

FY2023 Inter-University Exchange Project University of Tsukuba

Promote Inter-University Exchanges with Universities in the United States

【Name of Project】(Adopted year: FY2023)

Empowering International Startup Talent to Create an Inclusive Smart Society

【Summary of Inter-University Exchange Projects】

Empowering International Startup Talent to Create an Inclusive Smart Society



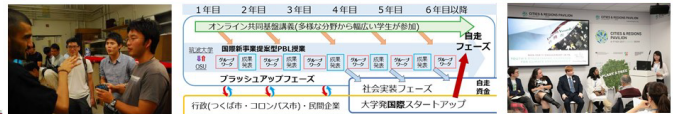
✓ **Formation of Talent:** Individuals capable of proposing and realizing innovative ideas that can transform society into an inclusive smart society on an international scale.

✓ **What is the Inclusive Smart Society (ISS)?** It is a society where people with diverse backgrounds are equally empowered, based on innovative technology.

✓ Structure of the Program

- ISS Online Foundation Course (Involving students from various fields)
- ISS Summer Festival (An online sports, arts, and technology festival with inclusion as the theme)
- ISS-PBL (Students with motivation engage in group work for international new business proposal.)
- Results Presentation (Enhancement based on advice from government and private companies)
- UT-OSU Onsite Exchange (Sending outstanding teams to OSU for the results presentation)
- International Social Startup (Securing external funding and implementing proposals in society)

->achieving a self-sustaining phase with investment funds



✓ Partner : Ohio State University (OSU)

- Smart City Project
 - UT × Tsukuba City ⇄ OSU × Columbus City
- Broad-ranging cooperation between UT and OSU in various fields (sports, disability science, pop culture, disaster prevention, etc.)
- The United States is an advanced country in the concepts of "social startup" and "inclusiveness".

✓ Program Leveraging the Strengths of the University of Tsukuba

- Comprehensive knowledge from Tsukuba Science City
- Fusion of sports, arts, humanities, science, medicine, and engineering -> Smart Society
- Programs facilitating collaboration between Japanese and international students -> Internationalization
- Synergies with initiatives such as TGSW

【Summary of Exchange Program】

(1) Spreading Knowledge and Fostering Interest:

In the "ISS Online Foundation Courses," students first acquire fundamental ISS knowledge and engage in online poster presentations, fostering interaction between students from the University of Tsukuba (UT) and Ohio State University (OSU). The "ISS Summer Festival" further promotes interaction through sports & arts festival themed around "inclusion," where UT and OSU students connect through activities such as music and para esports competitions.

(2) Acquiring Foundational Knowledge:

In "ISS-PBL," students inspired by the activities in (1) participate in introductory classes for proposing social startups and their implementation. Then, UT and OSU students collaborate in group work to develop proposals for social startups. The final presentation determines the winning groups who made the outstanding proposals.

(3) Gaining Specialized Knowledge and Skills:

The winning groups in ISS-PBL participate in the "ISS Onsite Exchange Program," allowing them to travel abroad and collaborate with OSU students to refine their proposals.

【Global Human Resource on the Project】

The aim is to empower students to be skilled in international social startup talents contributing to the construction of a society where diverse people can coexist .

【Feature on the Project】

- Interdisciplinary Study
- Involving Tsukuba & Columbus as front runners of Smart City
- Entrepreneurship Education based on EntreComp
- Meaningful exchange in mid- to long-term

【Exchange Number】

		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Out bound	Students studying abroad	10	20	25	25	25
	Students taking online international education and exchange programs in their home countries	100	700	800	900	900
	Students fulfilling both of the above requirements	0	0	0	0	0
In bound	Students studying abroad	0	10	15	15	15
	Students taking online international education and exchange programs in their home countries	100	300	300	300	300
	Students fulfilling both of the above requirements	0	50	100	150	150

1. FY2023 Progress

[Name of project] (Adopted year: FY2023)

Empowering International Startup Talent to Create an Inclusive Smart Society

■ Exchange Programs

In this program, under the keyword “Inclusive Smart Society (ISS),” students from the University of Tsukuba (UT) and Ohio State University (OSU) from various fields participate and collaborate to propose innovative ideas that can transform society. They receive support in implementing these ideas in society with involvement of Tsukuba City, Columbus City, and private companies. The program aims to nurture human resources and international social startup personnel who can play a leading role in solving global issues from the bottom up and simultaneously build a society where diverse people can coexist. In FY 2023, in preparation for the course to be opened next year, a kickoff meeting was held in Tsukuba City in October immediately after the adoption, involving UT–OSU core members. In March, UT faculty and students visited OSU, where they held meetings on program content, visited research labs, and toured facilities. Additionally, a pamphlet was created to promote the program within the university.



