



ISSUE 13 | JULY 2025

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

CAREER
SUPPORT
RESOURCES
AT iCLA

iCLA STUDENTS
CHOSEN FOR
YGU STUDENT
CHALLENGE
PROGRAM

SUMMER
GALA 2025



The iCLA Obento is a newsletter dedicated to highlighting the successes of iCLA's community members, celebrating our unique backgrounds, and learning more about the members of iCLA's community. We hope you enjoy reading about iCLA's bright students and wonderful faculty members in interviews, news articles, and feature pieces.

iCLA OBENTO ARCHIVE



[www.icla.ygu.ac.jp
/en/icla-obento-
archive/](http://www.icla.ygu.ac.jp/en/icla-obento-archive/)





iCLA's Resources for a Successful Career in Japan



Thinking about working in Japan after graduation?

Did you know that the Career Support Team at iCLA offers comprehensive support to help you navigate the professional landscape in Japan, from job hunting as a student to mastering workplace etiquette? Informative sessions are held throughout the semester, with helpful tips and insights to help you land your dream job in Japan.

Proficiency in Japanese can play a key role to becoming a strong candidate. That is why the Language Acquisition Center (LAC) offers support for self-directed language learning and real-world opportunities to practice conversation skills.

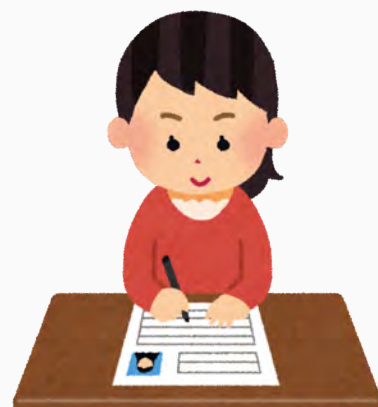
In addition, the Student Center also offers one-on-one consultations so you can receive personalized support to help you plan your post-graduation goals with confidence.

Let's explore the different options that can support your job hunt in Japan.



Working in Japan Seminars

Working in Japan is a series of seminars designed for international students who aim to work in Japan after graduation. The program covers key topics such as how job hunting works in Japan, understanding workplace culture, and building a career plan. Since the job search process may differ from that in your home country, these seminars help bridge the gap, equipping you with the knowledge and skills needed to adapt and succeed in the Japanese job market.



iCLA's Resources for a Successful Career in Japan



Workshops Offered by Fourth Valley (Professional Recruiting Company)

Whether you're seeking full-time employment after graduation, or internship opportunities as a student, having a strong resume and good business manners can make all the difference. Professional recruitment company Fourth Valley are invited to iCLA to lead workshops focused on practicing job interview strategies and interview etiquette, ensuring you're fully prepared for the job-hunting process.

“

This session was very useful because we learned how to answer interview questions. I think the session helped me to see a new perspective.
-Tasia.

”

“

I think the interview questions [we practiced] were simple but tricky. You have to come up with an answer in just a minute and I had not thought about those questions before. Now, before going to a job interview, I can be ready. -Janaki

”



Japanese Language Support at Language Acquisition Center (LAC)

Japanese language proficiency is often essential for securing employment in Japan, and many companies require a certain level of certification on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT). To support your language learning, the Language Acquisition Center offers a variety of resources, including intensive JLPT preparation sessions, speaking practice with Japanese students, and guidance for effective self-directed study.

“

Initially, I took the JLPT to measure my Japanese ability, as a rough benchmark to figure out what to do next. Then, it became a bit of a personal challenge to see how far I could go, and also an opportunity to help my job search. I decided to apply for the LAC's support, and I was glad I did so. Fukutome-sensei helped me not just to review questions and material, but also in other aspects of my Japanese learning journey as well. We did the JLPT preparations entirely in Japanese, and while I was a bit intimidated about it at first, I think it was a really good experience to also apply what I learnt from the JLPT. -Cellin



Interested in these sessions?

Keep an eye out for information sent on UNIPA.

For questions, get in touch with iCLA's Career Support Team:

icla.career@c2c.ac.jp

Proposals from iCLA Students Selected for YGU Student Challenge Program



Proposals from two iCLA students have been selected for the YGU Student Challenge Program, a long-running initiative by Yamanashi Gakuin University to encourage student leadership and creativity. Out of 28 proposals submitted by students across the departments, only three were chosen. For the first time, proposals from iCLA students have been chosen.

First-year iCLA student You received the highest score in the screening process with her proposal titled “Diversity Exhibition” (ダイバシティ展覧会).

Fourth-year iCLA student Kieren received the third highest score with his proposal titled “Show Me Kofu”.

Launched in 1995, the YGU Student Challenge Program has supported student-led initiatives for 30 years. The university provides funding for projects that contribute positively to the campus community and local area.

Each year, proposals undergo a rigorous two-stage screening process in which there is a preliminary screening and a secondary screening to decide the winning projects.

The students presented on the content, expected outcomes, potential challenges, and future impact of their proposals.

The year’s eight member panel included the President of Yamanashi Gakuin University, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration, Dean of the Faculty of Sport Science, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Nutrition, Associate Dean of International College of Liberal Arts, General Manager of the General Education Center, General Manager of the Global Learning Center, and Representative Executive Director of the drugstore chain, Kusuri no Sun Road.



