



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Online Visiting Japan Program (JASSO) Follow-up Project Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

This online program was organized for past KAKEHASHI Project participants (alumni) living in the United States and Canada. With the theme of studying abroad in Japan—an area of strong interest among alumni living in North America—the program aimed to raise their expectations for studying in Japan and to maintain their interest in the country. To support this objective, the program included an introduction to the study abroad programs offered by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO). In addition, the alumni network was further strengthened through interactive exchanges among the alumni and a Q&A session.

【Participants】

Total: 19 participants from the U.S. and Canada (KAKEHASHI Project alumni from up to FY2024)

(Breakdown) 16 participants from the U.S. (6 undergraduate/graduate students, 10 working youths)

3 participants from Canada (1 high school student, 2 undergraduate/graduate students)

【Schedule】

■ Online Visiting Japan Program: October 9 (Thu), 2025

1. Opening remarks
2. Icebreaker
3. Address

Speaker: Mr. HARADA Seitaro, Researcher, First North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)

4. Presentation: “Basic Information on Study in Japan”

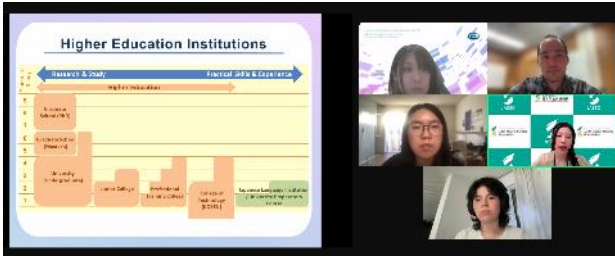
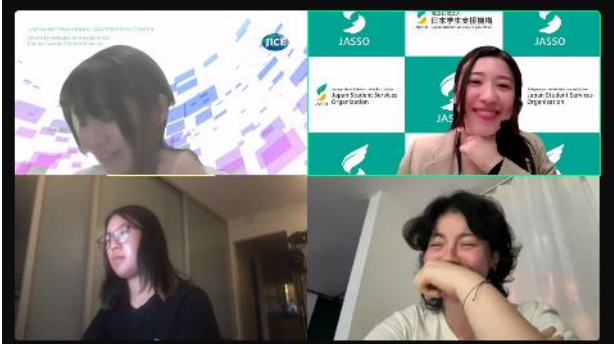
Presenters:

Mr. MIYAI Tomohiro, Deputy Director, Information Services Division, Student Exchange Department, Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)

Ms. WATANABE Nene, Administrative Officer, Study in Japan Unit, Information Services Division, Student Exchange Department, Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)

5. Q&A session
6. Commemorative photo
7. **【Exchange】** Networking with KAKEHASHI alumni (breakout rooms)
8. Information for participants, Closing remarks

2. Program Photos

	
【Icebreaker】	【Presentation】 “Basic Information on Study in Japan”
	
【Presentation】 “Basic Information on Study in Japan”	【Q&A Session】
	
【Commemorative Photo】	【Exchange】 Networking with KAKEHASHI alumni

3. Participants' Inquiries and Interests (excerpt)

- Is it necessary to begin preparations a year in advance to study abroad?
Do all universities in Japan begin their academic year in April?
- I am not currently enrolled in college, and I have been working. However, I'm interested in studying abroad and participating in exchange programs. Do you offer any programs for people who are currently working?
- Do universities only offer in-person entrance exams? Are there any institutions that allow online applications?
- Is it possible to study at a Japanese university while being enrolled at a university in the U.S., or to participate in short-term summer programs?

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Undergraduate Student (U.S.)

Thank you for the opportunity to learn about opportunities to study in Japan. It was very informative and a great way to stay engaged. The information was useful for prospective students at all levels. I look forward to future opportunities to interact with KAKEHASHI alumni and learn more about ways to return to living in Japan.

◆ Working Youth (U.S.)

The presentation was very thorough and well organized. I appreciate the numerous resources shared and the opportunity to interact with others through the Q&A and breakout room discussions.

◆ Undergraduate Student (U.S.)

This event gave me more information, and the insights on the necessity of a research plan for Graduate school was especially helpful.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Presenter

Since our organization does not yet have a fully developed system to promote studying in Japan from North America, we are very grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in this kind of event. During the Q&A session, we received many questions not only about the general overview of studying in Japan, but also on a wide range of different topics. It was a valuable learning experience for us, and we hope this event will help deepen the participants' interest in studying in Japan.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)