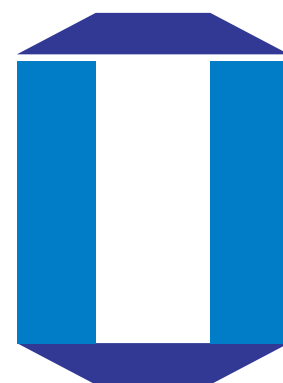


岡山大学

OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

DISCOVERY PROGRAM
FOR GLOBAL LEARNERS



OKAYAMA
UNIVERSITY

GLOBAL GATE FOR LEARNING



PROGRAM GUIDE 2025

Why Discovery Program for Global Learners (aka GDP) GDP? GDP?

Discovery Program for Global Learners (aka GDP)

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.



The key

POINT

1

Personalized Interdisciplinary Curriculum

Enables students to create their own curriculum by combining courses from different academic disciplines.

POINT

2

English-Based Program

Allows students to study in select academic disciplines in English. Students with advanced Japanese proficiency can take some courses in Japanese as well.

POINT

3

Collaborative Environment

Collaboration and interactive learning nurtures multicultural awareness and the ability to approach issues from multiple perspectives to develop problem-solving skills.



word is "Diversity"!

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POINT
4

Practical Experience

Students become active and competent global talents through practical learning such as projects, internships, laboratory work, fieldwork, and volunteering.

POINT
5

Student Support

Multiple faculty members and staff are available to support each student and their unique learning needs.

Where are you from?

Main Nationalities of Previous GDP Students



Students come from all over the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America, and Oceania.

You can make friends from various countries and regions!

Canada

America

Nicaragua

Myanmar

Indonesia

America

**October 2021 Entrant
LIN THU KHA HTAIK**

**April 2022 Entrant
Karen Ambrose**

**October 2022 Entrant
Aisyah Shobrina**

Tokyo is connected to about 110 cities in Japan and abroad.

Nationality	Number of International Students Currently Enrolled
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	13
People's Republic of China	11
Republic of the Union of Myanmar	10
Republic of Indonesia	7
Republic of Korea	5
Kingdom of Thailand	4
Republic of the Philippines	3
People's Republic of Bangladesh	3
United States of America	2
Republic of Poland	2
Taiwan	2
Malaysia	2
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2
Republic of Nicaragua	1
Russian Federation	1
Republic of Uzbekistan	1
Republic of Ghana	1
Federal Republic of Nigeria	1
Republic of South Sudan	1
Republic of Liberia	1
Republic of Senegal	1
Republic of Kenya	1
Kingdom of Cambodia	1

(As of October 2023)

STEP UP Learning at GDP

Students acquire the skills needed to succeed in the rapidly changing world

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



1
1st Year



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

STEP UP!

2
2nd Year



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

STEP UP!

Choose a field of interest
Create one's curriculum

POINT!

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

Pre-Sessional Program

Enrollment

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

Conduct Senior Project in English with a GDP faculty member

Discovery Track

Choose from three interdisciplinary clusters

See **10** 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 **14** for more details



SUPPORT



Academic Advisor (AA)

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

Mentors

Mentors 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?



Our graduates are working and studying in a wide range of global arenas!

The Senior Project presentation will be given in English.

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



STEP UP!

4th Year



Senior Project



3rd Year

Join a research seminar and gain a deeper understanding of the field of specialization



Practicum Courses (Experiments)

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



Degree Conferment Ceremony

Graduation

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

Senior Project
Senior Project Presentation

See 22 for more details

※ 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 ability to explore different fields of study first, and then narrow down to a focus, was very appealing to me.



April 2022 Entrant
Karen Ambrose
from Ohio Virtual Academy (USA)

Discovery Track

The variety of courses helped me to fulfill my interests and career goals such as politics and sociology.



October 2022 Entrant
Aisyah Shobrina
from the Republic of Indonesia

Matching Track, Faculty of Law

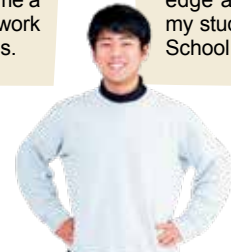
I wanted to study international law in depth and become a global leader who could work in international institutions.



April 2021 Entrant
Kokoro Nuno
from Ehime University Senior High School

Matching Track, School of Agriculture

Gain a wide range of knowledge and experience from my studies at GDP and the School of Agriculture.



April 2023 Entrant
Kaito Hirose
from Okayama Prefectural Kasaoka High School

October enrollment?
April enrollment?

Can we study together?

October Enrollment, April Enrollment

Curriculum Plan



October Enrollment
in the previous year

1st term	2nd term	3rd term	4th term	1st term	2nd term	3rd term	4th term	1st term	2nd term	3rd term	4th term
1 st Year				2 nd Year				3 rd Year			
Discovery Seminar 1				Discovery Guidance(English)				Discovery Seminar 2			

When choosing your courses each term, consider your interests and prerequisite requirements for advanced courses. As soon as you finish the required lower-level courses, you can enroll in the more advanced courses regardless of your year or time of admission.

April Enrollment

1st term	2nd term	3rd term	4th term	1st term	2nd term	3rd term	4th term	1st term	2nd term	3rd term	
1 st Year				2 nd Year				3 rd Year			
Discovery Seminar 2				Discovery Guidance(Japanese)				Discovery Seminar 1			

April 2023 Entrant
Kaito Hirose
from Okayama Prefectural
Kasaoka High School



October Enrollment

1st term	2nd term	3rd term	4th term	1st term	2nd term	3rd term	4th term	1st term
1 st Year				2 nd Year				3 rd Year
Discovery Seminar 1				Discovery Guidance(English)				Discovery Seminar 2

Discussions with October students require a high level of English conversation. I was nervous at first, but gradually improved my skills!