Words from the Awardees from iCLA

The Diversity Exhibition aims to provide a platform for artists at iCLA to showcase their work off-campus, while also building a community that connects people through diversity and art, within the university and in the local area. You hopes that the event will highlight iCLA's diverse cultures, especially as iCLA celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

"It gives the opportunity for the community to see what kind of culture we have in iCLA," says You about the Diversity Exhibition. "Our campus is far away from the main buildings and many people who come out of the iCLA building are foreigners so it's harder for them to approach us and it's also harder for us to approach them. I thought having an event would be a nice gateway to make a community."

"It's an exhibition that's going to be fun and a place to learn about your friend's culture or other people's cultures, and a nice place to communicate with the YGU community and the Yamanashi community," explains You. "I'm also looking for members [to assist with operations], so if anyone's interested in doing finances or making art, I'm open to that."



For Kieren, the funding from the YGU Student Challenge Program means he can expand the Show Me Kofu events he has been organizing.

He plans to book a new venue, Kofu Kameyaza, a beautiful building designed like an Edo-period playhouse and located in the heart of the city. It was built as a place people could connect with and experience the culture and history of Kofu.



"Show Me Kofu is an event that aims to bring together a lot of Kofu's creatives. When I started going to local events for networking purposes, I noticed two things," Kieren explains. "Hardly anyone would show up because the posters had quite poor reach, but the quality of the performance was really good. I thought, if there are so many performers who are looking for bigger opportunities to perform, then perhaps we could bring them all together in a place that's convenient for students."

The upcoming Show Me Kofu is on September 13th. He is also excited to introduce an award show where guests can vote for their favorite performers. Kieren says, "If you've been looking for more things to do in Kofu, that's what we're here for, is to 'Show Me Kofu'. If you have work to submit, please sign up. This is your platform. This is your stage. Think of it like the Gala off-campus. September 13th, we'll be waiting for you."



Semester-End Spring Gala Celebrates the Art and Talent in the iCLA Community

iCLA's much-anticipated event of the semester, the Spring Gala 2025 was held on July 11th!

The iCLA building came alive as students, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate the Spring Semester with an evening combining music, art, and culture. The theme of this year's Spring Gala was "Carnival", and the iCLA building was decorated in bold colors. Vibrant flowers and carnival streamers adorned the hallways, bringing out the festive atmosphere.

Kicking off the festivities was a Mask Workshop held in the main lobby, where attendees could craft their own DIY carnival mask. The lobby buzzed with fun and creativity while visitors enjoyed working on their unique masks with imaginative designs.

The exhibition officially opened at 17:30, inviting guests to peruse the gallery of works spanning the first and second floors. The exhibition showcased works that were created throughout the semester in courses such as Painting and Sculpting, History of Art, Graphic Design, and Graduation Research Project. Each piece featured individuality, with mediums ranging from acrylic on paper, oil on canvas, crochet, and sumi ink on washi paper to digital art, painted carp streamers, and mixed media 3D models.

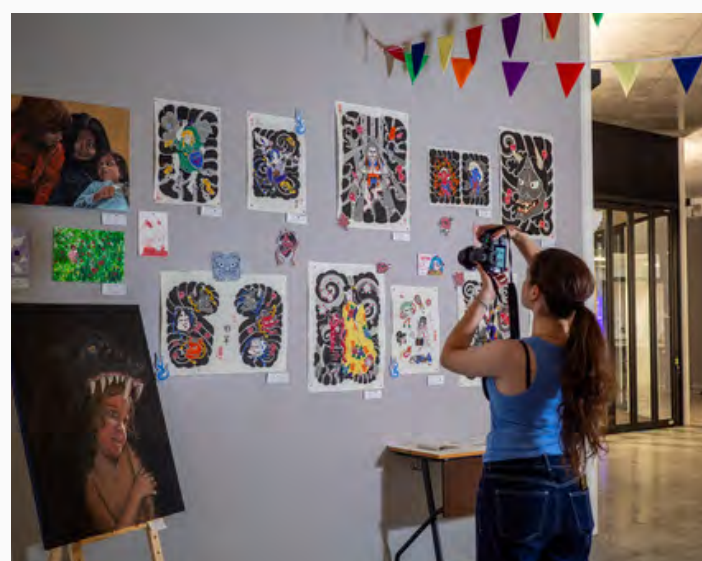




Semester-End Spring Gala Celebrates the Art and Talent in the iCLA Community

In the evening, the second-floor lobby was transformed into a lively stage for a series of outstanding live performances.

The program included tap dancing, instrumental performances on the French horn and the Kazakh Dombra, band acts, singing, and rapping. The iCLA community came together on the stage, with students, faculty, and staff joining in to celebrate the semester.



The Gala Committee also worked hard to provide delicious refreshments, including homemade vegetarian and meat chili with chips and drinks, which guests enjoyed while admiring the exhibition.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated students on the Gala Committee, Dr. Mike Blow, Dr. Sam Stocker, and administrative staff who have worked hard to bring together a magical evening and successful Gala event!





SOCIAL MEDIA FEATURES



Let's look back at some photos from
Spring Semester 2025!



Studying Japanese? Get some awesome tips
from Student Ambassador Camila.



See more photos of the performances at the
Spring Gala.



Check out more photos of the exhibition at the
Spring Gala.

Add iCLA on LinkedIn!



+ Follow us:

Click +Follow on our page to get the latest updates about what is going on at iCLA and stay connected!



Add iCLA to your Profile

Add International College of Liberal Arts in your Profile's 'Education' section to show that you're an iCLA graduate or current student



[linkedin.com/school/icla-ygu/](https://www.linkedin.com/school/icla-ygu/)