



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

**September 2022**

### **Greetings**

The University of Hyogo will welcome new international students in September 2022. This fall semester marks the fourth year since the first admission of international students into the Global Business Course. First-generation international GBC students will soon become fourth-year students, which is a precious moment for all faculty members and administrative staff. In fact, students' and professors' hard work came to fruition, especially in the last couple of years.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has restricted the entry of international students into Japan and changed educational methods. At the same time, I am grateful to all the hard-working people at GBC who passionately assisted students during the pandemic. I am also grateful to our brave students who came to Japan to study despite the ongoing global crisis. It has been a challenging experience for us, but we could overcome many difficulties by maintaining a positive attitude. Indeed, we have learned a lot over the past few years, and we are wiser than before the pandemic.

Our positive attitude is in sync with Cäsar Fleischlen's words; "Always have the sun in your heart." Thus, we will continue to maintain a positive attitude, just as those who were encouraged by his poem. Fleischlen said: "Do not lose courage. Have a song on your lips. Have the sun in your heart". With his precious words in mind, I hope that we can move forward toward the perfection of the Global Business Course that is open to the world.

Takahide Yamaguchi  
Dean of the School of International Business and Economics  
University of Hyogo

### **HAVE SUNSHINE IN YOUR HEART!**

Have sunshine in your heart  
even if it snows or storms,  
if the Heavens are full of clouds  
and the Earth is full of wars ...  
Have sunshine in your heart  
then let come what may:  
you shall be full of light  
even on the darkest day.  
Have a song on your lips  
with a happy little tune,  
even if the pressures  
of the day make you swoon ...  
Have a song on your lips

then let come what may:  
it helps you to overcome  
the loneliest day!

Have a word for your fellows  
who suffer in agony  
and tell them what helps you  
to be happy and carefree.  
Have a song on your lips  
and never give up the fight,  
have sunshine in your heart  
and everything's alrigh

Cäsar Fleischlen,  
Translated by Brian Cole

April 2022 marks the fourth year since the establishment of the Global Business Course, and we are delighted to welcome more excellent students every year. This academic year, the University of Hyogo accepted 48 Japanese students through the April 2022 enrollment after successfully passing the general entrance examination. In addition, 43 international students joined the GBC in September 2021. Both groups attended the first joint entrance ceremony of the University of Hyogo at the Kobe International House on April 5, 2022.

At the time of compiling this report, the total number of international students enrolled in the GBC stood at 114 from 18 countries and one region. Looking at the number of international students by gender, there are 54 male and 60 female students. Furthermore, the GBC has 71 international students from Southeast Asia, and they constitute 62.3% of all international students. The GBC is a second home to 17 students from East Asian countries (14.9%), 15 students from South Asian countries (13.2%), and 11 students from non-Asian countries such as Belarus, Mexico, Romania, Turkey, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (9.6%). With the ease of border restrictions and COVID-19 countermeasures, thirty-three international students who joined the GBC in September last year and could not enter Japan were finally able to start their new lives at the International Student Dormitory (Global House) and take classes in person as of May 29, 2022. However, before they arrived safely in Japan, GBC professors offered both online and hybrid classes from the beginning of April 2022. Fortunately, with the relaxation of infection measures, GBC professors started conducting face-to-face classes.

### 1. GBC International Students Enrollment by Country/Region (as of August 1, 2022)

Country/Region	2019			2020			2021		
	September Admission Number of students	Male	Female	September Admission Number of students	Male	Female	September Admission Number of students	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>

## 2. Courses for GBC Students

### 1) Program to Experience Japan

International GBC students continued to deepen their understanding of various aspects of Japanese culture through the program. GBC students visited Ono High School in Hyogo Prefecture, experienced Japanese calligraphy and tea ceremony, and played "koto" (Japanese stringed instrument).



