

# What is BBP?

Beyond Borders Plaza (BBP) is a global commons focused facility established in Kinugasa, Biwako-Kusatsu, and Osaka Ibaraki campuses. Our facilities' concept is to overcome the borders of nationalism, culture, and values to connect with each other and learn about international exchanges and foreign languages.

There are BBP facilities in each campus. All facilities have a common space that students can read books freely and study, and a support desk that students can consult BBP advisors about foreign language study or study abroad. In addition, there are various events held and outside of the BBP by BBP student staff who put efforts to build a lively community at the BBP.

Currently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, BBP is providing these services partly online. Events held by BBP student staff are also using online services like Zoom. In Kinugasa campus, BBP Project Team consisting of twenty-three student staff is planning various events for students. Details about the events are announced via manaba+R, BBP websites, and other SNS. If you are interested, please join us!

※Above information is written on April 2021. Please check the newest information on our websites.



## 2021, Spring Semester KIC No.1 BBP Newspaper

Firstly, we will introduce the creators of this BBP newspaper.

①Grade, Department ②Hometown ③Any comment

★ Luna: ①Sophomore, International Relations ②Indonesia ③Favorite word:

“That there is something good in this world, and it’s worth fighting for.” -J.R.R. Tolkien

★ Taisei: ①Sophomore, Social Sciences ②Tokushima ③I have a chinchilla!

★ Yuto: ①Sophomore, Literature ②Yamagata ③I am a train enthusiast.

★ Yoon: ①International Relations ②Korea ③My hobby is playing games.

★ Natsuko: ①Sophomore, Literature ②Hyogo ③I love volleyball!

★ Kano: ①Sophomore, Image Arts and Sciences ②Fukuoka ③My hobby is watching.



The BBP Orientation was held from April 19th (Monday) to April 23rd (Friday) during lunch break periods.

Volunteers from the project team members of Kinugasa BBP introduced the facilities and attractions of BBP, and the online events scheduled to be held this semester. Participants were not only new students, but also many others. One participant, a third-year student said, “I was worried about BBP, but I didn't have the courage to enter, so I wanted to know what kind of place this is during this time.” Due to the spread of COVID-19, it is difficult to hold the events face-to-face, but the Kinugasa BBP project team will work together to create an event that is fun and educational online. Please look forward to it!

### ~Self-introduction~





We interviewed Dr. Sakuma who is an intercultural adviser, and Issei who is senior at Ritsumeikan University!

Dr. Sayaka Sakuma



#### I How did you become in charge of BBP?

I have been studying abroad in Hawaii for about 7 years, this includes participating in an exchange program at university and going on to graduate school. At that time, I lived as a participant at the East-West Center, a research and educational institution in Hawaii that hosts researchers and students from more than 40 countries around the world, so international exchange is not only through regular events, but also through connections in daily life. I realized that it would provide an abundant opportunity for me to learn and grow.

At BBP, we create opportunities for people from various backgrounds to get to know and interact with one another in their university life. I was strongly attracted to this idea because I remembered my own study abroad experiences.

#### Please give a message to your readers.

For those who are looking for information on studying abroad, interested in international exchanges, and Ritsumeikan University in overall, there are many things that can be acquired from BBP. Many friends you have not seen yet are active on this platform. Please join us on events and satisfy your curiosities. I am very much looking forward to seeing you!

#### What kind of work do you do within BBP?

As an intercultural advisor, I provide consultations who are interested in international exchanges and study abroad. So far, I have had the opportunity to talk with students who have various hopes, such as "I have never been abroad but would like to study abroad at university" or "I want to study abroad from graduate school". We introduce study abroad programs and propose preparation processes that match your wishes as much as possible.

#### Do you have college experience (Like BBP)?

When I studied abroad at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I lived and worked at the East-West Center, an institution where graduate students and researchers studying Asia and the Pacific gather from all over the world. At the East-West Center, students play a central role like BBP, planning and managing various events such as research presentations, Concert on the Lawn (outdoor concert), and International Potluck Party. I was involved in event planning as a member of the club. Every time I see everyone working at BBP, I remember my life at that time and am always very excited.

#### Please tell us tips on how to study a language, based on your own experiences!

It is hard to know which is the best way to study a language, and even if you progressively continue, you may feel uneasy at certain points. Especially in English, there are many kinds of teaching materials, and I was often confused just by choosing one book.

I have liked English since I was in junior high school, but I didn't know how to study, so I developed my own technique to study, which was to write out the lines while watching the Harry Potter DVD. It was an opportunity to learn expressions and spelling, but it did not last very long, so it probably did not fit for long-term study.

