found that having foreign-language signs in restrooms, signs, etc. is a very helpful aspect for foreigners. I want to use this experience to create a more comfortable society for foreigners living in Japan. Although my Korean could have been better at the beginning of my study abroad, I joined the basketball club and learned about Korean culture and lifestyles from the friends I made. At first, our team failed to qualify for the Korean National Amateur Basketball Tournament. Still, through diligent practice with my teammates and coaches, we won third place in the national tournament. I am very thankful that I was able to create lasting memories and form valuable friendships during my one-year study abroad experience.



April 2021 Entrant /  
Faculty of Law,  
Matching Track

### Kokoro Nuno

from Ehime University Senior High School



Study Abroad at

**The University of Sheffield,  
England, UK**

**Gained ability to seek solutions on my own!**

I mainly took political science and history classes at the University of Sheffield. In these courses, students had opportunities to discuss Britain's withdrawal from the EU and counter-terrorism measures. Compared to the local students, I had less prior knowledge or understanding of the country's historical background, so I greatly struggled to keep up with the active class discussions at first. I deepened my knowledge by reading reference books in the library, asking questions to professors, and learning about European history and other relevant topics. As a result, in the latter half of my study abroad period, I could speak up proactively in class and received the highest grade possible. From this experience, I gained the ability to overcome difficulties and seek solutions independently. Aside from my studies, I made unforgettable memories with my roommates from Italy, the Netherlands, and Korea at the university dormitory. We cooked each other's native dishes. We would sometimes get side-tracked and talk about our love lives and dreams for the future until morning when we were supposed to be studying during the test period. We even went on a trip to England together! Thanks to my amazing friends, I never felt homesick during my study abroad and was able to have a very fulfilling and wonderful time.



# Senior Project



Senior Project Presentation

For Senior Project, students research a topic of their choosing and deliver a final presentation in as the culmination of their four years of studies in GDP.

## Discovery Track Examples

### Cultural Diversity and Communities

**Topic** Examining the boundaries between artistic and cultural plagiarism and homage



To examine the borderline between plagiarism of art and culture and the creation of similar works (homage) influenced by respected artists and their works through the *kimono*, a traditional Japanese garment.

### Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

**Topic** Exploring forms of collaboration between food banks and local governments



To identify the types of collaboration efforts used between food banks and local governments, the characteristics of each food bank, and the elements necessary for each form of partnership through interviews with food bank operators.

### Transdisciplinary Sciences

**Topic** Comparing natural and artificial honey



To analyze the differences between natural honey collected from beehives and artificially produced honey by using the Raman spectroscopy method.

## Matching Track Examples

### Faculty of Law

**Topic** Investigating unjust laws against women and LGBTQ+



To compare foreign and Japanese laws and to examine the unjust laws against women and LGBTQ+ existing in Japan.

### School of Engineering

**Topic** Suggesting an Indoor AR Navigation System



In recent years, smartphones have become crucial tools and the basis for various navigation applications. GPS is the mainstream for outdoor positioning, but its accuracy is poor indoors. Therefore, the aim of this project is to propose an indoor navigation system using the RGB camera and Bluetooth module of a mobile device.

### School of Agriculture

**Topic** Finding Wagyu genomes of better quality



To search for better quality Wagyu genome by examining genome data of Black Wagyu cattle.

## Other Senior Projects

### ◆ Discovery Track

#### Cultural Diversity and Communities

- Thai School Uniform and Its Influence on Personal Expression
- International students' food habits in Japan as means of acculturation and coping strategies
- Our Responsibilities for Creating a Gender-Equal Society

#### Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Barriers to Shift from Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) to Original Brand Manufacturing (OBM): A Case Study of Upscale Garment Manufacturing SMEs in Japan
- Shibusawa in the East, Ohara in the West: Ohara Magosaburo and Shibusawa Eiichi's views on labor problems

### ◆ Matching Track

#### School of Letters

- Interrogative Phrases in Shifted Constituents

#### School of Education

- Mere exposure effect in "YELL MESSE"

#### School of Economics

- The Changes in the Festival Under the COVID-19 Pandemic and their Meaning -A Case Study of Eyo in Saidaiji, Higashi-ku, Okayama City

#### School of Agriculture

- How to assist Indonesian Palm Oil Smallholder Farmers into RPO Certification

#### School of Science

- Analysis of prohormone convertases involved in the processing of proNeuromedin U



Q&A Session in English

# Career Support / Place of Employment · Graduate Schools

Okayama University provides comprehensive career support for all students. From first-year career education to job-hunting support and even follow-ups after graduation, we provide comprehensive support for career development and help students to become socially and professionally independent.



