

International Office of the Faculty of Design, Kyushu University

2025 Annual Report

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



International Office
Faculty of Design

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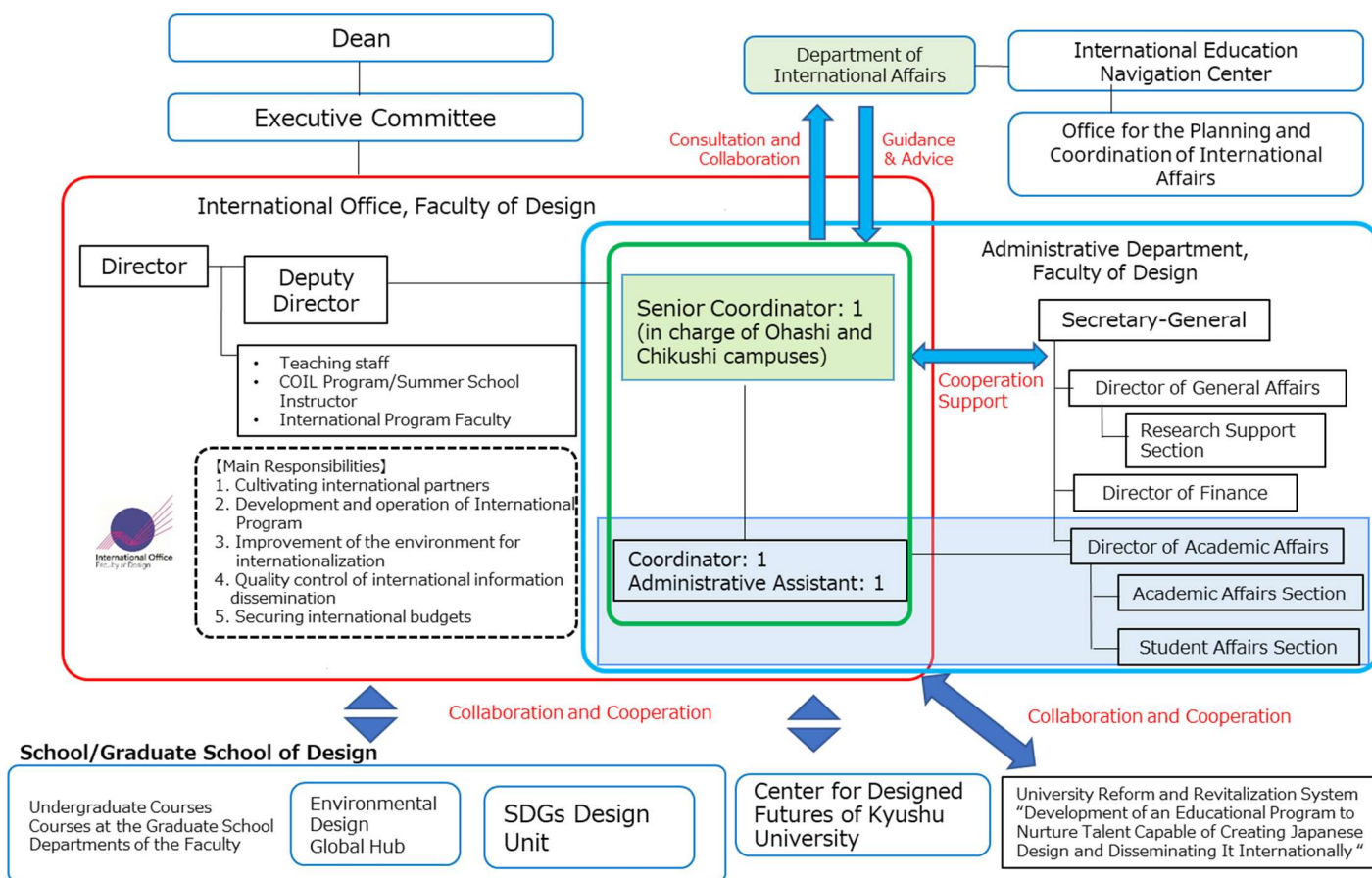
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Organizational Chart



About the International Office

Kyushu University aims to nurture internationally minded individuals and communities able to respond to the unique opportunities and challenges of today. As such, the Faculty of Design actively engages in a range of international exchange activities in research and education. In 2020, the Faculty of Design established the International Office to strengthen and further our internationalization-related activities.

The primary activities of the International Office are to publicize our faculty's research activities and educational programs overseas, to develop fruitful partnerships with overseas universities, to establish and implement internationally oriented programming, and to support joint research, education, and design projects with our global partners. In addition to providing administrative support in the intake of international students and the dispatch of Japanese researchers and students, we provide frontline services through the advising of inbound and outbound students, as well as inbound student settlement support. At Ohashi campus, we also conduct cultural and social learning exchange activities to foster connections between local and international students and faculty members.

Introduction

The 2025 academic year was a year of growth and consolidation for our office. In terms of consolidation, thanks to the organizational reforms established last year, we were able to work with departmental international promotion offices in alignment with university-wide internationalization strategies. This allowed us to engage in our internationalization support activities with greater efficacy.

Growth-wise, we continue to strengthen support systems for both local and international students. Our office enhanced its programming with the implementation of consultation and referral appointments available to all students, which especially served local students interested in study abroad and international students in need of school-related support and advice. We also initiated Geiko Global Hub, a program of weekly and monthly events designed to foster the international atmosphere at the faculty through the development of engaging social learning spaces. These activities nurtured cultural exchange as well as language learning, which made them of excellent value to both Japanese and international participants.

