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What is the Global Professional Certificate Program?

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Purpose and Objectives

The Global Professional Certificate Program (グローバルプロフェッショナル認定制度) is a Minor Certificate Program established in accordance with the Kyushu University Charter of Education. Its aim is to foster individuals who can play active roles both in Japan and abroad, possessing an international perspective and the ability to lead.

This program actively evaluates and certifies the experiences and skills that Kyushu University students acquire through international learning opportunities, such as studying abroad, and provides a framework to connect these achievements to future success in society.

In particular, the program emphasizes not only individual expertise but also the development of intercultural understanding, problem-solving skills, practical abilities, and leadership—qualities cultivated through international collaborative learning and study abroad experiences.

Students who possess these qualities will be certified under the Global Professional Certificate Program. Through this program, we support the growth of each student and encourage them to take their first steps toward becoming individuals who contribute to the development of Japan and the world. Faculty members will support students' learning through continuous dialogue and feedback, accompanying them until graduation, and promoting Kyushu University's integrated international education.

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What We Look For

Kyushu University VISION2030 aims to foster and produce “globally competent, value-creating professionals” and “leaders of the international community.”

To this end, the program cultivates advanced expertise and a broad interdisciplinary perspective, and through this certification program, develops individuals who possess the qualities and drive to take on global challenges and lead the international community.

Through interactions with people around the world, students will nurture autonomy, tolerance, and critical thinking, as well as develop an open global mindset, communication skills, and practical abilities to contribute to society.

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Eligibility

All undergraduate students enrolled at Kyushu University from the 2026 academic year onward are eligible. You can start at any time while you are enrolled in an undergraduate program.

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Contents of the Global Professional Certificate Program

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Curriculum Policy

This certificate program is structured based on the following policies:

- Students take the program guidance session and write a “Learning Statement.” By reflecting on their past experiences and interests, students deepen their self-understanding, set goals for international learning, and develop the ability to plan for achievement. Considering how their learning and experiences will relate to society in the future, students cultivate a long-term perspective and sense of purpose.
- Through courses designed to foster a global mindset, students broaden their knowledge and deepen their understanding of different cultures. By understanding both their own identity and the diversity of cultures worldwide, students acquire the foundational knowledge necessary to take their first steps internationally.
- Through the Global Communication Skills Development Program, students enhance their language proficiency. By improving practical language skills, students learn to express their ideas logically and accurately, developing the language abilities needed to succeed in the international community.
- Study abroad experiences and overseas credits are recognized as valuable learning outcomes, fostering practical global competence. These experiences also develop critical thinking, adaptability in multicultural settings, and respect for diversity, qualities essential for proactive leadership with a global outlook.
- Through practical experiences, students contribute to the promotion of an international environment. By engaging in activities such as disseminating study abroad information, supporting international students, and participating in international events on campus, students develop the ability to collaborate proactively while respecting diverse values.

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Program Structure

This certification program consists of the following six curriculum components. Specific courses are listed in the List of Designated Courses.

① **Program Guidance and Learning Statement**

Students attend the program guidance session and submit a “Learning Statement” outlining their learning goals for this program.

② **Global Mindset Development Program**

Students complete at least 2 credits from the Global Mindset Development course group (see Table 1). These introductory courses aim to broaden international perspectives by fostering understanding of one's own country, the world, and the specialized knowledge necessary for studying abroad or gaining overseas experience. These courses are offered primarily in Japanese, with certain courses available in English, aiming to develop international perspectives and foundational knowledge for thriving in global settings.

③ Global Communication Skills Development Program

Students complete at least 2 credits from the Global Communication Skills Development course group (see Table 2). In addition to completing these courses, students must submit a language proficiency score that meets the standards listed below. There is no restriction on when the language proficiency score may be obtained. Through this program, students strengthen the language skills required in international business environments and broaden their career opportunities.

Required English Proficiency Scores

TOEFL iBT: 72 (New Scale: 4), EIKEN Grade Pre-1, IELTS: 5.5, TOEIC (Listening & Reading): 785, TOEFL ITP: 543, Duolingo English Test (DET): 100

Target Language Level: CEFR B2 (Independent User)

Students will be able to understand the main ideas of complex texts on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in their field of specialization.

Students will be able to interact with native speakers with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction possible without strain for either party.

Students will be able to produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects.

Note: Students enrolled in International Undergraduate Programs in English (IUPE) such as those in the Faculty of Agriculture, Engineering, and School of Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation for October admission are exempt from submitting English proficiency scores for this requirement.

