

A round-table discussion by students who attended COIL classes

What do you do in a COIL class?

What kind of people participate in COIL classes?

A COIL class conducted with Kasetsart University from Thailand was held in 2021 from October to December. 10 students from Kyushu University attended these classes. We gathered four students from that group to talk about COIL classes, which are drawing attention as a new teaching method.



What is a COIL program?

COIL is an online study program held in collaboration with students from overseas universities. It is short for Collaborative Online International Learning. Unlike usual university lectures, in this education method, new perspectives and knowledge as well as a deeper understanding can be obtained.

About the latest COIL program

Collaborative school : Kasetsart University from Thailand
Term : 10/26 ~ 12/1 (total of 5 classes)
Topic : Keto Diet

This program was to learn about Keto Diets from a physiological point of view. In the first half of classes, basic knowledge on Keto Diets was taught through classroom lectures. In the second half, students were put into several groups to come up with Keto Diet recipe ideas.

Members of the round-table discussion



● Sohta Harigai

Senior year, undergraduate standard course

Nationality: Japanese

Course of Agricultural Resources, Engineering and Economics, Agro-production Environmental Engineering program

I am studying smart-agriculture technology. My hobbies are playing the guitar and growing vegetables.



● **Hiroto Goto**

Junior year, International Undergraduate Program

Nationality: Japanese

I like wildlife, so I would like to learn about the environment and wildlife conservation in the future. I like playing the piano, which I have been playing since I was a child. I also love reptiles.



● **Geofanny Bernadette Yohanes (Geo)**

Senior year, International Undergraduate Program

Nationality: Indonesian

I want to specialize in marine biochemistry in the future. I like taking walks and photographing insects and flowers.



● **Samantha Sastrawidjaja** (Samantha)

Junior year, International Undergraduate Program

Nationality: Indonesian

I'm interested in studying genetics and food science. I like playing musical instruments.



Q. Why did you decide to take COIL classes?

Geo: I've never participated in classes that collaborate with universities from abroad, so I thought it would be fun! I have already learned about proteins and fats from other classes, but I

was curious about how it was related to our everyday lives.

Hiroto: Me too! It's amazing that we can communicate with foreign universities online. I was also interested because I had never even heard about the word "keto diet".

Samantha: The reason for me was that I am interested in the food industry! Also, I think many girls would be interested in losing weight. I'm still thinking about what I want to do in the future, but I thought this class would be a good experience if I were to work in the development of food products.

Sohta: I want to study abroad in the future, so I thought it would be a good first step. I also have some knowledge in the food physiology area, so it was an easy topic for me to try.



Q. How was your experience with the COIL class?

Geo: It was fun!

Everyone: Yes!

Geo: If I'm honest, some parts where we just sit and listen to the lecture were boring. But in the latter part of the class, we brainstormed menus using keto diet foods, and even got to try and make them, which was super fun! Samantha and I designed a keto diet lunch box (bento)!

Hiroto: It was fun to learn about keto diets and to talk with people from different countries about

the project.

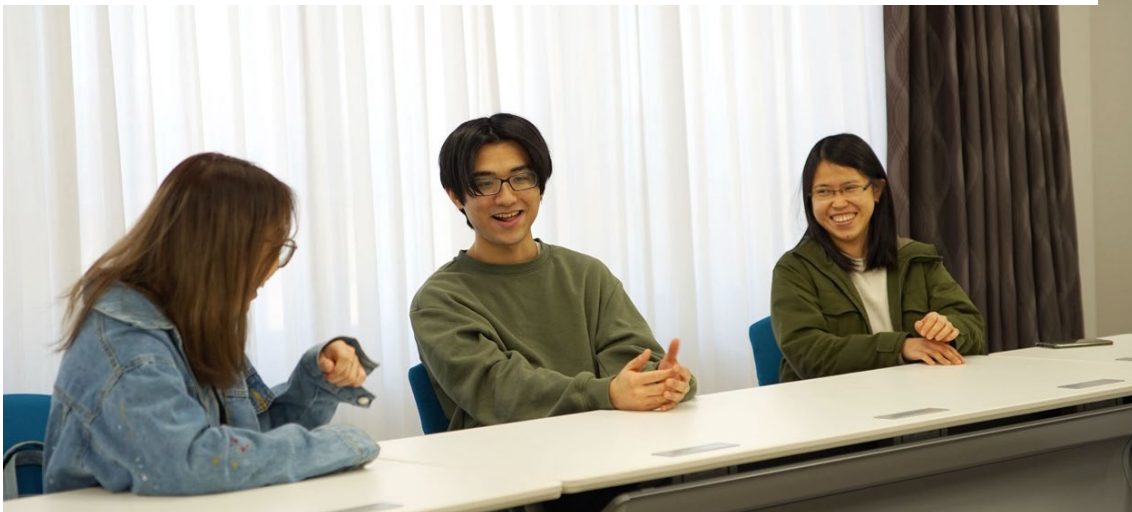
Samantha: It was! Talking and having discussions with students from different backgrounds let us hear diverse ideas, which was a fascinating experience. Because of our different nationalities, we got many ideas when brainstorming menus. It was interesting to see the differences there.