Discovery Seminar 2 will be taken with students entering in April of the following year

Language skills are honed through active interaction between October and April students!

Discovery Seminar
Students join this collaborative class that facilitates learning through discussion and group work. Each class is a mix of April and October entrants for a total of approximately 20 students. Students take this class three times during their degree program.

October 2022 Entrant
Aisyah Shobrina
from the Republic of Indonesia

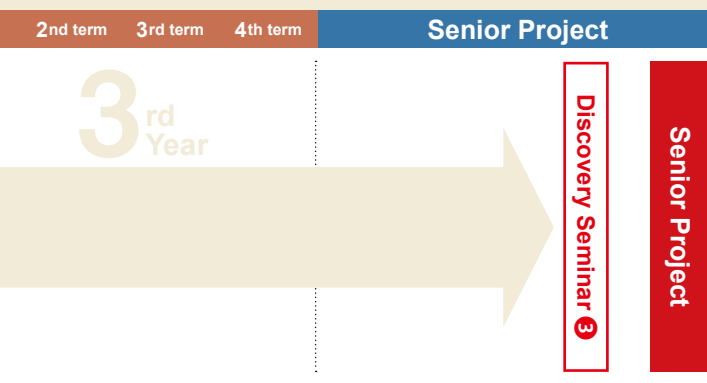
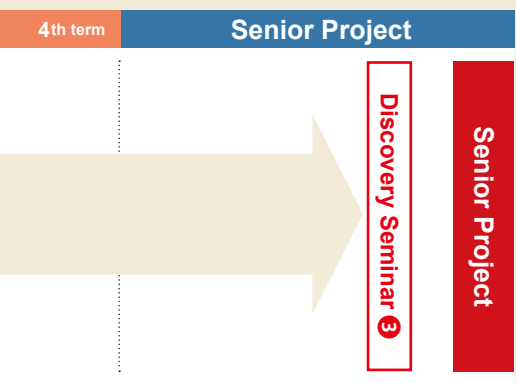
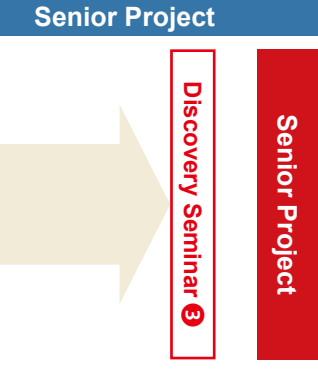


What about graduation?

FYI



October admission is mainly for overseas students and returnee students, and April admission is mainly for high school students studying in Japan.



I worked very hard on my Japanese studies!

April 2023 Entrant
Jun Heng Yong
from Malaysia

Q & A

October 2022 Entrant
Ekaterina Ivanko
from the Russian Federation



Q I wish to enroll in October. Is Japanese proficiency necessary?

Proficiency in Japanese at the time of admission is not mandatory, but if you have scores from the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) or other tests, they will be considered. In any case, it is recommended to take Japanese language courses to enhance proficiency. Especially for those wishing to pursue a science-related field, it is necessary to take lectures offered in Japanese in the relevant department to deepen specialized knowledge. Therefore, students should aim to achieve the N2 to N1 level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test before attending lectures in other faculties. N5/ N4 is recommended for daily life.

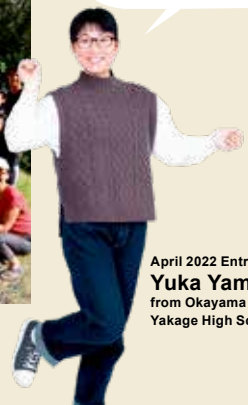
Q If I wish to enroll in April, why is proficiency equivalent to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N1 required?

If you enroll in April, all orientations will be conducted in Japanese. Therefore, proficiency equivalent to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N1 is required.

Q I would like to enroll in April. Is English proficiency required?

The common language at GDP is English. It is necessary to have a certain level of English proficiency at the time of admission. For those who have not received education in English as the official language of instruction in the last five years, submission of scores from English proficiency tests such as TOEFL, IELTS, or Eiken is required during the application. English proficiency will be comprehensively assessed based on interviews, high school grades, and other factors. For reference, most GDP courses are taught at the intermediate level or higher.

Off-campus workshops are fun and memorable ♪



April 2022 Entrant
Yuka Yamashita
from Okayama Prefectural
Yakage High School



Study in English at GDP

Discovery Track

In the first year, students explore GDP's interdisciplinary coursework and gradually narrow down their focus and main interests. By the end of the second year, students find a specific discipline to pursue for their Senior Project completed under the guidance of a GDP faculty member.



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 coming from diverse backgrounds across the world. For example, in a class where students discuss "colonialism," they can hear directly from their classmates whose countries have 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. 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



Introduction to Political Science

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.

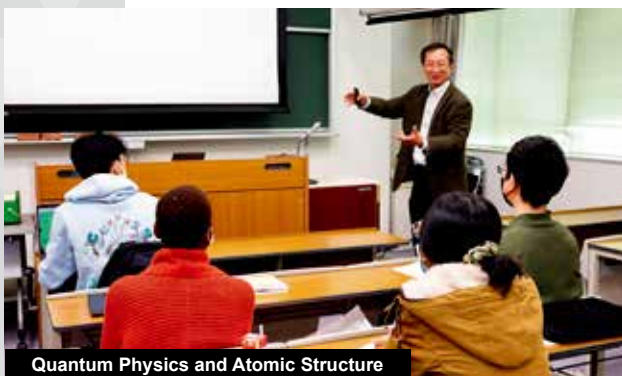
Economics · Management · Philanthropic Studies

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



Quantum Physics and Atomic Structure

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.