④ Overseas Challenge Program

Students participate in a Kyushu University medium- or long-term study abroad program (91 days or more), or a short-term or online study abroad program*, and earn at least 4 credits**. Through study abroad experiences, students develop intercultural adaptability, practical problem-solving skills, and build international networks. If the credits earned at the host institution are less than 4, students may take courses from the Overseas Challenge course group (see Table 3) to make up the shortfall. These courses are conducted in English and provide an international collaborative learning environment for both domestic and international students.

*Online study abroad is defined as learning activities conducted in an international collaborative environment by connecting online with overseas universities or educational institutions. Examples include APRU (Association of Pacific Rim Universities) online programs, online study abroad programs offered by faculties, lectures from overseas universities, and COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) courses.

**Credits earned at the host university are valid only if transferred to Kyushu University.

⑤ Practical Activity Program

Students utilize the learning and experiences gained through study abroad or international experiences to contribute to the internationalization of the university or local community. Students choose and complete at least one practical activity from the available options. Through these activities, students further develop the skills and attitudes needed to contribute effectively in the international community.

After the activity, students complete the required information on the designated form and submit it together with the final report.

⑥ Submission of Final Report

Students submit a final report reflecting on their own learning and outlining their future prospects.

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Detailed Curriculum Requirements

Curriculum / Course Group	Requirements	Overview
① Program Guidance and Learning Statement	Submission of the Learning Statement	Students attend the program guidance session and submit a “Learning Statement” outlining their learning goals throughout the program.
② Global Mindset Development Course Group	Minimum of 2 credits	Introductory courses aimed at broadening international perspectives, including understanding of one’s own country, global issues, and foundational knowledge necessary for studying abroad or gaining overseas experience. Students select from KIKAN courses and recommended courses from each faculty.
③ Global Communication Skills Development Course Group	Minimum of 2 credits English proficiency score	Students select and complete designated courses from KIKAN courses. In addition, students must obtain the required language proficiency scores.
④ Overseas Challenge Course Group	Minimum of 4 credits	Students participate in medium- or long-term study abroad (91 days or more), short-term study abroad, or online study abroad programs and earn credits. If fewer than 4 credits are earned at the host institution, students may combine designated General Education courses (collaborative learning courses), other study abroad programs, or online programs to supplement the required credits.
⑤ Practical Activities	At least one activity	Students apply the learning and experiences gained through study abroad or international experiences to contribute to the internationalization of the university or local community. Students choose from the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organizing or presenting at study abroad information sessions (e.g. Study Abroad Fair) ● Supporting international events (e.g. inbound programs) ● Sharing experiences in lectures related to the certification program ● Promoting international activities (e.g. Kyushu University PR, social media posts) ● Tutoring or supporting international students (e.g. JTW/JTAS programs, faculty-based support) ● Managing international student organizations (e.g. KUFGA, Q-Mate) ● Participating in international volunteer activities outside the university (e.g. Fukuoka Yokatopia International Foundation, outreach to local schools) ● Organizing original events that promote interaction between Japanese and international students on campus with activity certification provided by Kyushu University faculty or staff
⑥ Final Report	Submission of report	Student submit a final report reflecting on their learning and outlining their future goals.

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Previously Earned Credits

If a student has already completed courses required by this certification program prior to starting the program, that is, before submitting the Learning Statement, those credits may be counted toward the required credits for program completion.

Additionally, students may complete components ② through ⑤ in any order.

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Notes on Course Registration

Many of the General Subjects(総合科目) and KIKAN Education Courses for students in the 2nd year and above (高年次開講科目) are designated as “lottery-based courses.” Please note that priority registration cannot be granted solely on the grounds that the course is required for this program.

The content of General Subjects(総合科目) (Open Courses) in KIKAN Education may change each academic year. When planning your course schedule, be sure to check the latest course offerings. Other courses may also be discontinued in the future due to curriculum revisions. Please confirm the most up-to-date information and plan your registration carefully.

Some KIKAN Education courses listed in the List of Designated Courses are offered only in alternate years. Pay attention to the year of offering when planning your schedule.

Additionally, courses offered by each faculty may have prerequisites or enrollment restrictions. Please review these requirements carefully when planning your course registration.

