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 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.
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 gain 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).

Primary Strategic Partnership Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Cambridge</th>
<th>University of Chicago</th>
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<td>Graduate School of Medicine</td>
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Prospective Strategic Partner Universities

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<tr>
<th>National Taiwan University</th>
<th>Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ)</th>
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<td>Graduate School of Science</td>
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<td>Graduate School of Engineering</td>
<td>Graduate School of Engineering</td>
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<td>Graduate School of Business Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate School of Information Science and Technology</td>
<td>Graduate School of Information Science and Technology</td>
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<td>Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies</td>
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<td>Graduate School of Social Science</td>
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<td>Graduate School of Science and Engineering</td>
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<td>Graduate School of Arts and Humanities</td>
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Explanatory Notes

- Graduate School of Law and Politics
- Graduate School of Law and Politics
- Graduate School of Medicine
- Graduate School of Medical Sciences
- Graduate School of Engineering
- Graduate School of Engineering
- Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Graduate School of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Graduate School of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Graduate School of Economics
- Graduate School of Economics
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Graduate School of Education
- Graduate School of Education
- Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences
- Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences

- Graduate School of Frontier Sciences
- Graduate School of Frontier Sciences
- Graduate School of Information Science and Technology
- Graduate School of Information Science and Technology
- Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies
- Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies
- Graduate School of Social Science
- Graduate School of Social Science
- Graduate School of Life Science
- Graduate School of Life Science
- Graduate School of Health Science
- Graduate School of Health Science
- Graduate School of Environment
- Graduate School of Environment
- Graduate School of Science and Engineering
- Graduate School of Science and Engineering
- Graduate School of Arts and Humanities
- Graduate School of Arts and Humanities
- Graduate School of Education
- Graduate School of Education
- Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences
- Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences

International Research Centers

- Institute for Solid State Physics
- Institute of Solid State Physics
- Institute for Advanced Study on Asia
- Institute for Advanced Study on Asia
- Institute for Future Initiatives
- Institute for Future Initiatives
- International Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (ICABS)
- International Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (ICABS)
- Institute of Geosciences
- Institute of Geosciences
- Division of University Corporate Relations
- Division of University Corporate Relations

Current status

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.
**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, MPOs 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 symposiums 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, LNU (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, academic 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.

**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 2018, attracted over 100 participants, including students and researchers from ETHZ.

Other activities of note include the creation of a public pension 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 Zurich 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 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.

"Princeton 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.

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**Group of Stockholm**

Stockholm University, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Karolinska Institute

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 having 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.

**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 80 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.

**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 in the basis of active two-way communication.
Maintain and develop cooperative relationships. We have continued exchanges online for the most part and strived to promote cooperation among the humanities and science departments. Since it first became difficult in AY2015, major-specific parallel sessions since AY2015. The plenary session of the coordinator for exchanges with National Taiwan University in which a total of three topics were discussed, and the participation of the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology (IIT) at UTokyo, made it possible to expand the fields to include people from areas such as analytical chemistry and nanochemistry. The team has regularly held the "Japan-Chile Academic Forum/Japan-Latin American Academic Conference" in collaboration with Universidad de Magallanes, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad de Magallanes, and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. The team has held research sessions based on joint interdepartmental research, and has promoted academic exchanges from various perspectives such as history, gender, and religious research. The workshops have been held under the name of "UTokyo-TUM Workshop for Excellence, Diversity, and Mobility" in the field of academic sessions.

**Activity Highlights**

**University of Cambridge**

Joint symposia have been held alternately at 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 the Pandemic" 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 Sciences, 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 Challenges", "Sustainable Cities", and "Developing International Partnerships during and after the Pandemic". The events opened the project to the public and garnered very positive feedback. Follow-up research workshop sessions have been organized by departments and research centers.

**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 academic exchanges. In 2018, a two-day workshop was held at the University of Tokyo with the theme "Society with Autonomous, 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 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.

**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. Those workshops have been held between the University of Chicago and UTokyo since 2015, but 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 workshops as well as UTokyo-Chicago joint international conferences and interdisciplinary symposiums that cross the disciplines across the arts and sciences.

**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.

**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 (TA) 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.

**Grupos de Chile y México**

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 focuses 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.

**Grandes Écoles, Paris**

École Polytechnique, ENPC, ÉNS 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.

**Yaginon Technological University (YTU)**

In Phase One, research focusing on urban safety and disaster management was conducted between the Institute of Industrial Science (IIS) and Yaginon Technological University (YTU). In Phase Two, with the Graduate School of Engineering and Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies joining the group, we began expanding counterpart (CP) organizations and expanded the research fields. We were mainly able to expand the fields to include people from areas such as analytical chemistry and nanotechnology as well as other universities and other institutions. In the activities up to Phase Two, we worked on effective activities in collaboration with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)-JST Utsunomiya Science and Technology Agency’s SATEPS (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 Yaginon 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.