

e-START Program Application Guidelines (First Semester, AY 2026)

1. Program Objectives and Overview

① Objectives

The e-START Program is a new form of international collaborative learning in which Hiroshima University students work together with students from overseas universities and institutions on various academic tasks. Through online collaboration using foreign languages and communication with people from diverse cultural backgrounds, the program aims to cultivate the competencies and mindset required of globally minded individuals.

② Overview

The program is primarily conducted during the end-of-academic-year vacation period. However, depending on the course, activities may begin prior to the vacation period. Participants will attend lectures provided by Hiroshima University faculty members and faculty from partner overseas universities. These lectures will cover course-specific themes as well as basic knowledge about the countries and regions where the partner universities are located. Following the lectures, students from Hiroshima University and partner overseas universities will form mixed groups to engage in intercultural exchange and work collaboratively on assigned tasks. The program concludes with group presentations. The e-START Program is offered as a general education course:

“Online International Collaborative Practice (e-START) A” (1 credit), or

“Online International Collaborative Practice (e-START) B” (2 credits).

2. Courses Offered

In the first semester of Academic Year 2026, courses will be offered as listed in the attached document “Course List.” For detailed information on each course, please refer to the attached “Course Details.”

3. Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Students	Undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled at Hiroshima University (Students on a leave of absence are not eligible.) *Please note that eligible academic years vary by course. Be sure to check the attached “Course List” and “Course Details.”
Eligible Schools/ Graduate Schools	All schools and graduate schools
Number of Participants	The number of participants varies by course. Please check the attached “Course List” and “Course Details.”
Other Common Requirements	Applicants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Have a strong interest in international exchange and study abroad, with clear objectives and a strong motivation for self-improvement● Possess a basic level of English proficiency and demonstrate a willingness and proactive attitude toward communicating in English or other foreign

	<p>languages (Specific English scores are not required, but please submit them for reference if available.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be able to cooperate with program evaluation and promotional activities after completing the program
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4. Course-Specific Participation Requirements and Selection Considerations

- For applicants wishing to participate in the START / START+ Program, Number of classes attended of the e-START Program will be considered as a bonus point during selection (Applicable to Courses 1,2 and 3)
- Students wishing to participate in the AGILE Workshop are required to take the e-START Program. (Applicable to Courses 2 and 3) Please note that even if a student is not selected for the AGILE Workshop, withdrawal from the e-START Program will not be permitted.

5. Participation Fee

There is no participation fee for the e-START Program. However, any costs related to purchasing textbooks or reference materials designated by the instructors, as well as data communication expenses required for participation, must be borne by the participating students.

6. Application Procedures

Students wishing to apply must complete the online application form and submit the required documents **by the application deadline for each course.**

Application Form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/eEjN2D4hMk>

***If you wish to participate in the START/START+ Program in the first semester of AY 2026, please ensure that your e-START Program application is also completed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 8, which is the application deadline for the START/START+ Program.**

(Important Notes on Application)

- Submission of an English proficiency test score or certificate is required. Please submit one of the following: TOEIC IP administered at Hiroshima University (online version acceptable), TOEIC Listening & Reading Test taken individually or other English proficiency tests (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, EIKEN)

*If you do not have any of these scores or certificates, please indicate this in the score entry field on the application form.

- After submitting your application, be sure to check “Send me a copy of my responses” and confirm the contents of the confirmation email you receive. If any information is incorrect, please resubmit the application. If multiple applications are submitted by the same applicant, only the most recent submission will be considered valid.

7. Selection and Notification of Results

- Participant selection will be conducted on a course-by-course basis.

- Selection methods vary depending on the course. In addition to document screening based on application materials and academic records at Hiroshima University, some courses may include interviews or other independent selection processes.
- Selection results (acceptance or non-acceptance) will be notified via the Hiroshima University email address within approximately one week after the application deadline for each course. Further communication will be conducted via Microsoft Teams and university email. Please check your email daily.
- As a general rule, withdrawal after the course application deadline is not permitted. Please carefully review the course content and schedule before applying. If you wish to cancel your application, contact the Global Exchange Group before the application deadline for the course.

8. Course Registration and Grading

- After selection results are announced, the Global Exchange Group will register accepted students for either “Online International Collaborative Practice (e-START) A” (1 credit), or “Online International Collaborative Practice (e-START) B” (2 credits). Students do not need to register for the course themselves.
- Depending on the school, there may be limits on the number of credits that can be registered. In addition, whether intensive courses or courses registered without credit are included in this limit varies by school. Please check your school’s Student Handbook or contact your school support office for details. START/START+ participants and students applying for the AGILE Workshop are, in principle, required to register for the course with credit.
- Once course registration is completed, changes or cancellations will not be permitted under any circumstances.
- Evaluation will be based on overall performance, including participation attitude in lectures and intercultural training, engagement and contribution to group presentations, and submitted assignments.
- Credit recognition is scheduled for late October 2026.

9. Program Schedule

Period	Description
By the application deadline set for each course	Application period for your preferred course
After each course application deadline	Participant selection (conducted by course)
Approximately one week after each deadline	Notification of selected participants
Course implementation period	Each Course (Lectures, Group Work, Group Presentations) *The detailed study schedule for each course will be provided by the course instructor.

10. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I have participated in the e-START Program or the START/START+ Program before. Can I apply again?

A. Yes. You may apply regardless of your past participation.

Q. How many times can I participate in the e-START Program?

A. You may participate once per semester, up to a maximum of six times.

This means you may earn up to 6 credits (e-START A) or 12 credits (e-START B) in total.

Q. Can I apply if I have already reached the maximum number of credits allowed for registration?

A. Since the course is treated as an intensive course, it may be excluded from the credit registration limit. However, policies vary by faculty. Please consult your faculty's student support office.

11. Contact Information

- For general inquiries about the e-START Program and application procedures:

Global Exchange Group (Student Plaza, 2nd Floor)

Email: kokusai-ryugaku@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp

Tel: 082-424-7737

- For inquiries regarding course content:

Please contact the instructor in charge of each course. Contact details are provided in the Course Details.