



Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network Magazine

ACROSS

December 1, 2023

No. 4



Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network Magazine

ACROSS

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Towards a New Nitobe College

TANI Hirofumi

Assistant to the Vice-Principal in the Graduate Education Course and Educational Support Manager, Nitobe College, Hokkaido University



In May 2023, Japan downgraded the legal status of COVID-19 to Class 5, the same category as the seasonal flu. Since then, social activities, including people's movements, have gradually returned to pre-pandemic levels. Various events are now being held without restrictions, and international tourists are once again flooding the streets. I feel that society is finally regaining its vigor. University classes and events have also returned to normal, and the number of enrollments in Nitobe College, which dropped during the pandemic, is now on the rise. Of course, the change in classification under the infectious disease law does not mean that the spread of COVID-19 has been fully contained. As of August, high concentrations of COVID-19 RNA were still being detected through wastewater monitoring by Sapporo City. We may have reached a point where coexistence with the virus has become the norm. In any case, we must remain vigilant. Meanwhile, recent studies are revealing that the genes of the virus have been incorporated into the host genome, contributing to its evolution. Perhaps we are standing on the cusp of humanity's next evolutionary leap.

In 2013, Nitobe College was launched for undergraduate students. Then, in 2015, Nitobe School was established for graduate students. In 2019, the undergraduate and graduate programs were integrated into a renewed Nitobe College. This interdisciplinary education program has been operated thus far with funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) 's Top Global University Project. However, as this financial backing runs out at the end of the academic year 2023, Nitobe College will begin to operate independently from the academic year starting in April 2024. Seizing this opportunity, Nitobe College aims to reinvent itself. Based on extensive discussions in working groups led by Vice-Principal YUHAZU Kazuyori and building on Nitobe College's track record so far, we have established a new framework focused on further development and qualitative improvement of our program. Specifically, the existing Foundation and Honors Programs (each with Undergraduate and Graduate Education Courses) will be restructured into an Honors Program (HP; offering undergraduate and graduate curricula). In place of the Foundation Program will be a Pre-Program open to all students (PP; also offering undergraduate and graduate curricula). As a general rule, students will be required to have completed the Pre-Program Courses relevant to their curriculum to be admitted into the Honors Program. Meanwhile, students who complete the HP undergraduate curriculum above a certain level of distinction will be exempt from taking the graduate PP courses. This will further enhance continuity from undergraduate to graduate levels. For details, please visit the Nitobe College website or pick up our new brochure.

While the framework and system may change, Nitobe College's educational philosophy remains constant. Through the Pre-Program Courses, which are open to all students, we can spread the instruction and learning of Nitobe College to more students. In the Honors Program, designed for Nitobe College students, we will introduce an advanced level of instruction and learning. I am confident that this will nurture outstanding talent from Hokkaido University who can help robustly guide society towards a brighter future. I ask all readers of this magazine to keep a close eye on the new Nitobe College and sincerely ask for your continued support and cooperation in our endeavors.

Continue learning in order to solve societal issues

SAHBOUN-JIN Akari

Global Research Department, Macromill, Inc.

March 2020: Completed the Undergraduate Education Course.
September 2020: Completed the Graduate Education Course (Foundation Program).



After earning a degree from the Graduate School of Humanities and Human Sciences at Hokkaido University, I started working as a researcher in the Global Research Department of Macromill, Inc. I am responsible for market research in Japan for foreign-affiliated companies and overseas research for Japanese firms, supporting the entry of foreign companies into the Japanese market and the launch of Japanese companies into overseas markets.

In retrospect, the problem-solving skills and teamwork skills I gained at Nitobe College through various programs have been particularly beneficial in my current career. Problem-solving skills come into play when I consider how to conduct research to solve the business challenges faced by our clients. Meanwhile, teamwork skills prove valuable when I collaborate with colleagues from diverse backgrounds to complete a project. I attribute the development of these two skills to my step-by-step participation in the First Step Program (FSP), international internship, international volunteer work, and exchange program during my student days. I am profoundly grateful to the teachers and Fellows who guided me towards these programs. Moving forward, I intend to continue honing these skills to become a business professional who can contribute to solving societal issues.

Think globally, act locally.

