

Final Report on Academic Activities as an Exchange Professor

Host Institution: Kobe Gakuin University, Japan

Department: Department of Economics

Position: Exchange Professor

Period of Appointment: April 1 – August 31, 2026

1. Overview

I was invited to serve as an Exchange Professor in the Department of Economics at Kobe Gakuin University from April 1 to August 31, 2026. During this period, I engaged in teaching, student advising and interaction, comparative research, academic seminars, and scholarly exchanges with faculty members.

The primary objectives of my appointment were to contribute to the internationalization of education at Kobe Gakuin University, provide students with an international perspective through English-medium instruction, promote a better understanding of the Korean economy and industries, and explore opportunities for academic and research collaboration between Korea and Japan.

The major activities and outcomes of my appointment are summarized below.

2. Teaching Activities

During the appointment period, I taught two courses in English:

- Practical Skills Development
- Special Lecture in Economics

In these courses, I sought to provide students majoring in Economics with a systematic understanding of the fundamental concepts and principles of

business administration and marketing. Particular emphasis was placed on the relationship between economics and business administration, as well as on the complementary roles of the two disciplines in understanding markets, firms, consumers, and business strategies.

Through lectures, discussions, and practical examples, students were encouraged to apply theoretical concepts to real-world business situations and to consider how economic conditions influence corporate decision-making and marketing strategies.

In the Special Lecture in Economics course, I introduced students to major recent developments and issues concerning the Korean economy and key industries. The lectures covered important characteristics of Korea's economic and industrial development as well as selected cases involving major Korean companies.

By comparing Korea and Japan, students were encouraged to examine similarities and differences in economic structures, industrial development, business environments, and corporate strategies, thereby developing a broader and more comparative perspective on the two economies.

3. Enhancement of Students' Global Competencies

A major educational objective of the courses was to enhance students' **global communication and intercultural competencies**.

Both courses were conducted in English, providing students with an opportunity to learn academic and professional content in an international language environment. The use of English was intended not merely as a means of delivering course content, but also as an educational tool for developing students' ability to understand, express, discuss, and communicate ideas in an international setting.

Students were encouraged to participate actively in class discussions and to express their own opinions in English. I believe that this approach provided valuable experience for students who may pursue further study, employment, or professional activities in increasingly internationalized environments.

4. Q&A, Assignments, and Student Presentations

Throughout the courses, considerable emphasis was placed on active student participation.

Regular **question-and-answer sessions and classroom discussions** were conducted to encourage students to think critically, respond to questions, and articulate their opinions. These activities also provided opportunities to identify students' levels of understanding and to encourage more active and independent learning.

Students were also assigned individual or group assignments and presentations. Through these activities, students were required to collect and organize relevant information, analyze issues, formulate their own arguments, and communicate their conclusions to an audience.

These activities were designed to strengthen students' **critical thinking, analytical ability, presentation skills, and persuasive communication competencies**, which are important capabilities for both academic and professional development.

5. Comparative Research on Korean and Japanese University Students

In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I conducted a comparative study of Korean and Japanese university students.

The study focused on such areas as:

- Attitudes and values
- University life and student experiences
- Consumer behavior
- Career aspirations and employment preferences
- Future plans and expectations

The findings and observations from this research were subsequently shared and discussed with faculty members in the Department of Economics through an academic seminar.

The seminar provided a valuable opportunity to examine Korean and Japanese university students from a **cross-cultural and comparative perspective**. The discussions focused not only on differences between students in the two countries but also on the common challenges and changing characteristics faced by younger generations in both societies.

This academic exchange contributed to a deeper mutual understanding of the social, cultural, and educational environments surrounding university students in Korea and Japan.

6. Student Interaction and Academic Advising

I also made efforts to communicate with students beyond formal classroom activities.

Through informal conversations and individual interactions, I was able to gain a better understanding of Japanese university students' perspectives on university life, academic experiences, career choices, employment, and future plans.

At the same time, these interactions enabled me to share perspectives based on my academic and professional experience and to provide students with advice concerning their studies, career development, and future planning.

I believe that such informal academic and personal interactions contributed to strengthening mutual understanding between Korean and Japanese students and faculty members and complemented the formal educational activities conducted in the classroom.

7. Academic Exchange with Faculty Members

During my appointment, I actively participated in academic discussions and exchanges with faculty members of Kobe Gakuin University.

Our discussions covered a broad range of contemporary academic and social issues, including:

- Comparative studies of Korean and Japanese universities and university students
- The changing role of higher education
- The impact of artificial intelligence on universities, education, and society
- Technological and industrial transformation
- The development of the robotics industry
- The emerging concept of **Physical AI**
- Future directions for interdisciplinary and international research

These discussions provided an opportunity to exchange academic perspectives and experiences and to identify areas of common research interest.

In particular, discussions concerning artificial intelligence, robotics, and Physical AI highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary research connecting economics, business administration, technology, and industry. We also explored possibilities for future **joint research, academic seminars, faculty exchanges, and other forms of institutional collaboration** between Korea and Japan.

8. Overall Outcomes and Significance

My appointment as an Exchange Professor at Kobe Gakuin University provided meaningful opportunities to contribute to education and academic exchange in several areas.

First, through English–medium instruction, I was able to contribute to the development of students' international communication and intercultural competencies.

Second, the courses provided students majoring in Economics with an opportunity to understand business administration and marketing and to examine the relationship between economic theory and business practice.

Third, through lectures on the Korean economy and industries, students were able to broaden their understanding of Korea and to compare the economic and industrial environments of Korea and Japan.

Fourth, the comparative study and seminar concerning Korean and Japanese university students contributed to mutual understanding from a cross-cultural perspective and provided a basis for further academic discussion.

Finally, exchanges with faculty members created opportunities to identify common academic interests and to explore potential areas for future international and interdisciplinary collaboration.

9. Conclusion

Overall, I consider my appointment as an Exchange Professor at Kobe Gakuin University to have been a valuable and meaningful academic experience. It provided opportunities not only to contribute to the education and development of students but also to strengthen academic and cultural understanding between Korea and Japan.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the President, faculty members, administrative staff, and students of Kobe Gakuin University for their support, cooperation, and hospitality throughout my appointment.

I sincerely hope that the academic relationships and mutual understanding developed during this period will serve as a foundation for continued **educational exchange, comparative research, faculty collaboration, and joint academic activities between Kobe Gakuin University and universities in Korea.**

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