

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Our Mission

Advancing Kyoto University's commitment to academic freedom and excellence through international collaborations between alumni, students, and faculty members.

Our Vision

We envision a world of peaceful co-existence within the Earth's human and ecological community where people tackle complex problems collaboratively, respectfully, and sustainably.

Message from Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is my great honor to present this 2025 Annual Report and to reflect on the continued progress and impact of Friends of Kyoto University North America Branch (dba/Kyodai Collaborative). Established in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2020, Kyodai Collaborative has remained steadfast in its mission to uphold the academic freedom championed by Kyoto University, and to cultivate the next generation of leaders capable of contributing meaningfully to an increasingly interconnected world.



Our organization is run by its Board Members, all of whom are Kyoto University graduates, and our Programs are supported primarily through volunteer efforts and contributions from alumni residing in the U.S. and other countries. The **Kingfisher Global Leadership Program** is a short-term study-abroad initiative of approximately two weeks for ten Kyoto University students selected annually through a highly rigorous process. It now offers visits to the three major U.S. cities (DC, SF, and NYC), where participants visit and engage with international organizations, leading universities, and major corporations, and interact with alumni and professionals learning their professional experiences and career trajectories. Through this Program, students gain insights into their own career development, acquire essential leadership skills within a short period of time, and are encouraged to envision themselves as future leaders capable of contributing to the global community.

The **Shida Scholarship Program**, established in 2023 in accordance with the wishes of the late Dr. Mitsuzo Shida, an alumnus of the Kyoto University Faculty of Engineering, supports study abroad for undergraduate and graduate students of the Faculty and Graduate School of Engineering. Now in its second year, the Program has already achieved notable results, and with the support from our alumni in selection process, we are pleased to have selected and dispatched six scholarship recipients to universities in the U.S., Canada and U.K in the year 2025.

In today's increasingly uncertain and unpredictable global environment, we earnestly hope that Kyoto University students—regardless of their circumstances or the countries in which they may find themselves—will cultivate the resilience needed to shape their own futures and become individuals who can contribute meaningfully to the global society.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize that the continued success and expansion of our Programs would not be possible without the unwavering support of our alumni, partners, and friends. On behalf of Kyodai Collaborative, I extend my sincere appreciation for your generosity and engagement.

Thank you very much for your steadfast partnership!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rika Okayama". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rika Okayama, Esq.
Executive Director & Legal Counsel
Kyodai Collaborative

Kingfisher Global Leadership Program

"Despite being held for just over two weeks, it has impacted me in ways that I couldn't have imagined before participating" (Kingfisher Leader).



Program Goal

The Kingfisher Global Leadership Program aims to empower Kyoto University students with the skills and networks they need to thrive in an increasingly globalized society.



Our Language

We call the participants leaders, believing that everyone has leadership and can showcase it in their own way.



2025 Kingfisher Program At A Glance



3 cities visited (DC, NYC, and SF) with strong alumni network

10 multinational participating leaders with a strong bond

Over 30 leadership and career development sessions and networking: Kingfisher Leaders visited the World Bank Groups, Halcyon Incubator, Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS), United Nations Headquarters, UNDP, UNEP, Google, Stanford University, and more.

40 speakers with diverse leadership experiences across fields, including

11 Kyoto University alumni and

2 former Kingfisher Leaders.

Leader's Growth

Career Development

Kingfisher Leaders encountered new career options by listening to professionals who are demonstrating their leadership in a wide range of fields, even with a similar academic degree.



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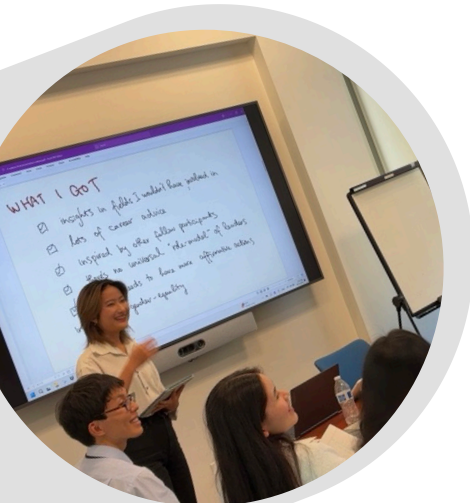
Until recently, I saw only one possibility for myself: becoming a researcher. That is still a dream I am deeply committed to, but through this program, I was able to meet people from international organizations, government, law, business, and beyond. Their stories opened my eyes to the fact that careers do not have to follow a straight or rigid line. (Kingfisher Leader)

