



**2016 Faculty Grants for International Connections Proposal  
Promoting Research and Teaching Collaborations between Lehigh University and Nihon  
University (Tokyo, Japan)**

**Charles E. Stevens, Assistant Professor, Department of Management**

**Professional and Personal Goals:** The purpose of this proposal is to request funds to visit Nihon University (Tokyo, Japan) in the summer of 2016. I have lived and worked in Japan and speak the language fluently, facilitating a visit of this nature. In summer 2014, I had the opportunity to make a preliminary visit to Nihon University; last summer, I was able to help facilitate the visit by a researcher from Nihon University (Dr. Kazuaki Sasaki) who was hosted by the Lehigh CBE to collect data at the Sands Casino for his research. The purpose of the proposed trip is to deepen this relationship and lay the foundation for my own research and teaching agenda, as well as broader institutional ties at the college- and/or university-level between Lehigh and Nihon University. I believe that the mutual efforts and relationship-building activities undergirding these past interactions have laid the ground work for the success of the current proposed visit, resulting into a number of positive expected outcomes, which I will discuss next.

**Expected outcomes:**

Short-term outcomes from the proposed visit include:

- Collecting survey data from approximately 500 ~ 1000 students to advance my research on comparative management practices.
- Meeting with the faculty members on the Nihon University International Exchange Committee to discuss the possibility of exchanges of faculty and students in the future.
- Making research presentations at Nihon University and/or other venues. When I made my preliminary visit to Nihon University in 2014, I was able to present my research at a regional conference, which led to the opportunity to present my research (in Japanese) at the prestigious Keio University business school. In a country where personal connections are vital, I believe that such activities will broaden individual and institutional visibility, recognition, and network ties.

Long term outcomes include:

- Building relationships to facilitate future academic exchanges of faculty between Lehigh and Nihon University. As the largest private university in Japan, with over 80,000 undergraduate and graduate students—not to mention its location in the heart of the dynamic metropolis of Tokyo—the opportunities for relationships with Lehigh faculty and students in any number of academic disciplines seem very promising.
- Creating opportunities for Lehigh students to study abroad or participate in short term immersion programs in Japan. I currently am a co-leader of the Singapore and Dubai global immersion program for undergraduate business seniors, and would be interested in initiating a similar type of program in Japan.
- Building relationships that will facilitate the establishment of Nihon University as a potential sabbatical destination, for myself or others.



- Raising the visibility of Lehigh as a destination for high quality Japanese researchers and students.

**Nature of interaction:** This summer, I would fly to Japan and visit Nihon University for 2 ~ 3 weeks (the data collection process might require 3 weeks; however, for this proposal I am requesting funding just for the standard 2 week period) as a visiting faculty fellow (客員研究員). I will stay at the Nihon University College of Economics guest house, and be provided with an office. I will interact with faculty and students through presentations and the process of collecting survey data for my research. My travel dates would be subject to change, but provisionally I would anticipate departing the U.S. on or around May 21 and returning on or around June 11.

**Name of hosting entity:** I will be hosted by the Nihon University College of Economics. My primary host will be Dr. Tetsuya Saito. Dr. Saito facilitated my earlier preliminary visit, and has spent one year as a visiting professor at Lehigh, which further enhances the probability of success of the current visit and future ties between the two institutions. Dr. Naohiko Ijiri will also be one of my primary hosts, as a member of the International Exchange Committee.

**Pre-trip planning and preparation:** I have been in communication with the International Exchange Committee at Nihon University about this visit and there is agreement about the goals and expected outcomes mentioned above. I have attached to this proposal an e-mail from Dr. Saito to this effect. Before the visit, I will continue to communicate with the International Exchange Committee, and will also have my survey translated into Japanese for the purpose of data collection while I am at Nihon University.

**Expected follow-up:** In addition to the requirements for the grant (e.g., written trip report, oral presentation), which I am happy to fulfill, I will continue to communicate with the International Exchange Committee as well as my superiors at Lehigh about how best to facilitate the goals and expected outcomes outlined above. Specifically, I would like to initiate conversations about facilitating further exchanges between Lehigh and Nihon University, and explore the possibility of starting a global immersion program to Japan for Lehigh students. For the purposes of my research, I will need to code and collate the survey responses to make them usable for quantitative analysis for the purpose of research papers that will be submitted to the top journals in my field.

**Proposed budget:** Nihon University will be providing lodging for me, so my proposed budget includes just airfare, a per diem for 14 days, and support for a GA to help with coding and processing the survey data I collect.

Airfare (estimate using ITA Matrix):	\$1880
14 day per diem (U.S. State Dept.):	\$2926
Graduate assistant	\$150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4956</b>

**Subject:** International Exchanges between Nihon University and Lehigh  
**From:** "Tetsuya Saito" <saito.tetsuya@nihon-u.ac.jp>  
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**CC:** "James Dearden A." <jad8@lehigh.edu>, "Charles E. Stevens" <ces213@Lehigh.EDU>, "Naohiko Ijiri" <ijiri.naohiko@nihon-u.ac.jp>, "?????" <intercom.eco@nihon-u.ac.jp>

Dear Professor Brockman,  
 (Cc: Professor Dearden, Professor Stevens, Professor Ijiri, and International Exchange Office)

First of all, thank you very much for your warm hosting for our colleague Professor Sasaki. He told us that he could enjoy the visit and have really wonderful time.

We, as international exchange committees, are exploring exchange possibilities with Lehigh University. To proceed the steps, making an academic exchange agreement seems the best, as Professor Stevens is willing to come back to Nihon University next summer. In the near future, we are also willing to make further steps toward student exchanges.

An our committee member or two would like to visit Bethlehem regarding this issue in December or in some other feasible point. Our next committee meeting is held on the 12th of November, so we would be happy if anything could be hear from you by then.

All the best,

Tetsuya Saito

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