

【Name of project】(Adopted year: FY2011, Type B-I)

Introducing “Japan/US Collaboration Project-Based Learning (PBL)” and establishing “Japan/US Faculty Collaboration Arena (FCA)”

【Aim of project, Ideals of Global Human Resource on the project】

The goal of the project is to foster students’ competence to work in diverse environments and to promote their communication/coordination skills through team work. It will also enhance collaboration between faculty members in AIU and partner universities in the U.S.

【Summary of project】

Introduce “Japan/US Collaboration Project-Based Learning (PBL)” to encourage students to acquire skills necessary to take a leadership role in global society. And establish “Japan/US Faculty Collaboration Arena (FCA)” as an educational framework to promote academic exchange between Japanese and US university faculty members through collaborative research and teaching.

■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

○ Japan/US Collaboration Project-Based Learning (PBL)

AIU faculty together with faculty members from US universities will jointly design and co-teach courses. Students will be selected from both institutions (4-8 per school) to work together as a learning team to conduct field research accompanied by lectures in each country. Through the courses, students will have the opportunity to tackle real issues in a community, debate about the issue among group members, and work together to come up with their own solutions. They shall see that issues are intermingled with many other factors, linked to a complicated web of global, national, prefectural, state and municipal-level events and policies.

○ Japan/US Faculty Collaboration Arena (FCA)

The FCA is a platform for faculty members to engage in cross-disciplinary and international academic conversations. It includes building PBL courses together, from the preliminary planning of syllabi to managing the course delivery and evaluation at the workshop or symposia.

■ Contents of the Programs, Preparation for the Start of the Programs



〈A Field Activity in JAS231: Preserving Local Folk Culture (Type 3 PBL)〉

○ Pre-PBL and 3 Types of PBL courses

- Pre-PBL course (SOC285 Community Development): offered for students who will take a PBL course later. Also available for non-PBL students.
- Type 1 – PBL with 1 Year Study Abroad: students will study abroad for 1 year prior to PBL course (starting from summer of 2013)
- Type 2 – PBL Short-term Study Abroad: students will study abroad only for PBL course (starting from summer of 2013)
- Type 3 – PBL at AIU: the course will be offered as one of the regular courses at AIU (started from winter of 2013)

○ FCA Workshop (2012.6.23-27)

AIU hosted a “Japan/US Collaboration Project-Based Learning Courses Workshop”, inviting faculty and staff members from US universities which offers PBL courses together with AIU. Participants discussed the theme and contents of PBL courses and visited research fields in Akita prefecture.



〈FCA Workshop〉

*In AY2013, AIU will organize a FCA symposium to publish PBL results.

■ Student-Mobility

AIU students who enrolled in Type 1 and Type 2 PBL courses will study abroad. After completing the first half of the PBL course in the US, they will come back to AIU with the US students to take the second half of the course.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Outbound	-	5	27	33	28
Inbound	-	-	27	33	33

Note : AY2011-2012 results, AY2013 -2015 planned

■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

As One-Year-Study-Abroad is mandatory for all full-time students in AIU, outbound and inbound study-abroad process is a routine part of the job for faculty and staff members. Besides the advising system by the full-time faculty members, study-abroad support will be offered by the Center for International Affairs, credit transfer system by the Office of Academic Affairs and etc. The Educational Renovation Project Team, especially assigned for Re-Inventing Japan Project, will organize the PBL courses with the cooperation of other administration offices.

■ Visualization of the Content of Education, Dissemination of the Outcomes

At the end of the PBL course, students will make a presentation for locals in the community where they conducted their PBL field activities. Furthermore, students and faculty members will make presentations about their learning and teaching experience through PBL at FCA workshops or symposia to deliver and share the outcomes widely. Information regarding PBL and FCA activities is available at <http://www.aiu.ac.jp/icpt>.