



## The Global Business Course (GBC) Report (Ninth Issue)

March 2025

### 1. Outline of GBC International Students

As of January 2025, the total number of GBC international students is 166 and they are nationals of 23 countries and 1 region. We have newly welcomed students from Gambia, Laos, Niger, Rwanda, and South Africa. By region, the higher percentage of students tends to be from Asia.

Number of International Students in the Global Business Course (As of January 2025) by Country and Region of Origin

Country/Region		Number of Enrolled Student
East Asia	China	2
	Mongolia	16
	Taiwan	8
	Total	26
Southeast Asia	Cambodia	2
	Indonesia	33
	Laos	2
	Malaysia	3
	Thailand	31
	Vietnam	34
	Total	105
South Asia	Bangladesh	4
	India	6
	Pakistan	5
	Total	15
Central Asia and Middle East	Kazakhstan	1
	Turkiye	3
	Total	4

Country/Region		Number of Enrolled Student
North America and South America	Mexico	1
	Total	1
Europe	Belarus	2
	Lithuania	1
	Romania	6
	Total	9
Africa	Gambia	1
	Mozambique	1
	Niger	1
	Rwanda	1
	South Africa	1
	Zambia	1
	Total	6
Grand total		166

## 2. Ceremonies and Events

### 1) The 2024 Fall Degree Ceremony

A total of 23 GBC students attended the 2024 Fall Degree Ceremony and received their degree certificates at the i-Square, Kobe Campus for Commerce, on September 18, 2024. They came to Japan amid the COVID-19 pandemic overcoming many difficulties and ultimately earned their degrees.



### 2) The 2024 Fall Graduation Party

Following the Degree Ceremony on September 18, 2024, the Graduation Party was held at ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Kobe, bringing together the graduates and their academic supporters. GBC students and faculty members collaborated to plan and create a memorable event. Also, the celebration featured delicious food, performances by talented students, and heartfelt messages of appreciation from the graduates to their academic advisors and university staff, making it a truly memorable occasion.



### 3) The 2024 Fall Entrance Ceremony



The University of Hyogo welcomed a total of 52 new students to GBC (Undergraduate) and GB (Graduate School) during the "Fall Entrance Ceremony", which was held at the i-Square, Kobe Campus for Commerce on September 19, 2024. Furthermore, many distinguished guests from consulates, representatives from companies supporting GBC, and the families of the new students. Senior students also participated, making it a truly memorable event.

## 3. About Classes

### 1) Program to Experience Japan

#### ① Overnight Training Program



International GBC students participated in an overnight training program on May 25 and 26, 2024. On the first day, students visited SPring-8 and SACLA, one of the world's three largest synchrotron radiation facilities (beam energy over 5 GeV), located at Harima Science Garden City. Later in the afternoon, they visited the Nishi-Harima Astronomical Observatory, attended a lecture on astronomy, and observed the sun





and stars through the Nayuta Telescope, enjoying their stay at the observatory. On the second day, they visited the Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo. After attending a lecture on the relationship between humans and nature, changes on earth, and the evolution of life, they explored the museum exhibits. GBC students fully enjoyed the two-day field trip and found it to be an inspiring and enriching experience.

## ② Disaster Prevention-Related Classes

International GBC students visited the Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Management and Training Center on October 25, 2024, as a class of the Program to Experience Japan course. After a study guidance session, students participated in an earthquake simulation drill, a smoke evacuation drill, and a tour of an emergency supply warehouse. During the smoke evacuation drill, they entered a maze-like room filled with simulated smoke ("steam"), and all escaped safely through the exits within one minute. The earthquake simulation provided students with the opportunity to experience various levels of seismic intensity and historical earthquakes. Lastly, students visited a warehouse containing stored supplies and equipment located at Disaster Prevention Park. Through this experience, students gained a deeper understanding of earthquakes and increased their awareness of disaster prevention.



## 2) SDGs Related Classes

### ① SDGs Research Workshop



understanding of the SDGs.

GBC students belonging to Professor Suehiro's and Professor Kinshi's research seminars visited a Zero Waste Center in Tokushima Prefecture as part of their SDGs training on June 15, 2024. This visit fundamentally changed their perception of waste management and reinforced the importance of field research. For students, it was a valuable experience that deepened their

### ② Addressing the Challenge of Food Loss

In the project seminar led by Associate Professors Kyo and Ohno, students worked on addressing the challenge of "reducing food loss," one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year, the focus was on reducing food loss for Hyogo Prefecture's locally grown strawberries, "Ama Queen". The project was carried out in collaboration with Shinoda Noen, a strawberry producer; Fanto Corporation, responsible for intermediary distribution; and Hankyu Delica Corporation which specializes in distributing products.

Students proposed two strawberry-based products, which Fred's Café began selling at its branch stores located in Umeda, Juso, Ibaraki, Nishinomiya-Kitaguchi, and Rokko, starting from August 1. This students's project was featured on Sun TV's "Hyogo Hasshin!" (broadcast on June 9), the Asahi Shimbun (August 30), and the website of the Kinki Agricultural Administration Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. In the project, students led sales promotion and created posters and in-store announcements. The cooperating companies were pleased with the students' creativity and business ideas.



#### **4. About Contests**

##### **1) GBC 2024 Photo Contest**

The GBC Photo Contest is held annually for GBC undergraduate and GB graduate students in the Graduate School of Social Sciences. We received 12 photo submissions from 6 students under "on-campus/off-campus" and "dormitory life" themes. The GBC Office ranked the photos by voting. The top three winners received certificates and prizes, while all participants received participation awards. The photos were displayed at the i-Square, Kobe Campus for Commerce, for visitors to see.



##### **2) Business Plan Contest**








The Business Plan Contest "VENTURinno 2025" was held at i-Square on February 7, 2025. The Contest was originally launched in the 2022 academic year to support and encourage student entrepreneurship, and this year marked its fourth edition. This year's theme was "Social Entrepreneurship and AI," with five teams (a total of 35 participants) presenting their unique ideas. After evaluation by a panel of eight judges, including government officials, investors, and business executives, the Grand Prize was awarded to the "Biofuel Patch" team. The Runner-up Prize

went to the "Pastureland Pilot Project" team, and third place was secured by the "Senior On Board" team.



## 5. Annual Events and Activities

Event Name	Date	Content	Management
1) Welcome Party for New Students 	October 11, 2024	We hosted a lively welcome party for September's new students, featuring fun games and even some cosplay	RA (Resident Assistant)
2) Clean-Up Events 	May 30 and November 16, 2024	In addition to cleaning the streets and contributing to the local community, we also cleaned the dormitory lounge and laundry room	RA and GBC Office
3) The Winter and Summer Get-Together Event 	June 26 and December 19, 2024	The event featured quizzes, bingo, singing, dancing, and musical performances, creating a lively atmosphere	RA and Live-in Professors
4) Fire Drill 	November 7, 2024	Students learn evacuation rules ("don't push, don't run, don't talk, don't go back"), followed by hands-on fire extinguisher training	RA, Live-in Professors, Caretakers
5) Charity Event 	December 11, 2024	A charity event was held for new international students living in the dormitory. Over 220 donated items from university faculty and staff were distributed, with around 30 students participating.	GBC Office and Live-in Professors

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