MAFUNE Sota

FoundingBase Co., Ltd.

March 2020: Completed the Undergraduate Education Course.



Hoping to change my introverted ways from my high school days, I immersed myself in campus and external events every week in my college days, aiming to lead a highly motivated college life. Consequently, for better or worse, I found myself not quite fitting into the normal student life and came to realize the vastness of the world and my own sense of helplessness. Among those experiences, the foremost achievement was meeting someone I still admire. Conversely, my greatest regret is not taking time to indulge in any silliness or frivolity. In order to avoid a job search solely focused on social contribution, I took a leave of absence in the latter half of my senior year and interned at a local organization. Watching people dedicated to fulfilling visions that stir empathy, I, once obsessed with the notion of "global," earnestly wished to build a world starting from my immediate surroundings, approximately within a radius of five meters.

Currently, I am engaged in city promotion initiatives in the small city of Bibai. This involves diligently working to create a fulfilling life by conversing about the future with local residents and turning these discussions into tangible outcomes, one by one. Nevertheless, as I advance towards becoming the person I aspire to be and shaping the world I envision, I truly feel a sense of joy. I believe that any place can be good. I hope people can feel the vastness and excitement of the world by striving to live the life they want and to create the world they envision. Please join me in enjoying this challenging yet rewarding game we call life.

An unforeseen career path forged at Nitobe School

HARIGAYA Motoki

for Startups, Inc.
March 2018: Completed Nitobe School (Graduate) (Foundation Program).



I earned a degree from the Graduate School of Agriculture at Hokkaido University and currently support startup companies at Startups, Inc.

I researched sediment disasters as a student, but now find myself dedicated to a different specialty. I feel that one of the catalysts for this shift in my career path was my experience at Nitobe School.

I joined Nitobe School after coming across it in syllabi while in graduate school. Having spent most of my elementary and junior high school years in the Netherlands, I initially joined the program seeking an opportunity to once again speak English. As I participated in the program and worked on teams with people of various nationalities, I began aspiring to work in an international setting in the future.

My aspiration led me to join the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) after graduation, where I worked in Tokyo and Hokkaido to support the overseas expansion of small- and medium-sized enterprises and to collaborate with international institutions in fostering an environment conducive to local innovation. Subsequently, driven by a desire to make a greater contribution to Japan's innovation, I daringly made a career shift to Startups, Inc.

I still have a long way to go, but I attribute my ability to follow this career path to my experience at Nitobe School.

Diversity breeds possibility

KOIDE Hiroaki

Research and Development Group, Hitachi, Ltd.

September 2019: Completed the Graduate Education Course (Foundation Program).
September 2020: Completed the Graduate Education Course (Honors Program).



Since earning a master's degree at the Hokkaido University Graduate School of Engineering, I have been engaged in the research and development of decarbonization technologies as a researcher at Hitachi, Ltd. As a corporate researcher, my work is not limited to research activities but extends to various tasks including the practical application of new technologies and the acquisition of intellectual property. Looking back, I see how pivotal my time at Nitobe College has been in shaping my career.

At Nitobe College, I took part in practice-oriented lectures where I worked on teams composed of members with different areas of expertise and nationalities to solve problems. The diversity within these teams fostered a variety of perspectives, yet early on, different debate styles among the members made it challenging to engage in productive discussions. As I alternated between lectures and practical exercises, however, I developed the mindset and behavior necessary to enable every member to contribute and maximize our team's collective strength. Although my learning journey continues, I believe I made significant strides through such exercises.

Moreover, the connections I made at Nitobe College are also valuable assets. I received, and continue to receive, inspiration from interactions with my classmates, Mentors, and teachers, both before and after graduation. I encourage everyone to make the most of the Nitobe College network for a fruitful student life.



Education Program: Undergraduate Education Course

Global Foundation Course

The Global Foundation Course, a compulsory course in the Foundation Program, is designed for provisionally enrolled first- and second-year students. The first half of this course, offered in the spring term, is on International Understanding and Study Abroad, and consists of a series of omnibus lectures given by instructors with extensive international experience. The second half of the course titled Leadership and Teamwork is offered in the summer term and centers on groupwork. In the summer term of academic year 2022, we collaborated with the Sapporo City Development Policy Bureau, whose representatives assisted in presenting issues, facilitated Q&A sessions, and provided feedback on final student presentations. Additionally, as was the case last year, tutors supported the classes, thereby providing opportunities for Nitobe College students to establish both vertical and horizontal connections. Looking ahead, we are committed to further refining the course content to more closely align it with the College's educational goals.



