

International Office Faculty of Design

2024 Activity Report

2025.5.19



Faculty of Design
Graduate School of Design, School of Design
Kyushu University



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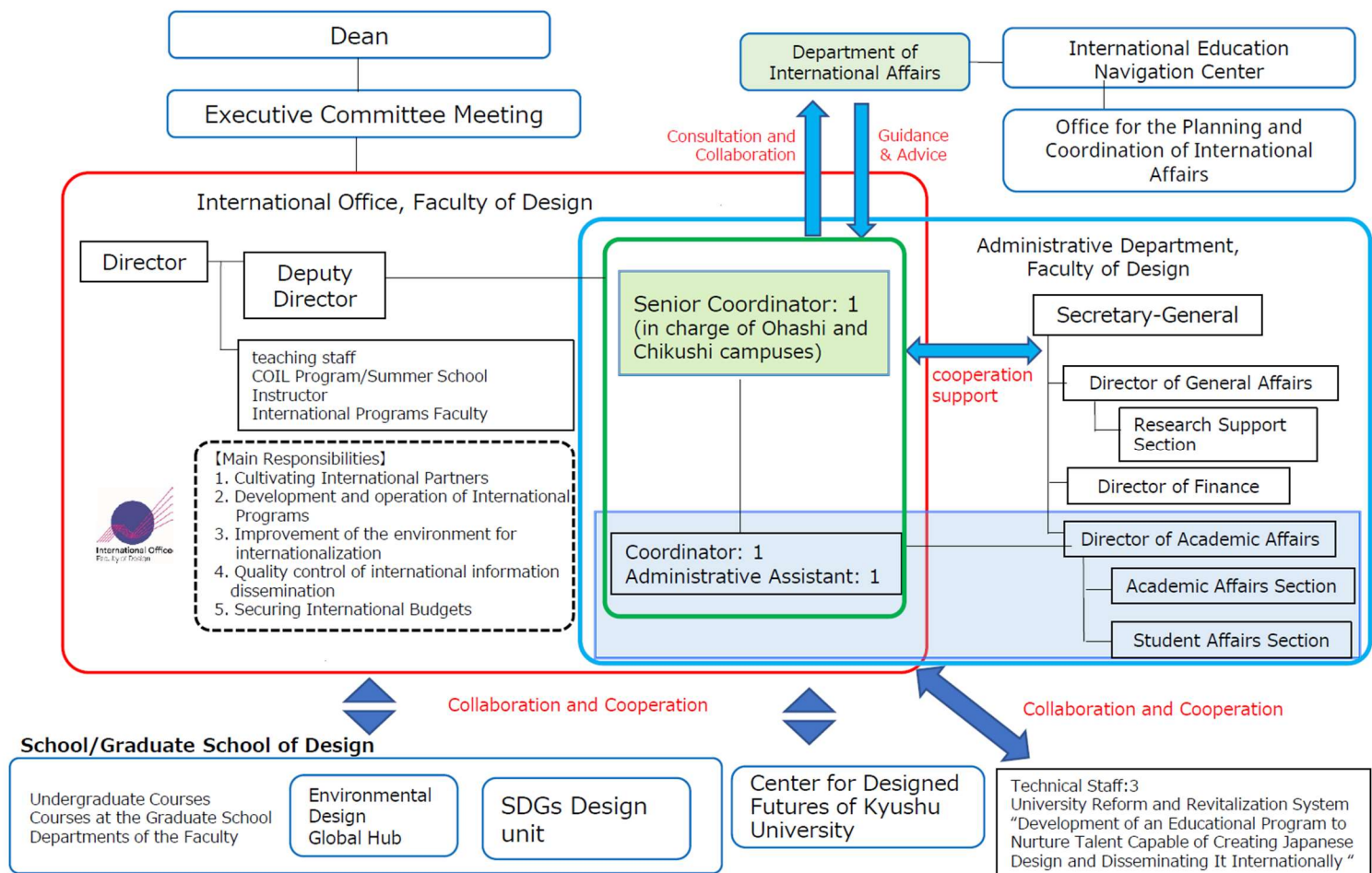
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Organization Chart



Overview of International Office

As a university that welcomes anyone worldwide, Kyushu University aims to nurture internationally minded human resources. As such, the Faculty of Design actively engages in international exchange activities in research and education. In 2020, the Faculty of Design established the International Office to plan and propose internationalization-related projects to realize our international collaboration goal.

The primary roles of the International Office are to actively publicize our faculty's research activities and education programs overseas, develop overseas partner universities, establish and implement international programs, and support joint research education and design projects with overseas universities. In addition to providing active support for the acceptance and overseas dispatch of foreign researchers and students, which has been done in the past, efforts are also being made to support their daily lives. Also, on the Ohashi campus, we actively conduct exchange activities between international students from various countries, faculty members, and local students.

Introduction

The 2024 academic year has been a period of organizational restructuring and functional enhancement for our office. Through organizational reform, we have established an effective coordination system with departmental international promotion offices in alignment with university-wide internationalization strategies, enabling us to provide more comprehensive internationalization support.

With the revitalization of international exchange activities, we have worked to strengthen support systems for international students. In particular, the establishment of a help desk for new international students has greatly contributed to alleviating anxieties immediately after arrival in Japan and ensuring a smooth start to campus life. Additionally, by implementing hybrid format alumni gatherings combining online and in-person elements, we have been able to maintain and strengthen networks with graduates both domestically and internationally.

In terms of international networking, we have welcomed visits from an unprecedented number of partner institutions and affiliated universities from overseas. Through these exchanges, we have strengthened the foundation for future educational and research collaborations, sowing valuable seeds for potential joint projects and student exchanges. The deepening of international partnerships has also contributed to enhancing our university's global presence.

Regarding the internationalization of education, we have taken the first step by implementing faculty development (FD) programs to promote bilingual instruction. Although this initiative has just begun, it is expected to lead to enriched learning environments where Japanese and international students can study together through raising faculty awareness and developing practical skills. In the coming academic year, we aim to reflect the outcomes of this FD in classroom practices and achieve qualitative improvements in education.

For international programs, we have strived to further enhance content while building on the achievements of the previous year. This year, we have established the Taiwan Workshop as a credit-bearing temporary course, increasing the educational value of our international programs. This initiative is expected to improve student participation motivation and visualization of learning outcomes. We will continue to refine these programs to function not only as educational opportunities but also as venues for developing international talent networks.

