



Global Leaders Program (GLP)

The Faculty of Economics at Hitotsubashi University has introduced its new Global Leaders Program into the curriculum, starting from the 2013 academic year. GLP and the corresponding Shibusawa Scholar Program at the Faculty of Commerce and Management are both funded by the Project for Promotion of Global Human Resource Development at the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

This academic program strives to help foster future leaders in an ever-globalizing socio-economic world, in areas such as business, public policy and academia. Our goal is to provide students with the necessary expertise in economics and related fields, cultivate a broader view of social processes and an ability to accurately assess real-world situations, promote critical thinking skills and creativity required for identifying and solving problems, and last but not least help the students acquire high communication skills in both Japanese and English.

The GLP Curriculum

1. Students can systematically expand their knowledge of economic theory and develop relevant analytical skills by enrolling in introductory, intermediate and advanced level specialized courses. We regard economics as not only vital for studying fields such as business, management and finance, but also as a useful prism for analyzing and finding solutions to a wide variety of social problems.
2. Introductory-level economics courses can be taken in both Japanese and in English (taught by overseas instructors). One approach that the majority of our students may find useful is to first enroll in a particular course in Japanese, and then take an English language course dealing with similar content. In this way, students would be able to advance in both their specialized studies and in English as a foreign language more effectively.
3. We are increasing the number of specialized courses offered within our undergraduate program in English, with different levels (basic to advanced) provided for systematic progress. A large number of our faculty who have themselves had experience studying abroad or hold PhD degrees from overseas universities teach these to complement our comprehensive Japanese-language curriculum on economic thought, theory and analysis, taught through various lecture-based courses and specialized seminars.
4. In addition to the general courses in English Communication available to all students at Hitotsubashi, our own undergraduate students are given the chance to further improve their skills by taking small-group classes covering listening comprehension, speaking, writing and presentation.
5. We offer special English Communication Skills classes called "Basic Seminars", available to specially selected students. These highly interactive small-group seminars present an additional and valuable opportunity for intensive honing of the above-mentioned traditional foreign language skills, with an added focus on academic presentation and debate.

6. Selected students are able to participate in Basic Seminars in Economics taught in English by foreign lecturers or Japanese professors who are fluent in English. These classes focus on economic theory while helping to improve students' skills in academic writing, presentation delivery and holding discussions in English.

7. Our program furthermore includes international field studies for select students. Over a period of about ten days during the summer break, participants will be able to interact with fellow students from our international academic partners and take part in joint research presentations and discussion meetings, held in English. These field studies also include visiting international and governmental institutions in the target countries, as well as local companies for purposes of conducting relevant research through direct experience. Before and after the actual overseas trip, students will be required to enroll in our Basic Seminars, jointly conducted by Japanese and foreign instructors, where they will work on their preparatory research, presentations, subsequent reports on achieved results, etc. The aim of this part of the program is to help students get first-hand experience of different locales of the global economy while developing a wide spectrum of research, analytical, presentational and communication skills.

8. We also provide opportunities for longer-term studies abroad (one year) at leading overseas universities to students selected via a special examination.

9. Upon their return to Japan, participants in our study abroad program will be able to enroll in more advanced, graduate-level economics courses in English, as well as graduate-level Academic English courses.

Global Leaders Class (GLC)

We will select 15 top students from the Faculty of Economics at the end of their first year to enroll in our Global Leaders Program. The selection process will be based on submitted documents and an interview taking into account students' GPA, English skills and motivation. This group of students will be required to take (and therefore given precedence when enrolling in) small-group Academic English classes unique to our Faculty, Basic Seminars taught by our foreign instructors, as well as Basic Seminars in economics taught by Japanese and foreign instructors in English. The members of the Global Leaders Class will also be given precedence when selecting participants for our overseas field studies. Furthermore, the students will be assisted with their long-term study abroad endeavors by our international program coordinators.

GLC participants will be required to obtain 60 percent of their credits in specialized courses at the Faculty of Economics from courses taught in English. We will confer a special "Global Leadership Program Certificate" to students who have successfully fulfilled the above criteria.