



Kyoto University and the University of Zurich Establish the Global Entrepreneurship Development Joint Program

Kyoto University and the University of Zurich (UZH) launched the Global Entrepreneurship Development Joint Program in 2026 to jointly cultivate globally active entrepreneurs and startup leadership teams.

Both universities possess world-class research capabilities in the life sciences and deep-tech fields. However, scientific excellence alone does not directly lead to global venture creation, and entrepreneurial capabilities that cross borders and cultures are not sufficiently developed through conventional academic programs. To address this challenge, the two universities have established this program to connect the innovation ecosystems of Japan and Switzerland and jointly develop the next generation of entrepreneurial talent.

The program overview, content, and five-year roadmap are as follows.

Objectives

- Build a sustainable framework for entrepreneurship between Kyoto University and the University of Zurich.
- Jointly develop globally active entrepreneurs and startup leadership teams.
- Contribute to innovation in both Japan and Switzerland.

Participants

- Early-career researchers, primarily doctoral students, selected from both universities (approximately 10 participants from each institution).
- Participants will form mixed Japan-Switzerland teams.

Focus Areas

The program will initially focus on life sciences, including cell therapy and regenerative medicine. In the medium term, it is planned to expand into adjacent deep-tech fields such as medical data science and AI-driven healthcare.

Expected Outcomes

- Creation of a virtuous cycle between research excellence and societal implementation while fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

- Development of a standardized platform to support the international deployment of regenerative medicine.
- Creation of globally competitive startups.

Program Content

The program will include approximately ten-day intensive sessions held at both universities.

Illustrative Program Components at Kyoto University

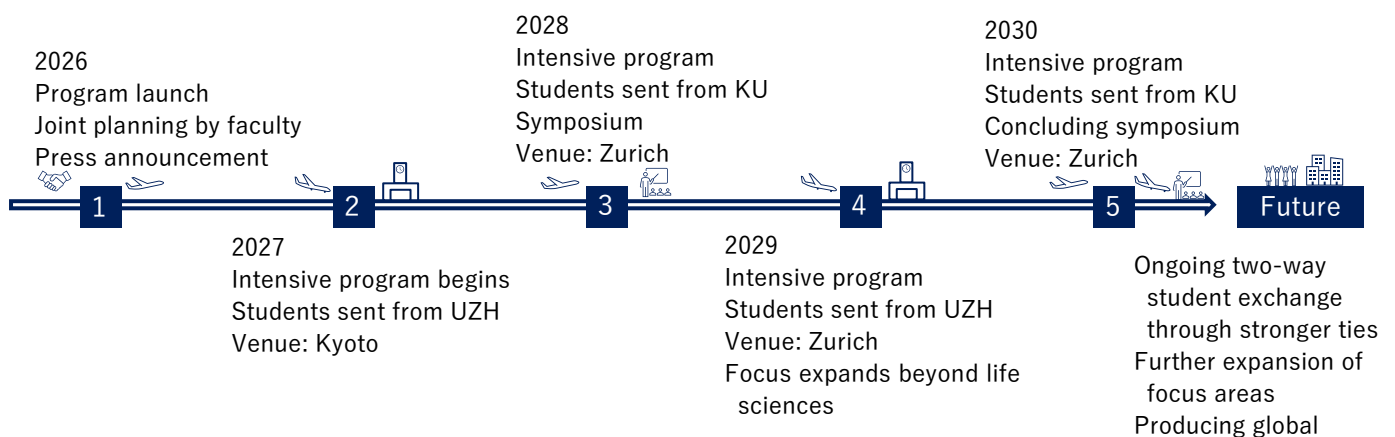
- Innovation theory and entrepreneurship fundamentals, including intellectual property strategy, regulatory affairs, clinical trials, fundraising, and exit strategies.
- Workshop-based development of business concepts derived from participants' research.
- Site visits to CiRA-affiliated startups, pharmaceutical companies, and other innovation-related organizations.
- Exploration of Japanese culture through philosophical dialogue and visits to cultural institutions.

* CiRA : Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University

Illustrative Program Components at the University of Zurich

- Entrepreneurship workshops covering unmet needs, value proposition development, and market and competitive analysis.
- Engagement with and first-hand experience of the Swiss innovation ecosystem.
- Site visits to translational research facilities, Swiss pharmaceutical companies, and startup companies.

Five-Year Roadmap (2026-2030)



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