



## **The Global Business Course Report**

Spring, 2021

### **Greetings**

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for your generous support to the Global Business Course and its international students.

Indeed, university staff, faculty members, and GBC international students are all indebted to your extraordinary generosity toward us. We want to go and wholeheartedly thank each donor in person. However, under the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19 nationwide, it is difficult for us to visit you. To keep you informed about our students' current living conditions and activities, we have decided to publish the 'GBC Report'.

In addition to the 40 international students in the first year, 30 new international students successfully enrolled in the GBC despite the limited mobility around the world caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, GBC international students who returned to their homeland during the spring break last year could not reenter Japan due to the repeated closures of borders. Moreover, the acquisition of entry visas for second-year students was significantly delayed. Finally, the large GBC family was safely reunited at the beginning of 2021.

GBC international students initially met their Japanese and international classmates online. They were excited to embark on a new academic journey and meet each other in person in the international student dormitory (Global House).

While waiting abroad to return to Japan, GBC international students continued their education by taking online classes and examinations. At the same time, students faced numerous difficulties such as time differences and unstable internet connections.

Direct flights to the Kansai Airport were limited. And even if students managed to fly to Japan and arrive in different airports, they had to spend two weeks of self-quarantine.

Regarding the financial difficulties faced by GBC international students, none of them abandoned their studies thanks to the donations from local enterprises and official public aid. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable contributions.

Our efforts to make the GBC a pioneering program with the highest academic standards that are competitive with Western countries are coming to fruition. The Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) evaluated our current efforts and educational vision. As a result, MEXT selected the GBC as "a Special Program of the Japanese Government Scholarship for Student Priority Placement." It is worth mentioning that MEXT only selected 10 leading universities such as the University of Tokyo and Kyoto University out of approximately 780 in Japan last year. The University of Hyogo was the only public institution among them.

International students will certainly bridge the gap between their respective countries and Japan. Their role is irreplaceable to boost the mutual bonds of friendship and cooperation at all levels. We will do our best to create a diverse and comfortable environment for our students to excel in their studies and future careers.

We would be highly grateful if you could kindly continue to support our promising mission.

Last but not least, I pray for your continued strength and success. These hard days will pass by, and life will return to normal soon after the end of the pandemic.

Makoto KOSAKA,  
Vice President  
University of Hyogo

# Overview of the Global Business Course

## 1. GBC International Students

Country	2019 September Enrollment			2020 September Enrollment		
	Number of Enrolled Students	Gender		Number of Enrolled Students	Gender	
		Male	Female		Male	Female
Bangladesh	2	2				
Bhutan	1	1				
China	1		1	2	1	1
India	1		1	1	1	
Indonesia	7	2	5	6	3	3
Malaysia				3		3
Pakistan				2	2	
Philippines				1	1	
Romania	2	1	1	1	1	
Thailand	14	7	7	4	1	3
Turkey	1	1				
Vietnam	6	4	2	5	3	2
Zambia				1	1	
Taiwan	5	1	4	4	1	3
Total	40	19	21	30	15	15

## 2. Courses for GBC International Students

First and Second Semesters: All courses are conducted in English, such as macroeconomics, business administration, bookkeeping, and others. There are approximately 22 classes per week.

Intensive Course: "Program to Experience Japan" The program not only deepens students' understanding of the Japanese culture and industry but also engages them in interactive experience-based learning. International students will bridge the gap between their countries and Japan in general, and disseminate the business prowess of Hyogo Prefecture and its entrepreneurs to foreign countries in particular.



GBC field trip, Program to Experience Japan

## 3. Campus Life

Most of the GBC classes are held on a small-scale basis of about 10 to 25 students per class. In research and project seminars, students are divided into 4 groups where they discuss assignments or deliver presentations. GBC offers an inclusive cross-cultural academic atmosphere where international and Japanese students enjoy the opportunity of studying together. Therefore, one can hear multiple English pronunciations in classes.

## 3. Mentorship Program

International students in Japan face many daily difficulties such as language barriers and cultural differences. To help new students adapt to life in Japan, especially during the COVID-19 crisis, the University of Hyogo launched a Mentorship Program in October 2020. Senior Japanese and International students (mentors) held regular consultation sessions with all new students (mentees) from October 2020 to February 2021. The program significantly boosted the self-reliance of new international students on and off-campus.

#### 4. Countermeasures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection when arriving in Japan.

In addition to supporting the 2020 academic year GBC international students with visa procedures, the university staff picked up students from the airport and facilitated PCR tests when needed.



Airport Pick



Students moving into the dormitory

GBC students were also provided with meals during their two weeks of self-quarantine and free-of-charge pocket Wi-Fi to take online classes smoothly.

#### 5. GBC international Students of the 2019 Academic Year

Eleven international students of the 2019 academic year were selected as Resident Assistants (RAs) last year. As senior second-year students, RAs have been proactively supporting first-year students in the dormitory. Non-resident assistants can live in the dormitory for one year. The table chart below shows students' status of residence after moving out of the dormitory.

