

14th Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum

February 21~March 1, 2023

at

Josai International University, Japan

Canada and Japan: Towards 100 years of diplomatic relations

The JACAC Student Forum will be held for the last time in its current format in February 2023. For this final forum, we will be looking back at the history of relations between Canada and Japan, as well as looking forward to how the two countries can strengthen relations in the future. We have four academic sessions that will look at specific key themes such as societal changes, gender issues, aspects of volunteering and community involvement, and the environment. Each session will be composed of a lecture and a workshop where students will actively discuss and share ideas on these four broad themes. We are also pleased to offer a selection of cultural events, exchange activities and a tour of Tokyo.

February 23	Session 1: Looking ahead after 100 years of diplomatic relations: Societal Challenges in Canada and Japan
Professor Angel Figueroa	
In this session, students will learn some key points in the history of Canada-Japan relations while investigating societal challenges relevant to both countries. Students participate by note-taking during two brief lectures, by discussions before and after the lectures, and by workshopping through collaborative tasks to consolidate the learning objectives of the session. Some required reading and advance preparation will be necessary. Topics to be covered and compared between both countries include approaches to immigration, issues affecting economy, and challenges related to climate change.	

February 23	Session 2: Gender In/Equality and Political Participation
Professor Tricia Fermin	
Political engagement is a crucial element in healthy democratic systems, particularly as a means of attaining and preserving equality. This session looks into how the social construction and performance of gender either promote or limit political engagement and, consequently, the rights and opportunities given to certain groups of people in a society. Comparing cases from Canada and Japan, students will examine ways women and minorities are marginalized in the political arena, as well as reflect on what can be done to better advocate equality among genders.	

February 24	Session 1: Literature and Environment
Professor Koichi Haga	
<p>This session will help students understand the geological conditions of the Japanese archipelago in relation to the history of its cultural production and find out how Japanese literary writings sublimate the sudden encounter with natural disaster and people's irresolvable emotion into their works. First, we are going to have an overview of the relationship between natural disasters, particularly earthquakes, and disaster literature. Then, some of the important literary works that depicted or imagined the Great East Japan Disaster will be examined, including a contemporary Canadian novel.</p>	

February 24	Session 2: Cultural Aspects of Volunteering
Professor Yuka Kawano and Professor Brett Collins	
<p>This session will help students understand culturally specific volunteer activities related to Canada and Japan. Students from both countries will share their knowledge and experience of volunteering and community involvement, and how service to others can help shape academic careers. Students will share types of activities (e.g., social actions, such as food bank work) specific to their country. Students will discuss how to identify social issues and possible solutions through volunteering. We hope that this exchange will further motivate students to continue their community involvement throughout their lives.</p>	

Activities

Before the start of the program and during the forum, participants will be working in groups and will be engaged in the following.

1. Pre-course assignments to prepare for the academic sessions.
2. Lectures and discussions
3. Workshop activities
4. Final group presentations at the Embassy of Canada in Tokyo
5. Cultural events and exchange activities
6. Tokyo Tour
7. Final individual report

Schedule

Date		Accommodation
February 20	Participants leave Canada	
February 21	PM: Orientation at Josai International University, Togane Campus	Chiba
February 22	Cultural events and exchange activities	Chiba
February 23	Academic Sessions 1 and 2	Chiba
February 24	Academic Sessions 3 and 4	Chiba
February 25	Transfer to Tokyo Tokyo Tour	Tokyo
February 26	Group work (Tokyo Kioicho Campus)	Tokyo
February 27	<u>AM</u> : Special lecture by Matt Fraser, Counsellor, Government of Canada <u>PM</u> : Final Presentations and reception at the Embassy of Canada	Tokyo
February 28	Cultural activities & tours	Tokyo
March 1	Depart Tokyo	

Schedule subject to change

Issues and questions

Here are some of the issues and questions that participants will be reflecting upon during the forum.

1. In an age when the difference between natural and anthropogenic disasters is not self-evident, how will our culture and aesthetics be transformed?
2. What kind of relationship can we find between the geophysical environment and literary production in Japan?
3. How would a disaster like 3/11 affect literary expression?
4. What are some key landmarks in Canada-Japan relations over the last 100 years?
5. What are similar and different societal challenges that Canada and Japan will face in the near future?
6. What kinds of activities can people engage in to influence government and public policies?

7. What are the challenges that hinder women and minorities' political participation and representation in decision-making and governance?
8. What can be done to help advance women's political participation and representation, and achieve gender equality?
9. What are common volunteer activities for students?
10. What specifically did you do as a volunteer? How did the activity change your attitude towards others?

Organizing Members

Professor Aya Fujiwara, Director, Prince Takamado Japan Centre,
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Professor Maria Shiguemi Ichiyama, Dean, Faculty of International
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