The logo features a teal-colored arch above the text "TP-Bridge" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font.

TUFS Training Program for Trans-Pacific Bridge Persons
(FY 2023 Inter-University Exchange Project)



What is TP-Bridge?



The “TUFS Training Program for Trans-Pacific Bridge Persons (TP-Bridge)” is an exchange program consisting of 3 components: online, on-campus and on-site programs between the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) and 11 partner universities in the United States, the Philippines, and South Korea.

This program aims to cultivate “bridge builders” who can overcome differences in nationality, language, or culture. “TP-bridge builders” can acquire new ideas in a diverse environment, while incorporating an understanding of sustainability, and coordinate and share these ideas with people who have different values or ways of thinking.

Background and Purpose

In the Asia-Pacific region today, there are many barriers to creating a sustainable future for the area, from both an international and a domestic perspective. These include security concerns and the significant disparities between the rich and poor. To resolve this difficult situation, it is necessary to train and produce human resources who can not only create and accumulate specialized knowledge in individual academic and practical fields, but also comprehensively grasp the reality in which various subjects and problems are intricately intertwined, and who can adopt a flexible approach that is not bound by the status quo and have the ability to coordinate knowledge across a range of different fields. This program comprehensively covers such educational themes. Students from Japan, the US, the Philippines, and South Korea, all with different majors and cultural backgrounds, will study the current situation in the Asia-Pacific region, incorporating diverse ideas and knowledge in this interdisciplinary educational program that also includes GX and DX fields, and develop skills in creative coordination to bridge differences in language, culture, and their major fields of study to find solutions to current issues.



Program Outline

This program is primarily aimed at undergraduate students from overseas partner universities in the US and the Philippines who are studying at TUFS, and our undergraduate students who will study at these partner universities. Eligible students will participate in a three-part learning program: (1) Online Program, (2) On-Campus Program, and (3) On-site Program.

3 Capabilities of <<Bridge Builders>>

In an era of globalization and increasing uncertainty, skills in coordinating and developing collaboration among diverse people with different cultures and ways of thinking, based on solid language skills and conceptual capabilities are a prerequisite for leadership, in any occupation or field. Through this program, students will develop the ability to “build bridges” from three perspectives: geographic, academic, and temporal.

- **Geographic Bridge Builders** : Use their IT literacy, language proficiency, and multicultural awareness to overcome spatial, linguistic, and cultural distances.
- **Academic Bridge Builders** : Have a wide range of interests and perspectives across the humanities and sciences, allowing them to incorporate knowledge and opinions into their thinking from areas outside their major.
- **Temporal Bridge Builders** : Have the conceptual ability to imagine or create a sustainable future built on the past and present.

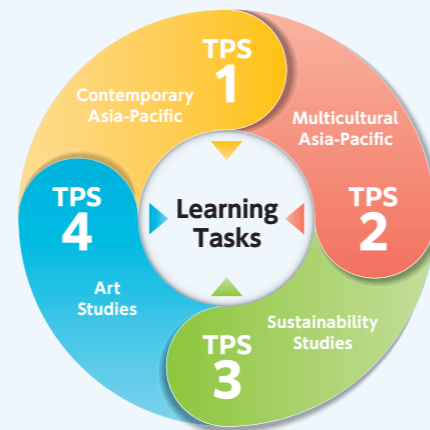
Online Program

The Online Program is also used as preparatory education for the On-Campus Program. In addition to Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), which links classes at TUFS and its overseas partner universities online, this program creates educational materials on Japanese language, culture, and society and makes these available through Japan Virtual Campus (JV-Campus) and other means to help international students prepare individually ahead of their arrival in Japan.

In addition, to alleviate the psychological anxiety of studying abroad, we have established a system that allows international students to communicate with TUFS students through live and on-demand online tools as part of their preparations for traveling to Japan. To promote smooth exchange between students and ensure the quality of independent co-learning initiatives, the university gathers those students participating in the program together and holds a kick-off workshop or similar event to launch the activities.

On-Campus Program

To cultivate the ability to synthesize and integrate the knowledge of different major fields of study and to derive new ideas from them, TUFS offers a systematic interdisciplinary program that consists of four areas of Trans-Pacific Studies (TPS):



Each course is offered as a regular course by the university with credits awarded for partner universities overseas and runs during the period from April to mid-July when students from the US and the Philippines are enrolled at TUFS. Students from Japan, the US, and the Philippines are required to take at least one course in each of the four areas (TPS1 to TPS4).

On-Site Program

● Internship in creating subtitles for SDG-related foreign films

From April to July, students participate in an internship at Japan Visualmedia Translation Academy Co., Ltd (JVTA) to work on creating subtitles for SDG-related foreign films. Students not only complement each other's language skills but also bring together knowledge accumulated through their major fields of study and combine this towards the common theme of a sustainable future.

● Study tour in cooperation with the Institute for Japanese Studies, Seoul National University

At the end of July, we conduct an overseas study tour in Seoul, South Korea, in cooperation with the Institute for Japanese Studies (IJS), Seoul National University. This program involves field trips to sites where national and ethnic divisions that originated in the Cold War continue to this day, to help students develop a perspective that links the past with the present. Students visit the front lines of the Cold War divide and then take related courses at IJS with specialized researchers. Following the completion of this series of activities, the students from Japan, the US, and the Philippines who have participated in all the programs give a presentation on what they have learned throughout the program at a presentation session. Junior Fellows of IJS from Seoul National University also participate in the tours, courses, and the presentation session held during the overseas study tour, with academic dialog taking place on crossover points for interdisciplinary and international perspectives.

Example Course

	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Japanese Students			Online Program		Short-term exchange		TPS program (TUFS)	Internship		Korean Study Tour	Short-term exchange		Long-term exchange
US/Philippine Students			Online Program				TPS program (TUFS)	Internship		Korean Study Tour			



This three-part program aims to cultivate people who can bridge three types of gaps.

3 Programs

Online program

We will prepare students for exchanges and on-campus programs by utilizing COIL style education and online materials.

On-campus program

Students will study across four areas of Trans-Pacific Studies (TPS1 : Contemporary Asia-Pacific, TPS2 : Multicultural Asia-Pacific, TPS3 : Sustainability studies, TPS4 : Art studies).

On-site program

We aim to complement language proficiency and share ideas and awareness of issues through our online internships and the Korean Study Tour/Presentation Session in which Junior Fellows at the Japan Research Institute of Seoul University will also participate.



3 Capabilities of «Bridge Builders»

Geographic Bridge Builders

Use their IT literacy, language proficiency, and multicultural awareness to overcome spatial, linguistic, and cultural distances.

Academic Bridge Builders

Have a wide range of interests and perspectives across the humanities and sciences, allowing them to incorporate knowledge and opinions into their thinking from areas outside their major.

Temporal Bridge Builders

Have the conceptual ability to imagine or create a sustainable future built on the past and present.

Participating Universities

■ USA

San Diego State University / California State University, Northridge / San Francisco State University / University of Hawai'i at Mānoa / University of Nebraska at Kearney / University of California, Riverside / University of California, Irvine

■ Philippines

University of the Philippines / Ateneo de Manila University / De La Salle University-Manila

■ Korea : Seoul National University

Collaborating University

■ Japan : The University of Electro-Communications



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Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

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※Further details will be announced on the website.