Career Development Seminar

This course helps students cultivate the ability to build their own futures. Here, Nitobe College Fellows serve as partners for students, while students serve as partners for other students. In academic year 2022, a two-day overnight training session was held at Napal (Neiparu?) Fukagawa, a Hokkaido youth center for experiences and activities. Held for the first time in three years, this session was more effective in strengthening the rapport between students and Fellows and facilitating lively discussions than previous online or on-campus sessions. This experience reaffirmed the indispensable nature of overnight training sessions in fostering in-depth discussions on career paths away from everyday settings.



Fellow Seminar

This compulsory course for Foundation Program students offers a small-group, problem-solving exercise format under the guidance of Nitobe College Fellows. In academic year 2022, seven themes were selected, and students explored contemporary societal issues in groups. During the 2023 presentation symposium, core tutors who supported the Seminar, provided comments about each group's presentation alongside the lead Fellow. We will continue to improve our seminars to make them more fulfilling with the support of our tutors and support staff.



Dialog (Taiwa) Program

This program offers students opportunities to interact one-on-one with Nitobe College Fellows to improve their leadership capabilities. In academic year 2022, sessions were held primarily online with some sessions also taking place in person on campus. This year, a number of students had their first chance to engage with Fellows face-to-face. These encounters served as a vivid reminder of the appeal of direct, in-person dialog. As academic year 2023 will be the final year of this program, we plan to offer other opportunities for in-person dialog, with the goal of facilitating even more fulfilling conversations.

2022 Dialog (Taiwa) Program Fellows

ISHIKAWA Yuichi, Fellow	INOUE Shuhei, Fellow	OHTSUKA Eiko, Fellow	KAYANO Satoru, Fellow	SASAKI Ryouko, Fellow
SHISAI Satoko, Fellow	SHIBUE Takao, Fellow	SHIMADA Motoo, Fellow	HINO Mineko, Fellow	MORI Junko, Fellow

Overseas Study

Overseas Study is mandatory for Nitobe College students and aims to develop their global perspectives. Nitobe College awards credits in Overseas Study to students who have successfully completed a Student Exchange Program, a Short-Term Overseas Special Program, an International Internship Program, or a short-term overseas study program registered as a specialized subject by an undergraduate school, among other programs. In academic year 2022, most students had the opportunity to go abroad, with the exception of a few programs at Hokkaido University's overseas partner institutions that were conducted exclusively online. Meanwhile, by continuing to offer online courses for short-term study abroad programs, we provided opportunities for students who find it difficult to study abroad for a long period of time to earn the necessary credits for Overseas Study programs while simultaneously enhancing their motivation to participate in international education.

Education Program: Graduate Education Course

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the classes and activities of the Graduate Education Course were conducted online or in a hybrid format during academic years 2020 and 2021. In 2022, with comprehensive infection control measures in place, we were able to resume face-to-face classes. Additionally, we combined online and in-person methods as necessary, employing online tools like the Miro online whiteboard for team discussions. Among the classes and events conducted in the last academic year, this section introduces key subjects in the Foundation Program and the Honors Program, as well as the Mentor Forum.

■ Foundation I, Foundation II: Basics and Practice of Team-based Learning (subjects in the Foundation Program)

In Foundation I, we primarily focused on classes that develop teamwork skills, grounded in the fundamental elements of the “3+1 competencies,” such as creative thinking, critical thinking, and leadership. Students also deepened their understanding of the 3+1 competencies, which they would need to leverage the specialized skills nurtured in the Graduate Education Course to identify and solve problems.

