



【Objectives and Overview】

By experiencing different cultures and customs firsthand, the students gained valuable insights while also sharing the appeal of Japan and Okinawa with the people they met throughout the program.

【Locations】 Los Angeles, Torrance, California, United States

- Online Pre-study Program:

- Dispatch Program:

【Observation】 Venice Beach

【School Exchange】 Loyola Marymount University

【Post-arrival Orientation】

Mr. Jon Kaji, Council member, Torrance City

【Exchange】 Okinawa Association of America

【Observation】 Doger Stadium

【Observation】 Little Tokyo

Feb. 12 (Thu)	【Observation】 American Honda Motor Company 【Observation】 Pasona N A, Inc 【Observation】 Terminal Island 【Observation】 Los Angeles Maritime Museum
Feb. 13 (Fri)	【School Exchange】 West High School 【Meeting with the Host Families】
Feb. 14 (Sat)	【Homestay】
Feb. 15 (Sun)	【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Feb. 16 (Mon)	Departure from Los Angeles International Airport
Feb. 17 (Tue)	Arrival at Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Dispatch Program

	
February 10, 2026 【School Exchange】 Loyola Marymount University	February 11, 2026 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. George K. Chen, Mayor and Mr. Jon Kaji, Council member, Torrance City
	
February 11, 2026 【Courtesy Call】 Ms. KAMITANI Naoko, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles	February 11, 2026 【Exchange】 Okinawa Association of America



February 11, 2026 【Observation】 Doger Stadium



February 11, 2026 【Observation】 Little Tokyo



February 12, 2026 【Observation】
American Honda Motor Company



February 12, 2026 【Observation】
Pasona N A, Inc



February 12, 2026 【Observation】
Terminal Island



February 12, 2026 【Observation】
Los Angeles Maritime Museum



February 13, 2026 【School Exchange】
West High School



February 13, 2026 【School Exchange】
West High School

	
February 14, 2026 【Homestay】 (Breakfast time)	February 15, 2026 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

Although traveling abroad usually allows us to see only the tourist side of a country, staying with a host family gave us the chance to experience everyday life in the United States. Through this homestay, we were able to learn much more about people's daily habits and cultural backgrounds.

◆ High School Student

Visiting Japanese companies in the United States and seeing Japanese people succeed there gave us courage and hope. It also helped us broaden our perspective on the possible paths we can take in the future.

◆ High School Student

During the company visits, we learned how Japanese companies operating overseas analyze the differences in product demand between Japan and other countries and make creative efforts to market their products accordingly. We also had the opportunity to see Japanese employees working abroad, gaining new perspectives and experiences in their daily work. This broadened our options for the future, including the possibility of working for a Japanese company overseas. We were deeply inspired by the local staff who take pride in working as Japanese professionals abroad.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

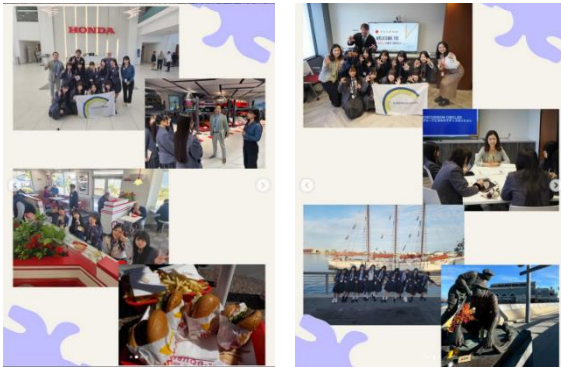
◆ Observation Destination Representative

Knowing that sharing my own experiences might help encourage students to take their first step was truly rewarding experience for me. I was inspired by their energy and engagement.

◆ Exchange School Faculty

This was the first time we hosted a high school group from Japan. Our college students were able to share their perspectives of their Japanese trip and their own experiences as American college students.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt), Articles, etc.

