

NEWSLETTER

Introducing New Faculty Members for Spring 2026

Self-Introduction :

I am currently on secondment from the Japan Travel Bureau Foundation (JTBF), an organization dedicated to research and studies on tourism and travel. The foundation has been involved in numerous projects, including both independent research and commissioned research by national and local governments. I also previously seconded to the Japan Tourism Agency (a government agency).



Professor
KANNO Masahiro
College of Sustainability and Tourism

Research Topic(s):

I have participated in the process of enhancing the attractiveness of tourist destinations through different decision-making processes and under varying circumstances. This experience has led to my interest in researching such processes. My recent research focuses on implementing tourist guiding business in response to the long-term recovery phases following large-scale natural disasters. This research theme arose from my experience as a contractor involved in a project implemented in the Sanriku Region of Tohoku for several years after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The project aimed to develop a tourism model in which local stakeholders themselves promote the region's unique charms, applying the principles of ecotourism.

Messages to Students:

Undergrad :

As mentioned above, the JTBF has conducted a great deal of research through collaboration between academia and practice. APU provides a wide variety of learning opportunities both inside and outside the classrooms. Please make the most of these opportunities to explore your interests and identify the direction you would like to pursue in the future.

Graduate:

APU is home to faculty members who possess extensive experience in both research and professional practice. Learn as much as possible from their knowledge and experience to grow into a researcher.

Prospective Students:

Located in Kyushu, a gateway to the Asia-Pacific region, and in Beppu, one of Japan's top tourist destinations, APU is truly a place where you can envision your future in an international and practice-oriented environment. I look forward to meeting you and learning together at APU!

Self-Introduction :

I worked for Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for nearly forty two years till retirement in December 2025. Diplomats' work entails a whole spectrum of activities: negotiations with other governments on political and economic issues; facilitating cultural, sports and scientific exchanges; protecting fellow nationals abroad; promoting trade and investment; projecting positive images for your country through media, and many more.

International society is where people with different backgrounds and interests intersect. You inevitably encounter challenges. At such times, whatever the challenge, it is important to face the problem,

use common sense, and communicate with people. If you embrace other cultures open-mindedly, and talk to others with calmness of mind and sincerity, you are likely to find a solution.

This is my second time to teach at APU; the first stint was for two years, from 2020 to 2022, teaching international relations. I hope that my experience might help in giving some insights to students of international relations. Let's discuss the world's pressing issues together.



Professor
YAMADA Yoichiro
College of Asia Pacific Studies

Research Topic(s):

International Law, Human Rights, Globalization

Messages to Students:

Undergrad:

I have spent over twenty seven years abroad. Each time I lived in a new country and experienced different culture and ways of thinking, I felt that my horizons had broadened; each moment of realization has been an enriching experience. APU is a unique university and itself a compact international society. Please sharpen your senses and develop strengths at this university, and may you soar to great heights into the big, wide world thereafter.

Prospective Students:

What is a good university? It is a university that gives students diverse intellectual stimuli. In other words, a university in which you meet students with strong intellectual curiosity and vitality, and which provides an environment conducive to studies. During my diplomatic career, I have had dealings with universities in many countries. In my opinion, APU is one of the best universities in the world, and I strongly recommend you to consider enrolling in it.

Self-Introduction :

I am originally from England and have been teaching for twelve years in various countries including South Korea, Poland, Ukraine, China and England.

Alongside teaching, my passion is writing. I studied creative writing for my undergrad and masters and am looking to complete my doctorate in this field in the future. I enjoy writing science-fiction, fantasy and horror and am currently working on a cosmic horror short story collection. I have been teaching English in the CLE since 2022 and I also run events through the SALC, including open mics and creative writing workshops.

I'm passionate about using my research to create real improvements for students, to foster safe spaces and build a community of creative thinkers. I am a strong advocate for diversity, equity and inclusivity and actively support the LGBTQ+ community on campus and in Japan.



Lecturer
GIACOMELLI Joely
Center for Language Education

Research Topic(s):

I am currently looking at how engagement with creativity can support engagement with the world and create global citizens and also how creative writing can support English language study.

Messages to Students:

Undergrad :

I encourage you to explore everything APU has to offer during your time here. Join a circle, go to multicultural week events, use the SALC and interact with students from all over the world.

Communicating with other people from different cultures and backgrounds is one of the biggest privileges in this life. Be respectful to their perspectives and open to changing your own.

Graduate:

This is the time when you can truly deepen your learning and decide which direction you want to take your life. Although changing your mind is also encouraged! Study a lot, read even more, and continue to join some events around campus. The people you meet here may stay with you for the rest of your life.

Prospective Students:

APU is a unique university within Japan. The 50% split between domestic and international students makes this campus truly multicultural. If you're interested in improving your language skills and connecting with people from many different countries, then this is the place for you.

If you're looking for a welcoming community of creative thinkers, then please consider coming to my SALC events! Follow my Instagram to get updates and information.

OPEN MIC

- * Once a quarter
- * An inclusive safe space for all
- * Let your creativity shine
- * Answer quiz questions for prizes







CREATIVE WRITING

- Twice a quarter
- Focus on speculative fiction
- Read flash fiction and short stories
- Publish your writing

Grants-in-Aid Application Schedule



The Application schedule for AY2027 is as follows:

July 8 (Wed.): 12:30-14:30 KAKENHI Talk & Cafe

*Please register here: [KAKENHI Talk & Cafe Registration Form](#)

July 14 (Tues.): JSPS applications open

July 17 (Fri.): 18:00 - 20:00 External Grants-in-Aid Seminar (Hosted by: University Consortium Kyoto)

2nd Theme: Strategies for Increasing Acceptance Rate for Grant-in-Aid Applications *Japanese only

<https://henews.consortium.or.jp/event/event-33072/>

*Those interested in attending, please contact us via the kakenhi@apu.ac.jp email by July 7. (The office will pay the 1,000 yen attendance fee.)

July 22 (Wed.): 12:30 - 13:30 Grants-in-Aid Application Guidance Session 13:30 - 14:30 KAKENHI Cafe

August 5 (Wed.) Noon (12:00): First deadline for peer review of research plan

August 20 (Thurs.) Noon (12:00): First deadline for office check of research plan

Final day to submit to external reviewer (Research Support Organization) *Approximate

September 4 (Fri.) Noon (12:00): Final internal deadline *Strictly enforced!

September 17 (Thurs.): JSPS' FY2027 Grants-in-Aid call for applications deadline

Published by: APU Outreach & Research Office (Research PR)
ropa@apu.ac.jp