

**Illinois College and Ritsumeikan University:
Forging New Collaborations on Environment and Sustainability**

Timeline for Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE) Implementation Grant and Related Activities

Year and Month	Grant Activity Designation	Description of Activity
2014 - November	Activity 1	<p>Illinois College President Barbara Farley and Professor Robert Koepp travel to Japan to broaden Illinois College’s network of relationships with Ritsumeikan University and Kanazawa University.</p> <p>This was the first visit to Japan for President Farley, who took the helm of the College in 2013, while Professor Koepp was one of the leaders of Illinois College’s decades-lo</p>
- February	N/A	<p>Intercultural Exchange Program takes place.</p> <p>Annually, a group of about 25 Ritsumeikan University students visit the Illinois College campus for four weeks to learn about U.S. culture and to study English. They stay with a local host family for two weeks and then move to a college residence hall for the last two weeks of their stay. Many Illinois College students are involved in this program and volunteer in their classrooms as pronunciation leaders and writing partners. Illinois College students also serve as hosts for the Ritsumeikan students. Students in the Illinois College Japanese language classes have collaboration classes with IEP Ritsumeikan students once a week to learn each other’s culture and language.</p>

<p>2015 - Summer</p>	<p>Activity 3</p>	<p>Illinois College conducts Curriculum Development Group seminar.</p> <p>Participating Environmental Studies and science faculty members developed new courses or course components. Five faculty members enrolled in this seminar to develop course materials to bring Japanese environmental issues into existing courses. Course modules developed by faculty in the 2015 group included a guided discussion of population stratification and heritability and gene-environment interaction in the aging Japanese population, and resources to facilitate students' comparisons of attitudes towards bicycle use by U.S. and Japanese college students. Additionally, the two faculty leaders of the Group Research Trip (Activity 8) found great value in the group as a framework for their background research into potential topics for student LIASE participants.</p>
<p>2015 - August</p>	<p>Activity 9</p>	<p>Ritsumeikan University Graduate Student Interns are in residence at Illinois College, under the direction of Illinois College faculty.</p> <p>In 2015, Illinois College hosted a Biology student from the Nishizawa lab in the College of Life Sciences at Ritsumeikan, and a Computer Science student. Our faculty worked with the graduate students in advance of their arrival and supervised their successful four-week research experiences on</p>

2016 - February	N/A	<p>Intercultural Exchange Program takes place.</p> <p>A group of about 25 Ritsumeikan University students visited the Illinois College campus for four weeks to learn about U.S. culture and to study English.</p>
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2016 - March	Activity 7	<p>The second International Symposium on Science, Sustainability and Teaching is held at Illinois College.</p> <p>Symposium presenters included 10 faculty from Illinois College, Earlham College, Kanazawa University, Ritsumeikan University and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, as well as 10 international students.</p>
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Decreasing the Populations of Nonindigenous Species in Lake Biwa, Japan.
The Impact of Human Activity on Lake Biwa and the Need for Water Management.
Green Transportation: Bicycles in Japan.

While in Japan, the students finalized their environmental research through direct observation and individual meetings with professors from Ritsumeikan Biwako-Kusatsu Campus (BKC). The students also engaged in collaborative research with Japanese students while at BKC. All research culminated with two presentations at BKC. Illinois College Students presented the collaborative research results with their Ritsumeikan BKC student partners during an in-class presentation. Illinois College then joined a BKC poster session and presented their environmental research results with the posters they brought to Japan.

2016 - Summer

N/A

Illinois College initiates the Intensive English Language program, which offers students the chance to improve their English language skills.

Intensive English Language program sessions range from seven weeks to one year. If students seek to