3 Certification of Completion

3-1 Completion Requirements

To complete the Global Professional Certificate Program, students must fulfill the following six requirements and earn the designated credits:

- ① Attend the program guidance session and submit a Learning Statement.
- ② Earn at least 2 credits from the Global Mindset Development Course Group (see Table 1).
- ③ Earn at least 2 credits from the Global Communication Skills Development Course Group (see Table 2), and obtain the required score in one of the English proficiency tests designated by the program.
- ④ Participate in Kyushu University’s medium- or long-term study abroad (91 days or more), or short-term or online study abroad programs, and earn at least 4 credits. If fewer than 4 credits are earned, supplement with courses from the Overseas Challenge Course Group (see Table 3).
*For Bronze Certificate, requirement ④ is not mandatory.
- ⑤ Complete at least one practical activity from the designated options and submit the required information on the designated form together with the final report.
- ⑥ Submit a final report along with the required course records and supporting documents. Details on the submission process will be provided on the program’s Moodle site.



3-2 Flow from Enrollment to Completion

Step 1 Start of the Global Professional Certificate Program

Students can start at any time during their enrollment in an undergraduate program at Kyushu University by accessing the designated page on Moodle. To pursue the Global Professional Certificate, students must first attend the program guidance session and submit their “Learning Statement” via the designated Moodle website.

Step 2 Course Enrollment

There is no fixed order for completing the program components. For course registration, including those offered by KIKAN Education (General Education) or individual faculties, students should refer to the course syllabi, faculty websites, and registration guidelines.

Note: Courses offered as intensive lectures may have different registration periods than regular courses.

Step 3 Certification of Completion

Once requirements ① through ⑤ are fulfilled, students must submit a final report (⑥) reflecting on their learning and future outlook. Upon approval, they will be awarded the Global Professional Certificate. Details on the application procedure for certification will be provided on the program's Moodle site.

Applications for certification can be submitted at any time during the semester. Certification reviews are conducted in the first and second semesters (applications due by the end of May and the end of October), and certificates are issued in August for the spring semester and in February for the fall semester. Certificates are issued as Open Badges.

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Certification Types

The program offers three levels of certification based on the degree of completion. The certificate will be awarded as an Open Badge under the Minor Program. Please note that only one type of certificate can be obtained. It is not possible to acquire multiple certificates of different types, nor to upgrade or change to a higher level certificate after acquisition (e.g. applying to change from Bronze to Silver).

Gold Badge: Students who have completed the following components:

- ① Program Guidance and Learning Statement
- ② Global Mindset Development Program
- ③ Global Communication Skills Development Program
- ④ Overseas Challenge Program
- ⑤ Practical Activity Program

Among these, students who have:

- Studied abroad for 91 days or more under component ④
- Earned 12 or more credits in total from components ② to ④
- Submitted and received approval for the Final Report (⑥)

will be awarded the Global Professional Certificate (Gold) in the form of an Open Badge.

Silver Badge: Students who have completed the following components:

- ① Program Guidance and Learning Statement
- ② Global Mindset Development Program
- ③ Global Communication Skills Development Program
- ④ Overseas Challenge Program
- ⑤ Practical Activity Program

Among these, students who:

- Studied abroad for less than 91 days under component ④
- Earned 8 or more credits in total from components ② to ④
- Submitted and received approval for the Final Report (⑥)

will be awarded the Global Professional Certificate (Silver) in the form of an Open Badge.

Note: Students who studied abroad for 91 days or more but earned fewer than 12 credits from components ② to ④, and earned at least 8 credits in total, and have completed all requirements from ① to ⑥, are also eligible to apply for the Silver Badge.

Bronze Badge: Students who have completed the following four components:

- ① Program Guidance and Learning Statement
- ② Global Mindset Development Program
- ③ Global Communication Skills Development Program
- ⑤ Practical Activity Program

Among these, students who have:

- Earned 4 or more credits in total from components ② to ③
- Submitted and received approval for the Final Report (⑥)

will be awarded the Global Professional Certificate (Bronze) in the form of an Open Badge.

Certification Types	Requirements	Learning Goals
Gold Badge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 credits - Study abroad experience of 91 days or more. - English proficiency score ①②③④⑤⑥	Based on a foundation of broad international knowledge and language proficiency, students will develop practical global competence through advanced overseas experiences. They will also cultivate deep intercultural understanding and the ability to act independently through hands-on activities and study abroad. Furthermore, they will acquire the skills to solve problems from a global perspective.
Silver Badge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 credits - Short-term or online study abroad - English proficiency score ①②③④⑤⑥	Based on a foundation of broad international knowledge and language proficiency, students will develop practical global competence through overseas experiences. They will also cultivate deep intercultural understanding and the ability to act independently through hands-on activities and study abroad.
Bronze Badge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 credits - English proficiency score ①②③⑤⑥	Based on a foundation of broad international knowledge and language proficiency, students will acquire fundamental global awareness and communication skills. Through practical activities, they will also develop deep intercultural understanding and the ability to act independently.

Contact Information

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