Application Guidelines for Incoming I-GFL Exchange Students (Fall 2027 Intake)

Updated on November 6, 2026

1. About the Exchange Program

Gunma University welcomes international exchange students from its partner universities with which it has student exchange agreements. Students may study at Gunma University for one semester or one academic year.

This guideline is intended for students who wish to participate in the Interdisciplinary Program for Global Frontier Leaders (I-GFL), an English-medium interdisciplinary program that brings together Japanese and international students to learn through collaboration, project-based learning, and real-world experiences. Through I-GFL, students develop leadership, intercultural communication, and problem-solving skills while experiencing Japanese society, culture, and local communities.

Duration	1 semester or full year ○ Spring semester only: April – August ○ Fall semester only: October – February ○ Full academic year: April – February or October – August
Fee	Tuition and application fees are exempted while students remain enrolled at their home university where they pay the tuition fees.
Student learning time	Exchange students are required to participate in a minimum of 10 hours per week of classes or research to maintain student visa status. I-GFL courses and other English-taught courses at Gunma University count toward this requirement. For your reference, please find the 2026 syllabi and course list for 2027 [here].

2. Why choose I-GFL?

- ○ Study in an English-medium program.
- ○ Learn alongside Japanese and international students.
- ○ Explore global issues through interdisciplinary learning.
- ○ Gain real-world experience through local engagement.
- ○ Develop global perspectives and practical skills.

3. Eligibility

① Students must be enrolled in their home university as full-time undergraduate students. Students need to leave Japan and return to their home university after completing exchange program at Gunma University.

② As an I-GFL applicant, you must meet the English proficiency requirements listed below. Japanese language proficiency is not required for the I-GFL program.

Applicants must demonstrate English proficiency at approximately CEFR B1+ level through one of the following minimum test scores:

- TOEFL iBT (including the Home Edition): 58
- IELTS: 5.0
- TOEIC: 550
- Cambridge English Qualifications: B1 Preliminary, Cambridge English Scale score 160 or above

If formal certification is unavailable, a written confirmation of the student's English proficiency should be stated in the Letter of Recommendation. This is not required for native English speakers or for those who have completed their formal education in English.

4. About the I-GFL Program

The I-GFL program is designed primarily around interdisciplinary subjects taught in English together with hands-on courses and practical learning experiences. Therefore, students can complete the course without Japanese language proficiency.

■ Interdisciplinary Program for Global Frontier Leaders (I-GFL)

I-GFL aims to cultivate "universal skills" that enable students to thrive anywhere in the world, regardless of their field of expertise, in this era of VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity).

Through classes where local and international students from different faculties discuss interdisciplinary themes, and through collaborative group experiences with local industries in Gunma Prefecture, students will develop the skills to thrive in diverse settings, transcending national and disciplinary boundaries.

For more details on I-GFL, visit https://www.gunma-u.ac.jp/english_news/207349
The 2026 syllabi and course list for 2027 are available [here].

■ Elective Courses

Hands-on Courses in Traditional Japanese Culture

In addition to the I-GFL curriculum, students may choose the following elective courses in traditional Japanese culture:

Japanese Music (2 classes / 3 hours per week)

Japanese Painting (2 classes / 3 hours per week)

Japanese Language Courses

Japanese language courses are not required for I-GFL students. However, Gunma University offers optional Japanese language courses for exchange students who wish to learn or improve their Japanese, including courses for complete beginners. Details such as class hours and placement procedures will be provided separately.

5. How to apply

■ Before applying

Please note that we do not accept any applications directly from individual students. Applicants should be officially nominated by their home universities and checked if they meet all criteria.

The exchange coordinator at the applicant's home university must submit the following nomination form by the deadline

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/q95g0dpZrX

■ Application instructions

After receiving the nomination, Gunma University will inform the home university of its acceptance and send the application package (Documents ① to ⑥) to the exchange coordinator.

Applicants who have received notification and document guidelines are required to complete and submit the application materials listed below through the exchange coordinator of their home universities.

* Some documents must be submitted by post. Please allow sufficient time for mailing to Japan.

Applicants' Documents for the Exchange Program

☐ ①	Exchange Program Application Form
☐ ②	Certificate of Enrolment issued by applicants' home university (Original)
☐ ③	Official Academic Transcript (Original) *An explanation of the grading system and GPA must be attached.
☐ ④	Letter of Recommendation *Must be signed and completed by Professor/Lecturer who has taught the applicant in an academic course at the applicant's home university. If formal certification of English proficiency is unavailable, the letter should also include a written confirmation of the applicant's English proficiency.

☐	⑤	Proof of English Language Proficiency for non-native English speakers only
☐	⑥	ID Photo (Color passport-sized photo) taken within the last three months in JPG or PNG format

The package of documents and the URL for uploading documents will be sent only to students who have been accepted.

Applicants' Documents for the CoE

☐	⑦	**Click Here** Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) Application Form
☐	⑧	Statement of Reason (Original)
☐	⑨	Curriculum Vitae (CV)
☐	⑩	Copy of Passport ※ Must be valid through the end of the exchange period.
☐	⑪	Certificate of graduation from the last school attended (Original)

Sponsor's Document

☐	⑫	Sponsor Statement of Financial Support
☐	⑬	Certificate of the relationship between Applicant and Sponsor
☐	⑭	Certificate of deposit balance (Original)
☐	⑮	Supporting documents showing the sponsor's fund transactions for the past 1 year (e.g., a copy of a bank passbook or bank transaction records)
☐	⑯	Certificate of Employment of the Sponsor
☐	⑰	A document that proves the sponsor's income in the previous 1 year

After receiving an acceptance package and CoE, students can start their visa applications at the Embassy of Japan in the country where they reside. Students should not arrange flights or make travel commitments before obtaining their visas.

6. Application schedule

	~~Spring 2027 Intake~~	**Fall 2027 Intake**
☐ Nomination deadline	~~August 21, 2026~~	February 19, 2027
☐ Application deadline	~~September 25, 2026~~	March 26, 2027
☐ Application result	~~Beginning of December~~	Beginning of June

☐ Acceptance package arrival (necessary documents for visa applications, housing, etc.)	Middle of January	Middle of July
☐ Recommended arrival dates	End of March	End of September
☐ Semester starts	April 9	October 1, 2027
☐ Semester ends	August 10	February 7, 2028

7. Accommodation

For detailed information about housing, please refer to the URL below.
https://www.gunma-u.ac.jp/english/university-life/g195982

8. Insurances

All international students, including exchange students, are required to enroll in the following health insurance systems:

- National Health Insurance (JPY 20,000 per year)
- Personal Accident Insurance for Student Pursuing Education and Research and Liability Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (JPY 1,340 per year)
- Comprehensive Insurance for Students' Lives coupled with PAS for International Students (JPY 11,500 per year)

9. AIMS (ASEAN International Mobility for Students) Programme

AIMS is an international student exchange programme that promotes academic mobility between universities in ASEAN countries and Japan. As a new member of the AIMS network, Gunma University welcomes incoming AIMS students to participate in the I-GFL programme, studying alongside Japanese and international students in an English-medium interdisciplinary programme.

The minimum exchange period is one semester. Scholarship support is expected to be provided by the government of the student's home country. Please check the availability and eligibility requirements with your home university.

For questions about AIMS, please contact the I-GFL Office (see Contact information).

10. Contact information and application inquiries

I-GFL Office, Gunma University
Global Initiative Center
E-Mail: i-gfl@ml.gunma-u.ac.jp
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