In the next academic year, while ensuring the stable operation of the systems and programs we have established, we aim for further innovation and development to meet the demands of our rapidly changing global society. We wish to focus on creating spaces where students and researchers from diverse cultural backgrounds can stimulate each other and generate creative activities.

This report has been prepared to summarize the activities of the 2024 academic year and serve as a foundation for future internationalization strategy planning. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all stakeholders both within and outside the university for their continued support, and we humbly request your ongoing guidance and encouragement.

1 International Program and Study Abroad

1.1 International Program (IP)

An educational program to promote study abroad for students at the School of Design started in FY2021.

Objective

The program aims to develop the stance, attitudes, and communication skills necessary to work independently in international society and to develop human resources with specialized design knowledge and skills and a sense of identity in their own country.

Requirements for Program Completion

After enrolling in the international program, students who meet the following three conditions will be issued a certificate of completion.

1. Students must take the following four subjects:
 - Intellectual Property Rights: Global Perspective (Year 2, Summer Quarter)
 - Global Design Innovation (Year 2, Summer Quarter)
 - Design Pitching Skills (Year 2, Fall Quarter)
 - Start-ups and Global Disruptors (Year 2, Winter Quarter)
2. Study abroad (including short-term study abroad) and obtain 4 or more credits in subjects other than languages.
3. Must meet undergraduate graduation requirements.

Faculty-in-Charge

Assistant Professor Loh Wei Leong
Assistant Professor Inamura Tokushu
Assistant Professor BLANCO Laura
Assistant Professor Shimomura Moe



Number of participants

10

https://www.gg.design.kyushu-u.ac.jp/current_students/international-program

▲International Program Details



▲Scene from the class



▲Scene from the class

Initiatives for Students Studying Abroad

- Textbook loan for foreign language examination (TOEFL, IELTS)
- Support for one-to-one English lessons and portfolio preparation with international students for study abroad students (total: 25 sessions).
- Partial subsidies for English Language examination fees (TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) for 7 students.
- Practical English communication skills were practiced. All meetings and group works were conducted in English to familiarize students with English, enabling them to communicate confidently.
- Joint Workshop was organized with the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU), College of Technology and Engineering, Taiwan, from March 4 – 13, 2025 and hosted at NTNU. 10 IP students and 2 faculty members attended the workshop.
- Tea sessions were held for students and faculty members to discuss studying abroad, cross-cultural understanding, career paths, etc., to deepen international understanding through casual exchanges in English.
- Individual meetings were held with students to advise them on their exchange plans and provide guidance on their statement of purpose and portfolio for submission to their study abroad destinations.

Joint Workshop with National Taiwan Normal University

In the 2024, we offered an Overseas Study Immersion Program as a pop-up course. The purpose of this course was to provide international program students with a short-term overseas educational experience through a joint design workshop conducted by Kyushu University (KU) and National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU). Through this immersion program, students learned various design methodologies practiced in other countries and gained an international perspective on business creation in countries outside Japan.

Day 1: Workshop Introduction

Day 2: Company visit to Art and Numeracy Lab

Day 3: Visits to Panasonic and Asia Eastern University of Science and Technology

Day 4: Group work (Startup planning)

Day 5: Group work (Startup planning, presentation preparation)

Day 6: Final presentation session



▲Photo from the Taiwan Workshop



▲Photo from the Taiwan Workshop

Promoting and Providing information on the IP Program

- Guidance sessions: Year 1 (April 5, 2024), Year 2 (April 4, 2024)
- Two IP students who have completed the exchange programs shared their experiences in one of the lessons of Design Case Studies 1 that most Year 1 students are taking.

Fundings

- English and Portfolio Tutoring, English Language Examination Fees Support: Education Globalization expenses
- Joint Workshop with NTNU: International Collaborative Education Support Program (for students), Education Globalization expenses (for faculty members)
- Living Expenses Overseas: JASSO Overseas Study Abroad Support Program “International Program of the School of Design for Developing World-Class Designers” (Outbound)



▲Photo from the Taiwan Workshop



▲Photo from the Taiwan Workshop



▲Photo from the Taiwan Workshop



▲Photo from the Taiwan Workshop

Results

	Number of participants	Number of study abroad	Study abroad destinations and scholarships	Certificate of completion
1st batch FY2021	10	4	Nanyang Technological University, 1 (JASSO overseas Study Support Program) Politecnico di Milano, 1 (JASSO overseas Study Support Program) Cologne University of Applied Sciences, 2	3
2nd batch FY2022	10	5	University of Applied Sciences Amsterdam, 1 (JASSO overseas Study Support Program) National Cheng Kung University, 1 (JASSO overseas Study Support Program) Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design, 1 (Tobitate Study Abroad in Japan New Representative Program) San Jose State University, 1 University of Vienna, 1	4
3rd batch FY2023	9	9	University of Applied Sciences Amsterdam, 2 TH Köln -University of Applied Sciences, 2 Anadolu University, 1 Politecnico di Milano, 1 Anhalt University of Applied Science, 1 Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences 1	-
4th batch FY2024	10	In the preparation stage	-	-



▲International Program 2nd Generation Students

1. 2 Student Support

Support for students to study abroad.

- Conducted 44 consultations on study abroad (Undergraduate: 42 students, Graduate: 9 students, in total 51 students)

International Program	8 cases (10 students)
How to Choose a University for Study Abroad	8 cases (8 students)
Study Abroad Scholarship	6 cases (7 students)
Study Abroad Period/Timing	5 cases (8 students)
Double Degree Program	5 cases (1 students)
Study Abroad Preparation (Language)	4 cases (5 students)
Study Abroad Plan/Proposal	4 cases (4 students)
Verification of Submitted Documents	2 cases (2 students)
Short-term Overseas Program	1 case (1 student)
Others	1 case (1 student)

1. 3 Double Degree Program Results/Achievements (Outbound)

University	Number, Course
Department of Industrial Design, College of Planning and Design, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan	1 Media Design Course student, M1

