

Global Leadership Program 2025

Hosted by Sophia University

August 4-9, 2025

Program Concept Note

A. Background

The Global Leadership Program is an annual program conducted by Jesuit universities in Asia. In 2025, it will be hosted by Sophia University, Japan. The GLP program aims to provide opportunities for students from member universities to discuss global issues in their respective countries. In addition, the program also seeks to prepare students to become leaders with global insight. Participating students from member colleges will get the knowledge and abilities necessary to grow into young leaders in their local communities. Participants will interact with marginalized groups in society and seek to understand how young people may help address and relate relevant and similar issues in global contexts.

B. Pre-session Activities

Before their departure, students from each university are expected to meet several times to prepare and anticipate the activities and programs they are going to get involved in GLP 2025. The students as teams need to study the schedule and programs. They prepare the university presentation, a presentation about the theme “Education and Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Development”, and a cultural performance. The pre-session activities/meetings are intended to introduce the themes to the students and to familiarise the students to the conceptual frames of the program. By the themes, the participating students are expected to nourish Ignatian leadership characteristics. They are invited to respond to global changes, help marginalized people and live the tensions as global citizens.

C. Group’s University Presentations

There will be two presentations by each university participating in GLP 2025 besides the presentation by theme. The presentations serve different aims and purposes.

1. August 4, 2025: prior to coming to Japan, each university prepares a 20-30-min. presentation for the session on August 4 , to introduce their university in brief and to explain a general overview of the main theme of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) focused in each country. Each group also includes in their presentation relevant examples of ESD practices from their home countries, which are related to one or more of the three subthemes.
2. August 8, 2025: in this session, at the end of the program, the participants are required to make a presentation from each of universities (20-30 min. each) on an educational program for sustainable development, which each groups designs making use of what they have learned and experienced over the course of the five days. Each group can propose its own educational program, freely choosing the

educational level and learners that the program targets, objectives and activities of the program.

D. Fieldwork and Presentation

Two fieldwork activities have been designed for the program. By the lectures, the participants are introduced to the theme and the subthemes. The participants will confirm their understanding and insights from the lectures in the fieldwork.

1. August 5, 2025: JICA is a Japanese government agency established to contribute to the economic and social development of developing regions and other countries and to promote international cooperation. Participants will deepen their understanding of the three sub-themes through workshops on issues facing the world (cross-cultural understanding, poverty, inequality, etc.) with JICA staff.
2. August 6, 2025: Students will be pre-grouped according to the three subtopics. Each Group will visit a particular thematic site. After the visit, each group will be required to make a presentation on their experiences and takeaways from the visit.
 - a. ESD in Basic Education: Ina Gakuen Junior High School in Saitama Prefecture
 - b. Inclusive Education: Educational activities for children with cultural diversity in Kanagawa Prefecture
 - c. Higher Education: United Nations Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

E. Japanese traditional culture experiences (Tea ceremony)

Participants will visit the *Kioi-tei*, a historic house located on campus, and take a tour of the facility. After the tour, they will watch a demonstration of the Japanese tea ceremony and enjoy a bowl of matcha in an authentic Japanese tatami room. During the demonstration, we will explain how tea culture developed throughout Japan's history and how the practice of *Chado* (the Way of Tea) contributes to relaxation and mindfulness within the context of modern society. Tea culture exists in various forms across many Asian countries, each with its own unique customs and traditions related to tea. Following the tea ceremony demonstration, participants will move to a different room. We will set up tables where each university will share their tea and sweets. Participants will move to different tables, exchanging and learning about their unique tea cultures.

F. Cultural Night Performance (August 4)

Prior to coming to Japan, every university prepares a performance for about 15 minutes that relates to their home culture, to be performed at the welcome party on August 4. Folk games, songs, and traditional dances, etc can all be a part of it. This cultural performance session is expected to highlight the sense of participating in the global community.