In Foundation II, students explored professional ethics in the first two sessions. In subsequent sessions, they delved into the fundamentals of project management (PM) to ensure effective and efficient collaboration within teams. Building on the knowledge and skills acquired in Foundation I, as well as on the principles of professional ethics, they practically implemented these lessons (skills?) in two projects, thereby deepening their mastery of PM. The first project in the summer term has been a part of the curriculum since 2021; its title is “How Can We Solve an Urban Brown Bear Problem in Sapporo?” Students were tasked with devising innovative solutions to the frequent sightings of brown bears in Sapporo’s residential areas. The topic attracted significant interest from the students, as it not only represents a pressing local issue but also aligns with the SDGs for coexistence between humans and nature. The second project during the summer term has been a part of the curriculum since 2018; its title is “Campus for Camp: A Refugee Response Plan in Sapporo.” It envisions opening the Hokkaido University campus as a refugee camp. Each team chose one of three sub-topics—housing, meals, or education—and established final objectives to be accomplished over a three-year period. Students then crafted detailed plans employing project management principles to achieve these objectives. For the second project in the winter term, we introduced a new topic titled “Promote Hokkaido to the World.” Each team was tasked with developing unique strategies to promote Hokkaido globally. They also employed project management principles to outline processes for the implementation of these strategies. In the final class, each team presented their achievements. For the winter term of 2022, we invited Mr. NAKAJIMA Tetsu, a Mentor, to provide feedback on these presentations. He also delivered a lecture based on his own experiences utilizing project management principles in the workplace.



■ Advanced I, Advanced II: Problem Finding & Problem Solving (subjects in the Honors Program)

In Advanced I, SDGs were established as the overarching theme for the spring and fall terms, with students working to address related challenges. The spring term focused on the theme “Some Solutions for Food Security,” examining food issues faced by humans and exploring potential solutions. In the fall term, groups of students selected SDGs that aligned with their own interests and considered solutions and business ideas related to their chosen goals.

In Advanced II, a single theme was selected for each term (summer term: “Challenges for Foreign Workers in Hokkaido”; winter term: “Diversity in Society—As One Can Grow from Difference”). Students analyzed data collected through fieldwork, including various interview surveys, and worked to identify issues that should be considered in materializing an inclusive society. During the summer term, we invited business professionals working on the frontlines of their fields to serve as quasi-mentors in classes. They provided discussion topics, offered advice on groupwork and fieldwork, and gave feedback on presentations. This approach proved highly beneficial for students, as it enabled them to identify issues related to the theme of the summer term while drawing on examples of businesses that support the employment of foreign workers in local areas.