In terms of our activities contributing to the faculty's international networks, our international alumni reunion this year offered panel talks conducted through an innovative online platform, SpatialChat, as well as time for alumni and faculty to network and reconnect, strengthening our networks with graduates both domestically and internationally. We also hosted visits from many of our faculty's 48 global partner institutions, along with potential partners. Through these activities, we continue to foster a solid foundation for ongoing joint research and education exchanges. These diverse partnerships have also contributed to enhancing Kyushu University's global presence.

Our International Program also grew in 2025. Designed to support local students interested in studying abroad, IP refers to a portfolio of activities which in 2025 included credit-bearing English-medium design courses, enhanced access to short-term study abroad, test subsidies, and other supports on an as-needs basis. First, we added to the roster of instructors for greater program sustainability and student support. We also initiated a community partnership, collaborating with the Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center in the framing and delivery of one of the IP courses and in a student poster exhibit at Fukuoka City Hall. We also partnered with an existing international joint workshop spearheaded by the Department of Strategic Design to send IP students for a credit-bearing short-term study abroad experience in Taiwan. These initiatives were planned to enhance student engagement with real-world design issues along with hands-on international and intercultural learning. We continue to refine our programming to function not only as an invaluable educational experience but as a venue for fostering international talent networks. In the coming year, we aim to further consolidate and refine our activities by enhancing the efficacy and consistency of our current programs, especially regarding programming initiated in 2025. This involves attending to the infrastructure of existing offerings and ongoing needs assessment and evaluation with all stakeholders. This will be done with a firm eye on enhancing our supports for inbound and outbound students and for faculty members engaged in international joint research, education, and design/design engineering practice with our faculty-level partners globally.

The International Office sincerely thanks the countless faculty members, administrators, students, and community members for collaborating with us so enthusiastically to enhance internationalization at our institution.

1 International Program and Study Abroad

1.1 International Program

The International Program (IP) is an educational program to promote study abroad for students at the School of Design. It has been active since FY2021.

Objective

This program aims to develop the stance, attitudes, and communication skills necessary to work independently in international settings and to support the development of specialized design knowledge and skills, along with fostering a sense of identity and global mindedness.

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 English-medium 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. Students must engage in study abroad (including short-term programs) and obtain 4 or more credits in subjects other than languages.
3. Students must meet undergraduate graduation requirements.

Faculty in Charge Assistant Professor Loh Wei Leong
Assistant Professor Tokushu Inamura
Assistant Professor Laura Blanco
Assistant Professor Yao Yaya

Number of IP participants in FY 2025 5

Featured Initiatives for IP Students in 2025-2026

- Partial financial support for foreign language proficiency test fees (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS): 4
- In collaboration with the Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center (URC), posters on the theme of carbon-neutral lifestyles, created by international program students, were exhibited at Fukuoka City Hall from December 17 to 19, 2025
- In collaboration with Professor Tamura and Professor Ushima, all five international program students participated in a joint workshop held at National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in Tainan, Taiwan, from March 9 to 11, 2026. Our office provided partial financial support for accommodation expenses for them.
- Enhancement of English communication skills through collaboration with Geiko Global Hub
- Lending of preparation materials for foreign language proficiency tests such as TOEFL and IELTS.

Poster Exhibition at Fukuoka City Hall

From December 17 to 19, 2025, a poster exhibition titled “Student-Designed Solutions for a Carbon-Free Lifestyle” was held at the multipurpose space on the first floor of Fukuoka City Hall.

It featured posters created by students enrolled in the IP subject, Design Pitching Skills. Pitches and posters were designed based on community needs as assessed and presented by the Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center (URC) in class.

This exhibition was conducted as part of the ongoing research project of the Fukuoka Asian Urban Research Center (URC), “Behavioral Change Toward a Zero-Carbon City: Fukuoka” (FY2024–).

Students enrolled in the International Program created poster proposals in English to encourage carbon-free behaviors among younger generations, focusing on the themes of water conservation, local production for local consumption, and ethical consumption. Both English and Japanese versions of the posters were displayed.



▲ Poster exhibition

Joint Workshop with National Cheng Kung University (NCKU)

From March 9 to 11, 2026, international program students participated in a joint workshop held at National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), Taiwan, in collaboration with Professor Tamura, Professor Inamura, and Professor Ushiyama.

Through this short-term design workshop, students enrolled in the international program were provided with a short overseas educational experience. During the workshop, participants developed an understanding of the similarities and differences in culture, values, and lifestyles, while learning field research methods and service design approaches. Furthermore, by working in joint teams composed of students from Kyushu University and NCKU, participants enhanced their skills in remote collaboration and project management.

Day 1: Workshop introduction, lectures, and group work

Day 2: Lectures and group work

Day 3: Final presentations and campus tour



▲ Workshop in Taiwan

Publicity and Information Sharing for the International Program

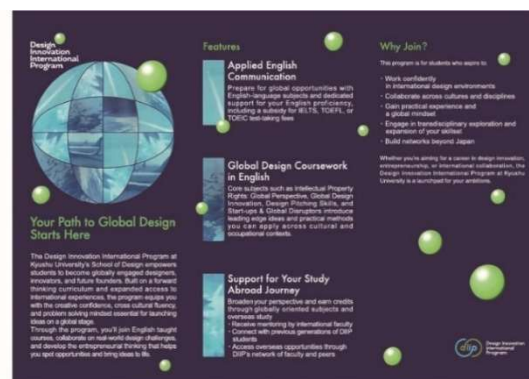
Information sessions were conducted for undergraduate students at the following times.

