Global LEAP is an interdisciplinary educational program aiming at equipping Asian students with knowledge, skills and attitudes required for international collaborations. Global LEAP is a cooperative, active learning program through which students learn Asia’s common challenges while on exchange for spring semester. This study abroad program offers you small-class courses in which exchange students and Chuo students can personally communicate with Japanese professors and experts in various fields. Global LEAP students are exchange students, and can take any courses available for exchange students at Chuo. Three courses are required for Global LEAP exchange students: *Global Lecture Series* which will address Asia’s environmental and social sustainability issues comprehensively, *Global Short-Term Session* in which students will spend two days with the lecturer from European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to discuss impact assessment of development projects, and *Global Active Learning* in which exchange and Chuo students will spend four days together on a trip to Tohoku prefectures, Fukushima and Miyagi.
This course is an interdisciplinary lecture series course programmed for
students to learn various issues concerning environmental and social
sustainability. A guest speaker from a specific sector is invited to give a
lecture for each session. The topics range from environmental issues,
such as contaminated land, water environment, air pollution, and
biodiversity, to social issues, such as ethnic minorities.

The purpose of the course is to understand how to evaluate
environmental and social impact of developmental projects. Students
will learn Environmental and Social Policies
among international organizations and
International Finance Corporation (IFC), and
particularly of European Bank for Reconstruction
and Development (EBRD). The course will discuss such topics as
the necessity of social due diligence, corporate risk management,
and corporate responsibility.

Let’s learn about the environment

NISHIKAWA, Kahoko (The Faculty of Commerce / Professor)

Over the last two decades, several Asian countries have been
achieving high economic growth, and this situation will continue in
the near future. Unfortunately, however, economic development is
accompanied by various environmental issues. To resolve the
global-scale environmental issues, you should know the different background of
each region. The instructors relate theory to practice effectively. By the end of this
course, you will develop the competence in making a proposal for solving some
local problems.
Through visiting disaster areas and experiencing service learnings, this course allows students to think and learn how to take action towards local issues in environmentally and socially sustainable ways, using each student's own perspective acquired from the Global LEAP courses. Students will visit disaster areas and experience the services and activities related to reconstruction support. They will also create a multi-lingual presentation for their fieldwork activity.

The photographs below were taken during the 2018 course trip, when Chuo University’s Japanese students and exchange students visited the Tohoku area. Tohoku people and local governments have strived for sustainable reconstruction and are now shifting their focus to “aging society” issues. During the trip, students shared problems and issues with local people, and engaged in PBL (problem-based learning); how to make Tohoku more appealing. The students shared their original perspectives in the discussions with local people, which was carried out in the mixture of English and Japanese. Students’ ideas on regional revitalization measures in Japan, the most advanced and challenged nation in the aging problem, were compiled into a presentation.
Global LEAP is a special opportunity for a semester study abroad in Japan. This program allows students to communicate in a small-class setting. It is designed to shift the style of leaning from **knowing**, to **reflecting**, and to **acting out**. The **knowing** part starts with *Global Lecture Series*. Then in *Global Short-Term Session*, in comparison with Europeans loosely united through common institutions, we will **reflect** on being Asians and being ourselves. Finally, in our Tohoku trip in *Global Active Learning*, we visit cities and towns which are reemerging from the immense devastation caused by the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster. You’ll meet business leaders and civil servants who were the backbones of the reconstruction. **Act out** what you have learned in the program in proposing creative solutions to local problems. Translating knowledge into identity, attitude and action is important, and training in this skill will prepare you for meaningful work and advanced study.

**Contact**

Please see the “Application Guideline” for the details of the program. You can find the Application Guideline at International Relations Office in your home University.

**Chuo University Contact:**

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