



Global Business Course (GBC) Report (11th Issue)

February 2026

1. Overview of GBC International Students (September Enrollment)

As of February 1, 2026, GBC has 161 international students from 28 countries and one region. Students from Southeast Asia make up the largest regional group.

GBC International Students (By Country and Region of Origin)

Region	Country/Region	Total	Region	Country/Region	Total
East Asia	China	2	North America and South America	Canada	1
	Mongolia	18		Colombia	1
	Taiwan	8		Subtotal	2
	Subtotal	28	Europe	Belarus	2
Southeast Asia	Cambodia	2		Lithuania	1
	Indonesia	33		Romania	4
	Laos	4		Italy	1
	Malaysia	2		Hungary	1
	Thailand	26		Subtotal	9
	Vietnam	32	Africa	Gambia	1
	Subtotal	99		Mozambique	1
South Asia	Bangladesh	5		Niger	1
	India	4		Rwanda	1
	Pakistan	2		South Africa	1
	Subtotal	11		Zambia	1
Central Asia and Middle East	Kazakhstan	1		Uganda	1
	Türkiye	3		Egypt	1
	Subtotal	4		Subtotal	8
Grand Total					161

*By nationality at enrollment

2. Interviews with New Students

~Voice of New GBC Students Enrolled in April and September 2025

Enrollment: September 2025

Name: Bouaphan Xaysavanh

Country: Laos

Hobbies: Guitar, Travel, Photography, Gym, Learning Japanese language.

① Why did you choose GBC for your studies?

I chose Global Business Course because it offers international students a chance to learn the Japanese language and Japanese culture which is useful for 4 years academic journey in Japan. Alongside this, the course provides advanced economics course to help deepen understanding about economics, which makes GBC an ideal choice for me.



② How are your classes, and what do you like about them?

I find some classes challenging, but I see it as an opportunity to build myself, to improve skills that I'm not good at. I like the environment of the class, most professors are open-minded, students are free to ask questions in class and share their ideas to the professor. When I shared my opinion to professor and lecturer, they gave me feedback which make me feel listened.

③ What are your future goals?

My future goals are to deeply understand the advance knowledge of economics and use it to address challenges in my home country. Moreover, I want to be fluent in Japanese. I want to be able to communicate in Japan, and I want to establish Japanese as my third language.

Enrollment: April 2025

Name: Kita Aiko

Country: Japan

Hobbies: watching movies, painting, and listening to music.

① Why did you choose GBC for your studies?

What appealed to me was that all courses are taught in English and that students study together with international students. As I hope to work in an English-speaking environment in the future, I chose GBC because I want to improve my English communication skills through this faculty.

② How are your classes, and what do you like about them?

The classes include many presentations and a lot of group work, which allows me to communicate with variety of people. In addition, the classes are relatively flexible, so they strongly challenge and develop my own way of thinking.



③ What are your future goals?

In the future, my goal is to further improve my English skills, obtain the professional qualifications I aim for, and eventually work in the country I have always wanted to live in, using English in my career.

3. Ceremonies and Events

(1) 2025 Fall Degree Ceremony



On September 18, 2025, the Fall Degree Ceremony was held at the Center for Global Engagement (i-Square) in the Kobe Campus for Commerce. Degree certificates were awarded to 32 graduates of the Global Business Course from around the world.

In addition to the graduates and faculty members, the ceremony was also attended by family members of graduates, as well as the respected guests from the prefectural government, diplomatic missions and from companies and organizations that provide kind cooperation and support to the Global Business Course.

The faculty members and administrative staff are proud of all graduates and congratulate them on their hard work and dedication to their studies while being away from their families and home countries. International students have made significant contributions to the education and research environment of the university, and we hope that the graduates will continue to be a bridge between Japan and their home countries.

(2) 2025 Fall Graduation Party

In the evening of September 18, the Fall Graduation Party was held at the ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Kobe, bringing together the graduates and university faculty members.

The event featured heartfelt performances by the current students and graduates, as well as moments where seminar group members expressed their gratitude to their professors and reminisced about their student life.

It was a heartwarming event that showcased the strong bonds between faculty members and students. Warm messages were also received from professors who could not attend in person.

The celebration was held in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, thanks to the support and cooperation of the current students, graduates, faculty, and staff.



(3) 2025 Fall Entrance Ceremony

On September 19, the Fall Entrance Ceremony was held at the Center for Global Engagement (i-Square) in the Kobe Campus for Commerce to welcome 32 new GBC international students from 14 countries and regions, including from new countries such as Colombia, Egypt, Hungary and Italy.