1.3 Exchange Student Results (Outbound)

University	Number/ Course
Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design (HfG Karlsruhe)	2 / Industrial Design (B4) Media Design M1
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris la Villette (ENSAPLV)	2 / Environmental Design (M2) Environmental Design (M1)
Aalto University	2 / Strategic Design (M2) Doctoral Course (D1)
TH Köln -University of Applied Sciences	2 / Design Futures (B3) Industrial Design (B3)
Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS/HvA)	2 / Media Design (B3) Industrial Design (B3)
Anadolu University	1 / Design Futures (B3)
Politecnico di Milano	2 / Industrial Design (B3) Media Design (M1)
Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	2 / Design Futures (M2) Industrial Design (B3)
Estonian Academy of Arts	1 / Doctoral Course (D2)
Anhalt University of Applied Science (Hochschule Anhalt)	1 / Environmental Design (B3)
HAN University of Applied Sciences	1 / Media Design (B3)
Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT)	1 / Industrial Design (B3)
Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences (h_da)	1 / Industrial Design (B3)
Loughborough University (LU)	1 / Environmental Design (M1)
University of Vienna	1 / Media Design (B4)

2 Support for International Students

2. 1 Management of Geiko Supporters

Overview

The “Geiko Supporters” team is a student group operating under the Geiko International Office. It was established in the 2021 academic year with the aim of creating a campus where students with diverse cultural backgrounds can learn and grow together through international student support and cross-cultural exchange. In the second semester of the 2024 academic year, marking its fourth year of activity, the Design Support Team newly introduced "Campus Tours for New International Students" and set up a "Design Help Desk" immediately after the start of the new semester, contributing to the creation of an environment where new international students can study with peace of mind at the Ohashi Campus.

Number of Supporters

34 (including 11 international student supporters)

Main Activities

- Support for International Students with City Office Procedures and Bank Account Opening After Arrival
 - ✧ First Semester: 29 international students / Support from 10 team members
 - ✧ Second Semester: 49 international students / Support from 12 team members
- Planning and Organization of Welcome Parties
 - ✧ First Semester: 76 participants (40 international students, 36 Japanese students)
 - ✧ Second Semester: 56 participants (45 international students, 11 Japanese students)
- Campus Tours for New International Students
 - ✧ Date and Time: September 30, 2024, 14:00-16:00
 - ✧ Participants: 55 new international students / 3 guides
 - ✧ Facilities Visited: Design Workshop, Prototyping Lab, Design Library, Multidimensional Design Experiment Building, Design Commons

- Geiko Help Desk

Operation Period: October 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024, weekdays 12:00-13:00

Number of Consultations: 14

Consultation Topics: Course registration system usage, campus Wi-Fi connection methods, etc.

The Motivation Behind Our Activities

The Geiko Supporters Team has been practicing teamwork and mutual understanding that transcends cultural differences in the creative environment of "Design." With the new introduction of "Campus Tours for New International Students" and the "Geiko Help Desk," international students were able to quickly and effectively integrate into our university's educational environment. We have been able to make substantial progress toward our goal of *"Developing the Melting Pot Culture in Geiko!"*



▲Welcome Party



▲Campus Tour



▲Geiko Help Desk



▲Geiko Supporters' Logo



▲Geiko Supporters' Poster

2. 2 Building a Network with Our Alumni

Objectives

To build a network of international alumni who graduated from the School of Design, Kyushu University, the Graduate School of Design, and the former Kyushu Institute of Design, and who are now active around the world. To establish a foundation for continuous exchange and mutual support between graduates and 'Geiko' (Faculty of Design), while presenting current international students with possibilities for global career development.

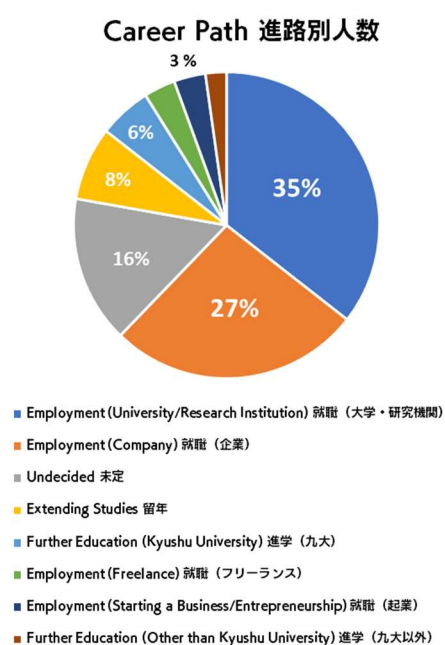
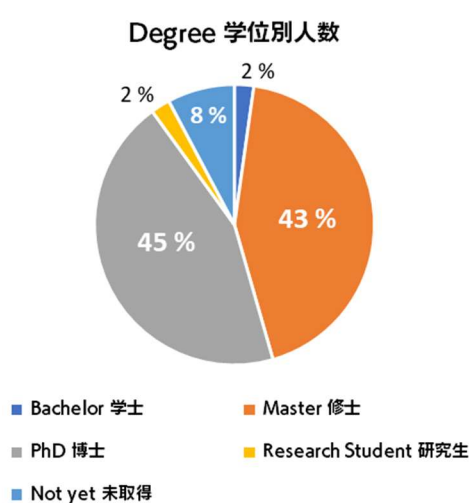
Initiatives

- Promoting registration to the 'Geiko Global Alumni Network' and requesting information updates
- Sending regular emails to international alumni with seasonal greetings and annual reports
- Organizing the Geiko International Reunion as an annual event

Geiko Global Alumni Network

90 international alumni who graduated from the Faculty of Design, Kyushu University, the Graduate School of Design, and the former Kyushu Institute of Design have registered with the Geiko Global Alumni Network (as of March 1, 2025).

- Breakdown by country/region (number of people): China (42), Indonesia (10), South Korea (5), Malaysia and Brazil (4 each), Philippines, Myanmar, and Taiwan (3 each), Bangladesh and Colombia (2 each), Netherlands, France, Russia, Syria, Kuwait, Egypt, Ecuador, Tanzania, Senegal, Singapore, Thailand, and Japan (1 each).