〈Meeting at OSU in March〉

Student-Mobility

○ Outbound

11 Students Dispatched to OSU (In-Person)

6 Students (Online Exchange)

○ Inbound

3 Students Accepted from OSU (In-Person)

12 Students (Online Exchange)

	2023	
	Plan	Results
Outbound	110	17
Inbound	100	15



〈Students Exchange at OSU in March〉

Although the 2023 exchange results exceeded the plan for in-person exchanges, the number of online exchanges did not meet the plan because the planning for online events was not completed in time. For 2024, we are planning online events, including ISS summer festival, and are making concrete preparations to achieve our goals.

■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

Regarding the ISS courses jointly offered by UT and OSU, at UT, competencies were appropriately set, and after a review by the university committee, its establishment as general subjects for all students was approved. In the future, not only program members but also the entire university will evaluate, verify, and improve them within the education improvement cycle, leading to further refinement. OSU is also preparing for its launch in 2024, with plans to set it as a General Education subject from 2025 onwards, creating an environment where many students can enroll. The ISS–PBL is designed as an online group work collaborative learning subject equivalent to the previously conducted COIL subjects. Additionally, the offering period is set considering the differences in the academic calendars of both institutions.

■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

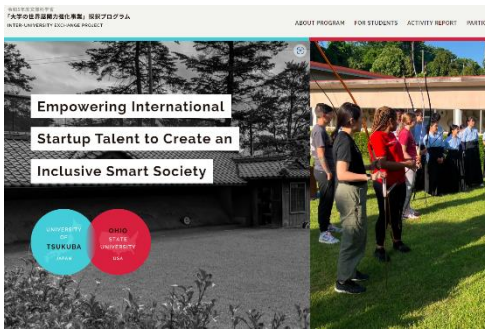
We have established a more robust support system with a dedicated coordinator in addition to the existing support provided by internal university organizations. OSU students participate in the program as “short-term trainees” under appropriate enrollment management. They receive pre-departure guidance on studying at UT, living in Japan, various procedures, and important precautions. After arriving in Japan, comprehensive support is provided, including transportation from the airport to the university campus, assistance with moving into student dormitories, and overall daily life support. Additionally, if necessary, Japanese students or foreign students with native-level Japanese proficiency are assigned as tutors to support their study and life on campus. For UT students, in order to enhance information sharing and crisis management systems within the university, students traveling abroad are required to input their information into the “Tsukuba Risk-ready Itinerary Planner (TRIP)” to establish a system that ensures smooth measures, such as confirming their safety in emergencies. Furthermore, students are required to purchase overseas travel insurance, and they are strongly recommended to join the Overseas Students Safety Management Assistance (OSSMA), which provides support services in case of incidents or accidents.

■ Internationalization of the university, Information disclosure and Publication of outcome

We regularly hold online meetings with OSU to build and improve the program. While international exchanges among faculty members have been active, it has been less common for administrative staff in the field of education to participate regularly in meetings with overseas partner institutions. This has fostered a momentum to build a better program with the same educational goals while deepening mutual understanding of cultural and customary differences between Japan and the United States. As a means of publicizing information and disseminating the outcomes of this program, we have launched a website.

■ Good Practices

In May 2024, we received 7 OSU students in the physical education field and 13 OSU students in the engineering field, and conducted exchange programs in each field. Especially in the engineering field, in preparation for the course starting in the fall semester of 2024, we experimentally used JV–Campus to begin exchanges before their arrival in Japan. After the program ended, we issued digital badges, and verified the usage methods of JV–Campus.



Website for ISS Program
(<https://inclusive-smart-society.edu.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/>)