School visit - tea ceremony experience (April 2022)



School visit - Calligraphy experience (April 2022)

International GBC students also learned about Japanese confectionery "*wagashi*," manufacturing, marketing, and selling. Moreover, representatives from Takayamado Confectionery Company in Hyogo Prefecture taught students about the historical development of Japanese confectionery, including "*dagashi*" (inexpensive and popular snacks) and modern business trends. GBC students also gave presentations on traditional confectionery products from their home countries, identifying differences and similarities in consumers' tastes and proposing ideas for importing and exporting sweets. In addition, with the cooperation of Takayamado and the Hyogo Confectionery Industry Association, Japanese confectionery professionals taught students how to handmade two common types of *wagashi*; cherry and maple.

Students quickly learned new skills and made terrific shapes and designs. A few weeks later, students went on a field trip and visited traditional Japanese confectionery stores in Himeji City to observe the process of selling and marketing sweets. While in Himeji, students shortly visited Himeji Castle, a magnificent World Heritage Site.



Japanese confectionery production and sales classes (June 2022)

### 2) Language Classes

The Global Business Course offers an 8-week intensive English course on campus and a five-week overseas English course at the Enderun Colleges in Manila, the Philippines, from August to September for students who enrolled in April. If traveling overseas is obstructed due to the impact of COVID-19, teachers will provide students with alternative courses in Japan.

On June 10, GBC also held an English training session in the Philippines for students entering GBC in April 2022. In addition to improving their English skills, students are expected to grow intellectually through exploring multicultural environments with different values from theirs.



English language training briefing (June 2022)

### 3. Events

#### 1) Clean-up Event

On May 17, 2022, over 38 GBC students participated in a regular and volunteer clean-up event. The event is organized by the Resident Assistant (RAs) and the International Relations and Student Affairs Division as part of their commitment to the local community around the University of Hyogo, Kobe Campus for Commerce. Students were divided into three groups and cleaned up the streets around the campus. All Japanese and international GBC students are keen on contributing to the local community and protecting the environment.



#### 2) Vegan & Halal Week Events



International exchange with Uzbek students

The S&I (sustainability and inclusion) is an active student Club at the University of Hyogo, where 90% of the club members are GBC students. The club students held a Vegan & Halal Week Event from July 4 to 7. The event included many explanatory presentations and quizzes about Halal and vegan food in cooperation with many international students, especially Uzbek students who participated online.

Winners of the quizzes received prizes such as Hala food products on the final event day. Apparently, all participants enjoyed the event sessions and learned more about Hala and veganism.



Vegan & Halal Presentation

### 4. Updates from the Global House Resident Assistants (RAs)

#### 1) Resident Assistant Activities

Second-year GBC students living in the Global House, or International Student Dormitory, work as volunteer Resident Assistants (RAs) to support their junior first-year students. Moreover, RAs closely cooperate with GBC administrative staff and professors to help new dormitory students adapt to their new environment in the Global House on a daily basis.



After the appointment ceremony of new RAs (June 2022)

#### 2) Recruitment and Selection of New RAs

Twenty-four international GBC students applied for the RA positions. The recruitment application period started on April 28 and ended on May 12, whereas selection interviews were conducted from May 23 to 30. After evaluating each applicant's motivation, leadership, communication skills, and six other criteria, ten applicants were successfully selected as RAs. The new RAs started their volunteer activities in September 2022.

A ceremony was held on June 15 to welcome the newly appointed RAs into the large RA family at the Global House, where they will officially start their volunteer activities in September 2022.

### 3) Messages from Resident Assistants

Currently, the large RA team consists of 20 students. International RAs enrolled in GBC in September 2020, whereas Japanese RAs joined the course in April 2021. The term of internationals will end in August 2022. Below are messages from RAs reflecting on what they have learned in the Global House.