”

“

One of my purposes in joining Kingfisher was to clarify this career path: to decide whether to pursue bureaucracy or the legal profession. Listening to experts from think tanks such as CSIS and the Hudson Institute also opened my eyes to a new possibility: the path of a policy researcher. (Kingfisher Leader)

”



Leadership Development

Kingfisher Leaders opened their eyes to the respectful attitudes of high-ranked speakers they met and various styles of leadership, maximizing individual strengths.



“

... Kingfisher taught me that leadership is also about people. It is about listening, empowering, and giving back to the community. It is about creating spaces where others can grow, and about carrying [out] a sense of responsibility not just for results, but for those you work with. (Kingfisher Leader)

”



“

I used to think that I needed to find my role model of an ideal leader and try to become them, but after having talked with so many people through this program, I noticed that everyone has their own style of leadership, and there is no right way to do it. (Kingfisher Leader)

”



Networking

Kingfisher Leaders not only gained connections with inspiring professionals in various fields but also understood true values of networking. Conversations among cohort members with various backgrounds and interests were another source of inspiration, widening their perspectives.



“

The very first question I asked our program manager was “What is the true value of networking?”. ... Throughout the program, I learned from many that having some kind of network can really help change your life, mostly in a good way. ... I have now realized for the first time in my life the vital importance of networking. (Kingfisher Leader)

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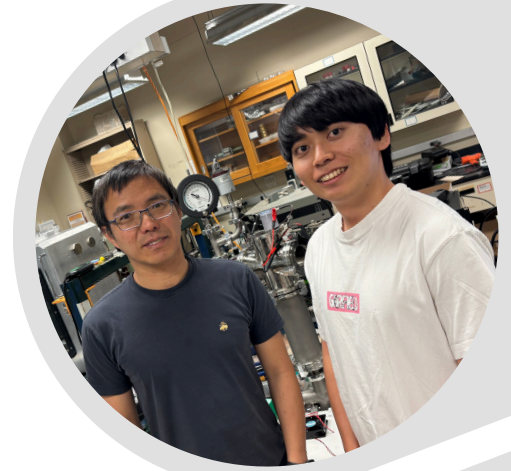
“

One big part that made my experience with Kingfisher so memorable was the nine other participants. ... It was so exciting to hear each story and their view on certain topics. I learned a lot through their curiosity and the courage to advocate for their thoughts openly. (Kingfisher Leader)

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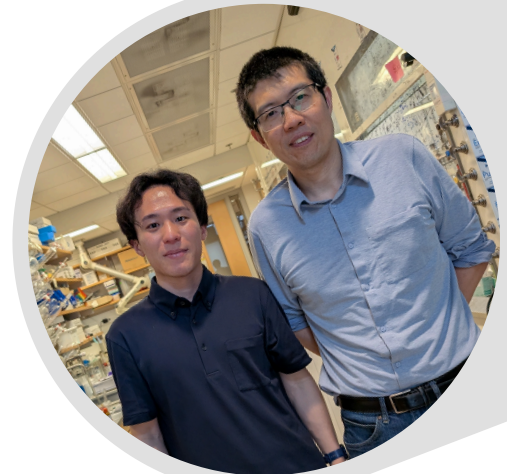
Shida Scholarship Program

“My research stay in San Diego, supported by the Shida Scholarship Program, has been profoundly expanding my global perspective and continues to empower me to pursue ambitious international career opportunities.” (Yuki Akura)



Program Goal

Started in 2023, the Shida Scholarship Program has supported outstanding researchers from Kyoto University as they contribute to research at leading universities in the world.



The Shida Scholarship Program serves as a unique home for professional networking. Selection Committee members, who also graduated from Kyoto University, provide Shida scholars with advice on their career development and tips on how to be successful in the international community.



