



## **The Global Business Course (GBC) Report (Fourth Issue)**

**March 2022**

In April 2021, 49 Japanese students enrolled in the University of Hyogo, School of Economics and Management, Global Business Course (GBC) through general entrance examinations. In September 2021, 43 international students from 13 countries and 1 region joined the GBC family, adding students from 5 new countries.

Since the beginning of 2022, as concerns about the spread of COVID-19 have increased again, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) imposed strict restrictions on entry into Japan. Consequently, only 10 international students have moved into the International Student Dormitory (Global House) on Kobe Campus for Commerce. 4 out of these 10 students were already residing in Japan. The remaining 6 students were sponsored by the Government of Thailand and arrived in Japan in October 2021 based on particular exceptional circumstances.

As explained in previous GBC Report issues, the GBC was selected as “a Special Program of the Japanese Government Scholarship for Student Priority Placement” for 3 years starting from the academic year 2021. Only 10 universities have been selected (out of the approximately 780 universities in Japan), with the University of Hyogo being the only public institution. As a result, 8 high-performing international students were admitted into GBC as government-sponsored students in September 2021. However, the arrival of 34 international students, including those sponsored by the Government of Japan, and one student enrolled in September 2020 is still uncertain. The basic policy of the University during the COVID-19 pandemic, is to provide in-person lectures to students while taking strict countermeasures against the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, to meet the needs of students who are expected to arrive in Japan, classes for first-year students are being held online or in a hybrid form.

Thanks to the financial contributions from generous donors, the University was able to grant 100,000 yen as a “Startup Scholarship” (student support fund) to each GBC student newly enrolled in September, just like previous years. This year, the Scholarship Conferment Ceremony was held in a hybrid form in November 2021. GBC students, staff, and faculty members at the University all would like to express their profound gratitude to many gracious donors.



GBC International Student "Startup Scholarship" Ceremony  
(November 2021)

## 1. GBC International Students (Enrolled in September) by Country/Region of Origin

Data as of February 15, 2022

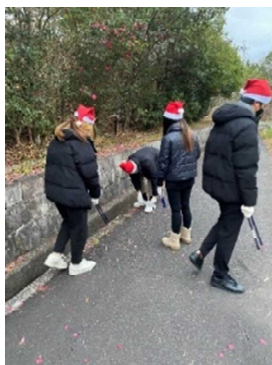
Country/Region	September 2019 Enrollment			September 2020 Enrollment			September 2021 Enrollment		
	Number of students	Gender composition		Number of students	Gender composition		Number of students	Gender composition	
		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
Bangladesh	2	2					1	1	
Belarus							1	1	
Bhutan	1	1							
Cambodia							1	1	
China	1		1	2	1	1			
India	1		1	1	1		4	2	2
Indonesia	7	2	5	6	3	3	5	1	4
Malaysia				3		3	1		1
Mexico							1	1	
Mongolia							2	1	1
Pakistan				2	2		3	2	1
Philippines				1	1				
Romania	2	1	1	1	1*		3	1	2
Thailand	14	7	7	4	1	3	10	4	6
Turkey	1	1							
Vietnam	6	4	2	6	3	3	7	3	4
Zambia				1	1				
Zimbabwe							1	1	
Taiwan	5	1	4	4	1	3	3	1	2
Total	40	19	21	31	15	16	43	20	23

\*Temporary leave of absence

## 2. Current Trends of the GBC International Students

As mentioned above, 34 GBC international students have not arrived in Japan yet due to travel restrictions. At the time of writing this report, these students abroad are taking classes online, adjusting their sleeping schedule to manage time differences with Japan by working out ways to acquire stable internet connections.

Despite numerous challenges, GBC students abroad are taking online classes and actively participating in group work and discussions. In addition, the first-year international students who are currently living in the Global House are regularly making SNS posts about their dormitory and campus lives for their fellow students who are yet to join them in Japan. All students are looking forward to meeting each other in person and uniting in the Global House.



The winter Clean-Up Day in the colors of Christmas  
(December 2021)

The second-year students who did not remain in the Global House as Resident Assistants (RAs) live in new environments. For many international students, it is their first time living on their own. At the same time, they will utilize this opportunity to nurture their sense of responsibility. As high academic grades enable students to receive tuition fee exemptions and scholarships, the majority of students are aware of the financial benefits of excellent academic performance. As a result, many of GBC international students are motivated to study diligently.