Career Books Library  
at Global Study Lounge



Global Company in Okayama × GDP

## Special Lecture

A global company in Okayama Prefecture provided a special lecture in 2022, where GDP student Yuka Ueno provided translations and student participants actively asked questions.



## Graduate Interviews

March 2023 Graduate/  
Cultural Diversity and Communities,  
Discovery Track

### Kantaro Fujimoto

from Okayama Joto High School

**Place of Employment**

#### Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) Anchorman/News Reporter

Everyday words and deeds come with responsibility, significant actions require bravery, and it takes courage to admit weakness. At GDP, I have cultivated this courage. Being aware of the number of things I didn't know through classes and my interactions with many people became my strength. At NHK, I strive to work with courage, determination, and responsibility not to let this incredible opportunity go to waste.



March 2023 Graduate/  
Transdisciplinary Sciences,  
Discovery Track

### Masaki Mika

from Okayama Prefectural Ichinomiya High School

**Place of Employment**

#### Shikoku Bank

One of the appealing aspects of GDP is the flexibility, allowing students to enroll in courses across various faculties and acquire a comprehensive understanding of their desired field. In GDP, it is important to take a proactive approach and actively learn on one's initiative. The diverse range of knowledge I acquired at GDP has provided a solid foundation for my current professional endeavors. From now on, I aim to remain committed to expanding my knowledge and skills and actively contributing to the development of the local economy.



## Place of Employment · Graduate Schools

### [Main Places of Employment]

◆ **Domestic** I.J.I unit / Iris Ohyama / Outsourcing Technology / Asia Consulting / AEON Bank / Ernst & Young ShinNihon LLC / Aeon (Corporation) / Energy Supply / Okuma / Caitac Holdings / Kubota / Kohgakusha / Circulation / Sanyo Paper / Shikoku Bank / System Enterprise / Shin Kurushima Dockyard / STYLEM TAKISADA-OSAKA / Speak / Seventh Sense Group / TURN / TNG Montessori Academy / TLV / Technowell / No.1 Solutions / Japanese Red Cross Society Okayama Branch / Tata Consultancy Services Japan / Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) / Hayashi/ freee / Bunka Shutter/ Hoshino Resorts / White Agency / Ms.variety / Mitsubishi HC Capital/ The Monogatari Corporation / Yagi / Yaskawa Electric/ Yusen Logistics / Unite and Grow / LINE / Randstad / LITALICO / World Wide Wings  
◆ **Overseas** Green Labs (Korea) / KC International School (Taiwan) / Toyota Tsusho (Dubai) / Hawaiian Airlines (USA)

### [Main Graduate Schools]

◆ **Domestic** Okayama University (Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Graduate School of Environmental and Life Sciences, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Graduate School of Education, Graduate School of Natural Sciences, Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences, Graduate School of Health Sciences) / Graduate School of Life Sciences, Kyoto University / Kobe Pharmaceutical University Graduate School / Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Meiji Gakuin University  
◆ **Overseas** Columbia University (USA) / Rome University of Fine Arts (Italy) / Bristol University (UK) / Hongik University International Language Institute (Korea) / University of Glasgow (UK)



# Introduction to Student Activities



## What's **GDPSA**? GDP Student Association

GDPSA is a student-run organization for the GDP community, where members actively plan and host events and share important school-related information to strengthen the bonds between GDP students.



## What's **Polyphony**?

Polyphony is a student-run journal publishing GDP students' literary and creative artworks. In 2022, the club deepened exchanges by publishing a journal with the University of Tokyo Komaba Times about the significance of taking part in student journals.



We recommend that you read the article "The Social Wasteland" featuring trailer parks in the USA!