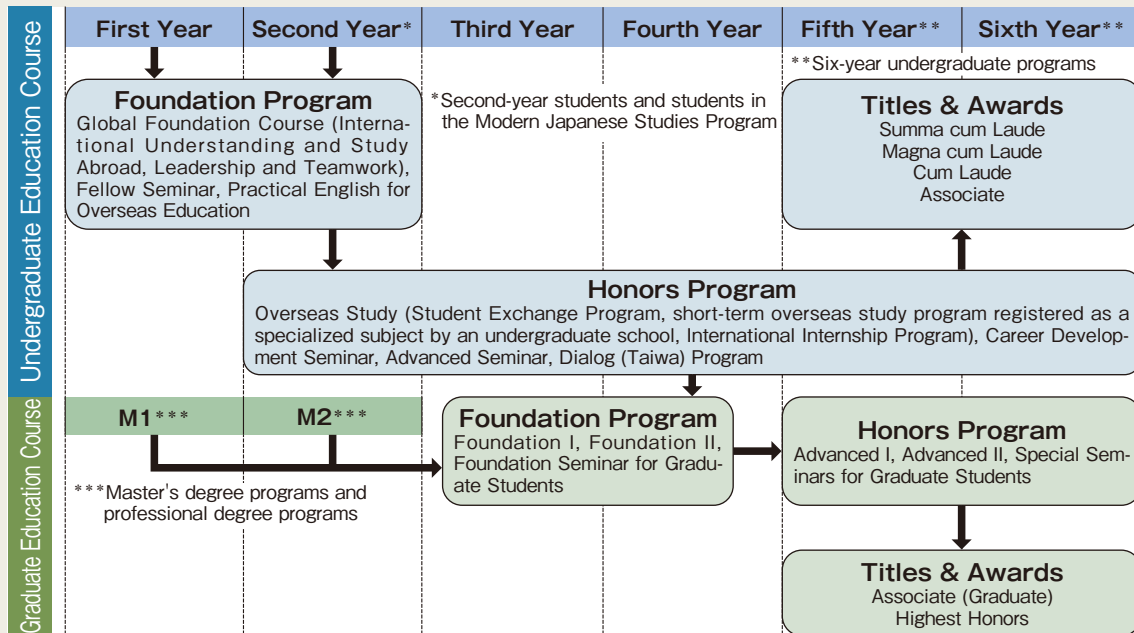


■ Mentor Forum

Mentor Forum was held in person on June 18th and December 17th under the theme of “Think About Your Career Path.” The first forum saw the participation of seven Mentors, while the second was attended by six Mentors. In academic year 2022, a student-led Mentor Forum Executive Committee was established. With the support of faculty members and the Nitobe College Office, students have been at the forefront of organizing and managing these forums. During the lectures, Mentors shared advice and insights based on their own careers and real-world experiences. The students found great inspiration in hearing from accomplished alumni who are globally active in various fields. In the networking sessions that followed, students actively asked questions about and sought advice on their research activities at the university and upcoming job-hunting efforts. Mentor Forum has proven an excellent opportunity for fostering students’ career awareness, broadening their societal perspectives, and building their personal networks.

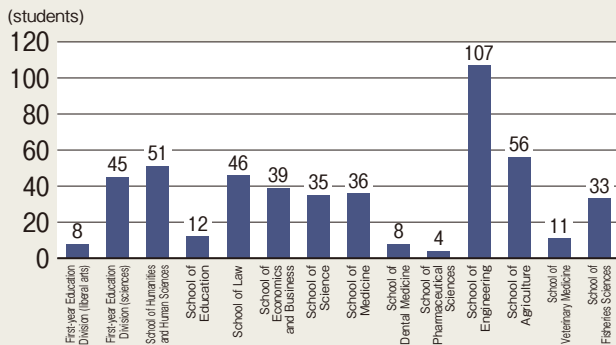


From enrollment to completion at Nitobe College



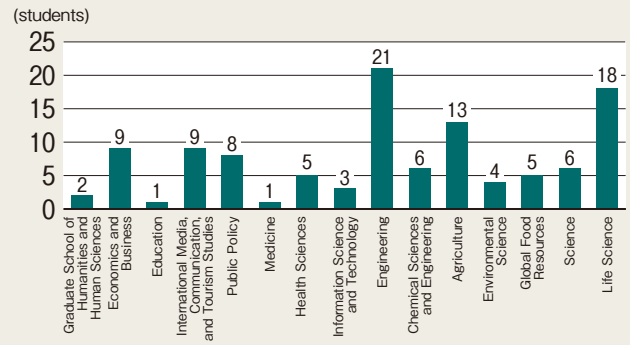
Undergraduate Education Course

● Enrollment by school/program in academic year 2022 (491 students in total)

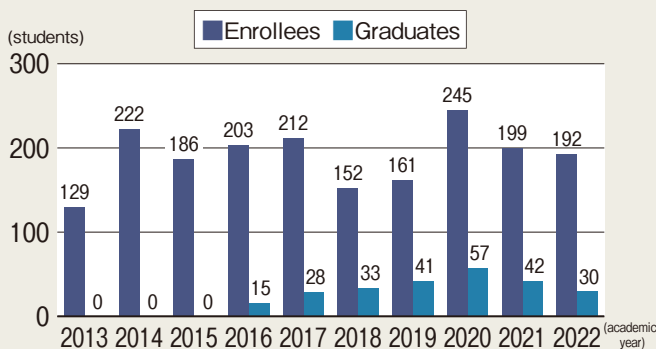


Graduate Education Course

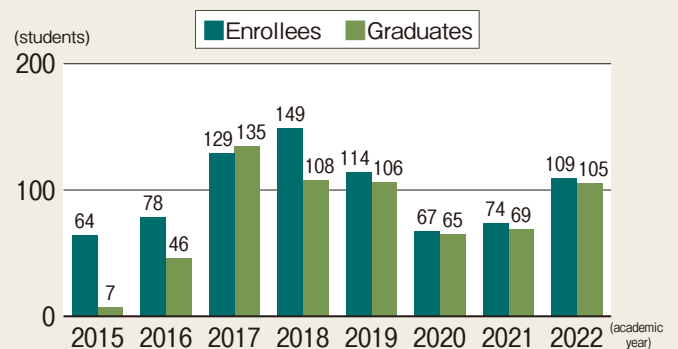
● Enrollment by graduate school/faculty in academic year 2022 (111 students in total)