Sohta: So many times I thought to myself, "I've never encountered such a way of thinking!"

Hiroto: It was nice that students could actively learn in the group project rather than the professor simply teaching. I feel like we were able to stimulate and elevate each other.

Sohta: I agree! I was surprised by how freely we were able to use our time during online activities. I liked how we got to use what we learned and put it into practice straight away. For me, it was my first time acquiring specialized knowledge in my second language, so I got an image of how it would be to take classes abroad. I found it rather difficult.

Q. Did you experience any difficulties during the classes?



Geo: Sometimes I couldn't get across what I wanted to say... Even though it was in English... I had times when I couldn't understand what was being said. But we eventually learned to understand each other.

Hiroto: There were problems such as not being able to communicate well, and people feeling differently about their responsibility in the class... But I think these are all problems we will need

to work out when we have jobs in the future.

Samantha: I felt a little sad that I couldn't meet Geo and Hiroto in person because the classes were online. It was also hard to actually make the Keto Diet menus while taking the class online.

Sohta: It was difficult for me to find a way to contribute to the group work because I'm not fluent in English. But it made me really happy when I was able to find a role where I could actively contribute to the group!

Geo: I actually participated in a different COIL class conducted by universities from both France and Thailand. The time difference was very difficult to manage because we had to work from three countries at the same time.

Q. How will this experience affect your future?



Hiroto: Understanding diversity is becoming an important requirement in our lives, more than ever. We need to be able to support each other and solve various problems together. COIL classes are like an international group project, so I'm sure this experience will come in handy!

Sohta: I agree! We can acquire skills from this class that will be of use when we get a job. Online communication skills are also becoming more valued in the workplace.

Geo: Completing a project with people from different cultures speaking different languages is difficult, but definitely helps increase communication skills.

Samantha: Presentation and communication skills in a group-work setting are both extremely important skills for us to have in the future!

Geo: I'm positive my communication skills have grown by taking this class!

Sohta: This class let me feel what to expect when actually studying abroad. I'm sure this experience will help me in the future.



Q. Are there any topics for COIL classes that you would like to see in the future?

Geo: Topics on fishery!

Hiroto: This COIL class made me interested in food, so I would like another course on that. Other topics I'm interested in are wild animals and environmental conservation.

Samantha: I would like a wide variation of topics! I think it would help me expand my point of view.

Sohta: I would also like various topics. Especially new topics like the Keto diet!

Q. Do you have any advice for the people considering COIL classes?



Geo: It's worth trying at least once! This time, 3 students from the standard course and 7 students from the International Undergraduate Program in Kyushu University participated in the COIL class. You can have the chance to interact with students other than your international course classmates, such as students like Sohta that are from the standard course.

Hiroto: This was a stress-free class, so even though I had a presentation, I was able to enjoy it (laughs)! There aren't many opportunities to join international projects like in COIL class. I think learning together with people from many different countries can widen your perspective and give you more experience.

Samantha: First and second year students don't take specialized courses yet. This is the first time I took a specialized topic like this. In the future, for people who don't know what they want to do yet, it's great for exploring options!

Geo: That's true! You will be busier in the fourth year, and lessons will become more difficult. It's better to take courses like this early on when you still can!

Sohta: Of course, the course is great for people who want to study abroad in the future, but aside from that, I also recommend this to those who want to pursue research! When you're

doing research, you will need to write papers in English as well as present in international conferences. The opportunity to utilize your second language to study new topics and share information will increase, so it will be useful to start using your second language to take specialized classes now.

Hiroto: For people who can't study abroad for one reason or another, COIL classes are great too.

Geo: I agree. You can take overseas courses while still in Kyushu University. Like Sohta said earlier, it's like going on an online study-abroad program!

Sohta: Exactly! Even for people who are not going to study abroad, it's still a good opportunity to gain an international worldview!