

Crisis in the Humanities:

Reconsidering the Studies of the Humanities in the Age of Technology and Innovation

Theme

The theme of this year's Japan Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum is "The Crisis in the Humanities: Reconsidering the Studies of the Humanities in the Age of Technology and Innovation." Current global issues such as the rapid increase of the world's population, climate change, limited natural resources, and inequity between the haves and the have-nots can be causes of conflict between nations or individuals. We often look to technological innovations to solve such global issues, and large sums of public and private funds are allocated to research in the fields of natural sciences and technology, which have the potential for life-changing breakthroughs that benefit everyone.

On the contrary, skepticism toward the Humanities is on the rise. Post-secondary research in philosophy, literature, history, and other fields of the humanities have faced cuts in funding as the outcomes of their studies are often regarded as less practical than those of natural sciences, technology, or engineering. Is it really true that research in the Humanities is less useful and does not have much to offer our world?

1. Why is this phenomenon occurring both in Canada and Japan?
2. What factors make the majority of people think that the humanities are not so important?
3. Do the Humanities really face a crisis, or are they just changing their form and meaning?
4. Can scientific thinking or innovative ideas be realized without the Humanities?
5. Why do we need to study the subjects of humanities for world peace and security?
6. What differences are there between the humanities and other fields (natural and social sciences, engineering, medicine, etc.) in terms of the ways they contribute to solving global issues?
7. What can scholars and students in all disciplines do together to solve global issues?

At the forum, which includes lectures from experts, discussion, group work, etc., Japanese and Canadian students will spend a week together working on this theme in order to investigate the roles and outcomes of the studies of the Humanities in our time, especially in the context of Japanese and Canadian cultures and societies.

This form is sponsored by the following organizations.

- Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund
- Japan-Canada Academic Consortium
- The Japan Foundation

Description

With mixed-teams involving students from both Canadian and Japanese universities, the forum consists of the following:

- Expert Lectures & discussions
- Group work based on different topics
- Pre-assignment to prepare for group work
- Field trips around Tokyo
- Final presentations at Canadian Embassy in Tokyo
- Final individual report

This program is open to anyone with a general interest in the theme of “Crisis in the Humanities”. We welcome applications from students in all academic disciplines beyond humanities. Since all activities will be conducted in English, no prior knowledge of the Japanese language is necessary.

Special Lecture: Professor Takashi Inoguchi(Ph.D. from MIT). Professor of J. F. Oberlin University, former president for University of Niigata Prefecture.

- President (2000-2002), Councilor (2012-present) of Japan Association of International Relations
- Council Member of International Political Science Association (IPSA),USA, 1999-2000
- Founding Member of Japan Politics Studies Association, 2003-2008
- Chairman of Asian Consortium for Political Research, Japan, 2004-present

(後日引用予定)

Place

J. F. Oberlin University 3758 Tokiwamachi Machidashi Tokyo, Japan 194-0294
TEL: +81-(0)52-789-5111

Number of Participants

Japan – 14
Canada – 14
Total – 28

Schedule (tentative)

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| 2018/2/16 | Friday | Canadian students depart |
| 2018/2/17 | Saturday | Canadian and Japanese students arrive, Welcome |
| 2018/2/18 | Sunday | Orientation, Lectures |
| 2018/2/19 | Monday | Lectures, Group work |
| 2018/2/20 | Tuesday | Fieldwork |
| 2018/2/21 | Wednesday | Group work, Preparation for presentation |
| 2018/2/22 | Thursday | Group work, Preparation for presentation |
| 2018/2/23 | Friday | Presentations, Closing Ceremony |
| 2018/2/24 | Saturday | Field trip |
| 2018/2/25 | Sunday | Students depart |

Conditions for Selection of Participants

Undergraduate students or graduate students enrolled in the JACAC member institutions are eligible to apply, though priority will be given to senior undergraduate students. Successful applicants should demonstrate a strong academic performance, interest and experiences in extra-curricular activities, and be a good team-player. They must fulfill all of the following requirements:

- Approximately 14 participants each from Japan and Canada will be selected. (* As a rule, we recommend one participant and one alternate from each JACAC member institution.
- Proficient enough in English to prepare materials, participate in discussions, and deliver presentations
- Highly motivated students who possess a strong interest in the applicable year's forum theme. Prior to the forum, participants should prepare themselves for fruitful discussion by researching on a specific topic of their interest relevant to the main theme
- Students with previous year's academic score above JASSO GPA 2.0 will be prioritized.

How to calculate GPA for JASSO

$$\text{JASSO GPA} = \frac{(\text{No. of Credits for GP3}) \times 3 + (\text{No. of Credits for GP2}) \times 2 + (\text{No. of Credits for GP1}) \times 1 + (\text{No. of Credits for GP0}) \times 0}{\text{Total number of Restered Credits}}$$

| Home Institution Grading system | Evaluation Scale | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Pattern 1 | | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor |
| Pattern 2 | | A | B | C | F |
| Pattern 3 | | 100~80 points | 79~70 points | 69~60 points | 59~ points |
| Pattern 4 | 100~90points | 89~80 points | 79~70 points | 69~60 points | 59~ points |
| Pattern 5 | S | A | B | C | F |
| Pattern 6 | A | B | C | D | F |
| Grade Points (GP) | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

- B
Be able to participate in all the planned activities of the forum
- No withdrawal will be allowed after participants are selected. Students must fully understand the requirements and the details of the program before submitting their applications.
- No extended stay in Japan beyond the duration of the forum is allowed.

Final Evaluation

Your performance will be graded based on the following criteria. Your final grades will be forwarded to your organization after the submission of your final report.

- Pre-assignment 10%
- Attendance & participation 20%
- Group project 50%
- Final report 20%

Costs

Participation Fee: Free*

*Canadian students are required to pay 80,000 Yen for international air fee prior to the program. However this amount will be balanced out from the scholarship which will be provided on the first day (80,000 Yen per head)

The Japan-Canada Student Forum will bear the costs for :

- Transportation to Tokyo and return
 - Participants from Canada: Transportation expenses from the nearest international airport to Narita or Haneda International Airport and transportation expenses from Narita or Haneda International Airport and the nearest international airport to where they embarked.
 - Participants from Japan: Transportation expenses (express train) to and from home city to Tokyo.
- Accommodation expenses in Japan
 - Accommodation around JFOU Machida campus
 - Accommodation in Tokyo

Participants are responsible for the following expenses

- Meals
- Local ground transportation expenses (home-airport return trip and Tokyo transits),
- Incidental expenses at accommodation
- Passport and Visa acquisition fees
- Travel insurance

How to Apply

Canadian Students

Canadian students should submit the following to their own universities.

- Complete application form
- Original copy of academic transcript(s)
- Statement of Intent; details include:

- 500 words maximum
- Please be sure to include the following points:
- How will this program benefit you in your current academic program
- Comment on any experience working in a team

Japanese Students

- Application Deadline: Please check your own university's schedule (Application will start from the end of September)
- Japanese Students should submit the following to their own universities
- Complete application form
- Original copy of academic transcript(s)

Method of Selection

Review of documents by Japan-Canada Student Forum Committee

Deadline

Canada: Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Japan: please contact your home institution

Note

We thank all applicants for their interests; however, only those individuals selected for participation in the Forum will be contacted. The winners will be announced in early November by the Prince Takamado Japan Centre, University of Alberta.