## The World Kitchen

A group of first-year GDP students formed a committee to organize "The World Kitchen 2022," a multicultural food event held at Ishiyama Park (Kita-ku, Okayama City). The students diligently prepared for this event with the hope that the global nature of GDP would be utilized to expand the circle of multicultural exchange in Okayama as a whole and that this event will catalyze local businesses and Okayama to become more prosperous. On the event day, 11 booths were set up by restaurants and organizations in Okayama Prefecture, offering worldwide cuisines. Approximately 600 people attended, making it a lively event.

The event was attractive due to the variety of dishes and the opportunity to interact with people from different countries and backgrounds!



September 2022 Graduate  
**Forrest Maynock**  
from USA

I had a deep passion for writing even before entering GDP. I joined Polyphony because I wanted to share that passion with others. Writing so many articles was a challenge in the beginning, but I am very satisfied with my work. I encourage anyone with a creative mind and a desire to express their thoughts to join Polyphony. Many people are hesitant to share their personal stories, opinions, and writings, and we all fear what others may think of us, but you only know if you try! Polyphony reminded me of the importance of voicing myself and my thoughts without fear.





# Society and Club Activities

There are over 120 Okayama University Association clubs. Students are running unique activities in both the liberal arts and athletic fields. Take a look at OR Check out some of the GDP students who are active in various club activities!

Okayama University Club Activities



**Weight Training**  
April 2020 Entrant **INGYIN PHOO**  
from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar



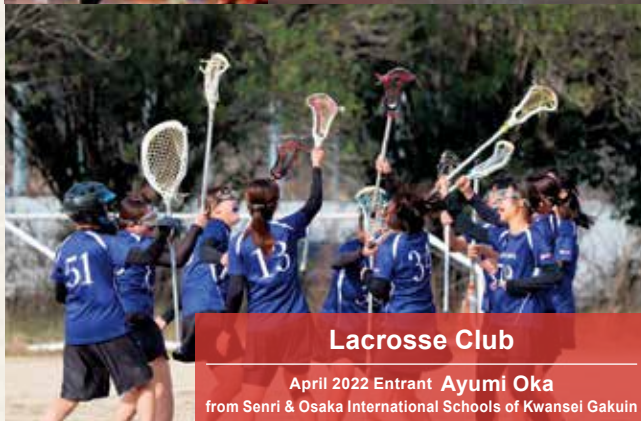
**Track and Field Club**  
April 2020 Entrant **Satomi Narasaki**  
from Okayama Ichinomiya High School



**Ballroom Dance Club**  
April 2021 Entrant **Shoko Adachi**  
from Shimane Prefectural Matsue Kita High School



**Ginshi Club**  
April 2021 Entrant **Kokoro Nuno**  
from Ehime University Senior High School



**Lacrosse Club**  
April 2022 Entrant **Ayumi Oka**  
from Senri & Osaka International Schools of Kwansai Gakuin



**I. S. A. (International Student Association)**  
October 2020 Entrant **Tu Minh Dao**  
from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

# Why? Okayama

OKAYAMA

With a population of approximately 1.85 million, Okayama Prefecture is a well-developed, vibrant city that has grown tremendously over the years. It is a moderate-sized city that is very comfortable to live in, with a warm and friendly atmosphere that cannot be found in large cities.

The people are friendly and the climate is sunny and delightful.



Known as "the Land of Sunshine"



276 sunny days per year (average)

## 1. Eco-friendly, high-quality of life

- The city has one of the lowest rents in Japan
- Affordable Japanese and international cuisine
- Shopping, theaters, and outlet malls
- With a low crime rate, you can live comfortably and worry-free!



## 2. Tradition and history

- Okayama Castle and Okayama Korakuen Garden, one of Japan's three most famous gardens, are located nearby
- Surrounded by many temples, shrines, and museums



If you show your student ID card, you can enter Korakuen Garden, Okayama Prefectural Museum, and Okayama Prefectural Museum of Art for free!

## 3. Easy access

- 1 hour by Bullet train to Kyoto and Osaka
- Direct flights to Seoul, Shanghai, and beyond from Okayama Airport



# Why? Okayama University

Seeing my hard-working teachers and friends motivates me to do better!