Q & A

Q

If I choose the "Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship" cluster, can I take classes in "Transdisciplinary Sciences"?

A

Yes. The term "cluster" only refers to a group of courses, so you can take courses from any cluster.

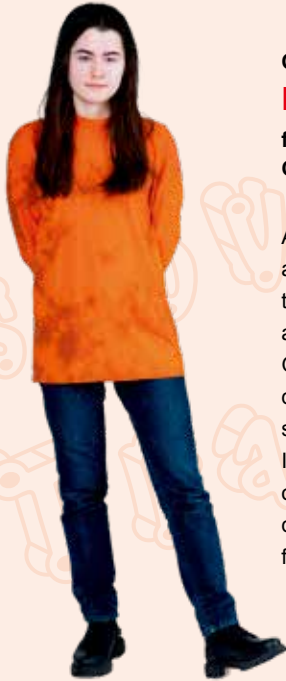
Q

If I choose the Discovery Track, can I still take classes in other departments?

A

Yes. It is possible to take courses offered in Japanese in other departments if you meet the requirements.

Student Voices



October 2022 Entrant

Ekaterina Ivanko

from the Russian Federation

Cultural Diversity and Communities / Discovery Track

Anthropology isn't much present in Russian Universities as a major. Before coming to the GDP, I'd never thought that the thing I was the most interested in my entire life was actually a field of study called Anthropology! The format of GDP courses turned out to be to my liking as well: small discussion-based classes, where interaction between students and teachers are close and highly encouraged. I would say that the GDP has provided me with enough opportunities and attention for my academic interests to develop, which has given me a clearer understanding of further directions in life!

October 2021 Entrant

LIN THU KHA HTAIK

from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship / Discovery Track

I have immersed myself in the social innovation and entrepreneurship cluster at GDP, focusing on economics, management, and non-profit organizations. Notably, the diverse coursework, including politics, sociology, and even agriculture, has improved my thinking and provided practical insights. One standout experience involved exploring the potential of producing beer from honey, which is both a possible business idea and a unique project that encapsulates my interdisciplinary approach. In addition to academic pursuits, my involvement in extracurricular clubs such as boxing, innovation, and Model United Nations, and participation in events and school trips which I greatly enjoy have enriched my journey. As I embark on my career at Ryobi Holdings post-graduation, I reflect on a truly enjoyable and transformative experience at GDP. I genuinely hope that incoming and prospective students will have a wonderful time at GDP, finding joy, growth, and fulfillment.



April 2022 Entrant

Yuka Yamashita

from Okayama Prefectural Yakage High School

Cultural Diversity and Communities / Discovery Track

I am studying cultural anthropology and sociology. Both of them require self-reflection and questioning about what is considered to be normal. I used to be so locked into Japanese social norms and expectations that I never thought to question them or think for myself about what "I" really wanted to do. When I entered GDP, for the first time I felt capable of listening to my own heart. I also experienced lots of learning beyond the classroom and textbook. For example, I joined the Okayama 1/10 marathon, and went to movies and an opera show. I have gained many valuable experiences in Okayama with my friends and professors who come from diverse backgrounds.

Alumni Voices

MAY MYAT SU KYI

from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
March 2024 Graduate
Discovery Track/ Transdisciplinary Sciences

Place of Employment Mitsubishi Electric Company

I found GDP quite appealing because of the flexibility to take various classes from interdisciplinary topics such as sociology, political science, economics, and environmental chemistry. When I was applying to universities, I was not sure what field or what area of focus I wanted to do. But in GDP, I was able to explore different areas of courses and I was able to choose what fits me the most. After graduating, my plan is to work at Mitsubishi Electric Company, where I aim to be involved in developing products that are used globally and contribute to creating innovations that have a worldwide impact.



Sonava Tadao

from Kingdom of Cambodia
September 2023 Graduates
Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Discovery Track

Graduate School Name University of Toronto

I am currently pursuing a postgraduate degree in counseling psychology at the University of Toronto, Canada. This decision was, to a large extent, motivated by what I learned and took away from courses like Sociology and Philanthropic Studies at GDP. I have found that these courses not only nurtured my intellectual skills as a student but also cultivated my cultural and emotional sensitivity, shaping the way I see and connect with the world as a reflexive individual as well as a compassionate member of society.



Airi Yamamoto

from Sekolah Pelita Harapan, the Republic of Indonesia
March 2024 Graduate
Discovery Track/ Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Place of Employment NTT DATA Global Solutions Corporation

My academic journey at GDP significantly shaped my career, mainly due to its multidisciplinary nature. The management course broadened my perspective on human resource management and encouraged the integration of knowledge across different disciplines, catering to my varied interests. Moreover, conducting the course in English with active discussions helped me develop my discussion and critical thinking skills, essential competencies in any professional setting. Despite the challenges posed by online learning during the pandemic, GDP helped me develop necessary skills like resilience and adaptability, which are crucial for my career advancement. The combination of this diverse educational experience and the competencies I developed at GDP was pivotal in securing a job that aligns with my interests and leverages my strengths.



Studying in Departments outside GDP

Matching Track



Study your field of 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
**Chigaemezu 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 2021 Entrant
Kokoro Nuno

from Ehime University
Senior High School

Faculty of
Law

To become a future global leader, I decided to enter GDP, where I could study with students who have international backgrounds. I took classes in English in a wide range of academic fields, including sociology, political science, and economics. I wanted to study international law more deeply to realize my vision of the future, I am currently on the matching track and a member of the International Law Seminar in the Faculty of Law. I am currently researching international regimes to protect the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.



