

**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

<b>Year and Month</b>	<b>Grant Activity Designation</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>
<b>2014 - November</b>	<b>Activity 1</b>	<p><b>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.</b></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-long relationship with Ritsumeikan University. These important meetings served to advance the LIASE Implementation activities and promote further interaction and collaboration between our institutions’ environmental studies and science students and faculty. Illinois College funding was solely used for this activity.</p>
<b>2015 - February</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>Intercultural Exchange Program takes place.</b></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>

<b>2015 - Summer</b>	<b>Activity 3</b>	<p><b>Illinois College conducts Curriculum Development Group seminar.</b></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>
<b>2015 - August</b>	<b>Activity 9</b>	<p><b>Ritsumeikan University Graduate Student Interns are in residence at Illinois College, under the direction of Illinois College faculty.</b></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 campus. The majority of the students' costs for this program were borne by Ritsumeikan and the graduate students themselves; Illinois College provided free housing for the graduate students, with the Luce grant providing a stipend for the Illinois College faculty supervisor.</p>
<b>2015 - September</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>Ritsumeikan University environmental engineering study tour takes place.</b></p> <p>Seven Ritsumeikan environmental engineering students and three Ritsumeikan faculty came to campus for four days to study environmental issues in central Illinois, food production, and American culture. Their time on campus was part of a larger study tour with stops in Canada and Seattle.</p>
<b>2015-16 Academic Year</b>	<b>Activity 5</b>	<p><b>Illinois College faculty learn about Japanese language and culture.</b></p> <p>Illinois College environmental studies and science faculty participated in Japanese language professional development training to deepen their knowledge and skills.</p>

2016 - February	N/A	<p><b>Intercultural Exchange Program takes place.</b></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>
2016 - March	Activity 7	<p><b>The second International Symposium on Science, Sustainability and Teaching is held at Illinois College.</b></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 students from Illinois College, Kanazawa University and Ritsumeikan University. We surpassed our goals for Symposium attendance, with the 92 attendees including administrators, faculty, staff, students, and members of the community.</p>
2016 - April	Activities 2 and 4	<p><b>Illinois College faculty travel to Ritsumeikan University.</b></p> <p>Two Illinois College science faculty traveled to Ritsumeikan for one week to establish or 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>
2016 - June	Activity 8	<p><b>Student-faculty research on environmental issues is conducted in Japan.</b></p> <p>Eight Illinois College students in International Studies 462: Environmental Issues in Japan, mentored and led by two faculty members, conducted a three-week summer research trip to Japan from June 14 to July 6, 2016. These students conducted spring semester research and met regularly with the faculty to 1) prepare for presenting posters at the International Symposium in March 2016, and 2) be ready to conduct a research project in Japan in summer 2016. The research topics selected by the students were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Energy Life Cycle of Food Production and Consumption.</li> <li>● The Economic and Environmental Implications of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster.</li> <li>● Unconventional Gas Extraction in Japan.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decreasing the Populations of Nonindigenous Species in Lake Biwa, Japan.</li> <li>● The Impact of Human Activity on Lake Biwa and the Need for Water Management.</li> <li>● Green Transportation: Bicycles in Japan.</li> </ul> <p>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. Four of the students who participated in this trip had taken Japanese language courses. Those with some Japanese fluency did feel more comfortable navigating during the trip. They join the growing contingent of Illinois College students with a good foundation of basic Japanese language skills as well as experience traveling in Japan.</p>
<p><b>2016 - May</b></p>	<p><b>Activity 10</b></p>	<p><b>Two Illinois College students conduct 10-week Research Abroad appointments in labs at Ritsumeikan University, under the joint direction of Illinois College and Ritsumeikan faculty.</b></p> <p>The students were placed in a laboratory at the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the College of Life Sciences at Ritsumeikan University. The students, who were both Biology and Japanese double-majors, took a one-credit research course in the spring semester with Illinois College Biology faculty, as well as a one-credit pre-departure course to prepare for living in Japan. They also studied the research and publications of their Ritsumeikan faculty supervisor. They participated in a regional research conference shortly after their arrival in Japan. Upon returning to Illinois College, they presented their work at an on-campus end-of-summer student research celebration.</p> <p>Because the working language of the Ritsumeikan host laboratories is English, Illinois College students with limited Japanese language abilities were able to work and interact socially with all of the lab members. Illinois College faculty conducted an onsite visit to the lab in May after the students began their internship, and were available to the students and the Ritsumeikan faculty by email throughout the internship to discuss progress and any concerns.</p>