First-year students: April 4, 2025

Second-year students: April 15, 2024

Additionally, two students who had completed their study abroad through the International Program shared their experiences in the course “Design Case Studies I,” which is taken by first-year undergraduate students.

To better differentiate it from similar programs in other faculties and university wide, the program has been renamed for FY 2026 to the Design Innovation International Program. Development of a new International Program logo and promotional brochure in preparation for FY2026 was supported by subsidy funding.



▲ Brochure

Funding

- English Language Examination Fees Support: Education Globalization expenses
- Joint Workshop with NCKU: Education Globalization expenses (for accompanying faculty member)
- Living Expenses Overseas: JASSO Overseas Study Abroad Support Program “International Program of the School of Design for Developing World-Class Designers” (Outbound)



▲ IP3 cohort

Results

	Number of participants	Number of students who studied abroad	Study abroad destinations and scholarships	Certificate of completion
1st batch FY2021	10	4	Nanyang Technological University, 1 Politecnico di Milano, 1 Cologne University of Applied Sciences, 2	3
2nd batch FY2022	10	5	University of Applied Sciences Amsterdam, 1 National Cheng Kung University, 1 Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design, 1 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 HAN University of Applied Sciences, 1 Anadolu University, 1 Politecnico di Milano, 1 Anhalt University of Applied Science, 1 Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences 1	6
4th batch FY2024	10	10	Politecnico di Milano, 1 University of Applied Sciences Amsterdam, 2 TH Köln -University of Applied Sciences, 2 Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, 2 Technische Universitat Munchen, 1 University of Birmingham, 1 Kasetsart University, 1	To be determined
5th batch FY2025	5	In the preparation stage	To be determined	To be determined

1. 2 Outbound Exchange Students in FY2025

Partner University	Number of students / Courses of study
Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Germany	3 / Industrial Design (B4) Industrial Design (B3) Environmental Design (B4)
TH Köln University of Applied Sciences, Germany	3 / Industrial Design (B4) Media Design (B3) Design Futures (B3)
Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands DSS, CMD	2 / Design Futures (B3) Design Futures (B3)
Politecnico di Milano, Italy	2 / Environmental Design (M2) Environmental Design (B3)
HAN University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands	1 / Media Design (B4)
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	1 / Industrial Design (B4)
Beijing Institute of Technology, China	1 / Industrial Design (B4)
Loughborough University, United Kingdom	1 / Environmental Design (M2)
Kasetsart University, Thailand	1 / Design Futures (B3)
HKU University of the Arts Utrecht, Netherlands	1 / Media Design (M2)
Estonian Academy of Arts, Estonia	1 / Strategic Design (M1)
Technische Universitat Munchen, Germany	1 / Acoustic Design (B3)
The Australian National University, Australia	1 / Environmental Design (M2)
University of Birmingham, United Kingdom	1 / Design Futures (B3)
National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan	1 / Media Design (M2)
Total	21

1. 3 Study Abroad Fair for Kyushu University Students

In October 2025, we participated in the Study Abroad Fair at Ito Campus, a weeklong event organized by the Kyushu University International Affairs Division Outbound Team. Our office participated in two of the five lunch-hour sessions that constituted the face-to-face event. We offered bilingual presentations about our faculty-level exchange programs, the International Program, and the Engineering Leaders English Program to a total of 16 first-year undergraduate design students. It was the first time the Faculty of Design had presented at this event, and we look forward to future participation.



▲Scenes from the event

2 International Education Initiatives

2.1 Collaborative Program Between Faculties: Engineering Leaders English Program (ELEP) Zero to One

Purpose

The Engineering Leaders English Program (ELEP) is a program designed to enhance students' English proficiency, innovation, and 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 Engineering and the Faculty of Design, offered to students in the School/Graduate School of Engineering and the School/Graduate School of Design.

The four-week entrepreneurship program involved the following:

- English training by San José State University in California, USA
- Face-to-face learning with San José State University students
- 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 February 23 - March 19, 2026

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 15 students, one of whom was from the Graduate School of Design



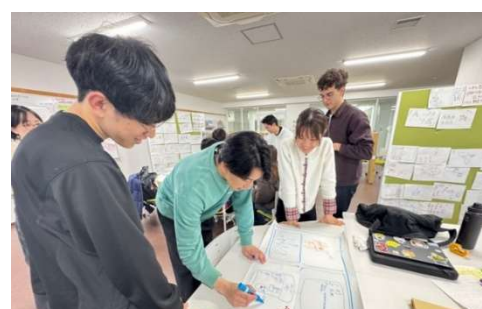
▲Activities During the Program



▲Activities During the Program



▲Activities During the Program



▲Activities During the Program

3 Support for International Students

3. 1 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 intercultural exchange. In the second semester of the 2025 academic year, the fifth year of the group's activities, we enhanced our orientation activities, led by the Geiko Supporters, and welcomed 57 new international students through intercultural exchange events and campus tours. Furthermore, to strengthen the support system for students, we held a Japan Post Bank Account Opening Session with the cooperation of the Japan Post Bank Fukuoka Partner Center. The simple app-based account opening process was highly appreciated by international students.