Geiko International Reunion 2024

Objectives

- To facilitate comprehensive information sharing about diverse career paths and professional journeys of our international alumni
- To provide current updates and insights about the recent developments and achievements of “Geiko” to our alumni community

Date and Time November 16, 2024 (Saturday), 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Japan Standard Time)

Venue On-site: Design Commons 1st and 2nd Floors, Ohashi Campus, Kyushu University
Online: SpatialChat (Core 30 Plan)

Languages Part 1 (Keynote Presentation): English, Part 2 (Networking Session): Open

Target Participants International Alumni, Current Kyushu University Design Students, Kyushu University Faculty and Staff

Content

- Opening Remarks (Professor Akira Omoto, Dean of the Faculty of Design, Kyushu University)
- Greeting by International Alumni Representative (Assistant Professor Iyad Alsabouni, residing in UAE, Class of 2011)
- Update of Geiko (Professor Gerard B. Remijn, International Office Director, Class of 2003)
- Keynote Presentation: Diverse Career Paths of International Alumni
 1. Corporate Senior Designer (Ms. Hongjoo Park, residing in the UK, Class of 2016)
 2. Entrepreneur (Mr. Huda Mohammed Faisal, residing in Bangladesh, Class of 2023)
 3. Overseas University Faculty and Researcher (Associate Professor Zhang Lu, residing in China, Class of 2011)
 4. Kyushu University Design Faculty and Researcher (Assistant Professor Loh Ping Yeap, residing in Japan, Class of 2017)
- Group Photograph
- Networking Session (on-site and online)
- Closing Remarks (Profesor Gerard B. Remijn, International Office Director, Class of 2003)

Results Total Participants: 33

	Alumni	Alumni and KU Design Faculty	KU Faculty and Staff	KU Design Students	Total
On-site	4	3	5	9	21
Online	11	1	0	0	12
Total	15	4	5	9	33

Event Highlights



3 University Reform and Revitalization System

“Design in Japan” Subjects Series

3.1 Overview of Reform Plan for Japan Design Education Program

The reform plan for the FY2022 University Reform and Revitalization System, "Establishment of Educational Program for Developing Human Resources to Create and Disseminate Japanese Design Internationally," is an extension of the subject "Design in Japan" that began in FY2020, which we have experience in implementation. Three subjects, "Design in Japan A, B and C," are incorporated into the curriculum of the graduate school and will be offered from FY2022 and FY2023.

Additionally, this academic year, besides the studio project 'Design in Japan C' (graduate level), we established a temporary course that separates practical training and theory called 'Design in Japan C-2/Understanding Japanese Design C-2: History and Theory of Curating' (undergraduate and graduate levels).

Through the implementation of the Japanese design education program, Japanese and international students will deepen their understanding of Japanese aesthetics from traditional to contemporary, and based on the knowledge and attitude acquired through the program, cultivate the potential to create innovative design and art in the future, and to curate and disseminate information overseas to promote further and develop such design and art.

3.2 Design in Japan A/Understanding Japanese Design A (1st Semester of FY2024)

Subject Overview

According to the University Reform and Revitalization System project plan, a subject titled "Design in Japan" was offered at the School of Design and the Graduate School of Design since FY2020 to address Japanese design. This course, planned and implemented by the International Office of Faculty of Design, is a series of omnibus-style lectures that allow students to study a wide range of design fields in the Graduate School of Design in English. This year, lectures were held by faculty members from various fields of expertise, including photography, Japanese traditional culture, building materials, graphic design, sound and CG etc., who introduced Japanese design from their perspectives. The subject included an excursion on Japanese Traditional Crafts and Culture to Yame City. At the end, the participants selected a topic of interest from the lectures, posited their own research questions, and submitted a report with their analysis.



▲Tea Picking Experience

Period	1st Semester
Faculty-in-Charge	Asst. Prof. Shimomura Moe
Language	English
Enrolment	44 (including 35 international students)
Participants' Countries of Origin	13 countries and regions (Japan, China, Thailand, Myanmar, Taiwan, Iran, Tunisia, America, Germany, Italy, Ukraine, UK, France)

Subject Content

Cultural Translation and Japaneseness by Assoc. Prof. Yuki Madoka

Photography and Japan by Assoc. Prof. Yuki Madoka

Excursion on Japanese Traditional Crafts and Culture

by Assist. Prof. Shimomura Moe

A Guide to Building Materials in Japan by Lecturer Tsuchiya Jun

Visualizing the Microscopic World of Living Organisms

through Illustration, VR, & AI by Assist. Prof. Inoue Daisuke

Science of Sleep: Japan and World by Assist. Prof. Motomura Yuki

Graphic Design and UI/UX Design by Assist. Prof. Toh Kiriko

Time, Space, and Sound in Japan by Assoc. Prof. Jo Kazuhiro

CG Research Introduction and Japan by Assoc. Prof. Morimoto Yuki

Discussion & Reflection by Assist. Prof. Shimomura Moe



▲Yame Tea Tasting



▲VR Experience



▲Discussion

3.3 Design in Japan/Understanding Japanese Design B (Winter Quarter of FY2024)

Subject Overview

This subject offered lectures and workshops, including an excursion pertaining to art and design in Japan. The contents focused on sound, music and scent and examined both traditional and contemporary design and art practices. Students participated in these practices and explored the theme of "ephemerality" and interpreted the meaning through various mediums and media to create their own design/art/music works. These works are presented through various senses, including smell and touch, in a final presentation event, "Setsuna, The Subtle Art of Dying", which was opened to the public on January 26, 2025, at the Multi-purpose Building.

Period	Winter Quarter
Faculty-in-Charge	Assistant Professor Daryl Jamieson
Language	English
Enrolment	22 (including 16 international students)

SubjectContent

Phenomenology of Scent by Associate Professor Lorenzo Marinucci

Traditional Incense Making workshop at Yame City by Assistant Professor Daryl Jamieson

Sound and its Organization by Assistant Professor Daryl Jamieson

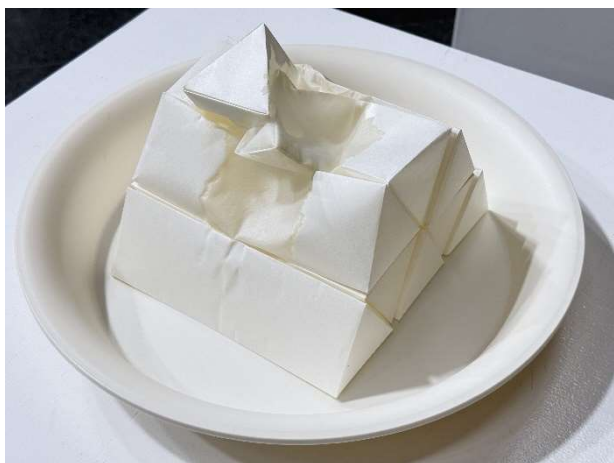
Group Creation 1-3 by Assistant Professor Daryl Jamieson



▲Exhibition



▲Exhibition



▲Exhibition



▲Exhibition



▲Poster

3.4 Design in Japan C (Autumn Quarter of FY2024)

Subject Overview

Curating today entails more than the organization and presentation of exhibitions and other forms of cultural communication. In a transdisciplinary and transcultural context, it is also concerned with bringing together different ways of knowing, with the relationship between art and society, and with challenging some of the assumptions on which our art institutions, museums and collections have been built on.

