

[Call for Applications] Call for Student Delegates to the 2026 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP) and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP)

June 1, 2026

GX Promotion Group, Management Planning Department
Center for Strategic Promotion of Green Transformation

The UNFCCC-COP and CBD-COP serve as forums for international negotiations on major global environmental issues, i.e. climate change and biodiversity respectively while also providing a platform for numerous non-governmental (non-state) actors, including corporations, local governments, NGOs, educational institutions, and civic groups, to participate and announce concrete actions.

In recent years, UTokyo has dispatched volunteer students to COPs as part of the activities of the former GX Promotion Subcommittee and the Center for Strategic Promotion of GX. To ensure the continuity and institutionalization of this initiative, we have decided to recruit students wishing to participate through an open call starting this academic year. We encourage all students to apply so that you may gain valuable insights by experiencing the processes of international negotiations and policy-making firsthand through interactions with various actors at the COP, observing meetings, and actively participating in side events.

1. Application Guidelines

(1) Destination and Number of Participants

A maximum of two students will be selected for each of the UNFCCC-COP (held annually) and the CBD-COP (held biennially; 2026 is a CBD-COP year). However, in years when both events are held, a total of up to three students will be selected. (If two or more students qualify for the UNFCCC-COP, priority will be given to the UNFCCC-COP.)

(2) Schedule

June 1, 2026 – End of June: Application period

July 2026: Selection of candidate students (participation is not yet confirmed at this stage)

Late August – September 2026: Final selection of students to be dispatched

(3) Activities During COP Participation and After Return

- During COP participation, students will engage in activities such as participating as speakers or organizing events where they are eligible to participate, while also broadening their knowledge and experience by observing international negotiations and side events. (UNFCCC delegates will participate in the GAUC¹ Youth Delegation.)
- After returning, students shall report their activities as a group.

2. Eligibility Requirements

We are seeking applicants who meet the following requirements. Please note that the Center for Strategic Promotion of GX supports student GX-related activities through GXSN² (GX Student Network), an officially recognized student organization of the Center. Applicants who are not currently members of GXSN are encouraged to consider joining GXSN at this time.

- **Language Skills:** Applicants must possess a level of English proficiency sufficient to organize events or participate as a speaker in international student events.

¹ <https://www.gauc.net/>

² <https://www.utokyo-gxsn.org/>

- Interest: Applicants must be studying climate change and biodiversity through coursework, specialized texts, and academic papers. They must also have an interest in the COP as a forum for international negotiations and possess a clear sense of purpose regarding their participation in the COP.
- Balancing Academic Commitments: For graduate students, applicants must be able to coordinate their attendance at classes with the approximately one-week-long dispatch during the session. (For undergraduate students, since self-management of this balance may be difficult, we will provide individual support as needed.)
- Other: Applicants must agree to the activities described in Section 1.(3) above and sign a pledge regarding confidentiality and the exclusion of anti-social forces, etc.

3. How to Apply

Please submit your application via email in English, clearly stating all required information.
Deadline: End of June 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

【Submission Guidelines】

Recipient: cop.gx@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Subject: Application for the COP student delegation (*Full name in English*)

Sender: Must be an email address assigned by the University of Tokyo
(Do not use private email addresses)

【Information to Include】

- Year of study and affiliation (If affiliated with a research laboratory, include the laboratory name)
- Full name
- English proficiency test scores, if available (TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, Eiken, etc.; these will not be used directly as selection criteria)
- History of or planned enrollment in courses related to climate change or biodiversity
- Desired COP to attend (UNFCCC, CBD, or both)
- Essay: Format is open. After reading a book (a paperback is acceptable) or academic paper related to international negotiations or policy (excluding those used in class), please write a one-page essay in English (Word format) describing your interest in climate change and biodiversity and what you hope to learn at the COP (Please list any specific plans you have, such as participating in events organized by groups you are already involved with or conducting interviews related to your own research.), and attach the Word file to your email.

4. Selection Process

- (1) Document screening (a preliminary selection will be conducted if there are a large number of applicants) and a 5-minute online interview in English with the selection committee. (To be scheduled separately; tentatively planned for around July)
- (2) The selection panel will consist of qualified individuals, including faculty members from the Center for Strategic Promotion of GX Strategy Promotion Center.
- (3) Students deemed eligible for dispatch based on the interview results will be listed on the candidate list for each COP. This does not constitute a final decision; the final number of participants will be determined in late August to September, taking into account the number

of UNFCCC badges (participation eligibility) and budget constraints, and participants will be selected starting from the top of the list.

- (4) When compiling the list of candidates for dispatch, if there is no significant difference in qualifications, priority will be given to “students scheduled to graduate or complete their program, followed by graduate students,” and gender balance will also be taken into consideration.
- (5) Furthermore, for those listed on the candidate list who cannot be dispatched due to quota limitations (excluding those scheduled to graduate or complete their program at the end of the fiscal year), if they express their intention to do so, they may be included on the candidate list for the following fiscal year.

5. Special Notes for FY 2026

The host locations for FY 2026 are Armenia (CBD) and Turkey (UNFCCC). Please note that depending on the security situation in the Middle East at the time of recruitment, we may decide to cancel the dispatch for safety reasons.

(End)