

Strategic Partnership Symposium

The UTokyo Strategic Partnership Symposium has been annually held to provide a deeper understanding about the activities of the strategic partnership with the various partner universities, as well as sharing good practices by showcasing past and current activities as well as plans for future collaborations. Guests from inside and outside Japan are invited to give keynote speeches and join panel discussions on topics such as collaboration with international universities and roles of universities. Team activities are also reported during the symposiums which have been good opportunities for everyone to explore future of the strategic partnerships.



Japan Forum for Internationalization of Universities (JFIU)

In September 2021, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) launched a university-focused cooperative project called the "Japan Forum for Internationalization of Universities" (JFIU), to develop an environment to enhance the horizontal cooperation among Japanese universities and further improve the international recognition and competitiveness of Japanese higher education towards the era of "New Normal", where exchanges are done primarily through online platforms. Most of the members of this project are universities or institutions selected for the Top Global Universities Project and/or Inter-University Exchange Project, and are engaged in activities and research of internationalization. All the member

universities actively promote internationalization country-wide. To date, 19 projects are being carried out by 18 universities. UTokyo proposed the "Building a Network of 'Strategic Partnerships' to Strengthen International Competitiveness among Japanese Universities" and plan to widely disseminate information by sharing the challenges and good practices with other universities through the enhancement of horizontal cooperation and holding of symposiums. Through this project, UTokyo plans to enhance the recognition of Strategic Partnerships and the international presence of the universities of Japan.

<https://tgu.mext.go.jp/forum/>



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

What are Strategic Partnerships?

Strategic Partnerships are expansive, mutually beneficial, and special relationships with a limited number of overseas universities that go beyond the usual academic exchange agreements by taking advantage of the strengths of UTokyo and each strategic partner university.



Aims

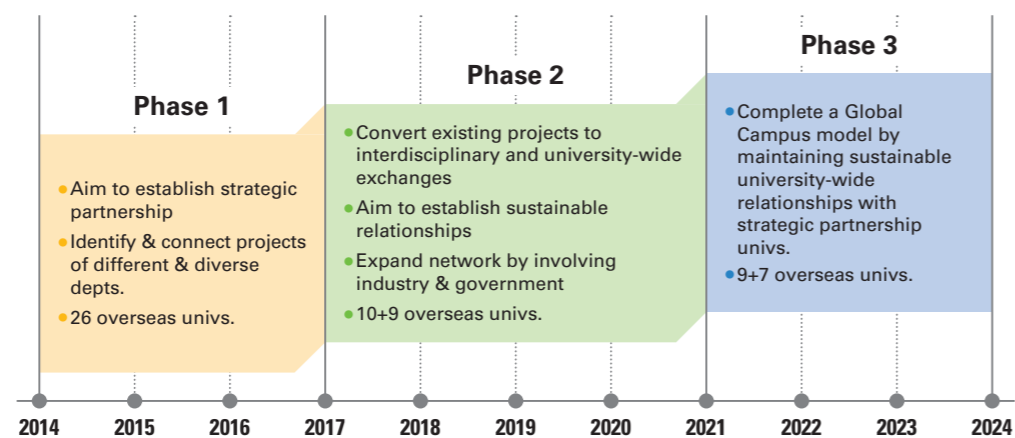
UTokyo promotes diverse and interdisciplinary exchanges in addition to international educational and research exchanges. This enables UTokyo to enhance the mobility of its students and academic and administrative staff, as well as gear UTokyo's excellent educational and research activities to a more international environment and expand UTokyo's presence globally.

Project Outline

This project has to date progressed in three phases. During Phase Two (2017-2020), the strategic partnership project developed frameworks for sustainable relationships with partner universities by connecting and converting the existing departmental projects of Phase One (2014-2016) to university-wide projects with the support of the Division for Global Campus Initiatives, and strengthening the partnerships through actions such as acquisition of external funding.

UTokyo now has strategic partnerships with the nine universities and further seven prospective strategic partner universities, with whom UTokyo aims to support further promotion of research and education exchanges under a sustainable and university-wide relationship in Phase Three (2021-2024).

Project Progress



Department List

Currently, UTokyo supports activities with the nine universities that have strategic partnership agreements and further seven prospective strategic partner universities by organizing the various departments who have links to each university into teams as below.