In my hometown of Okinawa, I can listen to the radio transmitted at the U.S. military base, so while I was attending college, I did shadowing (pronounced while imitating the English I hear) while playing news in the car. Also, try changing the display settings of your mobile phone or computer from Japanese to English. I still do not know the correct answer to how to study a language, but I think that every day, I am constantly looking for ways to enjoy studying by gradually incorporating what I can do into my daily life.

However, taking TOEFL preparation classes was the most helpful in preparing for my program. The TOEFL score was essential for both exchange study abroad programs and graduate school, so I continued to try to get used to the exam format. I was not confident until the end, but I managed to get a passing score. After that, I had a part-time job as a staff member of a language school, so I was very fortunate to have a teacher whom I met there. Also, an English teacher at the university helped me by correcting the essays necessary for the graduate school admission examination.

I feel that my language studies are still going on after studying abroad and will never end. However, there are still small steps to be taken, such as expressions that can be done without noticing it, and the ability to read treatises a little faster, so I would like to continue learning in my own way. I am open for any recommendations regarding language study that you thought to yourself, "this is good!".

### What are you looking forward to at BBP?

When I first met the BBP project members, I was overwhelmed by your energy. As we communicate mostly online due to the global pandemic, I still learn a lot from the creativity and suppleness of flexibly devising ways to connect with people. Seeing how BBPs from other campuses and other universities are participating in events, I feel that having a limited choice to host events online, will become the superpower of this semester's BBP project team members. I am really looking forward to experiencing the process of trial and errors, such as doing what we can and creating new ways, in the current situation where we often feel limited. And most important of all, I am really looking forward to talking with you and learning about what you are interested in and what kind of student life you are living in!



### Issei Shiota



### Self-introduction

Hello, my name is Shiota Issei, a 4th year student from the Department of International Relations!

I entered the university at the same time when BBP was established, and I have been working as a BBP staff ever since I was a freshman!

**Ritsumeikan University KIC BBP Project Team (2021 Spring No.1 May 31)**

### Shifting to online: What differences have you felt?

First of all, I think shifting to online activities feels simple and lonely. Of course, you can connect with people through platforms such as Zoom, but the warmth and atmosphere of people that you can feel offline has its limits online. However, instead of continuing to complain, I feel like there is always some sort of an opportunity to make things fun. Lol



### The things you are thankful for in BBP?

Without a doubt, I was able to meet countless people. Not only all the members I met while working as BBP staff, but also university staff such as the International Education Center and Language Education Center, teachers, etc. I could not imagine the amount of encounters that I would not face if I was not involved in BBP. I think these encounters helped me grow my values and sense of humanity.

### Happiest moment in BBP?

I was given the honorary title of “one of the legendary students” by Dr. Misa Fudeuchi, who worked with Kinugasa BBP until last year. After finishing the last project, this compliment was the best one for me after working together for about 3 years. I am glad that both the BBP members and staff are continuously affecting each other with positivity.



### The most fun team throughout the years?

This is the most difficult question. To be honest, each team had different, unique personalities, and it's hard to select just one. If I can be frankly honest, the most memorable one was the team when I first entered the first year, because I grew up a lot from it. The most fun one was the team formed by my classmates from the second year. Of course, I had a lot of fun with other teams as well!



### What is BBP for you?

I think it is a place for self-actualization. Functionality-wise, BBP serves as a platform for international exchanges. Personally, I think it goes beyond the means of functionality. Simply, I believe that the international exchanges are the medium to “fulfill what you want to do”.

For me, the purpose was to get the experience of team management in an international organization. I have gained a lot of leadership experiences up to high school, and by the time I entered society, I wanted to be able to lead an international organization that is not just Japanese. I saw BBP as a platform that offer opportunities to grow. You might think it's “selfish” of me to think like this, but it is not, really. Lol

By desperately pursuing that dream, I hope it will positively influence BBP members and staff. For this very reason, I want BBP to be a “place of self-actualization” for various people.

### The most memorable event?

My most memorable event for me is a Mexican festival called Piñata, which was held during Halloween. During the event, we broke a *Kusudama* (a Japanese paper model with spherical shape) which was filled with sweets, and it was particularly memorable because it was a series of trial and error to make the *Kusudama* with fellow members.

We gathered in-between classes, during lunch breaks, and after school, also made the *Kusudama* hard with cardboard and gum tape.

On the day of the event, the *Kusudama* that we made with great care were instantly broken into fine dust. The emotions we were feeling that time were... quite interesting. Lol It's a good memory nevertheless.