	Male	Female	Total
Students in the Dormitory(RAs)	5	6	11
Kinoshita Dormitory (owned by the Foundation of Kinoshita Memorial Enterprise)	1	0	1
Prefectural housing (cooperation between the University of Hyogo and the management division of Hyogo Prefectural Housing)	7	5	12
Private apartments	6	8	14
Hyogo International House (owned by JASSO)	0	2	2
Total	19	21	40

### Who is a "Resident Assistant (RA)"?

RA is a second-year student who is voluntarily supporting new students, eager to contribute to the international dormitory, and able to live in the dormitory for one more year.

#### RA's Main Tasks:

- 1- Cooperating with the university staff in managing programs or events in the dormitory.
- 2- Providing new students with multi-language support such as translation or interpretation.
- 3- Supporting students when moving in or out of the dormitory.
- 4- Implementing the Global House Cleanup Day.



Helping with moving



Cleanup Day (Instagram post)

## 6. GBC International Student Support Fund "Startup Scholarship" Ceremony

Thanks to many companies' financial donations to GBC international students, the University of Hyogo granted each student 100,000 Yen as a "start-up scholarship." The arrival of international students was delayed due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions. Therefore, the University of Hyogo held multiple scholarship conferment ceremonies.

In the first ceremony, the President of the University of Hyogo, Prof. Isao OHTA, explained the scholarship's purpose to recipient students and stressed the enormous contributions of the university's supporters. In the second ceremony, Vice President Prof. Makoto KOSAKA encouraged recipients to study hard.

### Details of Scholarship Conferment Ceremonies

	Ceremony date	Number of recipients	Notes
First Ceremony	November 16(Mon), 2020	9	
Second Ceremony	December 25 (Fri), 2020	15	
Third Ceremony	Scheduled in spring, 2020	6	After one student arrives in Japan





The First Scholarship Conferment Ceremonies in the Headquarters Building, Conference Room



The Second Scholarship Conferment Ceremony in the International Exchange Center

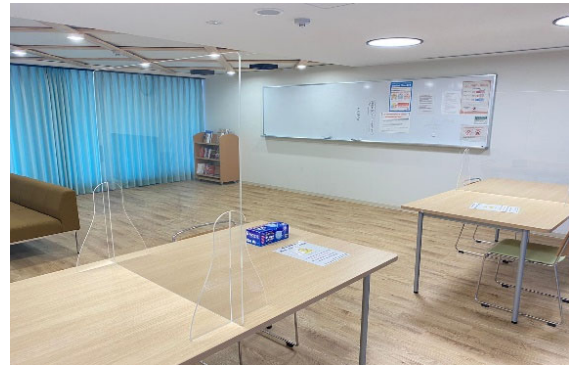
## 6. Prevention Measures Against COVID-19 Infection in the International Student Dormitory

Novel coronavirus infections increased in Hyogo Prefecture in 2021. Thus, the University of Hyogo took preventive measures against COVID-19 infection in the International Student dormitory, such as installing hand sanitizers on each floor, distributing masks and electric thermometers to students, and installing clear acrylic partitions in the common spaces on each floor.

Students' awareness and sense of urgency to prevent infections in the dormitory increased remarkably after the December 2020 RA meeting. RAs played a crucial role in implementing the COVID-19 measures, especially mask-wearing.

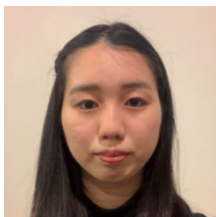


The December 2020 RA Meeting  
Preventive measures against COVID-19



COVID-19 Infection prevention measures  
for shared spaces

## 6.GBC Students' Voices

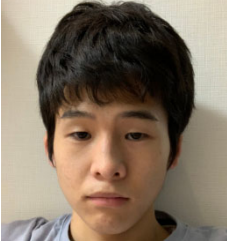


"I was concerned about living in the dormitory. However, contrary to my initial expectations, I could get along well with my roommates and transcend language barriers. I want junior students to enjoy a similar experience and live harmoniously in the dormitory."

Ms. Sakamoto, a second-year GBC student, from Japan.

"Many new international students arrived in Japan and joined the GBC course in mid-December. They came from Malaysia, the Philippines, Zambia, and others. I am looking forward to making new friends from different cultures and backgrounds."

Ms. Cherry, a second-year GBC student, from Indonesia.

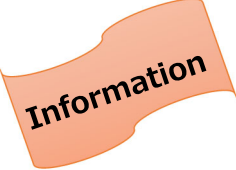


"Last year was marked by a pandemic, and the state of emergency was redeclared in December 2020. I hope that 2021 brings the remedy for all people around the world. I also hope that all GBC students restore happiness and cheerful smiles inside the dormitory soon."

Mr. Yoshimura, a second-year GBC student, from Japan.

"The university supported me well during my 14 days of self-quarantine. The university staff and RAs provided me with daily meals. Even if I wanted to cook by myself, they were there to extend a helping hand for me."

Mr. Jay, a second-year GBC student, from Taiwan.



**GBC New Promotional Video!**

In cooperation with GBC students, we finalized a new promotional video. It comprehensively covers GBC students' daily lives on campus. To stay informed about our news and updates, please follow us on Instagram page gbc\_hyogo.



Promotional video on campus



**Contributors to the Report**

This report was compiled and edited by GBC assistant professors Prof. Yodtomorn from Thailand and Professor Yahya from Syria. Both professors supervise students in the international student dormitory and teach at the University of Hyogo. We also thank RAs for their contributions to the report.



Yodtomorn



Yahya