Keio/W&M Cross-Cultural Collaboration
Summer 2025

The Keio University/College of William and Mary Cross-Cultural Collaboration (CCC) is a unique opportunity for both American and Japanese students to explore the construction, transformation, and expression of cultural and national identity through a variety of intellectual exercises. The main objective of the 2025 program will be to explore the cultures we encounter in our everyday experiences, our histories, and our relationships. Thinking deeply about the sites where cultures come together and diverge provides a starting point from which to investigate specific traditions, diverse groups, and cultural texts. We can view cultural forms such as film, television, music, literature, art, business and advertising as important mapping tools that societies use to understand themselves and the world around them.

Through lectures, field trips, discussions, and research, students will explore the different nationalities, cultures, and ethnic groups that compose American and Japanese national cultures. By examining topics such as race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, historical interpretation, education, religion, and geography, students can begin to analyze how different groups and peoples interact and influence one another while constructing a large society and culture. Students may choose from a variety of research topics that focus on one or two cultural forms they find interesting. This will allow the students to apply what they have learned throughout the program to their research while conducting a close reading of their selected cultural texts. After selecting a topic, students will begin research in the spirit of cross-cultural collaboration, with help from the CCC staff. Through a combination of research and analysis of a variety of Japanese and American cultural texts, students will compare how Japan, America, and their respective national cultures influence the lives of their citizens, and how citizens influence the cultures of each nation.