2024-2025 Shida Scholars



Joint Research Track

Yuki Akura

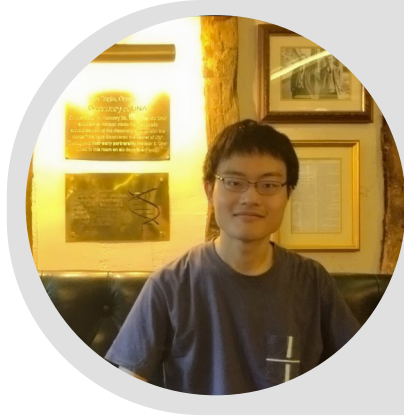
University of California San Diego
Major: Mechanical and Aerospace
Engineering

Joint Research Track

Yusuke Matsumoto

University of Chicago
Major: Chemistry





Post Doc Track

Takafumi Gotoh

University of Cambridge

Major: Engineering

Ph.D. Track

Shoki Kishida

Harvard University

Major: Applied Physics



Ph.D. Track

Shoko Sato

University of Southern California

Major: Civil and Environmental Engineering



Ph.D. Track

Taichi Masuda

University of Toronto

Major: Chemistry



Our Supporters

Major Donors of 2025

\$2,000,000	The Shida Foundation (Restricted Grant)
\$150,000	Salt & Pepper Fund
\$5,000	Baker Family Fund
\$500-\$1,000	Sakai & Misaki Ando, Yuichi Ando

Your generous support has **life-changing impacts** on Kyoto University students' leadership and career development as well as scholarly progress.



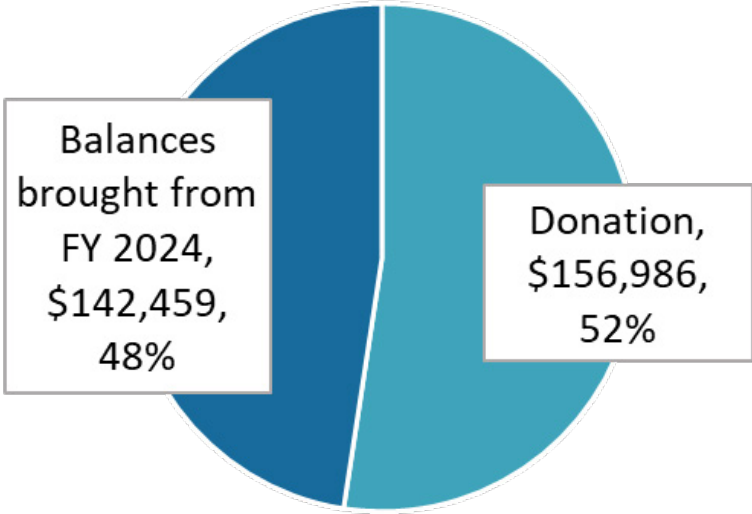
Being supported by and connected with visionary professionals across North America who share the same alma mater, 6,000 miles away from home, has been truly empowering. (Ryoko Araki, 2023-2025 Shida Scholar)

Your professional experiences and hospitality showcase diverse career and leadership styles for the Kingfisher Leaders. **The unique experience won't be possible without you** hosting them at your organization. Thank you very much, all of our supporters, for sharing your precious time and experiences.

