



KAKEHASHI Project (Canada)

Visiting Canada Program for University Students Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

This program dispatched selected undergraduate and graduate students from across Japan to Ontario, Canada, with the aim of promoting understanding between Japan and Canada. During their stay in Canada, the participants engaged in exchanges with Canadian students, school administrators, government officials, and past participants of the KAKEHASHI Project. Through these exchanges, the participants experienced local life and customs and shared the attractions of Japan with the different people they encountered.

【Participants】 Total: 4 undergraduate and graduate students from Japan

【Locations】 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Feb. 17 (Mon) **【Pre-departure Orientation】** Project objective and mission, rundown of the schedule, overseas travel warnings, precautions of infectious disease, etc.

■ Dispatch Program:

Mar. 2 (Sun) Departure from Narita Airport, Arrival at Toronto Pearson International Airport
【Orientation】

Mar. 3 (Mon) **【School Exchange】** Bishop Strachan School
【Lecture】 Global Affairs Canada

【Cultural Experience】 Curling Workshop
【Observation】 Eaton (Shopping) Centre

Mar. 4 (Tue) **【Courtesy Call】** Japan Foundation, Toronto
【Observation】 MaRS Discovery District
【Observation】 Ontario Provincial Legislature
【Courtesy Call】 Ms. Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
【School Exchange】 Munk School, University of Toronto

Mar. 5 (Wed) **【Observation】** Toronto City Hall
【Courtesy Call】 Ms. Ausma Malik, Toronto Deputy Mayor
【Courtesy call】 Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
【Observation】 Aga Khan Museum
【Exchange】 Consul-General's JET^(Note) Returnee Reception

(Note) JET: The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme

Mar. 6 (Thu)	【Observation】 Niagara Falls 【Observation】 Niagara-on-the-Lake 【Observation】 Chinatown, Museum District, etc. 【Exchange】 Exchange with KAKEHASHI Alumni
Mar. 7 (Fri)	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (Summarizing program findings and preparation of action plans) 【Observation】 Royal Ontario Museum 【Observation】 Annex area 【Observation】 Native Canadian Centre of Toronto 【Observation】 Queen Street West district
Mar. 8 (Sat)	Departure from Toronto Pearson International Airport
Mar. 9 (Sun)	Arrival at Narita Airport
Mar. 10 (Mon)	【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans

2. Program Photos

Dispatch Program



March 3, 2025 **【School Exchange】**
Bishop Strachan School



March 3, 2025 **【Cultural Experience】**
Curling Workshop



March 4, 2025 **【Observation】**
MaRS Discovery District



March 4, 2025 **【Courtesy call】**
Ms. Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

	
March 5, 2025 【Observation】 Toronto City Hall	March 5, 2025 【Exchange】 Consul-General's JET Returnee Reception
	
March 6, 2025 【Observation】 Niagara Falls	March 6, 2025 【Exchange】 Exchange with KAKEHASHI Alumni
	
March 10, 2025 【Reporting Session】	March 10, 2025 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Graduate Student

We had the opportunity to learn about the startup support facilities and the entrepreneurial activities taking place at the innovation hub known as the MaRS Discovery District.

◆ Undergraduate Student

What left the deepest impression on me was the opportunity to engage with KAKEHASHI Project alumni in Canada and to interact with so many different people there. Through these experiences, I was able to learn about various aspects of Canadian culture.

◆ Undergraduate Student

I was so grateful for the opportunity to meet a variety of students in Canada. It was a pleasure to interact with people from Bishop Strachan School, the University of Toronto, and KAKEHASHI alumni.

◆ Undergraduate Student

What I found most meaningful was the opportunity to interact with so many Canadian students.

Through exchanges with KAKEHASHI alumni and JET participants, I was able to learn about the cultural and lifestyle differences between Japan and Canada.

4. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

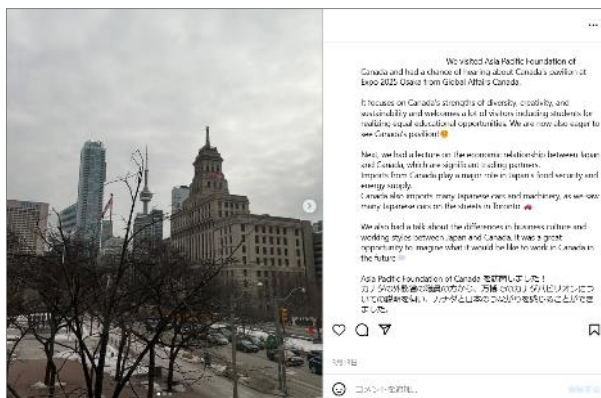
 From March 2 to March 9, we will be participating in a Japan-related cultural exchange program in Canada! We'll be sharing our experiences and insights from the trip on this account. Before we depart, let's hear from the four participants! ◆ Our program in Canada is coming soon It's my first time in Canada and I'm very excited to experience and learn from its beautiful culture, history, nature, and people I will meet. ◆ The day of going to Canada is finally approaching, and I'm starting to feel like I'm really going to Canada! I would like to treasure every meeting I have in Canada and absorb many things as much as possible! ◆ I'm really looking forward to connecting with people in places that aren't typically accessible to tourists. It's been 10 years since I last visited	 Bishop Strachan School This historic women's school (BSS) is a historic independent Anglican day and boarding school for girls located at 255 Canada Road in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Established in 1861, it is a Catholic school community spanning beyond its moral origins. Our visit to the school today... The school, which aims to nurture female leaders, was impressive in how students took initiative in running the school. Despite being a traditional institution, it has incorporated state-of-the-art facilities, creating an environment where students can fully engage in academics, sports, and the arts. There are also exchanges with Japan, and when we gave a speech about Japan, everyone listened with great interest. In particular, some students asked insightful questions about the tea ceremony and matcha, which made us realize how popular Japanese culture is in Canada.
March 1, 2025 (Instagram) From March 2 to March 9, we will be participating in a Japan-related cultural exchange program in Canada! We'll be sharing our experiences and insights from the trip on this account. Before we depart, let's hear from the four participants! ◆ Our program in Canada is coming soon It's my first time in Canada and I'm very excited to experience and learn from its beautiful culture, history, nature, and people I will meet. ◆ The day of going to Canada is finally approaching, and I'm starting to feel like I'm really going to Canada! I would like to treasure every meeting I have in Canada and absorb many things as much as possible! ◆ I'm really looking forward to connecting with people in places that aren't typically accessible to tourists. It's been 10 years since I last visited	March 4, 2025 (Instagram) We went to Bishop Strachan School (BSS) today. We took a school tour there and interacted with the students. This school, which aims to nurture female leaders, was impressive in how students took initiative in running the school. Despite being a traditional institution, it has incorporated state-of-the-art facilities, creating an environment where students can fully engage in academics, sports, and the arts. There are also exchanges with Japan, and when we gave a speech about Japan, everyone listened with great interest. In particular, some students asked insightful questions about the tea ceremony and matcha, which made us realize how popular Japanese culture is in Canada.

Toronto, and I'm excited to revisit the city with fresh eyes—reminiscing about past experiences while discovering new ones along the way!

◆I'm beyond excited (and a little nervous) for my first trip to Canada!

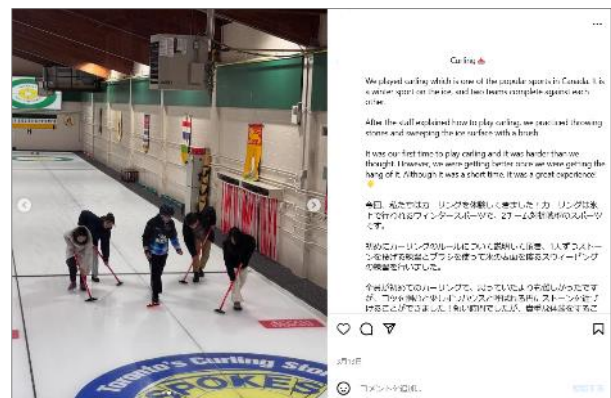
I want to make the most of this amazing opportunity, cherish every moment, and learn as much as I can.

I'll be sharing my discoveries along the way—stay tuned!!