2021, Spring Semester KIC No.1

# BBP Newspaper



## BBP Column

Hello everyone. I am Taisei Kikukawa, a second-year student in the Department of Social Science, and I'm in charge of the first BBP News column this semester.

A bit sudden but, do you like music? I am sure there are many of you who likes it. Of course, I am totally a fan too. So, in this column, I'd like to introduce one of my personal favorite band, alongside their history and social backgrounds of that time.

Everyone, I'd like to introduce the well-known "The Beatles", who debuted in England in 1962.

At that time, rock culture was only popular in the United States. However, ever since The Beatles debuted, British bands became popular not only in the U.K but also in the U.S and Japan. This phenomenon was called the "British Invasion". Their popularity was extraordinarily overwhelming that it spawned a group of enthusiastic fans called the "Beatlemania". In recent times, it can be referred to as the "Buzz". I feel that other than their musicality, their significant impact towards society was also the reason of attracting worldwide audiences.

Since drugs such as marijuana and LSD were popular in the U.S in the late 1960s, they were also taking drugs in the process of making music, and it evolved their music in ways people could never imagine. In this period, they made an album titled "Revolver". In this album, they dealt with themes such as philosophy, love, and peace.

Subsequently, they were influenced by the anti-Vietnam War and the civil rights movement that were emerging in the U.S. From their music, they led a

"hippie culture" that rejected social systems and values, as well as advocated peace, love, drugs, and oriental meditation. The culture greatly influenced the youths of that generation, and eventually grew to a scale that could be called as a social movement. The initial impulses of the youth and society were reflected in Rock, and the process of giving it back as a counterculture is very socially relevant, don't you think so?

I am sure that the COVID-19 epidemic has caused some people to spend more time at home, so I highly recommend listening to one of the best albums of their time, "Revolver". I am sure many of you have been familiar with the name, or even the band. But please do give The Beatles a try! 😊

2021, Spring Semester KIC No.1

## BBP Newspaper

Open for your submissions!

Do you have anything new you want to challenge this semester? Please let us know what you think.

We will post some of them on next BBP Newspaper. You can read the QR code. We are looking forward to your submissions!



Ritsumeikan University KIC BBP Project Team (2021 Spring No.1 May 31)

## Information

♪ ふらっとZoomでBBP bbp Beyond Borders Plaza  
Let's talk online!

留学生の皆さん、コロナ禍で人と話せていない、なんてことはありませんか？ふらっとZoomにお話しに来ませんか？他の学生と話したり、知りごとをシェアしたり、情報交換をしましょう。留学生支援コーディネーターも参加します。Ruth International students, do you have any difficulties now? How do you feel this period of social distancing? Let's chat, share your experience and exchange information with other students. The International Student Support Coordinator is also available.

**Schedule for Spring Semester**  
**16:20-17:20**

April	<Wed> 7	<Tue> 20
May	<Wed> 12	<Thu> 27
June	<Tue> 8	<Wed> 23
July	<Thu> 8	-

参加方法 / How to join  
Pre-registered from 16:00.  
参加申し込みは、こちらをクリックして登録をお願いします。  
参加費・料 / Fee  
参加費・料は無料です。Zoomのウェブサイトで参加できます。 / (Schedule is subject to change. Any updates, see our website.)  
問い合わせ / Inquiry  
お問い合わせは、こちらをクリックしてお問い合わせをお願いします。  
お問い合わせ先 / Contact  
お問い合わせ先は、こちらをクリックしてお問い合わせをお願いします。

来場 / Come and go anytime  
やさしい日本語が通じます。  
Easy Japanese or English is used.  
話すスピードはゆっくり、話しやすいです。  
日本語を話さないでください。  
日本人学生も参加します。  
留学生支援コーディネーターと話し合えること  
が目的です。  
The International Student Support Coordinator is available if you want to talk to them individually.  
参加費・料 / Fee  
参加費・料は無料です。Zoomのウェブサイトで参加できます。 / (Schedule is subject to change. Any updates, see our website.)  
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お問い合わせ先 / Contact  
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We are hosting this online event 'Flat BBP' regularly. Students who want to talk with anyone freely get together and have conversations depending on theme.

Let's get together regardless of your nationality or grades or department!

## Editorial note

I have wanted to edit BBP Newspapers since when I saw my BBP senior's ones. I will do my best to make BBP more known and to tell you that there are many things we can do online. Thank you for reading this to the end.

I hope graduated BBP members read this...!  
(Natsu)