April 2020 Entrant
Mizuki Ishiga

from Tottori Prefectural
Kurayoshi High School

School of
Economics

I am studying social innovation at the School of Economics. The seminar I participated in at the School of Economics provided an environment in which I could thoroughly pursue my field of interest under the generous guidance of my professors, and I was able to spend a fulfilling student life with abundant learning opportunities. I apply the proactive learning attitude I cultivated through GDP in activities such as homeless support initiatives and joint lectures with Thai students, which encouraged me to further deepen my learning. After graduation, I plan to work for the local prefectural government. I will make the most of my studies at GDP and the Faculty of Economics to contribute to the development of my hometown as a global human resource.



April 2023 Entrant
Jun Heng Yong

from Malaysia

School of
Science

As I planned on taking the "Matching Track" to the physics department of the School of Science, I have already taken some of their courses starting from year 1. Apart from the hard content, my first challenge was to understand words written in academic Japanese. It is because most of the textbooks and reference books will be written in such a way that I was not familiar with and will need more time to understand the context. Other than that, there are still many difficulties that lie on my path. My way to tackle these obstacles is to do things step by step and have things planned before doing them. Although the studies were hard, I got to learn the most knowledge. On the other hand, classes from GDP helped me a lot in various aspects. Most of the classes are provided in English and intend to connect studies from high school to university. I also took some Japanese lessons from GDP, which was quite helpful, and I managed to get my N1 proficiency (JLPT). Overall, they may not have many advanced classes, but you can explore your interests by taking these classes.



October 2017 Entrant
Seonghwan Cho

from the Republic of Korea

School of
Engineering

I am currently taking classes from the faculty of engineering, and it would be a lie if I said I had no difficulties in learning. Aside from the fact that I'm learning an unfamiliar language, the contents of the lectures were also quite challenging. With the help from teachers in GDP and the faculty of engineering, I managed to continue my journey in engineering and will start on my senior research next quarter.



School of Agriculture

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.

Classes in the School of Agriculture



Chemistry of Mineral Elements



Science of Fruits

Peaches grown at Okayama University's agricultural farm were given to students during class.

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 will start taking classes offered in Japanese at the School of Agriculture while taking "Academic Japanese" to improve their language skills." They will take courses with the School of Agriculture students starting from the 3rd 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.

Q & A

Q I am interested in the Matching Track. Can I be sure that I will be able to enter my desired department?

A No. Placement in the department of your choice is not guaranteed. To enter your preferred department students must meet the requirements of that department. Sometimes the department does not have openings to accept GDP students. Your Academic Advisor will help you navigate the Matching Track process.

Q What level of Japanese language proficiency is required if I wish to apply for the Matching Track?

A Most courses offered in other departments are taught with academic Japanese. If you would like to take these courses, you should pursue a high level of academic Japanese. For non-native Japanese speakers we recommend the equivalent of the JLPT N1 level.

Q If I choose the Matching Track in the Faculty of Economics, can I still take Discovery Track courses?

A Yes. It is possible to take Discovery Track classes.

Q If I choose the Matching track, does that mean I have graduated from the department of my choice?

A No. You will graduate from GDP with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree.

Q If I choose the Matching Track, can I obtain a license for a professional career like a nurse, elementary school teacher, or pharmacist?

A No. It is not possible to obtain a license to work as a nurse, elementary school teacher, or pharmacist.

Alumni Voices

INGYIN PHOO

from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
March 2024 Graduate
School of Engineering / Matching Track

Place of Employment **NTT DOCOMO**

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 would like to work hard NTT DOCOMO after graduation.



Miwako Ohara

from Okayama Prefectural Okayama DaiANJI Senior High School
March 2024 Graduate
School of Economics / Matching Track

Place of Employment **JAPAN PATENT OFFICE**

The program allowed me to study across faculties to follow my curiosity and inquisitiveness and I could find my interests and direction. The experiences of fieldwork sparked my interest in learning about social innovation and deepened my studies in sociology and management. Aside from that, all my experiences in France, where I made the decision to study abroad to gain an international perspective of business as well as exposure to other cultures and values through life, have given me confidence. After graduation, I would like to play a part in supporting Japanese economic development and contribute to society by continuing to expand my professional knowledge.



Akiko Oda

from Bina Tunas Bangsa School, Indonesia
September 2023 Graduate
School of Agriculture / Matching Track

Graduate School Name **Molecular Biology,
Humboldt University of Berlin**

My experiences in GDP were profoundly meaningful. Within GDP, I encountered challenges and joys in developing new ideas across diverse academic domains. The deep friendships and collaborative enjoyment fostered during teamwork were the most remarkable aspects. Post-graduation, GDP's emphasis on flexible thinking and problem-solving has proven invaluable in my professional journey, here in Germany. Moreover, the specialized knowledge gained in GDP significantly contributes to building my career in my chosen field. The skills and experiences cultivated through this program have become invaluable, propelling me toward growth and success.



Meet the GDP Faculty

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



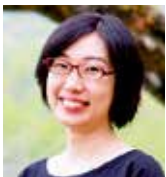
Tak Uesugi
Ph.D. (Anthropology),
McGill University

Medical Anthropology &
Environmental Anthropology

School of Agriculture

There are two full-time
faculty members

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship



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

Leadership, International Manage-
ment, Human Resources Manage-
ment



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

Academic English & Japanese



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

Transdisciplinary Sciences



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

Solid State Physics,
Nonlinear Phenomena in Magnetic
Materials



Jian Tang
Ph.D. (Physical Chemistry),
Graduate University for Ad-
vanced Studies

Physical Chemistry,
Laser Spectroscopy,
Applied Analytical Chemistry



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

Catalysis; Adsorption;
Energy Conversion



Student Life

Real student experiences...