## I. Top-ranking research university

- Internationally recognized for research in medicine, science, pharmacology, agriculture, and more
- Established university with a history of 150 years
- Committed to pursuing sustainability in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Numerous fieldwork and laboratory opportunities for undergraduates



## II. Excellence in education

- 9 schools/1 faculty and 8 graduate schools
- 9 to 1 student-faculty ratio
- Tuition waivers and scholarships available to eligible students



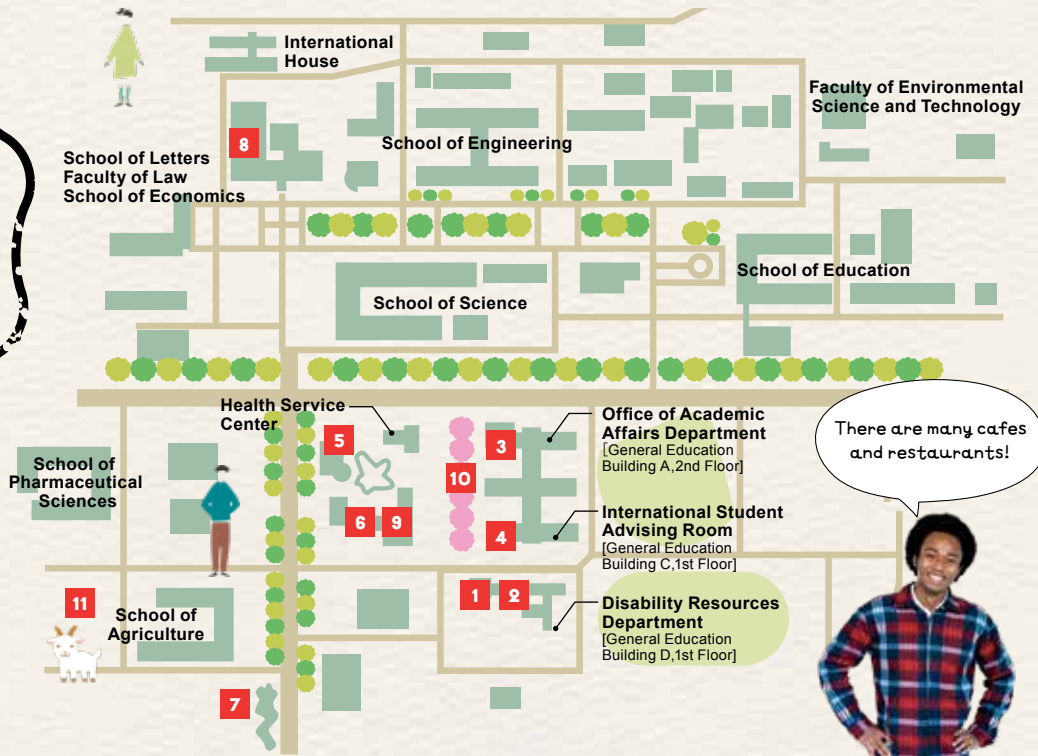
## III. Friendly and inclusive campus

- English orientation and support for students
- 131 sports and culture clubs: something for everyone!
- 364 partner institutions in 48 countries



# OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP

Tsushima Campus



**1 Global Study Lounge**  
[General Education Building D, 2nd floor]

A place where GDP students can gather and openly interact with each other. There is also a space for independent studying and a corner for books donated by faculty members and graduates. Students from the Institute of Global Human Resource Development also utilize the lounge, so feel free to use this space as an opportunity to get to meet new people and expand your connections!



**2 Office of Discovery Program for Global Learners**  
[General Education Building D, 6th floor]

Please visit the office for any inquiries, consultations, and other important matters!



**3 L-Café**  
[General Education Building A, 1st floor]

A place for interactive learning where students can socialize with others and deepen their understanding of multilingualism and multiculturalism together.



**4 Office of International Affairs Division**  
[General Education Building C, 1st floor]

GDP students can often be seen chatting on the outside deck in front of the building. Please come to the Office of International Affairs Division for advice on studying abroad and scholarship procedures.



**5 Peach Union**

Students can use the cafeteria and convenience store in this building. The Travel Service Corner is also available here. Muscat Union and Pione Union are also located in Tsushima Campus.