Number of Supporters

44 (including 11 international student supporters)

Number of New International Students

First Semester: 42 (including 29 students newly arrived from overseas)

Second Semester: 57 (including 53 students newly arrived from overseas)

Main Activities

- Support for New International Students with City Office Procedures and Bank Account Opening
 - ◇ First Semester: 29 international students supported by 11 Geiko Supporters
 - ◇ Second Semester: 26 international students supported by 11 Geiko Supporters
- Support for Japan Post Bank Account Opening Session
 - ◇ Second Semester: 48 international students supported by 4 Geiko Supporters, 5 Japan Post Bank officers, 2 Geiko International Office staff members

- Social gatherings, Campus Tours, and Planning & Organization of Welcome Parties for New International Students
 - ◇ First Semester
 - Campus Tour: 42 participants (34 new international students, 9 team members)
 - Welcome Party: 57 participants (24 new international students, 33 team members and other Kyushu University students)
 - ◇ Second Semester
 - Social gathering & Campus Tour: 64 participants (52 new international students, 12 team members)
 - Welcome Party: 68 participants (44 new international students, 24 team members and other Kyushu University students)

- Geiko Help Desk

The team members answered questions and provided support regarding on-campus procedures for new international students.

- ◇ First Semester : 7 students used the help desk (main inquiries: course registration, how to use Campusmate, national pension exemption application, etc.)
- ◇ Second Semester: 8 students used the help desk (main inquiries: course registration, ANPIC registration, how to log in to the university email system, etc.)



▲Geiko Supporter Meeting



▲Orientation



▲Campus Tour



▲Welcome Party

3. 2 Building a Network with Our Alumni

Objectives

- To build a network of international alumni of the School of Design and the Graduate School of Design of Kyushu University and of 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 alumni and the Faculty of Design, while connecting them to current international students with possibilities for global career development

Initiatives

- Promoting registration to the Geiko Global Alumni Network and requesting information updates periodically
- Sending regular emails to international alumni to extend seasonal greetings and share annual reports
- Organizing the annual virtual Geiko International Reunion

Geiko Global Alumni Network

108 international alumni, graduates from the School of Design and Graduate School of Design of Kyushu University, as well as the former Kyushu Institute of Design, have registered with the Geiko Global Alumni Network (accurate as of December 15, 2025).

- International alumni current countries of residence: Japan (55%), Indonesia (11%), China (9%), Bangladesh/ Philippines/South Korea (2% each), Brazil/Egypt/Finland/Italy/Kuwait/Malasia/Sweden/Taiwan/UAE/UK/USA (1% each), No response (9%)

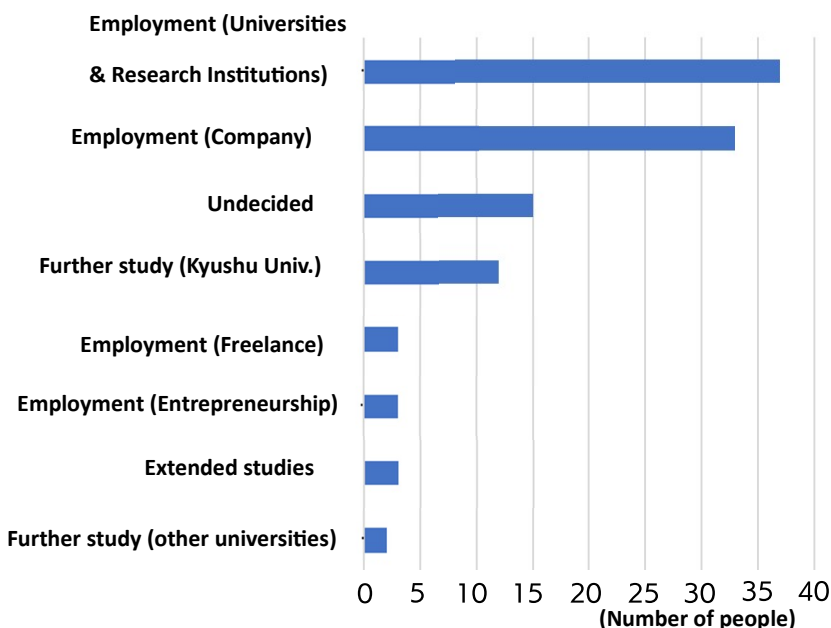


Figure 1. Career Paths of Graduates and Current Students

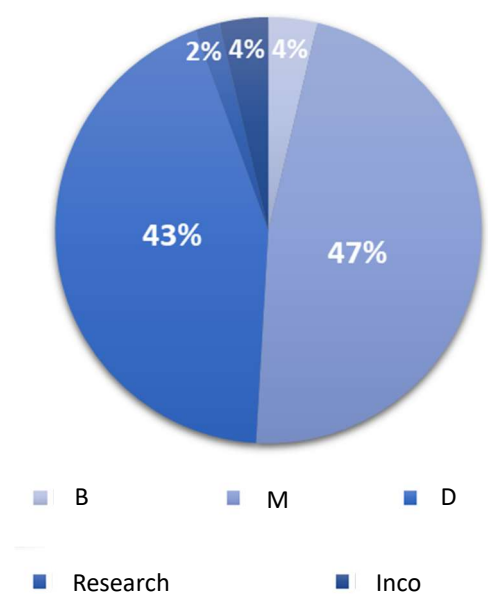


Figure 2. Distribution of Graduates and Current Students by Degree

Geiko International Reunion 2025

Objectives

- Strengthen networks and promote exchange among alumni currently active around the world
- Share insights on diverse career paths and professional fields
- Build a foundation for sustained collaboration and co-creation through the alumni community
- Disseminate information on research and educational trends at the Faculty of Design

Date and Time: Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 17:00-19:00 (Japan Standard Time)

Venue: Online (SpatialChat)

Language: Part 1 (Keynote Presentations) in English;
Part 2 (Networking Session) in any language

Target Participants: International and local alumni, current students of Kyushu University's School of Design and Graduate School of Design, Kyushu University faculty and staff