October 2020 Entrant
Kristen Michaela Dimacuha Guevara
 from the Republic of the Philippines
 Cultural Diversity and Communities,
 Discovery Track

What are your future dreams and goals?

Prior to entering college, I had various interests which led me to not know what or where I wanted to focus on; but, I now concentrate on environmental studies, specifically environmental anthropology. Throughout my university life, I have also developed a deeper interest in marketing, communications, and creating visual and creative content; though they first started as mere hobbies of mine, I have now been thinking about how I may be able to utilize these alongside the knowledge that I have gained as a GDP student. With this, I do hope to be able to work in an environment that would allow me to engage with these interests of mine as well as work towards safeguarding a safer future. The bigger goal that I have had for multiple years now is to make a positive difference. I aim to be able to do impactful work and give back to society or help ensure that sustainability and inclusivity are included in development discourses or projects. If I am given the opportunity, I want to be able to give back to my home, the Philippines, as well.

What surprised me when I came to Japan

After coming to Japan I was surprised by the efficiency of public transportation and how bike-friendly the cities are. It is actually one aspect that I enjoy most about Japan! Alongside this, I was also surprised by how much paper Japan still uses.



Weekly Schedule

1st term (AY2022)

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1					
2					
3		Environmental Issues and Recycling Processes of Resources			Japan in the Age of Globalization 2
4					
5		Anthropology of Memory			Anthropology of Memory
6					
7	Japanese Agriculture and Rural Society	Feminist Ethnic Studies		Environmental Issues and Recycling Processes of Resources	
8					
9				Topics in Japan and Beyond I	
10					

4th term (AY2022)

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1					
2					
3	Gender in Global Context			Gender in Global Context	Communication in English 2
4					
5		Environmental Anthropology	Research Seminar		
6					
7	Advanced English (IGS)				Film and Literature
8					
9	Advanced English Skills for Discovery Students				
10					

Daily Schedule

6 : 00	Getting up	
7 : 30	Part-time job	I work hard 1-3 mornings a week!
12 : 00	Lunch	
13 : 25	Lectures	Reviewing class with friends
15 : 30	Study	
17 : 00	Dance club activities	
20 : 00	Coming back home	Study in preparation for lectures! Prepare for readings 2 to 3 days in advance
21 : 30	Study	
24 : 00	Going to bed	



What are your future dreams and goals?

My future dream is to bridge the gap between youth and the elderly in my community in Kenya, positively impacting both groups. I aim to achieve this by leveraging the knowledge, experience, opportunities, and network I gain through my journey abroad. In pursuit of this dream, my immediate goal is to attend graduate school and deepen my understanding and expertise in the field of science.

What surprised me when I came to Japan

I was introduced to dishes such as raw fish, like sashimi, which was completely new to me and surprising since raw fish is not commonly eaten in Kenya. In addition, I encountered unsweetened teas, such as green tea, unlike the sweetened tea I was accustomed to back home. I vividly remember ordering black coffee in a cafe, assuming it would be sweetened, only to realize it was unsweetened, which was surprising at first. However, over time, I adapted to these cultural differences, and now I feel comfortable drinking unsweetened tea or adding sugar to my coffee.



October 2022 Entrant
Joan Silole Mpaaye
 from the Republic of Kenya
 School of Agriculture, Matching Track

Weekly Schedule

4th term (AY2022)

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	Japanese 1-2	Japanese 1-2	Japanese 1-2	Japanese 1-2	
2					
3			Agrochemical Bioscience 1 - Analytical Chemistry	Chemical Bonding and Molecular Structure	
4					
5		English Seminar	Discovery Guidance [Winter]	Introduction to Agricultural Sciences	
6					
7			Introduction to Agricultural Sciences	Genetics and Molecular Biology	
8					

1st term (AY2023)

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	Japanese 2-1		Japanese 2-1	Japanese 2-1	Japanese 2-1
2					
3	Applied Microbiology 1	Basic Kanji & Vocabulary 1	Agrochemical Bioscience 2 - Biological Chemistry		
4					
5	Introduction to Applied Plant Science I	Discovery Seminar II	Planning for your Career: Basic Steps		
6					
7	Beginning French I -1 (Conversation)				
8					



On weekends, I take walks and cycle around Okayama City. I sometimes eat out and have Indian food.

Daily Schedule

Walk to school 🎵

- 7 : 00 ● Getting up
- 8 : 20 ● Going to school
- 9 : 00 ● Lectures start
- 12 : 30 ● Lunch
 - Delicious kebab from the food truck on campus
 - Japanese lunch in the school cafeteria
- 13 : 20 ● Afternoon Lectures
- 18 : 00 ● Club activity or Part-time job
 - Shorinji Kempo club!
- 21 : 00 ● Coming back home
 - Video calls with family
- 23 : 00 ● Going to bed

Language Education

Academic / Career Japanese at GDP



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



Japanese language courses at Okayama University

The Department of Japanese Language at Okayama University offers a variety of Japanese courses to help students develop their language skills. Courses range from level 1 (beginner) to level 7 (advanced). Students take a placement test during orientation to determine the most appropriate level and then select Japanese classes that suit their goals (e.g., integrated classes, skill-based classes, topic-based classes). Academic Japanese courses are also available to Discovery students who take coursework in Japanese.