One thing I value very much since I took over as RA is the interaction with the underclassmen. I am always conscious of sharing my experience and wisdom with the first-year students to make their lives more comfortable. For this purpose, I try to communicate with them on a daily basis so that I can answer their questions and advice more smoothly. (Shunki Ikeo, Japan)

Living with everyone in this dorm is really heartwarming. I am pleased with doing all the tasks to help the residents, and I very happy to hear to hear words of appreciation from residents. I do not really interact with professors much but I do interact with RA leader, help her with the task that I can. It makes me happy helping people without that much burden. Dear new RAs enjoy the dorm life and enjoy helping the residents.. (Donnaya Sawasdeesukum, Thailand)

Being a part of GBC Resident Assistant was the most memorable experience. I spent more time with more friends from various backgrounds. I could actively contribute and help others by offering thoughts for the future of the dormitory. We could work together to improve the dormitory with the help of the other RAs. We enjoyed a collaborative partnership with the professors, and without their assistance, our ideas could not be realized quickly. (Muriyadi Yasmin Hailasalima Ratu, Indonesia)



Through my dorm life as an RA, I have been able to engage with many students, including international students, and work with our members to help make everyone's dorm life better. (Reona Niijima, Japan)

I have lived in this dormitory for 2 years and I have to say that as a resident, I had a great time, learned about cultures and made lots of friends. As an RA, I got to utilize my skills in order to cooperate with my fellow RAs. Moreover, I got to be innovative by thinking about events and solutions for obstacles in the dorm. Lastly, this dormitory is still new and there are a lot to add. I wish the next generation all the best. (Seramasagun Thananchanok, Thailand)

Dormitory life as an RA has given me many experiences. The most memorable experience for me was when I felt the difference in values. I was able to talk with roommates and RAs so we understand each other. I am very happy to communicate smoothly with all of them. By expressing our thoughts, we were able to learn about each other's values. (Hikaru Wada, Japan)

Throughout this whole year as a resident assistant, I have learned to be more responsible, cooperative and friendly while interacting with the dormitory residents. As an introverted person, I learned to improve the way I associate with people thanks to my sense of responsibility as a resident assistant. I always tried my best to make arrangement of any affairs related to dormitory or the university and informed my roommates, hoping that my actions will assist them with their university life. All the resident assistants are always warm-hearted and helpful. RAs not only help residents but also help one another. RAs always show that their responsibilities are not only limited within group tasks, but they never hesitate to lend a hand to other groups. I enjoyed working with them as a big group that did its best to contribute to the Global House and its residents. Last but not least, I hope that all the new international RAs enjoy life in the dormitory and contribute to the dormitory more. (Wennie Fo Wan Nie, Malaysia)



RAs can spend one more year in the dormitory. This allows RA to experience many different cultures and even notice small cultural differences. I also experienced extraordinary things such as going out with international students and translate into English for them. I believe that future RAs will have even more wonderful experiences based on what we have learned so far. (Ryoya Mizuno, Japan)

I have been teaching Japanese for few international students in the lounge for 1.5/2 hours. Also, I have been helping new students with many things such as registration for My Number Card. Also, I hope to find new way so international students interact more with Japanese students. (Sharma Nishant, Nepal)

Being as a resident assistant in the Global House is one of the best things in my college life. This position enables me to help others in many ways and make friends from different countries. As an RA, I usually help students solve problems in their dormitory life and study. For example, sharing my class notes with them, showing the new students what we have around the campus, helping students when they are in quarantine, and so on. Besides, what I learned from being an RA is teamwork and self-responsibility. As there are many residents in our dormitory, we need to work as a team to help the residents and finish the task efficiently. Besides, due to the difference in the schedule for everyone, time management is extremely important. Lastly, I would like to deliver a message to the new RAs. The pandemic has changed our life a lot. However, I hope you can keep working hard to create valuable memories in the dormitory. Seize the opportunity to make new friends, broaden your horizon, and help people as much as you can. Last but not least, enjoy your life in the Global House. (Cheng Yu-Pei, Taiwan)