Numbers of Enrollees and Graduates



Numbers of Enrollees and Graduates



Career Choices of Undergraduate Education Course Students (in academic year 2022)

Private enterprises	6 students
Government organizations	2 students
Advancement to graduate school at Hokkaido University	14 students
Advancement to graduate school at another university	5 students (in Japan)
Undecided	3 students

Career Choices of Graduate Education Course Students (in academic year 2022)

Still enrolled in graduate school at Hokkaido University	88 students
Private enterprises	10 students
Advancement to a doctoral course at Hokkaido University	5 students
Undecided	2 students

Nitobe College Fellows, Mentors, and Faculty Members

Reflections on the rewards of studying abroad



OHTSUKA Eiko

Fellow

Professor Emeritus,
Hokkaido University

In 1954, when I entered Hokkaido University, the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences was established within the School of Medicine, and the maximum number of students admitted to science courses increased by 40. At that time, female students comprised only 3% of the entire student body. When I transferred to the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in October of my sophomore year, the percentage of female students in this faculty was about 30%. Some students were encouraged by their parents to apply to Hokkaido University for pharmaceutical studies. Before this, Hokkaido had no educational institutions offering pharmaceutical education. Students aspiring to become pharmacists had limited options: attending private universities in Honshu or studying at the prestigious University of Tokyo's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, renowned for upholding the legacy of NAGAI Nagayoshi, a prominent organic chemist. What truly surprised me upon entering the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences was the wide range of subjects, with both lectures and laboratory work packed into the curriculum.

In those days, cancer as a genetic disease was gradually becoming the dominant theory. To develop cancer drugs, it was necessary to investigate its causes, and genetics therefore became the theme of my research. As I progressed through my academic years, the university established master's and doctoral programs, which I joined, driven by my keen interest in the field. Fortunately, I secured a position as a post-doctoral fellow at a cutting-edge U.S. research lab specializing in nucleic acid biosynthesis. Making friends with young researchers from around the world and maintaining those connections was perhaps the best part of my experience. Forming bonds with fellow students from Japan was also crucial. The experience of living abroad is invaluable, especially because it opens your eyes to how much there is to learn about your own country. I believe that this realization in itself encapsulates the true value of studying abroad.

My encounter with Nitobe College



ISHIKAWA Kenichi

Mentor

Vice President,
3M Japan Limited

About five years ago, I started to feel a desire to share my experiences in society with students and reached out to my alma mater, Hokkaido University, to see if there was any way I could help. Fortunately, I came across the exceptional Nitobe College program. Since 2019, I have been serving as a Mentor at Nitobe College. During my student years, I pursued science, albeit with some trepidation. Unable to definitively choose my path during my undergraduate studies, I proceeded to graduate school. Subsequently, I opted for a career in the humanities (specifically, marketing), rather than in research or a technical field. This was an uncommon choice at the time, but I am truly glad that I followed my conviction and took action. I believe many students struggle to choose between sciences and humanities, but that choice isn't a problem; either option is fine. I want to convey, drawing from my own experiences, that ultimately all experiences are valuable. There are no wasted experiences. Academic studies, clubs, circle activities, part-time jobs—all of these enrich your life. I hope you embrace as many opportunities as possible that are unique to your time as a student and specifically to Hokkaido University. Among these, Nitobe College stands out as a premier program for learning skills valuable in society, and I wholeheartedly look forward to everyone's participation.

Specially Appointed Academic Staff



UCHIDA Haruko (Ph.D.)

Specially appointed associate professor
Educational psychology



HATANAKA Takami
(Master's degree)

Specially appointed lecturer
European studies



XIAO Lan (Ph.D.)

Specially appointed lecturer
Pedagogy



SCHLUETER Tomoko (Ph.D.)