Program

- Opening remarks (Prof. Gerard B. Remijn, Director, Geiko International Office, aka GIO)
- Updates from the Faculty of Design (Asst. Prof. Yaya Yao, Deputy Director, GIO)
- Keynote presentation: Diverse career paths of international alumni
 1. Postdoctoral Researcher at overseas university (Dr. Natalia Postnova, Finland, graduated 2021)
 2. Faculty member/Researcher at Kyushu University, Faculty of Design (Asst. Prof. Laura Blanco, Japan, graduated 2021)
 3. Engineer at a Japanese company (Mr. Alexis Vallet, Japan, graduated 2017)
 4. Entrepreneur (Dr. Rahmawati Hidayah, Indonesia, graduated 2012)
- Group photo
- Networking session
- Closing remarks (Prof. Gerard B. Remijn, Director, GIO)

Event Outcomes

- Total of 24 participants (16 alumni including 5 Kyushu University faculty members, 3 Faculty of Design faculty and staff, 5 current students)
- Participants joined from 4 countries: Japan, Indonesia, Finland, and Kuwait
- The event brought together members spanning nearly half a century of the Geiko community, from alumni who graduated from Kyushu Institute of Design in 1976 and 1989, to those who had graduated in 2025, as well as current students.
- Part 1 (Career Session) provided valuable insights as speakers shared their career trajectories and experiences following graduation from the Graduate School of Design.
- Part 2 (Networking Session) fostered deeper connections as participants engaged in lively conversation in a relaxed atmosphere.

Event Highlights

Quick Guide to SpatialChat

- 1. Move Around:** Drag your icon with mouse to move.
- 2. Start Talking:** The closer you are, the clearer their voice becomes.
- 3. Camera and Microphone:** Manage them using the icons at the top right of the screen.
- 4. Change Rooms:** Click the "Show Rooms" button (at the right top) to switch between rooms.

Today's schedule

- 16:45- Icebreaker
- 17:00- Opening Remarks
- 17:05- Updates from Geiko and Winter School Stage
- 17:20- Career Design Sessions by International Alumni
- 18:00- Group Photo Session
- 18:10- Networking Session
- 18:55- Closing Remarks

Which do you prefer: Working from home or working at the office/studio?

Office/Studio | Remote

Geiko International

WINTER SCHOOL
ENVISSIONING

3. Winter School 2025

A one-week program for potential international students designed as a taste of what our graduate school has to offer.



4 University Reform and Revitalization System

“Design in Japan” Subjects Series

4.1 Overview of Reform Plan for Japan Design Education Program

The FY2022 University Reform and Revitalization System initiative, “Establishment of an Educational Program for Developing Human Resources to Create and Disseminate Japanese Design Internationally,” builds on the “Design in Japan” course that began in FY2020, whose implementation we have coordinated since its inception. As part of this reform, three courses were integrated into the graduate curriculum and have been offered starting in FY2022: Design in Japan A, B, and C.

Through the implementation of the Japanese design education program, Japanese and international students deepen their understanding of Japanese aesthetics from the traditional to the contemporary. Based on the knowledge and attitudes acquired through the program, students cultivate the potential to create innovative design and art, and to curate and disseminate knowledge to overseas networks, promoting global understanding of art, design, and design engineering innovations in Japan.

4.2 Design in Japan A/Understanding Japanese Design A (1st Semester of FY2025)

Subject Overview

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.



▲Workshop by Darmstadt professors



▲Q&A session



▲Working in pairs

Period 1st Semester

Faculty-in-Charge Associate Professor Madoka Yuki

Language English

Enrolment 55 (including 36 international students)

Subject Content

Cultural Translation and Japaneseness by Assoc. Prof. Madoka Yuki

Noise Music and Sound Art in Japan by Assoc. Prof. Kazuhiro Jo

Visual Cultural Translation Workshop by guest lecturers Bettina Blümner & Prof. Thomas Lauterbach (Darmstadt University of Applied Science, Germany)

Japanese Traditional Music by Asst. Prof. Mizuki Somura

Origami-Based Engineering Design by Assoc. Prof. Kazuya Saito

Transcultural Translation and the role of Arts-based Research: Theories and Case studies by Prof. Melanie Sarantou

Narratives of the Kyushu University Museum Collections and Cultural Translation by guest lecturer Prof. Karina Nimmerfall (University of Cologne, Germany) and Prof. Misako Mishima (Kyushu University Museum)

Visualizing the Microscopic World of Living Organisms through Manga, Illustration, VR, & AI by Assoc. Prof. Daisuke Inoue

Modern and Contemporary House Design in Japan by Assoc. Prof. Masaaki Iwamoto

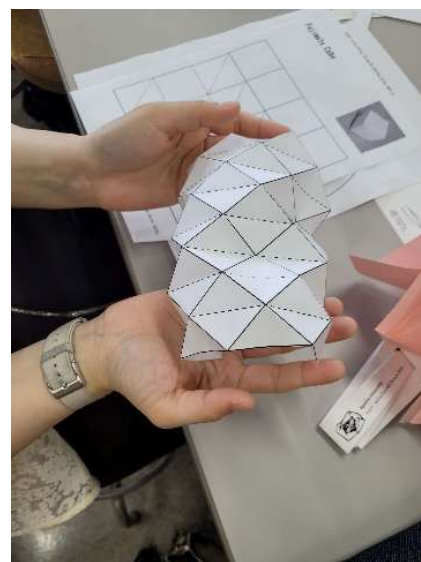
Working Across Borders: Migration, artist mobility and artistic exchange in contemporary art in Japan by Lecturer Ariane Beyn



▲Lecture on Biwa



▲Creating origami



▲Visualizing origami structure

4.3 Design in Japan C (Autumn Quarter of AY2025)

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.