In addition to the new international students, the ceremony was also attended by the family members, who had travelled far from their respective countries to join the ceremony, as well as by the respected guests from the prefectural government, diplomatic missions and from companies and organizations that

provide kind cooperation and support to the Global Business Course.

At the ceremony, the President of the University of Hyogo gave the opening address, followed by congratulatory remarks from the respected guests, which provided encouragement to the new international students as they begin their university life in Japan.

(4) 2025 GBC Startup Aid Award Ceremony

On November 27, the 7th Startup Aid Award Ceremony was held at the Center for Global Engagement (i-Square) to distribute financial grants to the 32 new GBC international students enrolled in September.



The award is aimed at reducing the financial burden of new international students as they start their university life in Japan, allowing them to concentrate more on their studies.

The Startup Aid is provided through the 'Global Business Course (GBC) International Student Support Fund', which is funded by the generous donations from companies and organizations that endorse the university's educational objectives. Thanks to these valuable donations and warm support, the new international students are able to take their first steps towards a fulfilling university life.

4. About Classes

(1) Completion of Overseas Language Program



On September 13, 2025, 52 GBC Japanese students successfully completed the 5-week 'Overseas Language Program' at Enderun College in the Philippines and returned to Japan.

At the completion ceremony, each student received a certificate of completion accompanied by a big round of applause from their classmates. Over the past five weeks, the students not only improved their English skills but also built strong bonds with friends, teachers, and the local community.

Their smiles showed the confidence, new perspectives, and memories from this experience that they will treasure forever.

After the ceremony, many students stayed behind to enjoy the final moments together with their

classmates and teachers.

(2) Risk Management Orientation

On September 16, an orientation session regarding risk management was held for international students who had newly arrived in Japan.

The orientation began with Associate Professor Gong explaining the key points regarding earthquake and disaster preparedness. This was followed by Specially Appointed Assistant Professor Shah giving an explanation about traffic rules, drug awareness and social media scams. Additionally, students were also informed about the university counseling services available to the students, providing comprehensive guidance to the students to begin their new life in Japan with safety and peace of mind.



(3) Field Study in Hiroshima



On December 14, GBC students from Professor Kinshi's 'Research Seminar I' visited Hiroshima to deepen their understanding of the history between Japan and the United States.

At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum, guided by a professional tour guide, the students had the opportunity to learn about the circumstances surrounding the atomic bombing. Through this experience, students were able to learn how Hiroshima was rebuilt into the city that it is

today and they reflected on how they can contribute to world peace.

In addition to this, the students also visited Miyajima, one of Japan's most famous tourist destinations. This field study visit will serve as a foundation for the students' research topic in the coming academic year, i.e., Sustainable Tourism.

(4) Program to Experience Japan

On December 19, GBC students embarked on a field trip to Arima Onsen and the Nunobiki Herb Gardens, with the cooperation of Hyogo Tourism Bureau. Divided into two teams, the students rode the ropeways up to Rokko Garden Terrace and the Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens respectively, where they conducted surveys and gathered insights from the international tourists there.

The key research themes were as follows:

- What makes a tourist destination attractive, from the perspective of foreign tourists?
- What kind of promotions and information can be effective to increase awareness of Hyogo Prefecture?
- What do accommodation facilities need to encourage foreign tourists to stay longer and travel throughout in Hyogo Prefecture?



- What kind of experiences are international tourists willing to pay for, in order to increase tourism spending in Hyogo Prefecture?

After completing the surveys, the students had the chance to explore and thoroughly enjoy the local attractions at Arima Onsen and the Nunobiki Herb Gardens.

(5) Japanese Language and Culture Trip

On January 16, 2026, GBC students visited the Osaka Museum of Housing and Living as part of their annual field trip.

The students visited an exhibition of a life-sized town from the Edo period, which illustrated beautiful traditional houses and traditional shops of that era. At the historical housing exhibits, they had the chance to touch household items from the period as well, which deepened their understanding of lifestyle and culture.

Those students who wished also had the chance to try on a kimono, making it a valuable opportunity to learn about Japanese history and society.



5. About Contests

(1) 2025 GBC Photo Contest

GBC Photo Contest is held annually for GBC undergraduate and GB (Global Business) graduate students. This year, 11 wonderful photos were submitted by the students, under the themes of "on-campus/off-campus" and "dormitory life". On December 15, 2025, the top three winners (Grand Prize, Runner-Up and Honorable Mention) were awarded with certificates and exciting prizes.