Primary Strategic Partnership Universities

- Australian National University (ANU)**
 - GS Sci, GS Eng, GS Econ, GS A&S, GraSPP, ERI, AORI
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ)**
 - GS Sci, GS Eng, GSALS, IST, ICEPP
- Peking University (PKU)**
 - GS Law and Politics, GS Eng, GS A&S, GS Maths Sci, GraSPP, IASA
- Princeton University**
 - *Activities occur as the Princeton-UTokyo Teaching and Research Collaboration
- Seoul National University (SNU)**
 - GS Law and Politics, GS Med, GS Eng, GSALS, GS A&S, GS Maths Sci, III/GSII, GraSPP, IIS
- Group of Stockholm**
 - Stockholm University, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Karolinska Institutet
 - GS Eng, GS Med, GSALS, GS Edu, GSFS, RCAST, IRCN, IFI, IOG
- Tsinghua University**
 - GS Eng, GS Sci, GS A&S, GSFS, III/GSII, IIS, ISSP, RCAST, IRCN, IFI, DUCR
- University of California, Berkeley (UCB)**
 - GS Maths Sci, GS Eng, GS Sci, GS A&S, GS Edu, ISS, IPMU
- University of Cambridge**
 - GS Eng, GS HS, GSPS, GS Maths Sci, GraSPP, IIS, RCAST

Prospective Strategic Partner Universities

- National Taiwan University**
 - GSALS, GS Med, GS Eng, GS Sci, GS Maths Sci, IST, AORI, ITC
- Technical University of Munich (TUM)**
 - IST, GS Eng, GS Sci, III/GSII
- The University of Chicago**
 - GS Med, GS Econ, GSPS, GraSPP, IMSUT, IASA, ICRR, ICEPP
- Group of Chile and Mexico**
 - The University of Chile, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad de Magallanes, National Autonomous University of Mexico, El Colegio de México
 - GS Sci, GS Eng, GS HS, GSALS, GS A&S, ERI, IASA, ISS, IIS
- Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNU)**
 - GS Eng, GS Sci, Hospital, IFI
- Yangon Technological University (YTU)**
 - IIS, GS Eng, III/GSII, Hospital, IFI
- Grandes Écoles, Paris**
 - École Polytechnique, ENPC, ENS Paris-Saclay, ENS-PSL, CNRS, Bordeaux University
 - GS Eng, GS A&S, GS Maths Sci, IST, IIS, RCAST

explanatory notes

GS Law and Politics	Graduate Schools for Law and Politics	GSFS	Graduate School of Frontier Sciences	ISSP	Institute for Solid State Physics
GS Med	Graduate School of Medicine	IST	Graduate School of Information Science and Technology	AORI	Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute
GS Eng	Graduate School of Engineering	III/GSII	Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies	RCAST	Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology
GS HS	Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology	GraSPP	Graduate School of Public Policy	IPMU	Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe
GS Sci	Graduate School of Science	Hospital	The University of Tokyo Hospital	IRCN	International Research Center for Neurointelligence (IRCN)
GSALS	Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences	IMSUT	Institute of Medical Science	IFI	Institute for Future Initiatives
GS Econ	Graduate School of Economics	ERI	Earthquake Research Institute	ITC	Information Technology Center
GS A&S	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences	IASA	Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia	ICEPP	International Center for Elementary Particle Physics
GS Edu	Graduate School of Education	ISS	Institute of Social Science	IOG	Institute of Gerontology
GSPS	Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences	IIS	Institute of Industrial Science	DUCR	Division of University Corporate Relations
GS Maths Sci	Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences	ICRR	Institute for Cosmic Ray Research		

Activity Highlights

Australian National University (ANU)

In Phase Two, joint lectures between ANU and UTokyo have been conducted since 2017 and in 2020, the joint lecture was held virtually and streamed live. The joint lectures provided ideas to many students with the help of faculties in many fields from both universities, as well as faculties from other institutions, NPOs and local governments about the importance of international joint research on space development, marine science and other areas which the two universities are involved. It also showed the importance of investigation from a broad perspective of economics, technology, ethics as well as the communication between society and academia, through lectures about disasters.

The main achievement of these lectures is that some of the ANU students who participated these lectures entered the graduate school of UTokyo while others joined internships.

In Phase Three, lectures or symposium in a hybrid format as well as joint research under the industry-academia-government collaboration will take place taking advantage of the small time difference between two countries.