Specially appointed assistant professor
Religious studies



WHITFIELD Dale Lee
(Master's degree)

Specially appointed assistant professor
Pedagogy



LOMAIEVA Marina (Master's degree)

Specially appointed assistant professor
Environmental science

Fellows & Mentors

Fellows

ISHIKAWA Megumi
Proprietor of CJ Communication

ISHIKAWA Yuichi
President and CEO, Plough Brothers, Inc.
Director, Johnson Controls, K.K.

ITO Shin
Associate Director, Neurology
Marketing, Argenx Japan K.K.

INOUE Shuhei
Former Executive Officer, Sojitz Corporation
Former Director, Board Member, Sinfonia Technology Co., Ltd.

UEDA Hideki
Member of the Board and Senior Vice President, Enterprise Business Division 1, Nippon Information and Communication Corporation

OHTSUKA Eiko
Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido University

OHTOMO Toshihiko
Head of Oncology Lifecycle Management Department, Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

KAYANO Satoru
CEO, Successboard Inc.

SASAKI Ryouko
Board Member, Arcs Co. Ltd.

SHISAI Satoko
Executive Vice President, Head of Digital Transformation Unit, Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

SHIBUE Takao
Former Executive Officer of Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co., Ltd.

SHIMADA Motoo
Adviser, VISCAS Corporation

TADA Yukio
Senior Advisor, Sojitz Research Institute

HAGINO Izumi
Chief Growth Officer, Dentsu Cross Brain Inc.

HINO Mineko
Conference Interpreter

HIROSHIGE Katsuhiko
Deputy Director, Tokyo Office, Hokkaido University

FUJITA Nobuyoshi
Director and Senior Adviser, Cerezo Osaka Co., Ltd.

MIMURA Naoki
Senior Consultant, Logic Research Co., Ltd.

MURAYAMA Waka
Section Manager, Engineering Department, Zukosha Co., Ltd.

MORI Junko
President and Representative Director, Happy Arrow Co., Ltd.

Mentors

ISHIKAWA Kenichi
Vice President, 3M Japan Limited

OFOSU-TWUM Eric
Researcher, Hitachi, Ltd.

KURODA Taruho
Chief Operating Officer
Newsight Tech Angels

SAHEKI Yuriko
Researcher, Shiseido Co., Ltd.

NAKAJIMA Tetsu
Founder & General Partner, 15th Rock Representative Director, Spirete, Inc.

NAKAHARA Taku
Co-founder & CEO, Metagen Therapeutics, Inc.

HAGINO Izumi
Chief Growth Officer, Dentsu Cross Brain Inc.

FUJII Kodai
Vice President of Sales and Marketing Operations
Sammaruko Foods Co., Ltd.

MAEDA Miku
Staff, Global Education, Nitori Holdings, Co., Ltd.

RAVANKAR Abhijeet
Associate Professor, Kitami Institute of Technology

WADA Yoshiaki
Member, House of Representatives

Messages from Faculty Members

Undergraduate Education Course

Messages from Fellow Seminar Supporting Faculty Members in Academic Year 2022

KAMENO Jun

Professor, Research Division for Higher Education, Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education



Fellow Seminar presents a significant challenge for undergraduates as it compels them to apply their innovative ideas and knowledge to address challenges lacking clear-cut answers and then requires them to integrate their individual thoughts into a group consensus. During this process, it is important to fully grasp the significance of knowledge and experience, the joy of group collaboration, the diversity of opinions, and the areas where you can grow. During this process, you should experience firsthand the importance of knowledge and experience, the joy of creating something in a group, the diversity of opinions, and your own areas for growth. These experiences will undoubtedly prove invaluable in your future educational pursuits and societal endeavors.

LA FAY Michelle

Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Human Sciences



I have been involved in Nitobe College as a supporting faculty member under four Fellows. In Fellow Seminar, students actively engage in in-depth discussions and prepare presentations. Participants are required to address challenges from diverse perspectives and formulate their own conclusions. Through this process, they gain an array of skills essential for effective discussion. Fellows and tutors provide extensive support to the students. My goal is to foster an environment where this support is easily accessible.