March 13, 2025 (Instagram)

We had a chance of hearing about Canada's pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka from Global Affairs Canada. It focuses on Canada's strengths of diversity, creativity, and sustainability and welcomes a lot of visitors including students for realizing equal educational opportunities. We are now also eager to see Canada's pavilion! Next, we had a lecture on the economic relationship between Japan and Canada, which are significant trading partners. Imports from Canada play a major role in Japan's food security and energy supply. Canada also imports many Japanese cars and machinery, as we saw many Japanese cars on the streets in Toronto. We also had a talk about the differences in business culture and working styles between Japan and Canada. It was a great opportunity to imagine what it would be like to work in Canada in the future



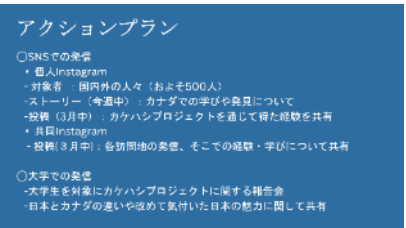
March 13, 2025 (Instagram)

We played carling which is one of the popular sports in Canada. It is a winter sport on the ice, and two teams compete against each other. After the staff explained how to play carling, we practiced throwing stones and sweeping the ice surface with a brush. It was our first time to play carling and it was harder than we thought. However, we were getting better once we were getting the hang of it. Although it was a short time, it was a great experience!

	March 14, 2025 (Instagram) We had a wonderful time at the Eaton Centre in Toronto! We started with an authentic poutine, enjoying the perfect combination of crispy fries, melted cheese, and rich gravy. After that, we went shopping and stopped by Roots to check out some stylish, Canadian inspired items. It was a fulfilling day with great food and shopping!
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5. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plan at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

Presentation by 1 group

		
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【Learnings】

- ◆ Politics and Economy:
 - Canada and Japan are important political and economic partners, sharing values such as the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and the "Rule of International Law".
 - Japan is an important country for Canada in terms of food security and resource availability, and Canada is an important country for Japan in terms of vehicle taxes and machinery exports.
 - U.S. economic policies have strengthened Canada-Japan relations, and U.S. trade policies have made Canada more willing to purchase its own products.
 - The roles of the Federal, Provincial, and Local governments differ from Japan at each level of government.
- ◆ People to People Exchanges:
 - Japanese anime and manga have inspired many people to take an interest in Japan.
 - Canadians are actively participating in the JET Programme, and Canada is also a popular destination for Japanese students to study abroad, and language exchanges can be seen all over.
- ◆ Diversity:
 - The country is made up of immigrants from many different backgrounds, and this diversity is reflected in the food culture.
 - Each state has a different educational system and a wide variety of schools.
 - Diverse businesses, research institutions, and the government work together to promote innovation.
 - Canada provides appropriate support for startups at every stage of their development and supports a wide range of sectors, including healthcare, Cleantech^(Note), FinTech^(Note), software, AI, and autonomous driving.

- Canada's Indigenous culture and Japan's Ainu culture have much in common, and cultural exchanges are taking place.

Cleantech: Abbreviation for Clean Technology, referring to renewable energy and energy-saving technologies.

FinTech: Abbreviation for Financial Technology, referring to financial services that use IT, such as cashless payment apps.

【Prospects】

- Study more about North American politics, international trade, U.S.-Canadian economic relations, the political system and electoral system of Canada and Japan, sustainability and environmental politics, and immigration and refugee policies in Canada.
- Be involved in assisting Japanese companies to expand into Canada and/or overseas.
- Conduct women's empowerment activities and minority rights outreach.
- Promote continued language learning and understanding of cultural backgrounds and multiculturalism.
- Stay in contact with the people we met during the program.
- Conduct research with a focus on sustainable technologies.
- Explore the business advantages and challenges of diversity in Canada.
- Create and support start-up companies.
- Contribute to international cooperation in environmental innovation that links Canada and Japan.
- Continue to learn languages and improve our skill sets, especially in English and French.
- Continue international cooperation and cultural exchanges.

【Action Plan】

◆ Disseminations on Social Media:

- Personal Instagram Accounts
Stories: Findings and lifestyles of Canada
Feeds: Reflections of the KAKEHASHI Project
- Joint Instagram Account
Feeds: Disseminations about each location visited

◆ Disseminations on Blogs:

- We will use Note and other means to communicate the uniqueness and advantages of Canada's innovation hubs. We will also mention the differences from Japan.

◆ Disseminations at Universities:

- We will hold a reporting session to share our experiences from the KAKEHASHI Project with more university students and deepen mutual understanding between Japan and Canada.
- We will share the differences between Japan and Canada and the attractions of Japan that we rediscovered.
- After consulting with university professors, we will create opportunities to give presentations in class.

Implementation Agencies: Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada), Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)