

International Joint Summer Seminar, Japan 2026

Sustainable Development of Cities and Communities: Thriving Locally in a Global Age

1. Program Outline

The University of Niigata Prefecture (UNP) is pleased to invite your students to the *International Joint Summer Seminar 2026* entitled *Sustainable Development of Cities and Communities: Thriving Locally in a Global Age* to be held in collaboration with the local municipalities of Niigata Prefecture on **August 5-8, 2026**.

Many cities and communities all over the world are facing unprecedented challenges due to globalization. The opponents of globalization often point to its negative impacts to cities and communities, such as depopulation, environmental degradation, increased income polarization, job loss, and most importantly the destruction of traditional local and regional industries due to foreign competition.

Nevertheless, globalization opens many new opportunities for cities and communities as well. For instance, proponents of globalization point to the fact that local and regional companies capable of meeting global standards and effectively tapping into the global economy networks can maintain their competitive advantages. Thus, regions, cities and communities that are successful in effectively linking their large and small enterprises into the global economy are likely to be more sustainable in the future.

The focus of the international summer seminar is on sustainable regional and local development of cities and communities in a global age. The seminar aims to provide participating students with extraordinary opportunities to **discover first-hand the culture, traditions and industries of Niigata Prefecture** and **have intercultural exchange** with UNP students and local communities.

During the summer seminar program students will enhance their understanding on the challenges of regional and local development in Niigata Prefecture and in their respective countries and communities. **Through various seminar activities such as special lectures, field trips, and group work, students will share their ideas and nurture local competence on how to solve complex problems and invigorate regional and local communities.** These activities will contribute to cross-cultural interaction among the students, expand their horizons, and enhance their potential as future leaders in the global arena.

2. Tentative Schedule * This is a tentative schedule. The details will be determined later.

Date	Activity	Place
Aug 4 (Tue)	Arrival in Niigata Check-in at the hotel 19:00 Orientation	Niigata City
Aug 5 (Wed)	08:30 Hotel → UNP 09:00 Opening ceremony and orientation 09:30 Self-introduction and exchange among participating students 10:45 Special Lecture 12:00 Lunch 13:00 Departure from UNP 13:00-17:00 Field Trip in Niigata City 17:30 Arrival at the Hotel	UNP + Niigata city
Aug 6 (Thu)	08:30 Hotel → UNP 09:00 Departure from UNP 10:00-12:00 Field Trip in Niigata Prefecture 12:15 Lunch 13:30-17:00 Field Trip in Niigata Prefecture 17:30 UNP → Hotel	In Niigata Prefecture
Aug 7 (Fri)	08:30 Hotel → UNP 09:00-12:00 Group work at UNP Group task: <i>How can Niigata make use of its resources for revitalization?</i> 12:00 Lunch 13:00-17:00 Group work at UNP 17:00 UNP → Hotel	UNP
Aug 8 (Sat)	08:30 Hotel check out → UNP 09:00 Preparation for Final Group Presentation 09:30 Final Group Presentations 11:40 Closing and Awarding Ceremony, Certificate Award, Photo Opportunity 13:00 UNP → Hotel End of program	UNP



3. Languages

Japanese and English.

Group work, orientation and daily instructions on activities will be provided in English.

Field trips will be delivered in Japanese, however interpretation in English may be provided depending on the participants' Japanese proficiency.

The participants may use English or Japanese for their student's exchange activities.

4. Participation Eligibility

Regular and international students enrolled at UNP, and students (both undergraduate and graduate level) from the following UNP partner universities:

Heilongjiang University (China), University of International Business and Economics (China), Shanghai International Studies University (China), The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, China), Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages (Taiwan), Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (South Korea), Cyber Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (South Korea), Pacific National University (Russia), All Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii Community Colleges (the United States), University of Hawaii at Manoa (the United States), Duquesne University (the United States), Saint Mary's University (Canada), University of Ottawa (Canada), Dalhousie University (Canada), Ondokuz Mayıs University (Turkey), Bogor Agricultural University (Indonesia), University of the Philippines Los Baños (Philippines), De La Salle University (Philippines), Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), Mongolian University of Science and Technology (Mongolia), National University of Mongolia (Mongolia)

Participating universities are entitled to send **up to 5 students (Depending on the situation, we will accept more than 5 students)**

Selection of the applicants is entirely up to each university.

Please notify International Exchange Center of UNP on the selection result by email: [**gyoumu@unii.ac.jp**](mailto:gyoumu@unii.ac.jp)

5. Costs

The University of Niigata Prefecture will bear all the relevant costs of transportation and field trips as well as cultural exchanges during the program for all participants.

Accommodation in Niigata during the program (**August 4-7, 2026**) will be provided for the participants who come from outside of Niigata. The travel expenses to and from Niigata and meals during the program have to be covered by the participants themselves.

6. Certificate of Participation

All participants will receive certificate of participation after their completion of the summer seminar program.

7. Application and Contact

Applicants should submit their application forms to their home university.

For details of the program, please contact the following email: [**gyoumu@unii.ac.jp**](mailto:gyoumu@unii.ac.jp)
(Language support is available in English or Japanese)

8. Emergency contact

Weekdays 8:30 - 17:15 International Exchange Center +81-25-368-8373