Nihongo Cafe Sakura

Nihongo Cafe Sakura is a place where international and Japanese students can meet and communicate using Japanese as a common language. The relaxed and welcoming environment provides students with the chance to deepen their exchanges by discussing various topics.

Academic English

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) is an advanced type of English curriculum that helps students build academic skills in English. The goal of the EAP classes is to prepare students to be successful in GDP content courses. EAP classes build English skills that focus on improving reading and comprehension of advanced texts, improving writing to express advanced academic opinions, improving speaking to participate in class discussions, and improving listening to understand important information in lectures.



Discovery Writing Service

Students can bring their writing assignments to the Discovery Writing Service and receive personalized feedback from a writing tutor to improve their writing skills.



Student Tutors



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



October 2020 Entrant
TRAN Mai Vien Thi
from Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Course List

COMMON COURSES

- ◆ Discovery Seminar I
- ◆ Discovery Seminar II
- ◆ Discovery Seminar III
- ◆ Introduction to the use of English
- ◆ Intermediate English at University
- ◆ English Seminar
- ◆ Applied Language Skills for Discovery Students
- ◆ Academic Japanese Training I
- ◆ Academic Japanese Training II
- ◆ Career Japanese (JLPT N2)
- ◆ Ethnographic Fieldwork I
- ◆ Ethnographic Fieldwork II
- ◆ Ethnographic Fieldwork III
- ◆ Internship
- ◆ Study Abroad
- ◆ Independent Study
- ◆ Research Seminar
- ◆ Special Research for Senior Project
- ◆ Senior Project

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- ◆ Introduction to Microeconomics
- ◆ Introduction to Macroeconomics
- ◆ Topics in Management I
- ◆ Topics in Management II
- ◆ Topics in Management III
- ◆ Topics in Management IV
- ◆ Philanthropy and Nonprofit Organizations
- ◆ Global Philanthropy and Comparative Nonprofit Sectors
- ◆ Introduction to Data Analysis
- ◆ Microeconomics
- ◆ Macroeconomics
- ◆ Development Economics
- ◆ International Economics
- ◆ Japanese Economy
- ◆ Japanese Economy and Gender
- ◆ Topics in Management V
- ◆ Topics in Management VI
- ◆ Topics in Management VII
- ◆ Topics in Management VIII
- ◆ Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship
- ◆ Qualitative Research Methods
- ◆ Elementary Statistics
- ◆ Introduction to Feminist Economics
- ◆ Trade Policy and Development
- ◆ Poverty
- ◆ Inequality
- ◆ Topics in Management IX
- ◆ Topics in Management X
- ◆ Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship Practicum I
- ◆ Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship Practicum II
- ◆ Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship Practicum III
- ◆ Intermediate Statistics

Cultural Diversity and Communities

- ◆ Feminist Ethnic Studies
- ◆ Korean Diaspora
- ◆ Global Sociology
- ◆ Culture and Illness
- ◆ Anthropology of Disaster
- ◆ Anthropology of Food
- ◆ Sociological Imagination
- ◆ Introduction to Political Science
- ◆ Introduction to Japanese Politics
- ◆ Cultural Anthropology
- ◆ Topics in Japan and Beyond I
- ◆ Sociology of Migration I
- ◆ Sociology of Migration II
- ◆ Urban Sociology
- ◆ Logic and Methods of Social Inquiry
- ◆ Medical Anthropology
- ◆ Environmental Anthropology
- ◆ History of Social Thought
- ◆ Comparative Politics
- ◆ Japanese Politics
- ◆ International Politics
- ◆ Sex Work and Emotional Labor
- ◆ Topics in Japan and Beyond II
- ◆ Colonialism and War
- ◆ Anthropology of the Self
- ◆ Globalization and Development
- ◆ Gender in Global Context
- ◆ Seminar in Medical Anthropology
- ◆ Anthropology of Science
- ◆ Anthropology of Memory
- ◆ Ethnographies in Medical Anthropology
- ◆ Topics in Political Science I
- ◆ Topics in Political Science II
- ◆ Topics in Political Science III
- ◆ Topics in Political Science IV

Transdisciplinary Sciences for Environmental Sustainability

- ◆ Mathematics for Physical Chemistry
- ◆ Modern Physics
- ◆ Chemistry for Chemical Engineering
- ◆ Fundamentals of Mathematics
- ◆ Fundamentals of Physics I
- ◆ Fundamentals of Physics II
- ◆ Quantum Physics and Atomic Structure
- ◆ Chemical Bonding and Molecular Structure
- ◆ Fundamentals of Chemistry
- ◆ Instrumental Analysis
- ◆ Introduction to Catalytic Chemistry
- ◆ Introduction to Thermodynamics
- ◆ Genetics and Molecular Biology
- ◆ Fundamentals of Molecular Spectroscopy
- ◆ Spectroscopic Methods
- ◆ Introduction to Astrochemistry and Atmospheric Chemistry
- ◆ Introduction to Solid State Physics
- ◆ Basic Physics Laboratory