The photos are on display in the first floor lobby of the Center for Global Engagement (i-Square) for all visitors to see and enjoy.



(2) Business Plan Competition

On January 30, 2026, a business plan competition titled "VENTURinno 2026" was held. Under the theme of "Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development Goals", the event brought together experts to engage in discussion about the critical role that entrepreneurship plays in realizing a sustainable society and economy.

Six teams consisting of 30 GBC undergraduate and exchange students participated in the competition, each presenting their unique and innovative ideas aimed at solving real-world challenges through sustainable business models.

The winning teams were as follows:

- Grand Prize: `Duogym`
Their idea of a shared gym membership model was highly evaluated by the judges.
- Runner-Up: `Companion`
Their idea of a service as a solution for loneliness gained attention.
- Third Prize: `Japan Mate`
Their idea introduced a service of providing instant help to foreign residents in Japan in their daily lives.



Through this competition, students had the chance to gain practical experience in developing practical business proposals and receive guidance from industry practitioners and business leaders, deepening their understanding of entrepreneurship.

6. International Student Employment Support

At the Kobe Campus for Commerce, employment-related information is regularly provided on the student website `Universal Passport` and on the bulletin board in front of the `Career Center` to support international students' job hunting. Students who wish to work in Japan are encouraged to actively participate in job-hunting seminars to gain useful information and knowledge for their future careers.

(1) Job Hunting Seminar



On November 13, 2025, Ms. Lin, a former student of the GBC, who is originally from Taiwan, visited the university to give a talk to current students enrolled in the `Research Seminar I and III` and `Thesis Seminar II`.

Ms. Lin, who is currently working in the sales department of a small-to-medium-sized company in Kobe, provided valuable insights into her job-hunting and work experiences in Japan from an international student's perspective. She also introduced essential social media platforms that support students in their job search.

Fourteen students attended this event and engaged in a lively discussion about the career prospects of international students in Japan. This event marked the first initiative of its kind aimed at strengthening connections with internationally active alumni and learning more about their career paths after graduating from GBC.

(2) Career Seminar



On December 2, Professor Yokoyama's 'Labor Economics' class hosted a guest speaker from Mori Kosan Co.,Ltd. for a career seminar for GBC students enrolled in both April and September.

The company operates 'WA.SA.Bi.', a portal site that supports international students living in Japan, offering assistance with job hunting, visas, and daily life etc.

This seminar provided valuable information to the students about job hunting in Japan, including about job-hunting timelines and the characteristics of Japanese companies.

7. Annual Events and Activities

Event and Activities	Content
1) Global House Charity Event on September 30, 2025 	Aimed to support new international students, this event provided tableware, stationery, and other daily life items, donated by faculty members and staff. It was the 4th year for this event, and the number of donations has been increasing each year.
2) Global House Welcome Event on October 14 	This event was held to give a warm welcome to the new dormitory residents by celebrating the start of a new chapter in life and honoring friendship, diversity, and new beginnings. The RAs organized a wonderful gathering, planning games like the Handkerchief Drop and Janken Train.
3) Clean Up Event on November 4 	About 30 dormitory residents joined the event to clean up around the campus, the road towards Gakuentoshi Station, and the shared spaces inside the dormitory. Both Japanese and international students actively participated, embracing the idea that they are responsible for keeping their living environment clean.

Event and Activities	Content
4) Fire Drill on November 21 	A fire evacuation drill was held at the Global House. Assuming that a fire had broken out on the 2nd floor, all residents evacuated using the emergency stairs. After gathering at the evacuation area in the sports ground, firefighters provided hands-on guidance on fire safety and the use of fire extinguishers. Dormitory residents practiced with great energy, learning the importance of fire safety.
5) Winter Get-Together Event on December 16 	About 60 dormitory residents joined the event, which included interactive activities such as a quiz, musical chairs, bingo, as well as the live performances by the students, which was the highlight of the event. A wide variety of performances were presented, including beatboxing, guitar, singing and euphonium, providing a great opportunity for the students to build friendships across borders and showcase their artistic talents.
6) International Exchange Day at Hyogo High School on February 6, 2026 	42 students from Hyogo High School and 14 GBC international students participated in a multicultural exchange event which focused on food, customs, sense of time and views on gender associated with national or regional holidays in different countries or regions. For the high school students, it was a valuable opportunity to increase their interest in the wider world and motivation to learn English.

Edited and compiled by Specially Appointed Assistant Professor Jianxiu PAN and
Specially Appointed Assistant Professor Sardar Ahmed SHAH