

Japan Forum for Internationalization of Universities: "Accelerating Internationalization in University Education and Stimulating Global Expansion via Intercultural Collaborative Learning Networks"

AY 2025 Intercultural Collaborative Learning (ICL)

Credit Exchange Student Application Guide

1. About the ICL Project

The five universities of the ICL Consortium (Tohoku University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Shinshu University, The University of Osaka, and Kobe University), supported by the Japan Forum for Internationalization of Universities, began "Accelerating Internationalization in University Education and Stimulating Global Expansion via Intercultural Collaborative Learning Networks (ICL Project)" in AY 2021. This project aims to increase sharing, advancement, and international mobility together with foreign and domestic organizations through Intercultural Collaborative Learning (ICL) that incorporates cooperative classes/activities for international and domestic students while expanding in Japan and abroad.

This project enables us to offer a credit exchange for ICL classes offered by the ICL Consortium in six interdisciplinary fields. Students at the above universities can take ICL classes in areas approved by their home universities at other universities. Students interested in taking classes through the credit exchange should follow the application instructions in this guide.¹

2. Learning Attainment Goals

Through classes eligible for the credit exchange, we hope to diversify the students' international learning experiences, help them form and expand student networks beyond country, region, and university, and foster, with an emphasis on international awareness, a new generation of global talent to find solutions to worldwide problems. The class content will organically incorporate meaningful interaction among students of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds to increase the quality of their learning and help them achieve learning attainment goals in each interdisciplinary field.

Interdisciplinary Field	Learning Attainment Goals
SDGs	Classes will promote understanding of Sustainable Development Goals and increase the students' ability to propose solutions to common worldwide issues from diverse perspectives as global citizens.
Earthquakes & Rebuilding	Students will study Japan's harm/disaster mitigation/prevention efforts and the restoration process following the Hanshin-Awaji and Great East Japan Earthquakes, and develop their ability to disseminate the results internationally.
Intercultural Understanding	Students will acquire new values and creativity while building understanding/acceptance of people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, and critically rethinking their own cultures.
Industrial-academic Cooperation & Leadership	Students will collaborate in a global environment among people who hold different values and acquire the communication skills, initiative, and leadership needed to actively discover and solve problems.
Japanese Culture & Society	Students will become well-versed in Japanese culture, history, customs, and social conditions, and develop the ability to analyze/debate Japan's strengths and problems from multiple perspectives.
Regional Communities & Cooperation	Students will gain an understanding of the strengths and problems of regional communities and the people who live there, and acquire the proposal skills and initiative to develop them from a global perspective.

¹ Credit exchange might not be approved depending on the class. Please ask your home university whether the credit exchange can be approved. Please note that there may be a delay in processing your transcript due to the different schedules in issuance date at the participating universities.

3. ICL Classes (classes eligible for credit exchange)

ICL courses (Japanese or English) will be offered online from up to 6 disciplinary areas in the 2025 school year. For a list of class subjects, please see "2025 Academic Year ICL Classes." Please see the [ICL website](#) for class details and syllabuses. Class enrollment limits and eligible school years (semesters) vary depending on the class.

4. Application Eligibility

Undergraduate students who, for the duration of the classes, will be enrolled at Tohoku University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Shinshu University, The University of Osaka, or Kobe University are eligible. (Graduate school students are not eligible.) In addition, undergraduate (or equivalent) exchange students (Special Auditing Students) may be eligible depending on the university's policies. Please inquire at your home university if you are interested.

* Students on leave of absence are not eligible.

5. Class Capacity

Some classes have enrollment limits. If the number of applicants for a class exceeds its limit, the host university will screen applicants. Please understand that you may not be able to take your desired classes.

6. Application to Enroll in ICL Classes (How to Apply)

Please follow the instructions below if you wish to enroll in ICL classes.

- 1 Confirm whether there is an internal application procedure at your home university and follow the university's instructions to complete your application.
- 2 Enter all required items on [the ICL application form](#).
- 3 The host university will decide, based on the application form, whether you can enroll in the class.
- 4 You will be informed by your home university whether you can take the class.
- 5 Follow the host university's instructions to enroll in the ICL class.

7. Application Period

ICL class application deadline will be as follows.

- 2nd term: Thursday, September 4 (noon), 2025

8. Notes on Application

Please read the following carefully before applying.