This subject was a studio project that introduced basic knowledge of Japanese art and design, the history of exhibitions and curatorial practice. It combined theoretical reflection with creative work and practical methods of curating. The subject entailed theory and history sessions, field trips to exhibitions and discussions with curators and other practitioners related to art and design. As a final outcome, the participants collectively developed concepts for an exhibition or intervention at the event “JIKU What is the size of time?” held at the Kyushu University Museum.

Period	Autumn Quarter
Faculty-in-Charge	Associate Professor Madoka Yuki
Language	English
Enrolment	12 (12 International students)

Subject Content

Art Interventions in Natural History Museums

Excursion to Kyushu University Museum

Project Concept Brainstorming

Presentation by Curator Bettina Klein on her exhibit

“Éclat” in the Mineralogy Museum in Strasbourg, France

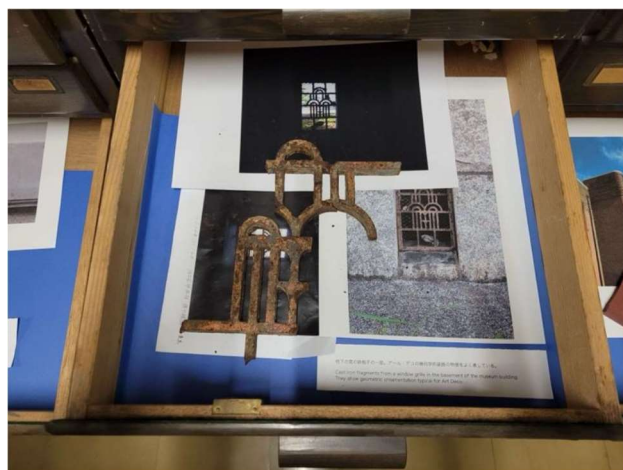
Project Conceptualization and Planning

Installation works at Kyushu University Museum

Event Day: Final Presentation



▲Exhibition Pamphlet



▲Scene from the exhibition

3.5 Design in Japan/Understanding Japanese Design C-2: History and Theory of Curating (Autumn Quarter of FY2024)

Subject Overview

This subject is complementary to Design in Japan C, which students are highly recommended to take both subjects. It started with an overview of the history of the art exhibition and the more recent history of curating and introduced key concepts related to curating contemporary art and design in today's global context.

The subject examined selected theoretical texts with the help of image material and discussions. It included lectures, group discussions, pair work, presentations, and an excursion to Dazaifu Tenmangu and Kyudai Art Museum.

Period	Autumn Quarter
Faculty-in-Charge	Associate Professor Madoka Yuki
Language	English
Enrolment	12 (12 International students)

Subject Content

History of Exhibitions

The Concept of the White Cube

Key Concepts of Curatorial Practice

Curation/Curator

Site Specific Art

Global Art

Excursion to Dazaifu Tenmangu and Kyudai Art Museum

Final Discussion



▲Scene from the excursion



▲Scene from the excursion

3.6 Lecture Series and Event

This ongoing international lecture series since FY2022 introduces cutting-edge positions of contemporary art through in-person encounters and conversations with artists. Artists of different disciplines are presenting and discussing their work to an audience of students, professors, and other members of the Kyushu University community, as well as an art-interested Fukuoka public. The series gives insight into diverse international artistic positions and an understanding of contemporary art's role within society, as well as art's potential links to other fields of research, such as design, humanities, science, and engineering. The lectures are organized collaboratively by faculty members of the Department of Design Futures, Department of Acoustic Design and Department of Media Design of the Faculty of Design. It is funded by the University Reform and Revitalization System of Design in Japan series and the University Reform and Revitalization System of Media Art.

Lecture Series

May 10, 2024	Video art exhibition and talk event with visual artist Yoshinori Niwa
May 30, 2024	Performance and talk event with composer/musician Tomas Nordmark and musician/visual artist Per Hüttner
July 13, 2024	Performance and talk event with musician/researcher Atau Tanaka and the Erämaa Trio (Akiko Okawa, Cédric De Bruycker, and Quentin Meurisse), musicians active throughout Europe
November 21, 2024	Talk event with visual artist Anika Kars
January 6, 2025	Talk event with artist Chris Salter



▲Posters

4 International Education Initiatives

4.1 COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) : INTAC (International Art Collaborations Network)

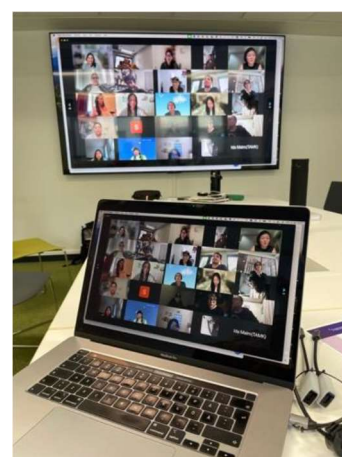
Objectives

This is a collaborative class with six other universities in six different countries to create artworks through international collaboration using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The six universities are the University of Europe for Applied Sciences (Germany), Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD) University (Canada), Tampere University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (Mexico), Chung-Ang University (South Korea) and Indiana University Northwest (United States) . This class will provide students with the opportunity to be taught and given feedback from professors at overseas universities. It will also allow students to use English for communication and international exchanges.

Subject Overview

In collaboration with Professors from the six universities mentioned above, we leveraged our accumulated expertise in COIL education in the design and art fields to have students from different cultural backgrounds jointly create works under this year's theme "Invisible Strings." Students not only received direct instruction from professors from various countries who are also internationally active artists but also gained opportunities for communication and international exchange through English. This course is not only online; an exhibition to present the outcomes is scheduled to be held in Mexico from April 28 to May 4, 2025.

Professor Emeritus	Peter Sramek
Professor	Sofia Sienra
Professor	Yong-Hwan Lee
Assistant Professor	Meera Margaret Singh
Lead Instructor	Juha Suonpää
Instructor	Phuong Thu Hoang
Instructor	Giselle Mira-Diaz
Associate Professor	Madoka Yuki
Period	Autumn Quarter
Faculty-in-Charge	Associate Professor Yuki Madoka
Language	English
Enrolment (Geiko)	2



▲Online Lecture via Zoom

4.2 Collaborative Subject Between Faculties Engineering Leaders English Program (ELEP) Zero to One

Purpose

ELEP is a program designed to enhance students' English proficiency and innovation/global competencies, as well as to help them acquire new abilities to thrive in an advanced society.