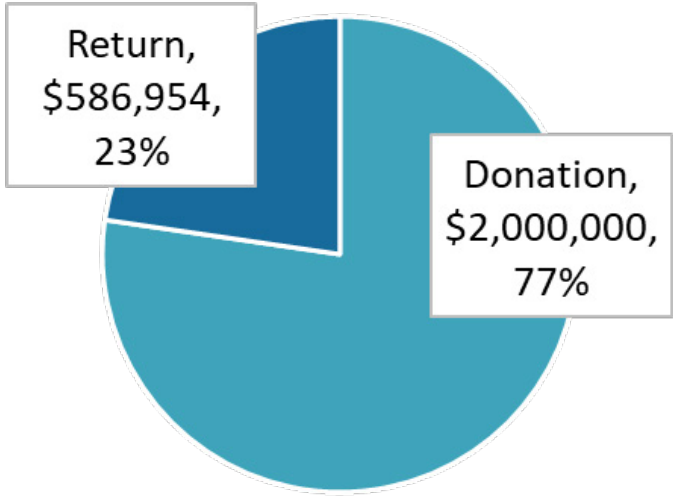
Financial Snapshot

Revenue

Non-restricted

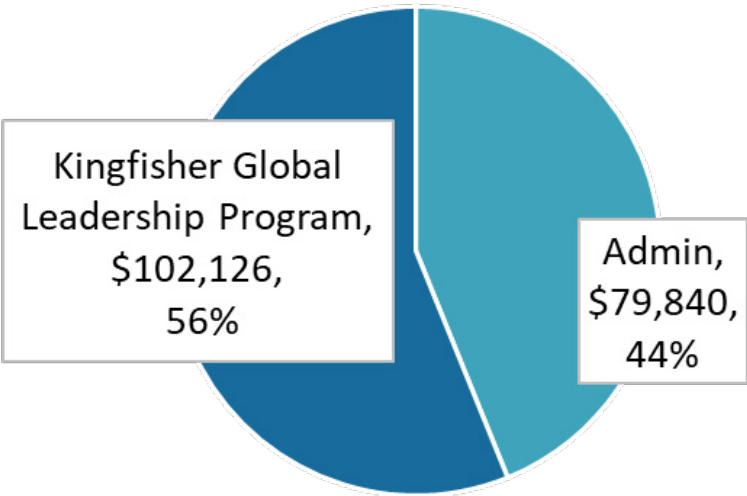


Restricted (Shida Scholarship Fund)

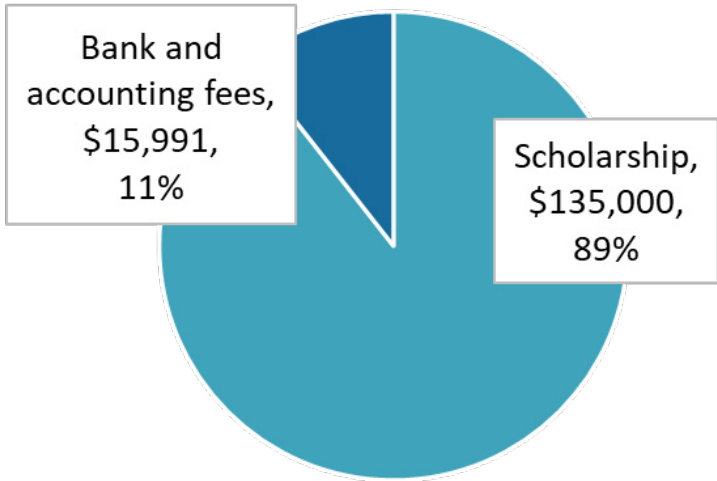


Expenditure

Non-restricted



Restricted (Shida Scholarship Fund)



Leadership for Kyodai Collaborative



Board of Directors

Devang Thakor, President

Yuki Sako, Treasurer

Saya Takeuchi, Secretary

Yuji Kaneko, Board Member

(NY Rakuyukai (alumni association) Chairman)

Kenji Hamaguchi, Board Member

(DC Kyodaikai (alumni association) Chairman)

Kingfisher Global Leadership Program Committee

Mai Anan

Yuji Kaneko

Kenji Hamaguchi

Masataka Nishiga

Rika Okayama

Danielle Reed

Devang Thakor

Nanako Tojo

Shida Scholarship Program Selection Committee

Shoki Irie

Motoki Kyo

Naoki Matsumura

Kenji Miki

Michiko Namazu

Rika Okayama

Manabu Seo

Masumi Shibata

Saya Takeuchi

Devang Thakor

Masatsugu Takamatsu

Hiroyasu Tsukamoto

Ways to Donate

We accept multiple online donations and checks. For details, please visit the website.

<https://www.kyodai-collaborative.org/ways-to-give/>



Ways to Connect

Please follow our LinkedIn.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kyodai-collaborative/>



京大コラボ
Kyodai Collaborative

Kyodai Collaborative
(Friends of Kyoto University North America Branch)

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April 2026