Peking University (PKU)

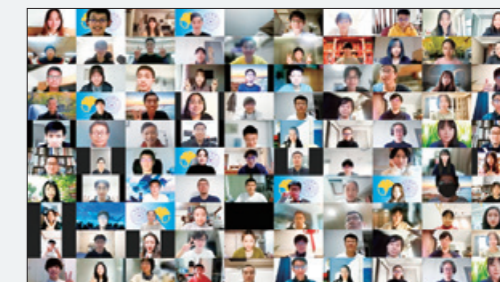
Since the conclusion of a strategic partnership agreement in 2015, nearly 100 faculty members and students have been dispatched and accepted annually between our two universities. Educational exchanges such as Campus Asia and the Summer Institute have been institutionalized as part of the curriculum to promote comprehensive educational cooperation. In addition to the joint research activities between participating departments, interdisciplinary meetings are hosted alternately between our two universities every year to encourage cross-disciplinary research exchanges on global issues. Building on the partnership between our two universities, a network has been established with other institutions in the Asia-Pacific region such as Seoul National University, IARU (International Alliance of Research Universities), and Australian National University. In the future, UTokyo will actively collaborate with companies and government agencies to strengthen research and educational exchanges among industry, academia and government.



Seoul National University (SNU)

UTokyo has a long history of exchanges with Seoul National University, and complementing the university-wide agreements and departmental agreements are offices mutually set up in 2014 to maintain strong ties. A strategic partnership agreement was signed in 2015 with the participation of nine of UTokyo's departments, and since then more than 100 faculty and students have been dispatched as well as accepted annually between our two universities. In addition to the systematic education and research exchanges by individual departments, interdisciplinary meetings have been held every year since 2017 to advance lively discussions on common issues and advanced topics.

The fact that so many human resources have been cultivated through exchanges between our two universities has proven to be a valuable asset. Symposiums aimed at strengthening the alumni network and disseminating information to the next generation take place, and new exchanges between our two universities are being arranged in keeping with the changing times.



Tsinghua University

The keynote speeches and all nine workshop sessions of the 2020 Joint Symposium were held online, and collaboration between students were carried out remotely during the "Innovative thinking and teamwork" workshop (a team activity for creative engineering). Leveraging the flexibility of remote interaction, an online language exchange event was held in March 2021 for students from UTokyo and Tsinghua University. Participants were divided into groups and exchanged views on various topics, such as universities and economy which were pre-set by the organizing students. A total of 120 students from both universities, consisting of 60 undergraduate and graduate students from each university, participated and, with interest from both parties being very high, a second event was held in October 2021. Going forward, UTokyo will seek to further strengthen the various networks we have built thus far and continue cross-disciplinary education and research exchanges for the sake of future society.



Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ)

The UTokyo-ETHZ Strategic Partnership Team holds a yearly interdisciplinary symposium covering fields as diverse as architecture, particle physics, chemistry, pharmaceutical processes, and information science and technology. The "3rd ETH Zürich-The University of Tokyo Strategic Partnership Symposium on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Innovation", held in 2019, attracted over 100 participants, including students and researchers from ETHZ.

Other activities of note include the creation of a public pavilion using new architectural techniques in collaboration with the Swiss government and Swiss and Japanese industrial partners, the enrollment of ETHZ graduates into the UTokyo Doctoral program to work on collaborative projects with the Swiss pharmaceutical industry, and a joint summer program giving students hands-on experience of state-of-the-art particle physics research and international collaboration.

UTokyo has also started discussions with the University of Zürich to expand collaborations in a wide range of fields, including space, the life sciences and the humanities.



Princeton University

Princeton University is the first university with which UTokyo entered a Strategic Partnership back in January 2013. To date, a total of 9 calls for applications have been made and 29 projects have been adopted for support, allowing cutting-edge research and student exchanges to be promoted. This project has advanced exchanges by supporting to each adopted project effectively from joint fund and through joint screening by Joint Governance Committee which consists from both universities, and enabled exchanges in broad range of new areas such as AI and mathematics, in addition to areas of Public Policy, East Asian Studies and Astrophysics where exchanges have existed already.

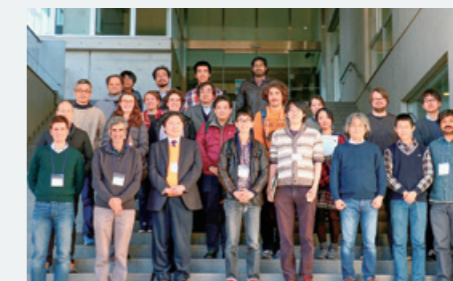
"UTokyo Days" events are periodically held at Princeton University while "Princeton Days" are held at UTokyo for more in-depth and university-wide exchanges. In March 2021, an online "2021 Princeton-UTokyo Day" took place featuring presentations on the track record of exchanges between our two universities as well as panel discussions among graduate students and young researchers participating in the exchanges between the two schools. Vigorous discussions were conducted on concrete proposals for future partnerships during the event.