Subject Overview

This program is jointly implemented by the Faculty of Design and the Faculty of Engineering, offered to students in the School/Graduate School of Design and the School/Graduate School of Engineering. The four-week entrepreneurship program conducted in a hybrid format included the following:

- Online English training by San Jose State University in California, USA
- Personal interaction with students from the same university both online and in person
- Field trips to renowned companies and universities in Silicon Valley
- Lectures by entrepreneurs and venture capitalists active in Silicon Valley
- Experience in the business creation process using design thinking methodology in the Zero to One project

Students designed ideas to promote Japanese excellence to the global market combined with the latest technologies, keeping in mind this year's Zero to One theme of global markets.

Period March 3-27, 2025

Faculty in Charge

Assoc. Prof. Zhang Yanfang, Graduate School of Design, Kyushu University
Prof. Teranishi Ryo, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyushu University
Visiting Prof. Matsusaka Shujiro, Kyushu University Silicon Valley Office

Enrollment 20 students



▲Activities During the Program



▲Activities During the Program



▲Activities During the Program



▲Activities During the Program

5 Developing International Partners

5.1 Double Degree Program Implementation

The Double Degree Program is an academic program that allows students to obtain degrees from both Kyushu University and a partner institution by studying abroad at the partner institution and completing a designated curriculum while remaining enrolled at Kyushu University.

In March 2024, the Graduate School of Design at Kyushu University signed a double degree agreement with the Department of Planning and Design (Master's Program) at National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan. This fiscal year marks the first year of the program's implementation and has been positioned as an important achievement indicator in the university's international education strategy. Following a rigorous selection process, one student from our university was chosen as the first participant in this program and began a one-year study abroad at National Cheng Kung University in February 2025.

Students participating in the Double Degree Program conduct parallel master's research on different themes at both Kyushu University and National Cheng Kung University while receiving multifaceted guidance from multiple faculty members at both institutions. At National Cheng Kung University, they primarily take courses conducted in English, providing them with opportunities to develop advanced expertise and language skills in an international academic environment.

Furthermore, to ensure the sustainable development of the program and to increase student interest in participation, we have created a comprehensive brochure containing detailed information about the Double Degree Program. This brochure is expected to serve as a key promotional material for recruitment activities in subsequent years, widely communicating the appeal and educational significance of this program.



▲Classroom scenery



▲Student Application Pamphlet

5. 2 International Visitors to the Faculty of Design

Overview

In the academic year 2024 (Reiwa 6), the Faculty of Design at Kyushu University received a total of 33 international visits from 19 countries and regions, with a total of 249 visitors (77 faculty/staff members and 172 students).

Analysis of International Visitors

■ Breakdown by Country/Region of Origin

The 33 international visits originated from the following countries and regions: Taiwan (10 visits), Germany (5 visits), Indonesia (4 visits), India (3 visits), Finland (2 visits), and one visit each from Austria, Malaysia, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Mexico, South Korea, France, Croatia, United States, China, Bangladesh, Thailand, Tunisia, and Italy.

■ Purpose of Visit

The purposes of these international visits were: exchange of ideas for future collaboration (11 visits), Ohashi Campus tours (7 visits), workshops (4 visits), symposiums (3 visits), joint classes (2 visits), exhibitions (2 visits), and one visit each for laboratory visits, faculty/staff training, short-term programs, and agreement signing ceremonies.

■ Host Department Affiliations

The international visitors were hosted by faculty from the following departments: Environmental Design Department (8 visits), Human Life Design and Science Department (8 visits), Strategic Design Department (6 visits), Future Design Department (6 visits), Media Design Department (1 visit), Acoustic Design Department (1 visit), Kyushu University International Affairs (2 visit), and others (Professor Emeritus, 1 visit).

Support Provided by the Geiko International Office

For these 32 international visits, the Geiko International Office provided a total of 134 support services. These included: photography and article publication (27 instances), arrangement of promotional materials (Geiko Goods) (26 instances), campus tour guiding (21 instances), Geiko introduction presentations (18 instances), venue reservation and setup (17 instances), participation in faculty meetings (15 instances), and arrangements for courtesy visits to the Dean (13 instances). The facility tour rate was 63.6% (21 out of 33 visits).

Summary

In the academic year 2024 (Reiwa 6), international exchange activities at the Faculty of Design, Kyushu University were conducted through close collaboration between faculty, staff, and administrative departments. While the Geiko International Office served as the core coordinating function for receiving international visitors, a multi-layered support system utilizing the expertise of each department was established.

Specifically, smooth coordination with the General Affairs Division enabled appropriate reception protocols for courtesy visits to the Dean. Additionally, collaboration with the Planning and Public Relations Section of the General Affairs Division resulted in effective documentation and external communication of visit content through the Faculty of Design's official website and social media.

Particularly noteworthy was the specialized guidance provided by facility management staff during campus tours. These staff members adjusted their work schedules and provided expert facility introductions in both Japanese and English, delivering high-quality information that addressed the academic interests of visitors. This voluntary cooperation from various departments made it possible to effectively convey the appeal of the research and educational environment at the Ohashi Campus.

The Geiko International Office functioned as a coordinator among these diverse departments while providing one-stop services to meet the varied needs of international visitors. This cross-organizational collaborative framework is positioned as a strategic initiative that contributes not only to receiving visitors but also to building foundations for future international joint research and educational exchanges.