This class was a practical exercise in curating an exhibition “out of the archive.” The aim was to develop an exhibition that reflects the history, the activities, and the impact of the artist residency program that the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (FAAM) has run since it first opened its doors in 1999. The classwork entailed curatorial research in the FAAM archive, developing an exhibition concept, and conducting and video recording interviews with alumni residency artists in collaboration with FAAM.

Period Autumn Quarter

Faculty-in-Charge Associate Professor Madoka Yuki and Lecturer Ariane Beyn

Language English

Enrolment 11 (all international students)

Subject Content

“Fukuoka Asian Art Museum Residence Programs” by guest lecturer Tomomichi Nakao (curator at Fukuoka Asian Art Museum)

Excursion to Fukuoka Asian Art Museum Visited exhibitions “Vietnam: The Landscape of Memories and “Fukuoka Asian Art Museum Best Collection III” and explored the museum archive.

Excursion to Fukuoka City Art Museum and Artist Café Fukuoka: Visited exhibition "Visions of the South: Japanese Modern Paintings, 1900s-1970s", guided tour by the exhibition’s curator, Toshiko Rawanchaikul and visited resident artists’ studios.

Project Conceptualization and Planning Sessions 1-4

Final Presentation at Fukuoka Asian Art Museum



▲ Exploring the museum archive



▲ Final Presentation

4.4 Design in Japan/ Understanding Japanese Design C-2: History and Theory of Curating (Autumn Quarter AY2025)

Subject Overview

Starting with an overview of the history of the art exhibition and more recent curatorial history, this class introduced the key concepts related to curating contemporary art and design in today's global context.

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, engaging in the relationship between art and society and challenging some of the assumptions on which our art institutions, museums and collections have been built.

Each session, a selected theoretical text (in English) is introduced, contextualized (also with the help of image material) and discussed with the participants. This course is taught in English and involves group work, presentations, and class discussion.

Period	Autumn Quarter
Faculty-in-Charge	Associate Professor Madoka Yuki Lecturer Ariane Beyn
Language	English
Enrolment	13 (all international students)
Subject Content	What Is an Exhibition? The White Cube Site Specific Art History of Exhibitions in the Global Context Archival Practices Curatoriality Final Discussion

4.5 Design in Japan/Understanding Japanese Design B (Winter Quarter of FY2025)

Subject Overview

This class was part II of a practice-based project focused on curating an exhibition (Part I: Design in Japan C, Autumn quarter). The work on an exhibition developed “out of the archive” of the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (FAAM) was continued in this class. On top of that, the syllabus included an excursion to an art institution in the region and guest lectures by internationally renowned curators on exhibition design.

The aim was to deepen student understandings of exhibition-making practices, as well as local art history and its international interconnectivity. In conversation with curators, students learned about their backgrounds and goals, as well as about exhibition concepts, designs, and site-specific art projects. As a cumulating project, students realized exhibition designs based on concepts developed through Design in Japan C. The final exhibition project, “*Traces of Residence*,” was open to the public at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum from April 9 to May 12, 2026.

Period	Winter Quarter
Faculty-in-Charge	Associate Professor Madoka Yuki, Lecturer Ariane Beyn
Language	English
Enrolment	21 (including 18 international students)

SubjectContent

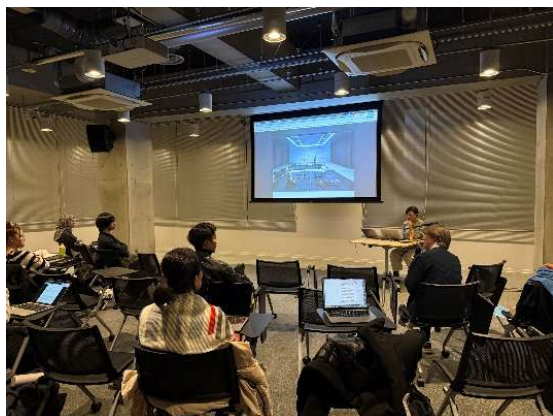
Presentation of the exhibition concept developed in Design in Japan C by students
“Escaping the White Cube, Recycling Scenographies and Inverting the Viewing Hierarchies” by guest lecturer Florian Ebner (Curator and Head of Photography, Cabinet of Centre Pompidou, Paris)

Excursion Tsunagi Art Museum, Kumamoto

“Sites, Practice, and Relations” by guest lecturer Che Kyongfa (Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)

Group creation sessions

Mid-term presentation, final presentation and feedback by Frank Bode (Professional exhibition installer)



▲Lecture by Che Kyongfa (Curator)



▲Excursion to Tsunagi Art Museum

4.6 Lecture Series and Event

This international lecture series, held since FY2022, introduces cutting-edge perspectives on contemporary art through in-person encounters and conversations with artists. Artists of different disciplines present and discuss 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 provides insights into diverse international artistic perspectives and understandings of contemporary art's role within society, as well as art's 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. They are held as part of the University Reform and Revitalization System of Design in Japan series and the University Reform and Revitalization System of Media Art.