The Indian Culture Days held by the Global Engagement Center, Global House 1F (November 2021)



A table tennis competition among universities at Hyogo University (November 2021)



The first GBC Photo Contest (November 2021)

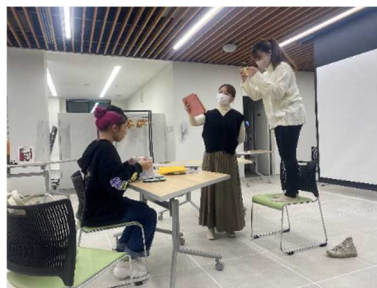
### 3. Classes for the GBC International Students

In this semester, within the Program to Experience Japan, second-year international students visited the nearby Ikawadani Kita High School, where they deepened their knowledge about Japanese art and calligraphy. Furthermore, the Program included lectures on characteristics of job hunting in Japan as well as Japanese corporate culture and organizational theory.

Group work is frequently conducted in GBC classes to encourage active learning while taking appropriate COVID-19 countermeasures. Active learning helps build students' skills as cooperative future team members and global leaders.



“Program to Experience Japan”  
A visit to the Ikawadani High School (November 2021)



“Research Seminar”- Group work on the topic of SDGs (November 2021)



#### 4. Career Support for Third-Year Students

The major concerns for third-year students are making post-graduation plans, such as job hunting. Recognizing the needs of GBC international students, the University has been introducing a series of measures to support their academic and business career paths after graduation. Some of GBC international students had a chance to participate in internship programs in many Japanese companies for the first time. It is needless to say that Japanese language skills are necessary for employment in Japanese companies in most cases. Third-year students are the first GBC generation, while they do not have senior role models to consult with. Some of them consider themselves “pioneers” who carve a path for themselves as well as for their juniors.



A 3<sup>rd</sup>-year student consulting a professor about job hunting and research plan (January 2022)



Job hunting information provided in English at Campus Career Center

In January 2022, in cooperation with venture capitalists, Japan External Trade Organization(JETRO) and other supporters, the University successfully organized its first business plan competition, the “VENTURinno ’22”. In this competition, students formed teams and proposed new business plans incorporating SDGs and promising business ideas. The competition provided a precious opportunity to foster students’ entrepreneurial spirits. In addition, students were able to build connections with venture capitalists.



A business plan presentation by GBC students



Third-year students in conversation with venture capitalists



A recycling business plan won the first place

#### 5. Response to the Spread of COVID-19

To prevent COVID-19 infections among students in the Global House, the University implemented a variety of COVID-19 countermeasures such as the obligatory mask-wearing. However, following the spread of the virus in Kobe City, COVID-19 positive cases were confirmed in the Global House in January 2022. In response, the University took urgent actions to prevent the emergence of COVID-19 clusters. In cooperation with the Kobe City Medical Center, students who tested positive were transferred to designated quarantine facilities. At the same time, those identified as “close contacts” were asked to voluntarily quarantine in private rooms. Students in quarantine were supported on a daily basis by dependable RAs, who helped with food purchase and delivery, and offered other assistance.

## 6. GBC Promotion Activities

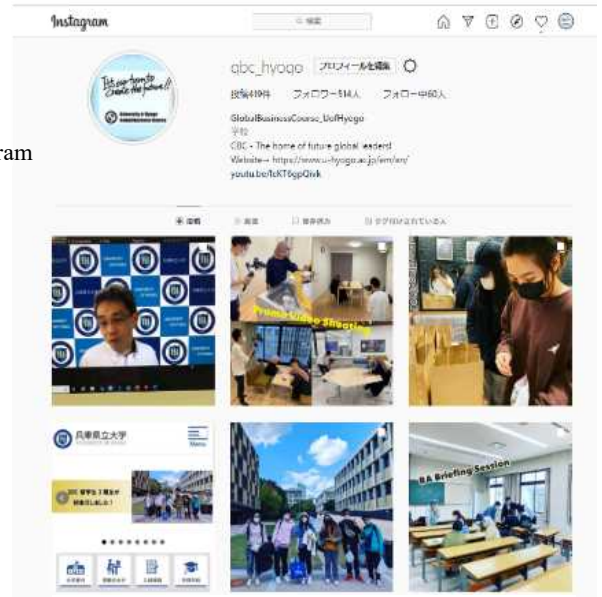
For GBC Promotional Video and Instagram, please check:



Global House  
Promotional Video



GBC official Instagram



GBC Instagram - image

Please check our other SNS activities → ↓ HERE !

(You can find Instagram articles here)



GBC Twitter - image



GBC Official Facebook  
page



GBC Official  
page

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Special thanks to many GBC first-, second- and third- year international students for their cooperation in preparation of this report.