**6 Cafe indent**  
[University Union]

A relaxing cafe with a bright atmosphere that serves light meals and delicious desserts. The freshly baked bread section is especially a must-try. Make sure to try out the goldfish bowl parfait too!



**7 J Terrace Café**

Designed by the world-renowned architectural unit SANAA, this cafe was created as "a place where people gather, and dialogue is born." We recommend the lunch menu, which changes every week!



**8 The Central Library**

With more than 1.6 million books and the most extensive collection in the prefecture, the library offers a quiet place to concentrate on reading and study, an open space for discussion, and an area specifically for language study.



**9 Career Support Office**  
[University Union]

Career advisors are there to help students with career and employment counseling. Feel free to make an appointment!



**10 Cherry Blossom Area**

Many GDP students enjoy viewing the cherry blossoms here in the spring.



**11 Goats**

Goats are kept and raised at the School of Agriculture.





## Upon Arrival-Support by Tutors for International Students Coming to Japan



GDP students assist international students who have just arrived in Japan by being their tutors and helping them with procedures at the city hall, opening a bank account, and buying a cell phone, among others!



Ask tutors about daily life and classes!



Tutors obtain the essential knowledge of their duties before welcoming and guiding the incoming students

## International Student Shared House



The International Student Shared House is a living space intended for international and Japanese students who have just arrived in Japan to further develop their cultural awareness by encountering another country's language, customs, and lifestyle daily. The building is designed in a way where each individual has a private room and one large, shared area, enabling the student residents to have a casual, comfortable environment to interact with each other whenever they want.



October 2022 Entrant  
**Dilyorakhon Azizbek Kizi Akramjonova**  
from the Republic of Uzbekistan



October 2020 Entrant  
**Mitsuko Kimura**  
from Sharyland High School (USA)

Japanese students are eligible to move in as RAs (Resident Assistants)

You will never feel lonely at the shared house because you can hang out with your roommates in the common space, watch movies or cook together. Your experience living with your roommates who might belong to a different religion or cultural background than yours will be unique. Mutually respecting each other's beliefs will enable you to become more open-minded. You will also learn to cooperate with people since you will share the kitchen and bathroom. GDP is not only a program but also a family. Becoming part of the GDP will enable you to evolve academically and to become independent. The experience you will get in GDP will be the cornerstone for your successful future career!

I became an RA because I wanted to support international students and make their lives in Japan as enjoyable and fulfilling as possible. I helped them complete the necessary procedures to live in Okayama, which made me realize how difficult life in Japan can be for those who do not speak Japanese and gave me a chance to look at the country from an international student's point of view. Living with roommates from different cultures may sound complicated, but it provides valuable experiences of interaction, conversation, and cooperation that you can only have if you live with others. If you are interested, apply for the dormitory! Even if you may have some concerns or worries initially, I am sure it will be a positive and rewarding experience.

### The average monthly cost of living in Okayama

- rent (International Student Shared House) JPY 23,000
- utilities JPY 10,000
- food JPY 30,000
- health insurance JPY 1,800
- personal Wi-Fi / phone JPY 10,000
- miscellaneous expenses JPY 10,000

**TOTAL JPY 84,800**

+ books and supplies JPY 50,000 ~ / Annual costs

### MEMO

Various options exist, such as living alone in an apartment near the university or in a shared house with friends.



If this is your first time living in Japan, staying at the shared house will make you feel at ease!



# Necessary Expenses to Study at Okayama University

## Tuition


Tuition fees at Japanese national universities are very affordable compared to European or USA universities and private universities in Japan. The annual tuition fee of JPY 535,800 is paid in two installments of JPY 267,900. All fees are the same regardless of GDP, other schools/faculty, or whether you are a Japanese or international student. In addition, students who study abroad at partner universities through EPOK, Okayama University's exchange program, can study abroad without paying tuition fees to the partner universities.