First of all, I would like to say that how grateful I feel to live in this dorm for one more year. I truly cannot express my gratitude in words and for that opportunity, I also thank those in charge of the dormitory. Secondly, I would like to appreciate Yahya sensei for his role in supporting Resident Assistants. He was always there when we needed him. He made us feel that he was in our team rather than an authority that controlled us, which is a sign of a very capable leader. (Siddhant Bhatt, India)



I have learned that it is difficult to make a dormitory comfortable for each and every student. There is a limit to how much RAs can do to make the environment as comfortable as possible, but we have come up with various ideas and solutions. I feel the big attraction of being an RA is also about meeting new people. (Natsumi Nishikawa, Japan)

Having a chance to be an RA has open a lot of networking opportunities for me. I get to meet new people from all parts of the world and can interact with them. (Gerrald Anantasa, Indonesia)

We, RAs, do our utmost to support all dormitory students, regardless of nationality or grade, so that they can enjoy a pleasant and comfortable dormitory life. Our activities range from supporting students entering or leaving the dormitory, to plan events and advise students about their studies. Although we have to be extremely careful due to the impact of COVID-19, I enjoy spending fun days with my friends in the dormitory. We eat and go for shopping together. This dormitory, where students from various countries with completely different cultural backgrounds gather, is still prone to troubles due to differences in values. However, I feel that these cross-cultural exchanges provide an opportunity to get to know each other better and develop global mindset. I believe that living in the dormitory is more like a family than just friends. It is a privilege to be a part of this dormitory. I believe that all the experiences I have gained in this dormitory will be my treasure in the future. (Kana Takahashi, the Leader of all RAs, Japan)

## 5. News from GBC Students Abroad

The University of Hyogo has many exchange programs with universities around the world. Some of these programs resumed their activities during the academic year of 2021-2022 after two years of worldwide border closure and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two GBC students wanted to share their experiences while participating in exchange programs abroad.

### 1) A Message from a GBC Student in France

Ms. Nakaie, a fourth-year GBC student, is now studying at Gustave Eiffel University in France. She sent us the following message:

"I gained much experience from joining the exchange program and studying abroad. I think I am more willing to try new things. Honestly, I was not good at giving presentations in front of people. But after coming to France, I realized the importance of being proactive and confident in socializing with people from countries with entirely different languages and cultures. At Gustave Eiffel University, the classes are quite different from what I used to, simply because there are many discussions and role-plays. In

the beginning, classes were hard for me, but I did my best and trained myself to engage in debates where people may agree or disagree with my point of view. I think I am enjoying my life in France because I am more prepared for challenges. "

"One of the best things about living in France is that I can travel to my European countries. Finally, I highly recommend that all students participate in an exchange program. "



2) A Message from a GBC Student in the United States of America



Ms. Tanei, a fourth-year GBC student, is now studying at the Evergreen State College, Washington, the United States. She sent us the following message:

"Evergreen is a great place to learn about the diversity of people. Students, faculty, and college staff are from different nationalities and backgrounds. Everyone here is free to express their opinions, even if their views differ from others. Not only that, but they are also willing to listen to others. This environment has helped me to understand that everyone is different, and that I do not always have to follow the norm. This is something I have learned through my

experience in Evergreen. I would definitely recommend this program to junior students. Studying abroad allows you to broaden your horizons and explore positive and negative aspects you have never considered before."



**Notice**

**GBC Promotional Video Coming Soon!**

A new GBC promotional video for the 2022 academic year is now in production. In this video, GBC students from all grades will discuss their college life, friendships, balancing studying and part-time jobs, club activities, job hunting, and post-graduation plans.

GBC's public relations media have been mainly active on social media such as Instagram and Facebook. We hope that our readers take the time and watch the upcoming clip to develop a comprehensive understanding of the daily lives of GBC students.



**Report Editing:**

This report was edited and compiled by Specially Appointed Assistant Professor Yahya Almasri and Specially Appointed Assistant Professor Jianxiu PAN. Special thanks to Global House Resident Assistants for their contributions to the report.