Agricultural Sciences

- ◆ Introduction to Agricultural Sciences
- ◆ Introduction to Agrochemical Bioscience
- ◆ Introduction to Environmental Ecology
- ◆ Introduction to Applied Plant Science I
- ◆ Introduction to Applied Plant Science II
- ◆ Introduction to Animal Science
- ◆ Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry
- ◆ Laboratory in Biology
- ◆ Basic Field Practice
- ◆ Agrochemical Bioscience 1 - Analytical Chemistry
- ◆ Agrochemical Bioscience 2 - Biological Chemistry
- ◆ Agrochemical Bioscience 3 - Organic Chemistry
- ◆ Introduction to Forest Ecosystem Science
- ◆ Ecological Approach to Sustainable Agriculture
- ◆ Economics, Management and Technology Progress in Japanese Agriculture
- ◆ Crop Science and Production
- ◆ Plant Disease and Control
- ◆ Vegetable and Flower Science
- ◆ Crop Genetics and Breeding
- ◆ Fruit Science
- ◆ Animal Life Science
- ◆ Animal Production Science
- ◆ Food and Nutrition Science
- ◆ Laboratory in Agrochemical Bioscience 1
- ◆ Laboratory in Agrochemical Bioscience 2
- ◆ Laboratory in Agrochemical Bioscience 3
- ◆ Laboratory in Environmental Ecology 1-1
- ◆ Laboratory in Environmental Ecology 1-2
- ◆ Laboratory in Environmental Ecology 2-1
- ◆ Laboratory in Environmental Ecology 2-2
- ◆ Laboratory in Environmental Ecology 3-1
- ◆ Laboratory in Environmental Ecology 3-2
- ◆ Laboratory in Environmental Ecology 4-1
- ◆ Laboratory in Environmental Ecology 4-2
- ◆ Laboratory in Applied Plant Science 1
- ◆ Laboratory in Applied Plant Science 2
- ◆ Laboratory in Applied Plant Science 3
- ◆ Laboratory in Animal Science 1
- ◆ Laboratory in Animal Science 2
- ◆ Laboratory in Animal Science 3

- ◆...introductory
- ◆...intermediate
- ◆...advanced
- ◆...Practicum
- ◆...Senior Project

Senior Project



Senior Project Presentation

For Senior Project, students carry out research on a chosen topic of interest and deliver a final presentation at the end of their four years of studies in GDP.

Discovery Track Examples

Cultural Diversity and Communities

Topic Examining the boundaries between artistic and cultural appropriation and homage



To explore the borderline between appropriation and creation of art 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 collaborative 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 RSPO Certification

School of Science

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



Study Abroad

GDP can grant credits for short-term overseas language training and exchange programs (EPOK) organized by the 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

✕ Study Abroad Experience

April 2022 Entrant
School of Agriculture /
Matching Track

Ayumi Oka

from Senri & Osaka International
Schools of Kwansai Gakuin

Study Abroad at

University of Adelaide
Australia



During my exchange program at the University of Adelaide, I took courses such as criminology, ecology, film studies, and international development. Through these multiple courses, I learned that any kind of learning is connected and can be applied to one another. For my daily life, I joined the lacrosse team at the university. We went to the grand finals and I got the team MVP. Not only did we spend time during training but also outside as well. I got invited to my teammate's birthday party and went hiking, enjoying my free time.



April 2021 Entrant
School of Agriculture /
Matching Track

Yui Iwamoto

from Hiroshima University
High School, Fukuyama

Study Abroad at

University of Sheffield
England



I mainly took geography and linguistics classes at the University of Sheffield. The University has well-organized supporting systems toward international students, which enabled me to have a meaningful life without any worries. Aside from my studies, I learned a lot of cultural and religious differences through living with my roommates from India, China, France, and Malaysia at the university dormitory. We sometimes cooked each other's native dishes and enjoyed chatting in the shared kitchen. Thanks to my wonderful friends, I could have a very fulfilling and unforgettable time.



Career Support · 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



GDPSA's Roundtable Discussion on Graduate School Preparation

After graduation, 20% of the GDP students went on to graduate schools in Japan and abroad. A roundtable discussion was held, led by current students, where they actively exchanged opinions about entering graduate schools in Japan and abroad.



Homecoming Day

GDP held its Homecoming Day in a hybrid format (face-to-face and online), with current students serving as committee members, to enable alumni active in Japan and abroad to participate. In addition to in-person participation, alumni from abroad and current students also participated online, warming old friendships with their seniors, juniors, and former teachers. The event was a great success, with alumni giving lectures on job hunting and their careers, and current students actively asking questions.



Place of Employment · Graduate Schools

[Main Places of Employment]

◆ **Domestic** Iris Ohyama / Ernst & Young ShinNihon LLC / NTT DATA Global Solutions Corporation / NTT DOCOMO / Okayama Broadcasting / Kubota / Japan Patent Office / Sanyo Paper / Shikoku Bank / Takahashi City Hall / Tottori Prefecture Office / Japanese Red Cross Society Okayama Branch / Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) / Ministry of Defense / Hoshino Resorts / Mitsubishi HC Capital / Mitsubishi Electric / Yusen Logistics / LINE / RYOBİ TOURS / The Rokinren Bank

◆ **Overseas** Green Lab (Korea) / KC International School (Taiwan) / TAMURA Corporation (Thailand) / 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 Arts and Sciences, the University of Tokyo / Graduate School of Life Sciences, Kyoto University / Graduate School of Integrated Sciences for Global Society, Kyushu University / Kobe Pharmaceutical University Graduate School

◆ **Overseas** Columbia University (USA) / Georgia State University (USA) / University of Toronto (Canada) / The University of Melbourne (Australia) / University of Bristol (UK) / The University of Glasgow (UK) / Sapienza University (Italy) / Humboldt University Berlin (Germany)



Introduction to Student Activities



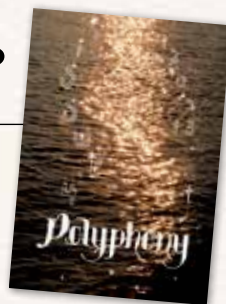
What's **GDPSA**? GDP Student Association

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. The editorial board has also organized a roundtable with the University of Tokyo Komaba Times about the significance of taking part in student journals.



