

- Call for Participation -

MIRAI Global Challenges Internship (Study Visit) Program

Dates: **November 16-21, 2025**

Host: **University of Gothenburg** (Address: Universitetsplatsen 1, 405 30 Göteborg)

1. Introduction

-MIRAI

MIRAI is a collaborative academic network connecting Japanese and Swedish universities. Established in 2017, it has built upon seven years of experience to launch its third phase in January 2024. This phase is designed to engage researchers across diverse disciplines, focusing on social innovation and global challenges as overarching themes.

In this phase, MIRAI has identified four priority challenges:

- (1) Health and an ageing population (UN-SDG #3)
- (2) Climate adaptation, disaster and risk management and prevention (UN-SDG #13)
- (3) Resilient cities and communities (UN-SDG #11)
- (4) Materials for energy conversion and storage (UN-SDG #7)

MIRAI has provided opportunities to bring together early career researchers (ECRs) from various fields at MIRAI universities. In line with this initiative, the European Institute of Japanese Studies (EIJS), Stockholm School of Economic hosted MIRAI Global Challenges Winter School designed for ECRs in 2024. The program was conducted in a lecture-based format, focusing on the business relationships between Japan and Sweden as well as corporate approaches to global challenges. This platform served as a hub for ECRs and various MIRAI stakeholders to exchange ideas and insights. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, it fostered meaningful connections among participants and contributed to the development of next-generation leaders

-MIRAI Global Challenges Study Visit Program

This year's program aims to nurture the next generation of leaders through interactive collaboration with industry and the public sector in Gothenburg, the industrial heartland of Sweden. ECRs will visit leading companies to explore their innovation strategies and approaches to global challenges, gaining valuable insights into how their research can align with industry needs. The program also provides companies with a unique opportunity to engage with exceptional ECRs. By ensuring mutual benefits for both MIRAI and the industry, this initiative serves as a catalyst for long-term collaboration. Moreover,

the project is expected to lay the groundwork for the development of next-generation leaders in partnership with key stakeholders.

2. Program (Preliminary)

The preliminary program for the study visit is as follows. Once the program is fixed, participants are updated. The program will include discussions with companies and potential opportunities for participants to present their research, subject to the hosts' discretion.

Time	Activity
Sunday 16 November	
17:30-19:30	Welcome Reception
Monday 17 November	At University of Gothenburg
AM	Welcome from University of Gothenburg Introduction of MIRAI Research Introduction from participants
PM	Lecture 1 Professor Martin Henning, Economic Geography (Title TBA)
	Lecture 2 Professor Richard Nakamura, International Business and Management (Title "Japan-Sweden Business and Trade Relationship")
	Lecture 3 Business Region Gothenburg (Title TBA)
Tuesday 18 November	
AM	Company visit (TBD)
PM	Company visit (TBD)
Wednesday 19 November	
AM	The Port of Gothenburg
PM	Free (TBC)
Thursday 20 November	
AM	Company visit (TBD)
PM	Company visit (TBD)
Friday 21 November	
AM	Reflection Session
PM	SKF Company tour

In addition to the scheduled visit outlined in the program, we are currently coordinating meetings with key organizations across the public and industrial sectors represented in Gothenburg, particularly a mobility company and leading Swedish innovation hubs spanning health, space science, and technology. These include a life science cluster focused on diagnostics and medical research, a national facility for radio astronomy, and a science park driving mobility and digital innovation.

3. Eligibility

- Enrolled at a Japanese or Swedish MIRAI member university during the program period.
- PhD students or Postdocs in any discipline.
- Each MIRAI member university can nominate **1 person** through its internal selection process.

*Each university may set up its individual requirements.

4. Costs for Participation

Participants are responsible for the following expenses:

- **Participation fee:** Up to **3,000 SEK** (covers meals and other program-related costs).
Once the participation fee is finalized, participants will be notified. Payment instructions will be sent to participants later.
- **Airfare:** Particularly for participants traveling from Japan (between Japan and Sweden).
- **Other transportation costs.**
- **Travel insurance:** If required.
- **Passport and visa fees:** If applicable.
- **Accommodation:** Participants are expected to book their own hotel room.

*Scholarship Availability: Please consult the MIRAI Project Managers at your university for details on scholarship opportunities.

5. Application Procedure

Application deadline:

- **From applicants to their university:** Please adhere to the internal deadline set by each university.
- **From the Japanese universities to the host:** End of August.
- **From the Swedish universities to the host:** End of September

Application: Applications should follow the format and requirements set by each university. Once participants are selected, each university is requested to provide the required information via the input form below.

<Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/FNtu8yAJyk>>

6. Contacts

For inquiries on the program, please contact:

- Hisayuki SAKATA, MIRAI Project Manager, Kyushu University Stockholm Liaison Office
intleurope@m.kyushu-u.ac.jp
- Kristin Rådesjö, MIRAI Project Manager, University of Gothenburg
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For inquiries on the internal application process:

Please contact MIRAI Project Manager at your university.
<https://www.mirai.nu/contact/>