2016 - Summer	N/A	<p><b>Illinois College initiates the Intensive English Language program, which offers students the chance to improve their English language skills.</b></p> <p>Intensive English Language program sessions range from seven weeks to one year. If students seek to be admitted to Illinois College as a degree student, they may enter our Academic Bridge program, which allows them to polish their academic English language skills, take some courses for credit, and prepare to earn a Bachelor's degree.</p>
2016 – August	Activity 9	<p><b>Ritsumeikan University Graduate Student Interns are in residence at Illinois College, under the direction of Illinois College faculty.</b></p> <p>In 2016, Illinois College hosted a Master’s degree student in biochemistry and a Master’s degree student in geochemical engineering. Our faculty worked with the graduate students in advance of their arrival and supervised their successful four-week research experiences on campus. The majority of the students’ costs for this program were borne by Ritsumeikan and the graduate students themselves; Illinois College provided free housing for the graduate students, with the Luce grant providing a stipend for the Illinois College faculty supervisor.</p>
2016-17 Academic Year	Activity 5	<p><b>Illinois College faculty learn about Japanese language and culture.</b></p> <p>Illinois College environmental studies and science faculty participated in Japanese language professional development training to deepen their knowledge and skills.</p>
2017 - February	N/A	<p><b>Intercultural Exchange Program takes place.</b></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>

2017 - May	Activity 10	<p><b>One Illinois College student conducts a 10-week Research Abroad appointment at Ritsumeikan University, under the joint direction of Illinois College and Ritsumeikan faculty.</b></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>
2017 - May	Activities 2 and 4	<p><b>Illinois College faculty travel to Ritsumeikan University.</b></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>
2017 - May	Activity 11	<p><b>Students conduct intensive language learning internships in Japan.</b></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>

2017 - May	N/A	<p><b>2017 commencement ceremony focuses on Ritsumeikan University-Illinois College partnership.</b></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>
2017 - June	N/A	<p><b>President Barbara Farley leads delegation to Japan to celebrate Ritsumeikan University-Illinois College partnership.</b></p> <p>Illinois College conducted a 30<sup>th</sup> 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>
2017 - September	N/A	<p><b>Ritsumeikan University environmental engineering study tour takes place.</b></p> <p>18 Ritsumeikan environmental engineering students and two Ritsumeikan faculty came to the Illinois College campus for four days to study environmental issues in central Illinois, food production, and American culture. Their time on campus was part of a larger study tour with stops in Canada and Seattle.</p>
2017 - September	N/A	<p><b>Inaugural Kanazawa/Kochi Intercultural Exchange Program takes place.</b></p> <p>Seven students and one faculty member from Kochi University of Technology and seven students from Kanazawa University came to the Illinois College campus for a two-week version of the Intercultural Exchange Program, modeled on the annual program conducted each February with Ritsumeikan University.</p>

<b>2017-18 Academic Year</b>	<b>Activity 12</b>	<p><b>Illinois College students conduct capstone research in Japanese.</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<b>2017-18 Academic Year</b>	<b>Activity 5</b>	<p><b>Illinois College faculty learn about Japanese language and culture.</b></p> <p>Illinois College environmental studies and science faculty will participate in Japanese language professional development training to deepen their knowledge and skills.</p>
<b>2018 - February</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>Intercultural Exchange Program takes place.</b></p> <p>About 25 Ritsumeikan University students will visit the Illinois College campus for four weeks to learn about U.S. culture and to study English.</p>
<b>2018 - March</b>	<b>Activity 7</b>	<p><b>International Symposium on Science, Sustainability and Teaching.</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<b>2018 - May</b>	<b>Activities 2 and 4</b>	<p><b>Illinois College faculty travel to Ritsumeikan University.</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<b>2018 - May</b>	<b>Activity 10</b>	<p><b>Illinois College students conduct a 10-week Research Abroad appointment at Ritsumeikan University, under the joint direction of Illinois College and Ritsumeikan faculty.</b></p> <p>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.</p>

2018 - May	Activity 11	<p><b>Students conduct intensive language learning internships in Japan.</b></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><b>Student-faculty research on environmental issues is conducted in Japan.</b></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.</p>
2018 - Summer	Activity 3	<p><b>Illinois College conducts Curriculum Development Group seminar.</b></p> <p>Illinois College will conduct a Curriculum Development Group seminar, resulting in Environmental Studies and science faculty members developing new courses or course components.</p>
2018 - August	Activity 9	<p><b>Ritsumeikan University Graduate Student Interns are in residence at Illinois College, under the direction of Illinois College faculty.</b></p> <p>Two Graduate Student Interns will be in residence at Illinois College, under the direction of Illinois College faculty.</p>
2018-19 Academic Year	Activity 12	<p><b>Illinois College students conduct capstone research in Japanese.</b></p> <p>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.</p>

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