The World Kitchen

A group of first-year GDP students formed a committee to organize "The World Kitchen," 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!



Polyphony
Editor-in-chief



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.

Why? 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 Momotaro 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

- 10 undergraduate departments, 1 program, 7 graduate schools, and 4 research institutes
- 9 to 1 student-faculty ratio
- Tuition waivers and scholarships available to eligible students



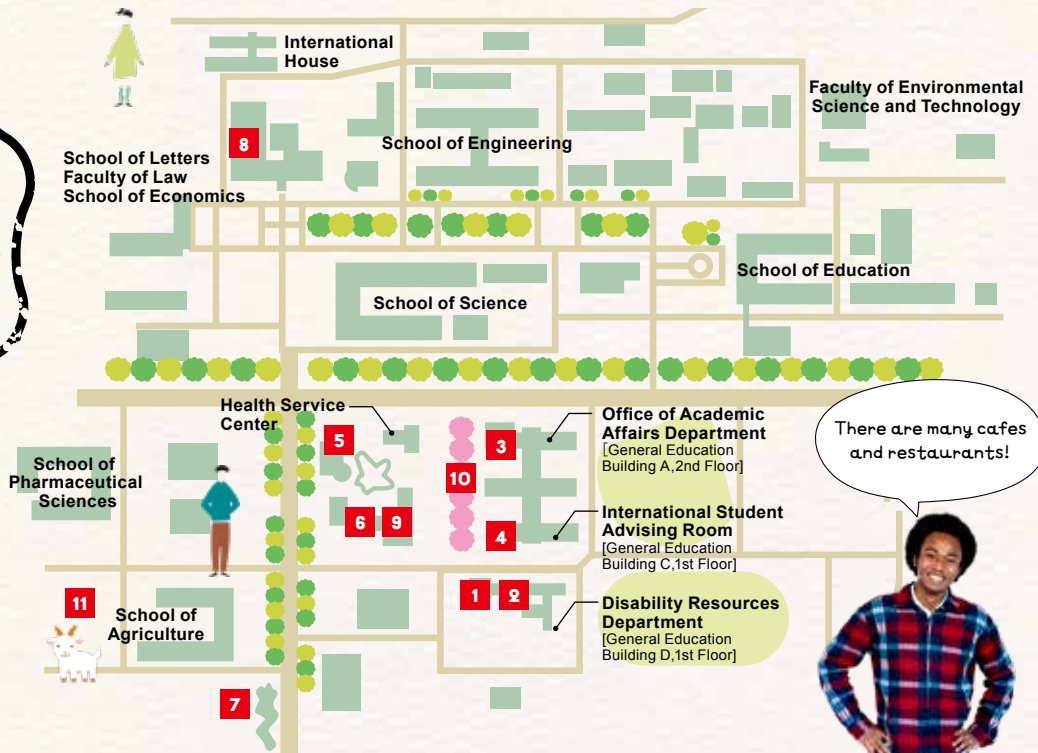
III. Friendly and inclusive campus

- 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.





Arrival Support



Current GDP students serve as tutors to assist new incoming international students with the long list of entry procedures for living in Okayama. Tutors are trained and experienced with registration at city hall, opening a bank account, buying a cell phone or SIM card, and many other processes to help new students.



Ask tutors about daily life and classes!

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



welcome!

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!



Cost of Attendance

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.

Enrollment Fee JPY 282,000	+	Tuition (per year) JPY 535,800	=	Total 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



※ 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

Support for your studies at GDP!

Discovery Scholarship

Application Eligibility	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)
Benefit Amount	JPY 535,800 (equivalent to tuition) per year
Number of Recipient	4 Students
Duration	Renewable for up to 4 years for students with high academic performance (tentative)

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

JASSO Scholarship

Application Eligibility	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)
Benefit Amount	JPY 48,000 per month
Number of Recipients	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)
Duration	12 months after enrollment for April entrants 6 months after enrollment for October entrants

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

First screening (Document Screening)	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.
Final screening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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). ② [Social Science and Humanities] Oral Examination (reading comprehension)/ [Science and Applied Science] Written test (science) ③ Presentation ④ Individual interview

Schedule

Application period	Early September
Examination Day	Mid-October
Results of final screening announced	Late October

Schedule for Information Sessions

Online GDP Admissions Information Session	June 15th, 2024 (Saturday)
Online Science Admissions Information Session	July 6th, 2024 (Saturday)
Open Campus	Early August 2024

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

First screening (Document Screening)	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.
Final screening	Interviews are conducted online.

Schedule

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

Schedule for Information Sessions

Virtual Information Session for the Discovery Program for Global Learners (GDP) in 2024	Early September 2024
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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.



F A Q



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

GDP is an undergraduate program that offers an interdisciplinary bachelor's degree taught mostly in English. Upon graduation, students receive a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree instead of a degree listing a specific discipline. Even if you choose the Matching Track and complete your Senior Project in another school / faculty, you will still receive a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree from GDP.

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?

You may apply, but you will not be exempt from the English writing test. Your EIKEN CSE score will be used in the assessment of your English proficiency. Only if you meet the CEFR equivalent to level B2 or higher, will you be exempted from the English writing test. Please refer to the "Application Guidelines for Comprehensive Selection" for details regarding other applicable examinations, CEFR equivalent levels, expiration dates, etc., to determine your eligibility.



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?

When you apply, you should submit scores from one or more English language academic examinations, such as TOEFL or IELTS, if the primary language of instruction at the educational institution you attended in the previous five years was not English. English proficiency is evaluated comprehensively based on test scores, interviews, and 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

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