Lecture Series

April 14, 2025	Artist Talk by Daniel Young: "7 Attempts to Make Art"
May 28, 2025	Researcher Talk by Tatsuya Daikoku: "Embodied Knowledge of Music: A Neurophysiological and Computational Approach"
October 6, 2025	Artist Talk & Workshop by Gabi Schillig: "Topologies of softness & the sphere of the in-between: space, body, materiality, dialogue, relational ethics."
November 17, 2025	Curator Talk by Zhu Xiaowen: "Centering the Margins: Rethinking Contemporary Art and the ESEA Experience"
December 15, 2025	Curator Talk by Centre Pompidou's Florian Ebner to Discuss Innovative Exhibition Design Strategies: "Escaping the White Cube, Recycling Scenographies and Inverting the Viewing Hierarchies"
January 9, 2026	Curator Talk by Che Kyongfa: "Sites, Practice, and Relations"



5 Developing International Partners

5. 1 International Visitors to the Faculty of Design

Overview

In the 2025 academic year, the Faculty of Design at Kyushu University received a total of 19 international visits from 14 countries and regions, with a total of 146 visitors (including 45 faculty/staff members and 101 students).

Analysis of International Visitors

■ Breakdown by Country/Region of Origin

Our visitors originated from the following countries and regions: Taiwan (5 visits), Netherlands (2 visits), and one visit each from Australia, Belgium, China, Estonia, Finland, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

■ Visit Objectives

The purposes of these international visits were: research meetings and academic exchanges (6 visits), joint classes and seminars (3 visits), workshops (3 visits), class participation visits (2 visits), laboratory visits (2 visits), and one case each of other activities such as opinion exchange, faculty training, and events.

■ Host Department Affiliations

The international visitors were hosted by faculty from the following departments: Strategic Design Department (6 visits), Design Futures Department (4 visits), Environmental Design Department (3 visits), Human Life Design and Science Department (3 visits), Acoustic Design Department (2 visit), and Media Design Department (1 visit).

Support Provided by the Geiko International Office

For these 19 international visits, the Geiko International Office provided a total of 85 support services. These included: arrangement of promotional materials (Geiko Goods) (18 instances), Geiko introduction presentations (16 instances), venue reservation and setup (15 instances), photography and article publication (14 instances), campus tour guiding (13 instances), participation in faculty meetings (6 instances), and arrangements for courtesy visits to the Dean (3 instances). The facility tour rate was 68.4% (13 out of 19 visits).

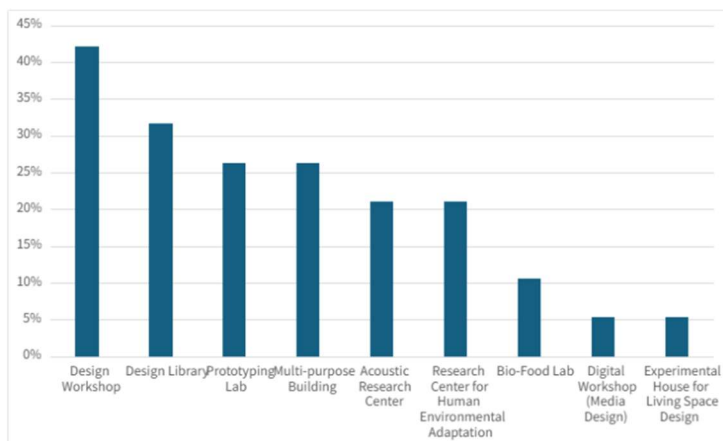


Fig. Facility Tour Rate of Kyushu University Ohashi Campus Among International Visitors (13 visits)

Table. International Visitor Information for Academic Year 2025(Reiwa 7)

Date of Visit	University/Institution	Country/Area
April 4, 2025	UNSW Sydney	Australia
April 17, 2025	The Finnish Institute in Japan	Finland
April 24, 2025	Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences	Germany
May 7, 2025	National Taiwan Normal University, National Cheng Kung University	Taiwan
May 12, 2025	HAN University of Applied Sciences	The Netherlands
May 20, 2025	Hong Kong Polytechnic University	China
May 21, 2025	Social Activities Integration (NGO)	India
May 23, 2025	National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan
June 13, 2025	PACO (The Third Sector)	Italy
June 23, 2025	University of Glasgow	United Kingdom
July 16, 2025	HKU University of the Arts Utrecht	The Netherlands
July 28, 2025	ITS (Institute of Technology Sepuluh Nopember), the University of Mataram, and partner NGOs	Indonesia
August 20, 2025	Kangwon National University and others	Korea
October 9, 2025	Zurich University of Applied Sciences	Switzerland
October 9, 2025	Independent artist (based in Belgium)	Belgium
October 15, 2025	National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan
October 22, 2025	Estonian Academy of Arts	Estonia
December 8, 2025	National Taitung University	Taiwan
December 23, 2025	National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan



5.2 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, continued to assist with procedures for international academic and student exchange agreements.

Number of departmental exchange agreements in the 2025: 48

Agreement Changes in the 2025 Academic Year

Number of cases		University	Country
New	1 Agreement	Braunschweig University of Art	Germany
Renewals	4 Agreements	Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design	Germany
		Dalian University of Technology	China
		Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris la Villette (ENSAPLV)	France
		National Taipei University of Technology	Taiwan

6 International Public Relations

The goal of our public relations activities is to promote the Faculty of Design and to exchange information with overseas parties and prospective students to build good relationships and a sense of community.

6.1 International Public Relations

The Geiko Global website served as a portal for the School of Design and Graduate School of Design, providing current students with a wide range of information on study abroad, international exchange events, and announcements from partner universities, while also offering prospective international students with guidance on admission and exchange program procedures as well as information on living in Fukuoka. Both sites are continuously updated with the goal of creating a resource that is easy for students to use.

In addition, the International Office of the Faculty of Design shares news and updates in both Japanese and English through its official Instagram account, and further extends its outreach via LinkedIn, ensuring proactive information dissemination to audiences both in Japan and abroad.