	
February 20, 2026 (Instagram) In the 2025 KAKEHASHI Project, a total of 10 of us from Naha Kokusai Senior High School participated — one first-year student, eight second-year students, and our chaperone.	February 20, 2026 (Instagram) Day 3 1. Company Visit: American Honda Motor Company 2. Lunch (In-N-Out Burger) 3. Company Visit: Pasona N A, Inc 4. Tour of Terminal Island 5. Los Angeles Maritime Museum 6. Dinner (El Torito Mexican)
	
February 20, 2026 (Instagram) We did presentations at West High School!	February 22, 2026 (Instagram) Homestay. We each spent two nights and three days with our host families.
	

February 10, 2026 (Cooperating Organization, Laurasian Institution's Instagram) KAKEHASHI Project Okinawa Program highlights from Day 5, 6 and 7. Thank you everyone who supports the program.	March 11, 2026 (Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles's Instagram) From February 10 to 16, 9 students from Naha International High School in Okinawa visited Los Angeles through the KAKEHASHI Project and deepened their exchange with West High School in Torrance. They also paid a courtesy visit to the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles. Deputy Consul General Naoko Kamitani spoke about the work of diplomats and her career. In addition, the students paid a courtesy visit to City of Torrance Councilmember Jon Kaji, visited Loyola Marymount University, American Honda Motor Company, Pasona N A, Terminal Island, and Little Tokyo, and enjoyed a luncheon with the Okinawa Association of America. Through these varied experiences, they gained a deeper understanding of American society and Japan-U.S. relations. To all the students who participated from Naha International High School and West High School, we look forward to your continued success!
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6. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plan at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

Presentations by a total of 1 group

 カケハシプロジェクト2026	生徒の多様性 →服装やメイク、髪型、人種、ルーツなど生徒一人一人に個性があって、自分の志がある。周りに合わせるのではなく、それぞれの違いを認め合っている。→多様だからこそ自分と違う人種について理解しないとイケない 	
【Results of the Program】 • We learned that the city of Torrance is home to people of many different racial backgrounds, and that it embraces a wide range of perspectives through its interactions not only within the United States but also with many Asian countries. • We especially noticed that there is a large Japanese American population, and we felt that the Japanese American community plays an important role in the society of Torrance. We were also		

happy to see familiar elements of Japanese culture throughout the city, which gave us a sense of comfort and connection.

- Through our visits to Little Tokyo, Terminal Island, and the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, we learned about the history of Japanese Americans who preserved their culture and built their own communities far from Japan. These experiences reminded us of the importance of protecting and passing down one's cultural heritage.
- We were impressed that many people knew detailed information about their grandparents' or ancestors' hometowns and occupations, which showed us how much they value their roots.
- During the school exchange, we were surprised by how differently classes were scheduled compared to Japan. Each class period was arranged down to the minute, and the length of the breaks between classes varied. We felt that this system helped students develop strong time-management skills.
- We also observed many highly specialized classes, such as dance, theater, and film production, and students could choose their own classes to create their schedules. This system allows them to focus deeply on their interests and develop independence, planning skills, and the ability to think about their future from an early stage. At the same time, we realized that it might be difficult to change direction later if they wanted to pursue a different path.
- We saw that students came from a variety of racial and cultural backgrounds, and each expressed their individuality through their makeup and hairstyles. Diversity seemed to be naturally accepted, and we were impressed by how well everyone got along regardless of gender.
- We also noticed that the restroom signs were all blue for both men and women, and there was a symbol for people who do not identify with either category. This made us feel that understanding of gender diversity is more advanced than in Japan.
- We found restaurants offering not only American food but also Italian, Mexican, Korean, Chinese, and Japanese cuisine. Through these meals, we were able to experience cultural diversity and observe how different cultures coexist in everyday life.
- We learned that even within Christianity, churches were separated based on racial and cultural backgrounds.
- We also saw how deeply Japanese anime culture has taken root. We realized that anime is more than just entertainment—it serves as a cultural bridge that brings people together across borders.

【Action Plan】

- Sharing ongoing interactions and reflections through Instagram
- Creating an album that summarizes the project's overview and activity records (for future students at our school who may participate)
- Holding a presentation session to report our outcomes to students and related members of the school community
- Continuing to study English on a daily basis

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)