Group of Stockholm

[Stockholm University](#), [KTH Royal Institute of Technology](#), [Karolinska Institutet](#)

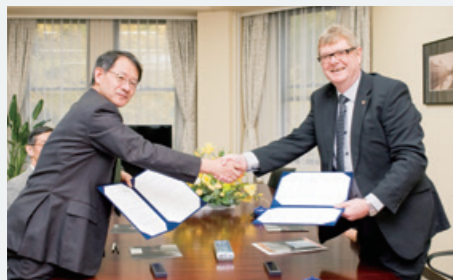
International workshops held both at the Group of Stockholm and UTokyo have taken up issues in great academic demand such as the aging of society that Sweden and Japan share in common and addressed them from a multitude of perspectives that include engineering, medicine, and social science. In both 2020 and 2021, even though we faced difficulties stemming from being unable to engage in physical exchange due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to conduct the "Online Workshop on Sustainable Development" to utilize the know-how gained from the experiences through the pandemic in both countries in research and educational exchanges as well as how to make these more sustainable. Looking ahead, UTokyo will continue to pursue this quadrilateral cooperation, and with the cooperation from the embassies of both countries, strive to contribute to developing sustainable societies through education and research.



University of California, Berkeley (UCB)

In Phase Two, through activities such as the Number Theory Research Training Group and "New Developments in Quantum Topology" workshop which were held in Berkeley in 2019, we pursued research exchanges in various fields with an emphasis on student education. In Phase Three, we will broaden the range of activities to include interdisciplinary themes based on cooperation from the participating departments. Also, with the entire team supporting the idea of "building a future image of higher education and academic research at national and public research universities", our aim is to further promote research exchanges that build on already existing exchanges between the University of Tokyo and Berkeley as its foundation. Carrying on from Phase Two, our goal is to further develop exchanges that fuse the arts and sciences and cross-disciplinary exchanges on the basis of active two-way communication.

Activity Highlights



University of Cambridge

Joint symposia have been held alternately by UTokyo and Cambridge University since 2015, and a dialogue series – “UTokyo-Cambridge Voices” – was started by the two universities in 2020. Of these, a joint symposium between the two universities on the theme of “Education in the time of Novel Coronavirus” was the first to be held as a webinar. The vice presidents and deans from both universities were among those giving presentations, followed by further deliberations during the panel discussions by sharing good practices regarding education under the pandemic.

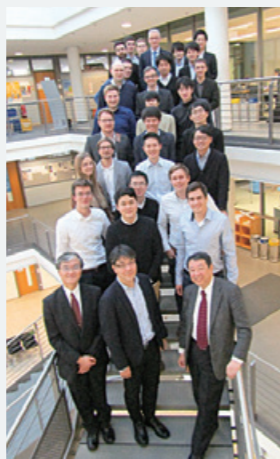
Following the joint symposium, online research sessions have been held across a broad range of the arts and sciences by the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Graduate School of Public Policy, the Graduate School of Engineering, the Institute of Industrial Science, the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology and other organizations to deepen this exchange and to strengthen the network of the partnership.

Furthermore, in 2021, The Sixth Cambridge–UTokyo Joint Symposium Series was held on the following topics: “COVID-19 Related Research and Challenge”, “Sustainable Cities”, and “Developing International Partnerships during and after the Pandemic”. The events were open to the public and garnered very positive feedback. Follow-up research workshop sessions have been organized by departments and research centers.



National Taiwan University

The Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences serves as the key coordinator for exchanges with National Taiwan University in which a total of eight departments participate. As one of the principal projects, both universities have been alternately hosting joint conferences featuring university-wide plenary sessions and more than ten department- and major-specific parallel sessions since AY2015. The plenary session of the 2019 conference, held at UTokyo on the theme of “Co-creating the Future Society in Asia”, proved quite a success, with about 250 people participating and the presidents and deans of both universities taking the stage. We have also been actively dispatching faculty members and students for research and education. Since it first became difficult in AY2020 to engage in physical exchanges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued exchanges online for the most part and strived to maintain and develop cooperative relationships.



Technical University of Munich (TUM)

Since 2018, annual workshops have been held under the name of “UTokyo-TUM Workshop for Excellence, Diversity, and Mobility” in the field of exchanges.

In 2018, a two-day workshop was held at the University of Tokyo with the theme “Society with Automobiles, Robots, and AI”, and in 2020 the workshop was held at TUM. Research exchanges have continued even under the COVID-19 situation, and a workshop was held online in 2021.

In Phase Three, we will expand the activities to include industry and government, with TUM as the hub, taking into account the post- and with-COVID-19 situation, and aim to utilize matching funds and external funding, as well as exchange and conduct education and research with an eye to the future careers of students.



The University of Chicago

The University of Chicago Team has held joint forums and student exchange workshops based on joint interdepartmental research, and has promoted cooperation among the humanities and science departments.