- Check with your home university in advance and follow their instructions regarding any necessary procedures.
- Check the syllabus of your desired class to make sure you fulfill any prerequisites (e.g. English language ability).
- Class times vary among the host universities. You will not be permitted to enroll in a class if it conflicts with other classes. Check to make sure that your desired ICL class does not conflict with any classes you are taking at your home university. Check your home university's regulations to ensure you do not exceed its maximum credit limit.

9. Enrollment Status

If you are permitted to enroll in the class, your status at the host university will be Special Auditing Student.

10. Grades and Credit Approval

Grades for ICL classes will be determined by the host university. Please ask your home university how to get credits approved for ICL classes.

11. Tuition Fee Etc.

Tuition, entrance, and examination fees will not be collected for ICL classes. Please see the relevant class's syllabus to see whether it requires any training/materials fees.

12. Attending Classes

Generally, ICL classes will be held online, so you will need a computer and Internet connection to attend.

13. Start of Class, Canceling Enrollment

The starting date for ICL classes at each host university for 2nd term is shown in the table below. As a rule, once you are granted permission to enroll in an ICL class you cannot later cancel your enrollment. Before applying, please plan your class schedule carefully. If you must cancel a class for unavoidable reasons, please contact your home university using the information provided in "15. Inquiries" by the cancellation deadlines shown below. Please note that the cancellation deadline varies depending on the host university.

Host University	Start of 2nd Term	Cancellation Deadline (submit to home university)
Tohoku University	October 1, 2025	October 9, 2025
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	September 29, 2025	October 10, 2025
Shinshu University	September 29, 2025	September 30, 2025
Kobe University	October 1, 2025	October 9, 2025

Example: A Tokyo University of Foreign Studies student wants to cancel a class at Shinshu University.

The student must contact Tokyo University of Foreign Studies using the information from "15. Inquiries" (Educational Affairs Department, Educational Affairs Division, Educational Affairs Office) by September 30, 2025. The student cannot cancel the Shinshu University class on/after October 1.

14. Excused Absences

Students will follow the host university's rules on getting absences excused.

15. Inquiries

Please use the contact information below for inquiries about this project and ICL class enrollment.

University	Department	Email
Tohoku University	Education and Student Support Department, Student Exchange Division, ICL Project Office	icl-admin@grp.tohoku.ac.jp
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	Educational Affairs Department, Educational Affairs Division, Educational Affairs Office	kyoumu-kakari@tufs.ac.jp
Shinshu University	Center for Global Education and Collaboration	icl-shinshu@shinshu-u.ac.jp
The University of Osaka	International Student Affairs Division, Department of International Affairs	icl-osaka@ml.office.osaka-u.ac.jp
Kobe University	International Exchange Division	stdnt-ryulife@office.kobe-u.ac.jp

2025 Academic Year ICL Classes

This is a list of ICL classes for the 2025 academic year. Before applying, please check the details and syllabuses for the classes. These will be published on the [ICL website](#) in mid-July.

2nd Term Classes

Day / Time *1	Interdisciplinary Field	Host University	Class	Title Etc.	Instructor Language	Credits	Enrollment Limit *2
Mon 14:40-16:10	Industrial-academic Cooperation & Leadership	Tohoku	Global Career	The Japanese HR system and career design in the company	English	2	
Mon 16:20-17:50	Industrial-academic Cooperation & Leadership	Tohoku	Special Topics on Global Leadership	Leadership using Emotional Intelligence (EQ)	English	2	
Mon 16:20-17:50	Multicultural Awareness	Shinshu	Global Communication B	Global Communication B	Japanese	2	
Wed 12:40-14:10	Japanese Culture/Society	TUFS	Aspects of Japanese History 2	Japanese Intellectual History	English	2	10
Thu 16:20-17:50	Natural Disaster/Recovery	Tohoku	Special Topics on Multicultural Society	Seminar on Reflecting on the Reconstruction of Fukushima's Coastal Region	English	2	5
Thu 17:00-18:30	Multicultural Awareness	Kobe	Introductory Seminar for Promoting Global Leadership	Introductory Seminar for Promoting Global Leadership	Japanese, English	2	5

*1 Please see "[2025 Timetable](#)."

*2 The enrollment limit indicates the number of students from ICL Consortium universities that can participate. If this is blank, the class does not have an enrollment limit.