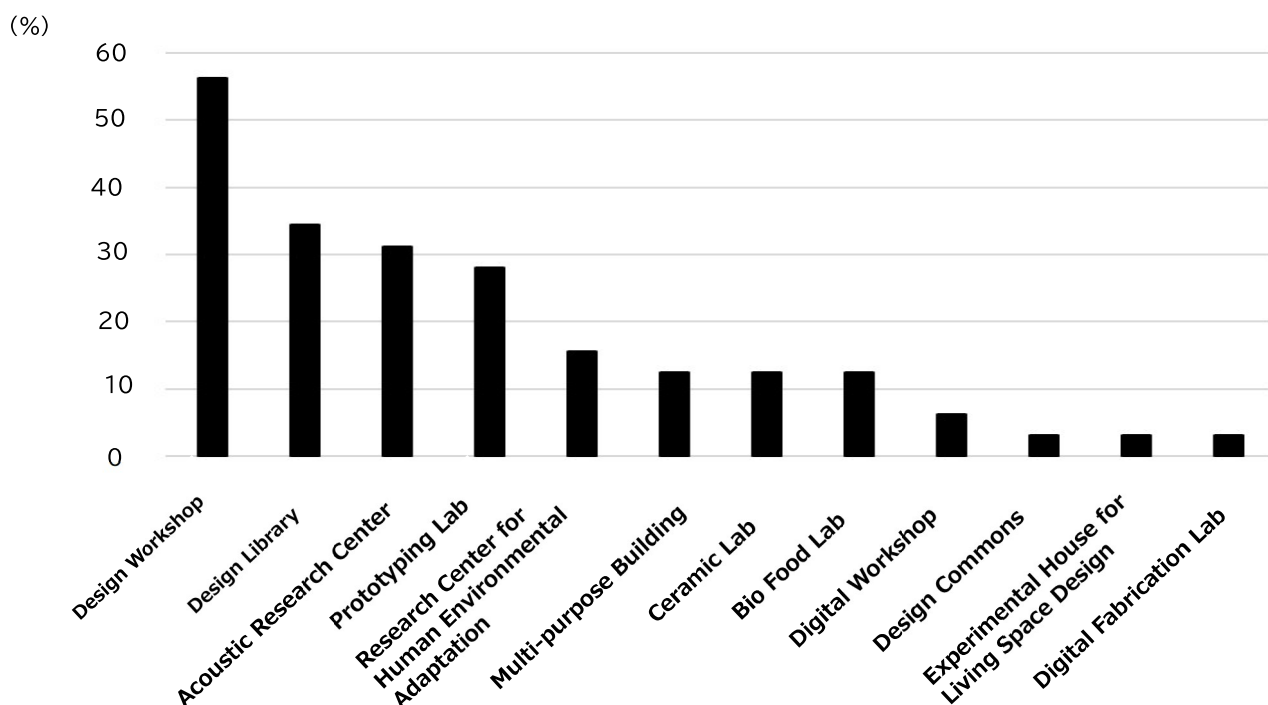


Fig. Facility Tour Rate of Kyushu University Ohashi Campus Among International Visitors (21 visits)

Table. International Visitor Information for Academic Year 2024 (Reiwa 6)

Date of Visit	University/Institution	Country/Area
April 22, 2024	National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan
May 2, 2024	University of Innsbruck	Austria
May 13, 2024	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)	Malaysia
May 14, 2024	Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB)	Indonesia
May 24, 2024	University of Applied Sciences Potsdam	Germany
June 19, 2024	National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan
June 19, 2024	Ming Chuan University	Taiwan
July 1, 2024	Chung Yuan Christian University, Yuan Ze University	Taiwan
July 9, 2024	Hasanuddin University	Indonesia
July 24, 2024	University of Lapland	Finland
August 2, 2024	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hong Kong
August 28, 2024	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
September 4, 2024	National Cheng Kung University	Taiwan
September 12, 2024	Dalian University of Technology and Beijing Institute of Technology	China
September 17, 2024	National United University	Taiwan
October 11, 2024	University of Applied Sciences Potsdam	Germany
October 29, 2024	Independent (Mimeograph Artist)	Mexico
October 31, 2024	National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan
November 6, 2024	Institut Teknologi PLN	Indonesia
November 8, 2024	Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISc), Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati), MINES ParisTech (École nationale supérieure des mines de Paris), University of Zagreb (ISDC2024)	South Korea, Indonesia, India, France, Croatia

November 12, 2024	Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya	Indonesia
November 18, 2024	National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan
December 2, 2024	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	United States of America
December 6, 2024	National Dong Hwa University	China
December 9, 2024	Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences	Germany
January 14, 2025	National Cheng Kung University	Taiwan
January 15, 2025	University of Lapland	Finland
February 4, 2024	National Cheng Kung University	Taiwan
February 7, 2025	Leading University, Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology (CUET), Kasetsart University, ESAD Tunis (École Supérieure d'Art et de Design de Tunis), CEPT University (Environmental Design Global HUB)	Bangladesh, Thailand, Tunisia, India
February 10, 2025	Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT Hyderabad)	India
February 20 and 21, 2025	Politecnico di Milano	Italy
February 28, 2025	Bauhaus-Universität Weimar	Germany
March 10, 2025	University of Cologne	Germany



▲Courtesy Visits to the Dean



▲Introduction about
School / Graduate School of Design



▲Campus Tours

5.3 Support for New and Renewal of Faculty-Level International Exchange Agreements

The International Office, in cooperation with the General Affairs Division's Research Support Section, assisted with procedures for international academic and student exchange agreements, including the Erasmus+ program.

Number of departmental exchange agreements in the 2024 (as of March 3): 50

Status of Agreement Changes for the 2024 Fiscal Year

	Status	University	Country
New Agreements	Completed (7)	University of New South Wales (UNSW)	Australia
		Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad	India
		Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	India
		Potsdam University of Applied Sciences	Germany
		National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan
		Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	Germany
		Zhejiang University of Science and Technology	China
	Pending (3)	Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology	Bangladesh
		Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	Malaysia
		Aalborg University	Denmark
Agreement Renewals	Completed (9)	Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences (Erasmus+)	Germany
		Cologne University of Applied Sciences	Germany
		University of Technology of Belfort-Montbéliard	France
		Aalto University	Finland
		Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology	South Korea
		Anadolu University	Turkey
		Eskişehir Technical University (Erasmus+)	Turkey
		Politecnico di Milano	Italy
		Hasanuddin University (UNHAS)	Indonesia

5.4 Workshop at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences

Objectives

The Faculty of Design has a deep history of exchange spanning approximately 20 years with the Design Department of Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences. This year, a joint workshop was held in Darmstadt for the first time, initiated by Professor Tino Melzer and Mr. Tom Philipps from Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, along with Associate Professor Madoka Yuki from the Faculty of Design. Students received direct instruction from the Product Design faculty at Darmstadt University of Technology, with communication through English and international exchange serving as important educational objectives.

Workshop Overview

Students learned about the fundamentals of origami geometry, various design tools, and manufacturing methods for origami structures, including materials and processing. Based on actual engineering application cases, they received detailed explanations of how origami technology is expected to create innovation in various specialized fields. In the latter half of the design exercises, students learned methods for applying origami mathematics to design. Finally, they created product design prototypes utilizing origami and held an exhibition as a presentation of their achievements.