In 2018, a joint forum featuring lectures on big data, and student exchange workshops offered cross-disciplinary presentations on Japanese research in a broad sense. A trilateral Japanese research workshop for graduate students primarily in the liberal arts departments from the University of Chicago, UTokyo and Tohoku University was held online in 2020 and attendees enjoyed the presentations and lively discussions on Japanese research from various perspectives such as history, gender, and religious research. These workshops have been held between the University of Chicago and UTokyo since 2015, but on this occasion was jointly held with Tohoku University, which is enhancing its internationalization, in order to have greater diversity and more lively discussion this time. In Phase Three, UTokyo will be aiming to further expand these fields and hold thematic symposiums as needed alongside the UTokyo-University of Chicago joint international conferences and interdisciplinary symposiums that cross the disciplines across the arts and sciences.



Group of Chile and Mexico

[The University of Chile](#), [Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile](#), [Universidad de Magallanes](#), [National Autonomous University of Mexico](#), [El Colegio de México](#)

The team has regularly held the “Japan-Chile Academic Forum/Japan-Latin American Academic Conference” that fuses the humanities and sciences. Each of these gatherings has had about 250 participants, including presidents or rectors, faculty members and students, and has promoted academic exchanges from various perspectives across more than 10 academic fields.

In our educational program, practical training such as experiments, observations, and surveys that take place in Chile, Mexico, and Japan are included as a part of joint research for science and engineering, allowing participating students to acquire specialized knowledge and basic skills. In the “Global Praxis in Mexico” (a short-term thematic study abroad program), undergraduate students in the humanities and sciences prepare academic presentations in Spanish, visit partner universities, NGOs, farms, Japanese automobile factories, and Mayan ruins in Mexico, learn about its rich culture, history and lifestyles, and foster friendships with local students.



Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNU)

In Phase One, we launched a joint education program on analytical chemistry with Vietnam National University, Hanoi and developed a curriculum incorporating lectures and experiments. In Phase Two, we worked on putting the joint education into practice and set up an analysis laboratory at Vietnam National University with the cooperation of Japanese industry, and in AY2019 an analytical chemistry experiment program jointly devised for 300 students in the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Environmental Science were put into full swing. To train the teaching assistants (TAs) who are vital to student experiments, we invited doctoral students to conduct analytical chemistry experiments/studies at UTokyo’s Faculty of Engineering, and dispatched UTokyo students to gain educational experience as TAs. Going forward, our student exchange/education programs will be expanded beyond analytical chemistry education into other fields such as physics, medicine, biotechnology, and data science.



Yangon Technological University (YTU)

In Phase One, research focusing on urban safety and disaster management was conducted between the Institute of Industrial Science (IIS) and Yangon Technological University (YTU). In Phase Two, with the Graduate School of Engineering and Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies joining the group, we began increasing counterpart (CP) organizations and expanded the research fields. We were finally able to expand the fields to include people from areas such as analytical chemistry and journalism as well as from Yangon University and other institutions. In the activities up to Phase Two, we worked on effective activities in collaboration with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)-JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency)’s SATREPS (Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development, Principal Institutes: IIS and YTU). We have been holding joint seminars (5-6 times/year) in which faculty members and graduate students from both Japan and Yangon participated in order to improve the capacity of both research and education of the CP faculty members and graduate students. These seminars gave a great positive impact not only to the CP members but also to the graduate students of UTokyo.



Grandes Écoles, Paris

[École Polytechnique](#), [ENPC](#), [ENS Paris-Saclay](#), [ENS-PSL](#), [CNRS](#), [Bordeaux University](#)

Since April 2017, our team has been actively pursuing educational and research activities through mutual exchanges of faculty members and students across a wide range of academic disciplines.

Among these, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has conducted joint research on digital humanities, which crosses multiple conventional research fields, with ArtI@S, research unit of École normale supérieure (ENS-PSL), which has been pursuing art history research and data analysis from the perspective of fusing the arts and sciences.

The “Digital Technology and the Arts” international symposium in AY2017, a seminar for young researchers “Humanities and Digital Technology” in AY2018, and the “Formation and Circulation of Modern Art Collections: Historical Research and Utilization of Databases” international symposium in AY2019 were held at Komaba and Hongo campuses of UTokyo. Following the participation of the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, its faculty members and students presented at symposia and seminars held at ENS-PSL on the theme of digital humanities in AY2018 and AY2019. The two UTokyo graduate schools together with ENS-PSL hosted an online international symposium “AI and the Humanities: Beyond Borders and Beyond Disciplines” in AY2020 to undertake active academic exchange.

*Event titles translated into English for reference only.