<b>Enrollment Fee</b> JPY 282,000	+	<b>Tuition (per year)</b> JPY 535,800	=	<b>Total</b> JPY 817,800
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### Comparison of tuition fees for the year of enrollment

Harvard University	Approx. JPY 5,560,000
USA (Private University)	Approx. JPY 3,520,000
USA (State University)	Approx. JPY 1,020,000
UK (National University)	Approx. JPY 1,270,000
Japan (Private University)	Approx. JPY 1,360,000
Japan (National University)	Approx. JPY 820,000

Very affordable!



※ Tuition fees for the year of enrollment are based on the "Education Statistics of Foreign Countries" by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in 2022. Rounded to the nearest thousand yen.

## Scholarships

### Full support for your life in Japan!

#### Japanese Government (MEXT) Full Scholarship GDP Special Quota

<b>Application Eligibility</b>	International students from ASEAN who have passed the International Admissions (selected out of applicants)
<b>Benefit Amount</b>	• Application fee / Enrollment fee / Tuition fees • JPY 117,000 per month • Airfare to and from Japan (only at the beginning and the end of the 4-year undergraduate program)
<b>Number of Recipients</b>	4 Students
<b>Duration</b>	4 years (the academic performance will be evaluated annually to confirm eligibility)

### Support is provided for international students who have not yet arrived in Japan!

#### JASSO Scholarship

<b>Application Eligibility</b>	International students from outside Japan who plan to study at a Japanese university (Okayama University will process the application on behalf of the incoming student)
<b>Benefit Amount</b>	JPY 48,000 per month
<b>Number of Recipients</b>	All students who meet the eligibility requirements will be selected. (Most international students admitted to GDP in 2020-2022 were approved to receive the scholarship)
<b>Duration</b>	12 months after enrollment for April entrants 6 months after enrollment for October entrants

### Support for your studies at GDP!

#### Discovery Scholarship

<b>Application Eligibility</b>	Students who have passed the International Admissions for April/October and are recognized as having excellent grades ※ International students and students with dual citizenship including Japanese citizenship are eligible (GDP will notify the applicants after the announcement of the final screening)
<b>Benefit Amount</b>	JPY 535,800 (equivalent to tuition) per year
<b>Number of Recipient</b>	4 Students
<b>Duration</b>	Renewable for up to 4 years for students with high academic performance (tentative)

### We support your desire to learn!

#### New System for Higher Education Study Support

A new study support system for Japanese undergraduate students (excluding international students) has been launched! Eligible students can receive a reduction or exemption of entrance and tuition fees, as well as a scholarship that does not require repayment.



For more details, please refer to the respective web pages and application guidelines.

Japanese Government (MEXT)  
Full Scholarship GDP Special Quota  
Discovery Scholarship



JASSO  
Scholarship



New System for  
Higher Education  
Study Support



# Admissions · Information Sessions and Open Campus

## Domestic Admissions April intake

Target Students

Mainly students residing  
in Japan



[Number of seats available] **25** students

Social Science & Humanities/17 Students  
Science & Applied Science/8 Students

For more details,  
please refer to the web page  
and the application guideline.

- Please select either Social Science & Humanities or Science & Applied Science based on your desired field of study at the time of application.
- The examination categories do not determine the course of study after admission.

### Examination Details

<b>First screening (Document Screening)</b>	Document screening based on personal statement, transcripts, and official English language test score, etc. The official English proficiency test score must be submitted for document screening.
<b>Final screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① The applicant with the English proficiency test score equivalent to CEFR B2 level or higher will be exempted from taking the English writing test (with full marks given).</li> <li>② [Social Science and Humanities] Oral Examination (reading comprehension)/ [Science and Applied Science] Written test (science)</li> <li>③ Presentation</li> <li>④ Individual interview</li> </ul>

### Schedule

<b>Application period</b>	Early September
<b>Examination Day</b>	Mid-October
<b>Results of final screening announced</b>	Early November

### Schedule for Information Sessions

<b>Online GDP Admissions Information Session</b>	June 17th, 2023 (Saturday)
<b>Online Science Admissions Information Session</b>	July 8th, 2023 (Saturday)
<b>Open Campus</b>	Early August 2023

## International Admissions April intake October intake

Target

Mainly overseas and  
returnee students



Application Period 1 [Number of seats available] **15** students  
(April admissions 5 students / October admissions 10 students)

Application Period 2 [Number of seats available] **20** students (October admissions only)

※ April applicants must pass JLPT level 1 (N1) or demonstrate equivalent ability.