6.2 International Student Recruitment

In the 2025 academic year, we participated in Kyushu University's online study abroad fair, the 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, along with sharing about personal experiences, success stories, and campus life.

Date	Event	Number of Participants
April 18, 2025	1st Virtual Graduate Study Fair at Kyushu University	161 total, 24 in Faculty of Design breakout session
November 7, 2025	2nd Virtual Graduate Study Fair at Kyushu University	151, 13 in Faculty of Design breakout session



▲1st,2nd Virtual Graduate Study Fair at Kyushu University

▲Geiko Global Website

▲Instagram

6.3 Geiko Winter School 2025

This year's Winter School brought together 17 highly qualified prospective graduate students (master's and doctoral level) from Germany, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, and Taiwan for a weeklong academic program at the Faculty of Design.

A key feature of Winter School 2025 was that, for the first time, the program was conducted on a self-funded basis with a participation fee, marking a significant step toward sustainable program operation. Thanks to the generous guidance, instruction, and mentorship provided by faculty members, the program achieved outcomes exceeding initial expectations.

Participants consistently identified direct interaction with faculty members—both during lectures and research advising sessions—as the most valuable aspect of the program. All participants reported that their interest in pursuing studies at our graduate school increased as a result of attending Winter School, indicating strong potential for future enrollment.

Objectives

- To provide international students with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the Graduate School of Design
- To facilitate matching between prospective students and potential faculty advisors
- To promote international knowledge exchange through mutual sharing of ideas between participants, faculty members, and current students

Period: November 10–14, 2025

Venue: Kyushu University, Ohashi Campus

Language: English

Number of Participants: 17 (5 prospective doctoral and 12 prospective master's students)

Faculty Advisors

Professor Kenichi Tanoue

Professor Melanie Sarantou

Professor Ryoichi Tamura

Professor Satoshi Muraki

Associate Professor Tomo Inoue

Associate Professor Masaaki Iwamoto

Associate Professor Kazuya Saito

Associate Professor Madoka Yuki

Associate Professor Kohei Inoue

Associate Professor Kazuhiro Jo

Lecturer Ariane Beyn

Assistant Professor Yasuyuki Hayama

Assistant Professor Martins Zarins



Lecturers

Professor Melanie Sarantou
Associate Professor Masaaki Iwamoto
Associate Professor Kazuya Saito
Associate Professor Madoka Yuki
Associate Professor Hsin-Ni Ho
Associate Professor Kazuhiro Jo
Assistant Professor Yasuyuki Hayama
Assistant Professor Tomoko Hojo

Program Activities

Opening Session
Campus Tour
Networking Session with Current Graduate Students
Lectures
Laboratory Visits and Research Sessions
Final Presentations by Participants



7 Various Activities Related to Internationalization

As part of efforts to promote internationalization, the “Geiko Global Hub” and Consultation Office Support initiatives were implemented. These initiatives function in a complementary manner, aiming to promote organic interaction between international and Japanese students while serving as a bridge to connect students with diverse support systems both within and outside the university.

The Geiko Global Hub was positioned as a space to foster intercultural exchange, community building, and student-led activities, providing opportunities for international learning and dialogue. Meanwhile, the Consultation Office Support initiative offered individualized advice tailored to students’ circumstances and needs through one-on-one consultations and established a system to refer students to relevant internal departments or external organizations as necessary.

Through these initiatives, a central role was played in connecting students with the university’s various support resources, thereby contributing to the promotion of comprehensive and sustainable internationalization within the faculty.

7.1 Geiko Global Hub

Geiko Global Hub (GG Hub) was established within the School and Graduate School of Design as a venue for social learning and community building, with the aim of fostering dynamic and globally oriented perspectives and communication skills among students.

Objectives

Through weekly language exchange sessions and monthly events, GG Hub seeks to strengthen connections between international students and Japanese students. These gatherings provide opportunities for students to engage in creative exchange, explore different cultures, and build meaningful relationships and networks with one another.

Management Structure Assistant Professor Yaya Yao
 Assistant Professor Laura Blanco
 Student Leaders of Geiko Global Hub

Project Period October 29, 2025 – February 5, 2026

Weekly Meetings 13 sessions held (total of 56 participants)

Monthly Events 3 events held (total of 27 participants)



▲Event Highlights

7.2 Consultation Support

In the 2025 academic year, we established a face-to-face individual consultation system for both incoming international students and Japanese students seeking to study abroad. This consultation service, involving individualized appointments with GIO staff, aims to encourage international students to actively participate in their studies and student life at Geiko, while providing outbound students with systematic support to smoothly prepare for study abroad and complete the necessary procedures. Through these efforts, the service supported students' wellbeing, informed decision-making, and the successful progress of their studies.

Consultation Sessions

The International Office conducted 62 one-to-one consultation sessions in FY2025 for 34 students in total.

Level of study	Local	International
Undergraduate	21	1 (student overseas interested in Graduate School of Design)
Graduate	0	12
TOTAL	21	13

Consultations with local undergraduates concerned study abroad questions including, in ranked order:

- Choosing a study abroad university
- Study abroad scholarships
- Study abroad timing
- Language study
- Study abroad application preparation
- Other



▲ Event Posters

7.3 Other Activities

To advance the internationalization of Geiko, we provided support for the translation, stylistic editing, and proofreading of English documents and materials handled by the administrative office. Through these efforts, we sought to ensure that information about Geiko was communicated accurately and clearly in English to international students and researchers, as well as to prospective students from overseas.

In addition, going beyond the internationalization of Geiko, we contributed to internationalization across Kyushu University by maintaining close collaboration with the International Affairs Department, with a focus on information sharing and cooperative initiatives.