<p>2017 - May</p>	<p>Activity 10</p>	<p>One Illinois College student conducts a 10-week Research Abroad appointment at Ritsumeikan University, under the joint direction of Illinois College and Ritsumeikan faculty.</p> <p>The student was placed in a laboratory at the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the College of Life Sciences at Ritsumeikan University. The student, a Biochemistry major, took a one-credit research course in the spring semester with Illinois College faculty, as well as a one-credit pre-departure course to prepare for living in Japan. She also studied the research and publications of her Ritsumeikan faculty supervisor. Upon returning to Illinois College, she presented her work at a research convocation.</p> <p>Illinois College faculty accompanied this student to the lab in May and was in contact with the student and the Ritsumeikan faculty by email throughout the internship to discuss progress and any concerns.</p>
<p>2017 - May</p>	<p>Activities 2 and 4</p>	<p>Illinois College faculty travel to Ritsumeikan University.</p> <p>Three Illinois College science faculty and our Director of the Intensive English Language Program traveled to Ritsumeikan for one week to establish and strengthen connections with scientists in Ritsumeikan University labs and scout locations for future Research Abroad internships. Faculty met with key Ritsumeikan administrators, and discussed the ongoing connections between Illinois College and Ritsumeikan and additional opportunities for interactions and exchanges for students and faculty from both institutions.</p>
<p>2017 - May</p>	<p>Activity 11</p>	<p>Students conduct intensive language learning internships in Japan.</p> <p>Two Illinois College students completed the four-week Intensive Japanese Language Track program at Ritsumeikan University, which serves students at a variety of language proficiency levels. The students then conducted internships to apply their enhanced language skills.</p>

<p>2017 - May</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>2017 commencement ceremony focuses on Ritsumeikan University-Illinois College partnership.</p> <p>During Illinois College’s 2017 commencement ceremony, President Barbara Farley conferred an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree on Ritsumeikan University President Mikio Yoshida. Officials from Ritsumeikan came to Illinois College to accept the honor. The commencement speaker was Dr. Robert Koepp, who led the formation of this important, three-decade partnership.</p>
<p>2017 - June</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>President Barbara Farley leads delegation to Japan to celebrate Ritsumeikan University-Illinois College partnership.</p> <p>Illinois College conducted a 30th Anniversary Views of Japan tour that brought 32 Illinois College community members, Illinois College President Farley, and College trustees to Japan for three weeks. Ritsumeikan University hosted a celebration of the three-decade partnership.</p>
<p>2017 - September</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Ritsumeikan University environmen</p>

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2017-18 Academic Year	Activity 12	Illinois College students conduct capstone research in Japanese. Japanese-fluent Illinois College faculty (outside their discipline) will review student papers researched in Japanese. Students who study in Japan and attain fluency are expected to conduct some research in Japanese during their senior capstone seminar.
2017-18 Academic Year	Activity 5	Illinois College faculty learn about Japanese language and culture. Illinois College environmental studies and science faculty will participate in Japanese language professional development training to deepen their knowledge and skills.
2018 - February	N/A	Intercultural Exchange Program takes place. About 25 Ritsumeikan University students will visit the Illinois College campus for four weeks to learn about U.S. culture and to study English.
2018 - March	Activity 7	International Symposium on Science, Sustainability and Teaching. The third International Symposium on Science, Sustainability and Teaching will be held at Illinois College. The Symposium will be free and open to the public.
2018 - May	Activities 2 and 4	Illinois College faculty travel to Ritsumeikan University. Illinois College science faculty will travel to Ritsumeikan for one week to establish or strengthen connections with scientists in Ritsumeikan University labs and scout locations for future Research Abroad internships.
2018 - May	Activity 10	Illinois College students conduct a 10-week Research Abroad appointment at Ritsumeikan University, under the joint direction of Illinois College and Ritsumeikan faculty.

Up to three Illinois College students will conduct 10-week Research Abroad appointments in labs at Ritsumeikan University, under the joint direction of Illinois College and Ritsumeikan faculty.

2018 - May	Activity 11	<p>Students conduct intensive language learning internships in Japan.</p> <p>Two Illinois College students will complete the four-week Intensive Japanese Language Track program at Ritsumeikan University, which serves students at a variety of language proficiency levels. The students will then conduct four-week internships in Japan to apply their enhanced language skills.</p>
2018 - June	Activity 8	<p>Student-faculty research on environmental issues is conducted in Japan.</p> <p>Student-Faculty Research on Environmental Issues will be conducted in Japan. Eight Illinois College students in International Studies 462: Environmental Issues in Japan, mentored and led by two faculty members, will conduct a three-week summer research trip to Japan. t T r i 8</p>

2018 - Summer

2018-19 Academic Year	Activity 5	Illinois College faculty learn about Japanese language and culture. Illinois College environmental studies and science faculty will participate in Japanese language professional development training to deepen their knowledge and skills.
2019 - February	N/A	Intercultural Exchange Program takes place. About 25 Ritsumeikan University students will visit the Illinois College campus for four weeks to learn about U.S. culture and to study English.