For more details,  
please refer to the web page  
and the application guideline.

### Examination Details

<b>First screening (Document Screening)</b>	Statements of Purpose, Letter of academic evaluation, Letter of recommendation, Official transcripts, Official English proficiency test scores, Proof of Japanese proficiency ※ (for April admission ONLY), etc.
<b>Final screening</b>	Interviews are conducted online.

### Schedule

Application Period 1	
<b>Application period</b>	Early to late October
<b>Final screening (interviews)</b>	Early December
<b>Results of final screening announced</b>	Late December
Application Period 2	
<b>Application period</b>	Early December to Mid-January
<b>Final screening (interviews)</b>	Early March
<b>Results of final screening announced</b>	Late March

### Schedule for Information Sessions

<b>Virtual Information Session for the Discovery Program for Global Learners (GDP) in 2023</b>	September 1st, 2023 (Friday)
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※ High school students studying in Japan may also apply for the International Admissions.

※ IB (International Baccalaureate) school graduates may apply for both the Domestic Admissions and the International Admissions.



**How does the Discovery Program for Global Learners (GDP) differ from other undergraduate schools/faculty?**

GDP is an undergraduate program that offers the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree. Upon graduation, students receive a Bachelor of Arts degree, which is referred to as the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in English. Even if you choose the Matching Track and complete your Senior Project in another school/faculty, you will still be considered a graduate of GDP and will receive a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences.



**Can I graduate in four years even if I choose to study abroad?**

If the credits earned in your study abroad program are recognized as graduation requirement credits, studying abroad for six months to one year may not affect your graduation date. However, some fields require students to complete a full year of experiments and practical training in order to conduct their Senior Project, so the timing and duration of study abroad must be carefully planned and considered in advance.



**I have passed the Practical English Proficiency Test (EIKEN) Grade 2, can I apply for the Domestic Application? Can I be exempted from the English writing test?**

Yes, you may apply. For the Practical English Proficiency Test (EIKEN), the EIKEN CSE score will be used instead of the passing or failing grade. Please refer to the Application Guidelines for Comprehensive Selection for details regarding other applicable examinations, CEFR equivalent levels, expiration dates, etc. If you meet the CEFR equivalent level B2 or higher, you will be exempted from the English writing test.



**What level of Japanese language proficiency is required for the International Admissions?**

For April admissions, applicants are required to have passed JLPT N1 or equivalent. For October admissions, Japanese language proficiency is not required at the time of enrollment but any scores from the JLPT or other relevant examinations that students submit will be reviewed. In order to deepen your specialized knowledge, especially if you wish to study in the science field, you will need to attend lectures offered in Japanese at related schools/faculty. In such cases, it is necessary to achieve a level of N2 to N1 in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.



**How will the English proficiency required for the International Admissions be determined?**

Applicants who have not been educated in English as their official or primary language of teaching for the last five years will be asked to submit scores from one or more English language qualifications/examinations, such as TOEFL or IELTS, at the time of application. English proficiency will be judged comprehensively based on an interview and the student's high school grades.



**I grew up overseas and studied in Japan from junior high school. Should I take the International Admissions or the Domestic Application? I am currently attending an international school in Japan. Am I eligible to apply for the International Admissions?**

You can take both the International Admissions and the Domestic Application as long as you meet the application requirements.



**Does GDP offer an IB (International Baccalaureate) Entrance Examination?**

GDP does not hold an IB entrance examination, but highly values IB education and welcomes not only students with an IB qualification but also prospective students and applicants with only a Certificate of Completion. Since the program's inception, many students who were educated at IB schools have enrolled and are deepening their studies in the small-sized class and practical learning environments that are the characteristics of GDP. There are multiple opportunities to take the IB Entrance Examination, and IB scores are also evaluated in the Domestic Application and International Admissions. In both cases, the knowledge students gained from their IB education can be useful in the entrance examinations.



**For other frequently asked questions, please refer to the website below.**

< Frequently Asked Questions >





University Mark

# OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

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<https://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/>

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