

Message from graduates

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Fall 2025



The Social Innovation Course was my first experience as an international student and it has been the experience of a lifetime. This 4-month program has allowed me to study the various societal problems that plague Japan and India, while also giving me the opportunity to immerse myself in the beautiful culture of Japan. The course also helped me better myself as a person, as this experience made me go beyond my comfort zone, to learn about new problems and finding solutions to them. During classes, my mindset with regard to social problems changed a lot, as we approached each problem systematically, with the aim of being responsible for finding situation specific solutions which may be implemented in the real world. Experiencing a new society and culture also allowed me to broaden my perspectives and horizons with regard to both, my personal and professional life and has further pushed me to improve myself and my environment every day. The program also helped expose me to the professional environment and helped me understand how and what it takes to become a professional. The course also helped me better understand Japanese society on a deeper level compared to what is reflected on social and entertainment media, as I was able to experience it firsthand for quite some time. It also gave me a better understanding of my own culture and how similar and at the same time distinct two cultures and people can be, and how much distorted perceptions of societal

problems can further create problems for not only a society but also humanity as a whole. Now that I look back at this time, I think one of the best things to come from this program were my friends and the new experiences I tried with them, as it made me wish to travel more, learn faster and pursue more things in life. The helpful and kind nature of the teachers and students made this program so memorable, and learning about Japanese history, culture and language was something I looked forward to everyday I was a part of the program. Living in a completely different nation, where English isn't commonly spoken, seemed like an unimaginable task, and if you were to tell me about all that I would be able to experience before I became a part of this program, I would never believe you! But the COIL Staff and students were there to support me every step of the way and even though we spent such little time together, Osaka Metropolitan University made me feel at home, and I will always have a special place in my heart for Osaka. This experience has been a lesson in Life, not about simply how to find solution to societal problems, but rather, about how to live it. If you are someone who wishes to learn and better understand not only your society, but also grow as a person, then look no further than OMU and the SI course, for newer perspectives, unforgettable memories and the best Japan has to offer.

The Social Innovation (SI) Course at Osaka Metropolitan University offers a unique learning environment that combines academic study with real-world experience. Through field research, collaborative projects, and discussions on contemporary social issues, the program encourages students to think critically, work across cultures, and develop solution-oriented perspectives. Opportunities such as public presentations and project-based learning allow students to share their ideas confidently while gaining practical skills beyond the classroom. In addition to academic growth, the program provides meaningful cultural experiences. Learning Japanese, interacting with local students, and participating in daily campus life create an immersive environment that deepens understanding of Japanese society. Spaces such as the Sugimoto Campus library and the vibrant city of Osaka itself

contribute to a supportive and inspiring atmosphere for study and personal development. What makes the SI Course stand out is its balance between independence and collaboration. Students are encouraged to explore their own interests while receiving guidance from dedicated professors, sensei and tutor. This approach helps participants build confidence, improve communication skills, and gain new perspectives on global and local challenges. Overall, the OMU SI Course is a rewarding opportunity for students who want to broaden their horizons, engage with social innovation, and experience Japan in a meaningful way. It is a program that not only strengthens academic skills but also creates lasting memories and connections that extend far beyond the duration of the exchange.

Ron Rothana
Royal University of Phnom Penh
Fall 2025



Dawson Par
Andrews University, the USA
Fall 2024



My first experience studying abroad was in March 2023, when I participated in SIGLOC in Japan. During this two-week program, I worked in a highly collaborative environment and learned how to develop solutions for pressing social issues. While the experience was incredible, it was too short, and I knew I wanted to return to Japan for a longer period. That's when I discovered the OMU Social Innovation course exchange program—a semester-long opportunity to study and engage deeply with Japanese culture.

Fast forward to now, as my time as an exchange student is almost over, I can confidently say that this has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my academic

journey and personal growth. Through this program, I gained skills in researching social issues, designing solutions, and implementing them effectively. Beyond social innovation, I attended classes and learned about Japanese culture and history alongside Japanese and international students. Living in Osaka, a vibrant and welcoming city, made this experience even more memorable.