Period: October 15-22, 2024

Faculty: Associate Professor Madoka Yuki
Associate Professor Kazuya Saito
Academic Affairs Staff Genki Fujita

Language: English

Participants: 7 students (plus 11 students from Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences)

Course Content:

- Day 1 Introduction & Origami Geometry ① (folding conditions, rigid folding conditions)
- Day 2 Origami Geometry ② (introduction and practice with origami design and simulation software)
- Day 3 Origami Structure Fabrication Methods (cutting plotter, 3D printer)
- Day 4 Product Design Practice
- Day 5 Product Design Practice, Excursion: Frankfurt
- Day 6 Excursion: Heidelberg Castle
- Day 7 Exhibition Preparation
- Day 8 Exhibition



▲During the Lecture



▲During the Lecture



▲At the Exhibition

6 International Public Relations Efforts

Actively Promote the appeal of the various activities of the Faculty of Design.
Exchange information with overseas parties and prospective students to build good relationships and create a trusted community.

6.1 International Public Relations

Website

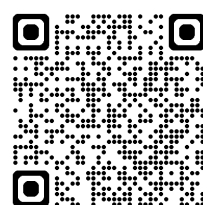
The information was published in both Japanese and English on the Faculty of Design's official website and the Geiko Global website. This academic year, there have been 23 posts on the Faculty of Design's official website. Regarding the Geiko Global website, a section for 'Announcements from Partner Institutions' has been added, and the site is being regularly updated with the goal of making it more user-friendly for students.

Social Media

Information was disseminated in both Japanese and English on the Design School International Office's social media (Instagram). This academic year, there have been 56 posts on Instagram.

Other Deliverables

- Creation of visual identity for Geiko Supporters
- Creation of visual identity for Seasonal Greetings



▲Geiko Global Website



▲Instagram



▲Visual Identity for Geiko Supporters



▲Visual Identity for Seasonal Greetings

6.2 Overseas Dissemination of the Faculty of Design Activities

- Sending greeting cards to the Faculty of Design's international network (overseas university affiliates and international alumni)
- Distributed annual activity report online

6.3 International Student Recruitment

In the academic year 2024, we participated in Kyushu University's online study abroad fair 'Virtual Graduate Study Fair' (spring and fall sessions). At both events, we set up online booths, delivered presentations introducing the Graduate School of Design programs, and conducted Q&A sessions. Additionally, with the cooperation of current students, we provided information about the MEXT Scholarship Embassy Recommendation application process, shared personal experiences, success stories, and introduced campus life.

Date	Event	Number of Participants
April 19, 2024	1st Virtual Graduate Study Fair at Kyushu University	161, 20 in breakout session
November 1, 2024	2nd Virtual Graduate Study Fair at Kyushu University	139, 20 in breakout session



▲1st Virtual Graduate Study Fair
at Kyushu University



▲2nd Virtual Graduate Study Fair
at Kyushu University

7 Support for International Collaborative Projects

Support for ongoing efforts to develop international partnerships and recruit international students through international collaborative education (joint classes with overseas universities, workshops, summer schools, online events, etc.).

7.1 International Collaborative Education Support Program

Objectives

To realize one of the faculty's goals of "internationalization of education," the Faculty of Design supports efforts to improve the quality of education and develop human resources who can play an active role internationally.

The process to call for applications and award projects is done with the Student Affairs Section.

Projects Selected

- Strategic Service Design Lecture Series for Master's Level / Professor Sarantou Melanie
- Short Collaborative Design Workshop @ NTNU, Taiwan / Assistant Professor Loh Wei Leong



▲Posters

7.2 Other Support

- SDGs International Design Award 2024 (information dissemination support)
- Environment Design Global Hub (eghub) Sakura Science Short-Term Acceptance Program (organized campus tour)
- Creabiz International Week2024 (Classes and workshops on sound design, "Coffee + Talk Event" on auditory perception and sound environments, Networking event with ITS professors and international professors)



▲Creabiz International Week2024



▲Creabiz International Week2024 Poster

8 FD on Supporting English Language Instruction

Objective

On March 11, 2025, a "Faculty Development for Supporting English-medium Instruction" was held for faculty and staff of the Faculty of Design. This FD was conducted with the aim of reducing faculty's preparation burden for classes through the use of AI tools, while simultaneously improving the learning environment for international students and enhancing the international perspective of Japanese students.

Details

- Date, Time, and Venue: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 10:30-11:30, Design Common 2nd Floor
- Participants:
8 Professors, 4 Associate Professors, 9 Assistant Professors, 4 Staff members (Total: 25)
- Program:
 1. Report on International Student Survey Results
 2. Introduction and Demonstration of AI Tools Supporting Bilingual Teaching
 3. Sharing of Good Practices (Associate Professor Nagatsu, Faculty of Design)
 4. Q&A Session

Results

- 96% of participants responded with "very satisfied" or "satisfied," and 93% rated the timing as "very appropriate" or "appropriate."
- The demonstration-style introduction of real-time translation tools and AI technologies received particularly high evaluations. There was significant interest in Microsoft Translator's bidirectional translation features and the latest AI tools such as Claude.
- Specific methodologies for accommodating students with diverse language backgrounds and effective classroom management were shared, creating a valuable platform for information exchange among participants.

Future Developments

- Promote continuous dialogue on creating an environment where both faculty and students can learn easily.
- Consider further environmental improvements to support English-medium instruction, such as lending tablets for translation.
- Share the content of the FD with students to promote mutual understanding.



9 English Translation of Documents

Objectives

To support international students and researchers and promote the courses to potential overseas students by translating the related documents to English and proofreading documents in English under the Administrative Office.

Details

Academic Affairs Division: Proofreading 3 cases (Undergraduate and Graduate Student Handbook, Student Guide, English proofreading for updates to the School of design official website), Translation 1 case (Curriculum Policy)

General Affairs Division: Proofreading 2 cases (Campus guide, Alumni messages for official website and Prospectus)

10 Various Budget Applications

Support for various external funding applications and application procedures related to internationalization.

JASSO Overseas Study Support Program: International Program of the School of Design for Developing World-Class Designers (Outbound) (JPY 4,080,000)

11 Other Activities

- Update introduction slides of Geiko Public Relations Resources
- Redevelopment, operation and updating of Geiko Global's website
- Shared information with the International Affairs Division
- Participated in joint meetings of the International Affairs Division (four times a year)
- Meeting with a professor from the International Education Navigation Center (February 27, 2025)