

Engaging International Students



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One of the most common
complaints from international
students:

*“It’s difficult to make friends and meet
Japanese students on campus.”*

As simple as this sounds, it seems to be a big
challenge for international students in Japan.

Why?

- “Shy”
- Language of communication
- Maturity level and life experiences
- Opportunities to interact
- Separate classes
- International Center like an “island”

On campus opportunities for international students (non-academic)

- ISST: International Student Support Team
- Room-share program (CET)
- International-Chat Lounge
- Language Partner Program
- Clubs, circles*

International Student Support Team (ISST)

- Support and assist international students
- Orientation, Kishibe-sai school festival
- Social Events: karaoke, movie night, etc.
- “Hang out” together



ISST



Room Share Program (CET)

- One American, one Japanese
- Live together for one semester
- Intercultural experience and learning
- “Study Abroad” experience on campus



Room Share Program



International-Chat Lounge

- “Safe Place” for international students
- Any language can be spoken
- A place to belong to and do homework/join talking groups
- Major school-wide events
 - Halloween
 - Winter Event, etc.
 - Cherry blossom viewing, etc.



I-Chat Lounge

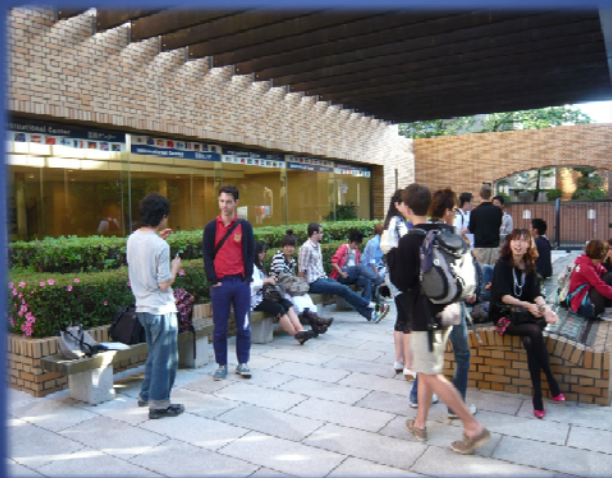


Language Partners

- Help long-term and short-term programs
- Make friends
- Meet once a week



Language Partners



Standard curriculum at most Japanese universities

- Japanese language classes
- Subject-based courses taught in English
- Regular department classes in Japanese
 - Few exchange students can take these courses
 - Gap between language and regular Japanese subject-based classes



International Center English subject-based courses

- Japan/Asia Specific courses
- Unique, not taught anywhere else in Japan
 - Japanese minorities, psychotherapy, business history, etc.
- Our faculty are more interactive, student-centered

International Center Japanese Bridge Courses

- Unique courses taught in easier Japanese
- Bridge the gap between language courses and regular department courses
 - Learning Japanese -> Learning in Japanese
- Faculty are more interactive, student-centered



We need new ways to engage international students

Goals and objectives:

- As much interaction and mutual learning as possible between Japanese and International Students
- Blended teams/classes/pairs/teachers
- Experiential learning:
 - Learn by doing
 - Learn by doing things together
 - Learn the satisfaction of giving something back

Future Vision

- Blended courses
- Internships
- Service-learning



Blended Courses

- International and Japanese students learn together
- Some challenges
 - Language
 - Experience
 - Maturity
- Team-Teaching
- Reflections Course for returning Japanese students



Internships

- “Real” Internships
- Language Barriers
- Teach/train companies how to maximize the intern’s abilities and knowledge



Company Internships

- Fuji-Xerox
- Japanese language ability



International Center Internships

- One semester for credit
- Experience working in international office
- Blended team
- Projects that have value
 - Questionnaire
 - Compilation
 - Analysis
 - Presentation to our staff
 - Inbound/Outbound



Intern-Pair Team Program



Service-Learning

- Very new concept in Japan
- The idea of volunteering/giving back
- Social responsibility
- Group vs outside of the group
- International pairs will be sent out
 - Renewal of country areas
 - Volunteering within Osaka



Social Responsibility



Volunteering with children from Fukushima



Barriers of Experiential Learning

- Language ability
- Concept of the world
- Maturity level
- Team vs the Group
- Work-study is usually unpaid or small stipend for transportation

Biggest needs:

- Faculty and/or staff who have the know-how and are willing to be involved
- Time necessary to manage students
- A lot of work prior to start of these programs, i.e. finding community partners, etc.
- Blended faculty-staff team



Most important: “Win-Win!”

- Any experiential type of learning must be a win-win.
- If not, it will not be sustainable.



ありがとうございました！
Arigatoo Gozaimashita!



Ishinomaki Town,
Miyagi Prefecture



Iwaki-cho, Fukushima



Ishinomaki City, Miyagi



Minamisoma, Fukushima



Minamisoma, Fukushima



Iwaki-cho, Fukushima



Onnagawa Town, Miyagi



“Pray for the Reconstruction of Tohoku”