If you're considering studying abroad, I wholeheartedly recommend OMU. It offers a unique environment to broaden your perspective, gain new skills, and create unforgettable memories.



OMU Social Innovation Course 2026

for International Exchange Students

Create the Future of the World from Osaka!



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Web



YouTube



Inquiry



Guidelines

What's the Social Innovation Course?

The Social Innovation Course (SI Course) is a course for fostering the essential abilities needed to thrive in the AI era. Solving social problems through new products, services and systems is referred to as social innovation. The SI Course is designed to cultivate the ability to discover problems as well as the ability to create solutions through collaboration with students living overseas, and aims to develop human resources who possess the ability to implement these solutions. It is a course that fosters people who will actually play a crucial role in social innovation in the government, NPOs or corporations in the future, along with those who tackle problem-finding and solutions independently in global society and local environments. We will develop the ability to discover the essence of problems through our experience of studying social issues and their history, culture, and background together with overseas students.



Three Abilities

Discover

The program enhances the ability to discover the context and core of the issues faced as well as find new solutions, by studying issues with students from other countries.



Create

The program cultivates a variety of viewpoints by placing issues in a new context, and giving individuals the ability to find creative solutions, produce new products, services and systems.



Implement

The program encourages participants to acquire an ability to implement the problem's solution regardless of their positions.



Course Description

- Program:**
- Students must enroll in the following classes to complete the exchange program.
 - Students must attend all the classes (including field trips and so on) as instructed in each class and complete required tasks to receive full credit.
 - Eligible Classes for credit:

Term/Semester	Class	Credit	Program A (1 Semester)	Program B (1 Year)
Intensive (Summer)	SIGLOC	4	R	
	Introduction to Social Innovation	2	R	R
Fall Semester	Field Research: Social Innovation A	2	R	R
	International Collaborative Workshop	2	R	
	Introduction to Japanese Culture: Arts	2	R	R
	Japan Studies: Language and Society	2	R	R
	Practicum: Social Innovation for Global Citizen	2	R	R
	Introduction to Japanese	3	R	(E)
Intensive (Winter)	Introduction to Social Innovation: Case Study	2		R
	SIGLOC	4		R
Spring Semester	Field Research: Social Innovation B	2		R
	International Collaborative Workshop	2		R
	SDGs Practicum	2		R
	Japan Studies: Language and Life	2		R
	Introduction to Japanese Culture: Popular Culture	2		R
	Introduction to Japanese	3		(E)
Total Credits			19	29

R: Required classes to take during the assigned semester
E: Elective classes to take in either fall or spring semester



Program Schedule 2026-2027 *subject to be modified

Program A (1 semester) : August 31, 2026 - December 18, 2026
Program B (1 year): September 25, 2026 - July 23, 2027

Learn in the Field, Change the World

The Social Innovation Minor Program takes learning beyond the classroom — into real communities, real industries, and real challenges.

Students visit local companies, social organizations, and communities, working side by side with people in the field to uncover authentic issues that shape society. What they find are not textbook answers, but living questions. By designing and testing creative solutions, students turn ideas into experiments — and experiments into social innovation.

Participants from around the world join students of Osaka Metropolitan University, collaborating across cultures and perspectives. This diversity sparks creativity, empathy, and meaningful change in local communities.

In the SI Course, learning becomes a project, and action becomes research. You go into the field, connect with people, and make change happen — one idea, one community, one act at a time.



Unique Features

No worries even for beginners! A curriculum that allows you to learn from the basics

Start from zero with the knowledge you need to take on the challenge of solving social problems

Co-creation with multinational peers and learning from a global perspective

Develop problem-solving skills with students from around the world and peers in Japan, gaining first-hand experience of diverse values

Make proposals that impact the real world!

Your ideas can change the society of the future!

Practical experiences that contribute to the SDGs!

Learn more outside the classroom: Work with the local community, figure out the feasible solutions, shape your own proposals, and develop projects that positively affect society!

Earn a minor certificate & a digital badge that will open the door to your future!

With proof of your new learning, apply it to your job search and career advancement!



Morinomiya Campus