NOZAWA Shunsuke

Associate Professor, International Education and Research Division, Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education



Fellow Seminar offers students a valuable learning experience, allowing them to explore specific research subjects while engaging with the specialized and practical knowledge of the Fellows. I have participated twice as a supporting faculty member. While my role is to advise students on the refinement of questions and on methodological approaches, I also gain numerous insights and realizations from my conversations with students, making it an exceptionally rewarding subject for me as well. I am committed to continuing to contribute to the students' learning journey.

YAMAHATA Tomoyuki

Lecturer, International Education and Research Division, Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education



Fellow Seminar, one of the distinguished programs Nitobe College offers, is an exciting course where Hokkaido University alumni act as Fellows, teaching classes based on their own experiences. A variety of features are in place to ensure that students can make substantial gains from the course. The symposium in the final session, featuring group presentations, is always a highlight brimming with excitement. I am looking forward to the opportunity to share enriching and enjoyable moments with all of you.

Graduate Education Course

Messages from Faculty Members in Academic Year 2022

SHIGETOMI-KURIBAYASHI Kaori

Associate Professor, Advancement of Educational Program Division, Institute for the Advancement of Graduate Education



I would like to look back on the eight years I spent at Nitobe College, starting from my appointment in April 2016 as a specially appointed associate professor at Nitobe School up until my resignation from Nitobe College in March 2023. Nitobe School was a program aimed at master's and doctoral students. I assumed responsibility for the second class of students in the Foundation Program, which had been launched the previous academic year. I was also involved in establishing an advanced program beginning in 2017 for doctoral program students. After Nitobe School merged with Nitobe College in 2019, I joined the faculty of the graduate education program of the College. In that role, I worked together with various faculty members to develop the curriculum. Among the specially appointed faculty members are familiar names such as TSUJI Teruyuki, IMAI Shotaro, SAITO Ken, AGATSUMA Tomohiro, Qianran WANG, Michal MAZUR, Richard STONE, and SHIMADA Kazuhisa, which might evoke a sense of nostalgia for many of you. Nitobe College offers numerous opportunities to interact with students with different specializations and cultural backgrounds. These interactions make each class session stimulating and a source of new discoveries for the faculty members as well. The fulfilling days I spent there passed swiftly.

At Nitobe College, each class is innovative and engaging, but those that left a lasting impression on me were those on creative thinking, critical thinking, and leadership. The concept of technology has apparently evolved significantly over the past 200 years. In these classes, students were tasked with redefining technology and using their definitions to develop solutions for contemporary societal issues. These sessions were eye-opening as they made me realize the extent to which I was limited by my own preconceptions as well as the importance of mimicking, combining, and innovating beyond existing ideas to create something new.

I applied for a faculty position at Nitobe College because I wanted to assist in nurturing the next generation by sharing my diverse experiences in research and entrepreneurship in the US and UK. I hope to continue supporting all of you. When you're back in Sapporo, I would be delighted if you could reach out to me, either by dropping by the university or through Facebook Messenger (search for Kaori Kuribayashi-Shigetomi). In my introductory class, the core message I impart to students is "Be confident, Be Ambitious, Unleash Your Potential." To our graduates, I encourage you to believe in yourselves, engage in teamwork and thoughtful discussions with diverse individuals in global society, create impactful outcomes, and move forward without fear or hesitation.

Lastly, from October 2023 I will become part of the faculty of the Advancement of Educational Program Division in the Institute for the Advancement of Graduate Education at Hokkaido University, and thus will continue to be a part of Hokkaido University. I hope to remain connected with all of you through the exceptional network that Nitobe College has established.

To Nitobe College Alumni

Please register as a member with the Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network (HU-NCAN).

- To register, please visit the Nitobe College website or scan the QR code here.
- The Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network (HU-NCAN) carefully manages the personal information obtained through your membership registration in line with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information and never provides it to any third party without your prior consent.



<https://ws.formzu.net/fgen/S23755582/>

Website and Facebook Account Addresses

- Website: Nitobe College

<https://nitobe-college.academic.hokudai.ac.jp/>

- Facebook account:

Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hokudai.nitobe.alumni.network/>

Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network (HU-NCAN)

Hokkaido University Nitobe College Office

Kita 17, Nishi 8, Kita-ku, Sapporo, 060-0817, Japan Tel.: 011-706-5414 E-mail: ncan@academic.hokudai.ac.jp

Published on December 1, 2023