

Report on 2024 ACE Student Conference

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Introduction

The Accelerated Course in English (ACE) program at Kobe University marked its eighth year in 2024, continuing to provide a platform for academically motivated first-year students to enhance their English skills through research and presentations. This year's program involved 134 students from across eight faculties. Participants engaged in courses aligned with their second-semester English classes, Academic English Communication B1/B2 and Academic English Literacy B1/B2, culminating in the opportunity to undertake independent research under the guidance of native English-speaking instructors. The smaller class sizes characteristic of the ACE program once again allowed students to actively engage in discussions about a variety of academic issues.

Overview of Instruction and Curriculum

The ACE program's common syllabus across Literacy and Communication classes included a mix of collaborative and individual activities designed to strengthen the students' academic study skills. Building on the success of last year's innovation, the use of a [shared online platform](#) was expanded, providing dynamic resources and reducing the reliance on physical textbooks.

Staffing in AY2024 included a mix of returning and new instructors, and the program benefited from team-teaching practices that fostered collaboration and ensured consistent tracking of student progress. Occasional meetings, both online and in person, facilitated effective communication among instructors despite some challenges related to staff turnover.

Period	Monday <i>Academic English Literacy (LIT)</i>	Wednesday <i>Academic English Communication (COM)</i>
1 (8:50 to 10:20)	Michael SMITH HJ1 Jimmy AAMES HJ2 Oliver CAKEBREAD ANDREWS HJ3	Brad COLPITTS TZ1 Tim Greer TZ2
2 (10:40 to 12:10)	Jimmy AAMES LEB1 Oliver CAKEBREAD ANDREWS LEB2	Brad COLPITTS HJ1 Tim GREER HJ2 Greg SHOLDT HJ3
3 (13:20 to 14:50)	Jimmy AAMES MSA	Tim GREER LEB1 Greg SHOLDT LEB2
4 (15:10 to 16:40)	Tim GREER TZ1 Brad COPLITTS TZ2	Brad COLPITTS MSA

ACE Student Conference





The 8th ACE Student Conference

The 8th annual ACE Student Conference took place on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the Integrated Research Center Convention Hall on Port Island. A total of **140 participants** attended, including 134 first-year ACE students, nine faculty members, and six graduate students from the Graduate School of Global Studies. This year's poster presentations showcased a wide array of research topics, reflecting the diversity of student interests and their engagement with the material.

The conference opened with a plenary lecture by Mr. Edward Sumoto from Environmental Resources Management (ERM), a multi-national consultancy firm that advises companies on sustainability issues. His talk, titled *"Resource management and just transition: What's fair in development?"*, was well-received by students, who found it both informative and inspiring.



Conference Schedule

- 9:00–9:30:** Registration
- 9:30–9:45:** Opening Ceremony (Auditorium)
- 9:45–10:15:** Guest Plenary Lecture by Mr Edward Sumoto
- 10:20–10:55:** Poster Session 1 (Reception Hall 1F & 2F)
- 11:00–11:45:** Poster Session 2 (Reception Hall 1F & 2F)
- 12:00–13:00:** Lunch Break
- 13:00–13:45:** Poster Session 3 (Reception Hall 1F & 2F)
- 13:50–14:35:** Poster Session 4 (Reception Hall 1F & 2F)
- 14:45–15:00:** Closing Ceremony with Awards and Final Remarks (Auditorium)

Further details, including abstracts, can be found on the conference website at <https://tim792.wixsite.com/aceconference>.



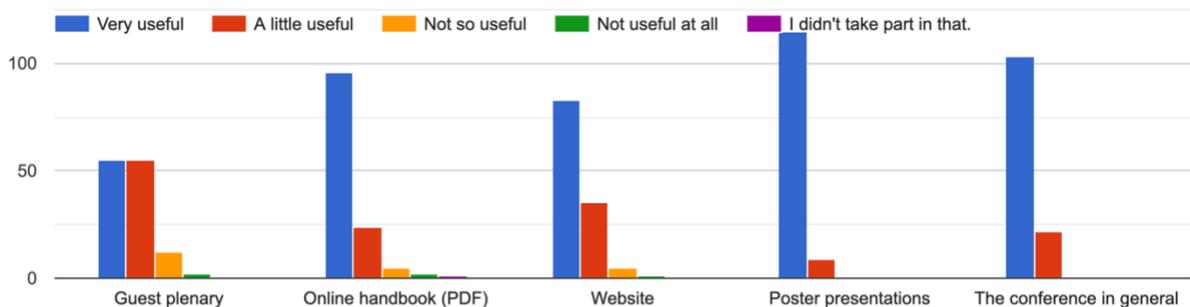


Participant Feedback

Feedback gathered through an online survey immediately following the conference indicated that students valued the opportunity to present and discuss their research in English. They particularly appreciated the chance to engage with peers from other faculties and receive feedback on their topics. One student commented, “I could interact with many people through conversation, and I got new and inspiring perspectives.”

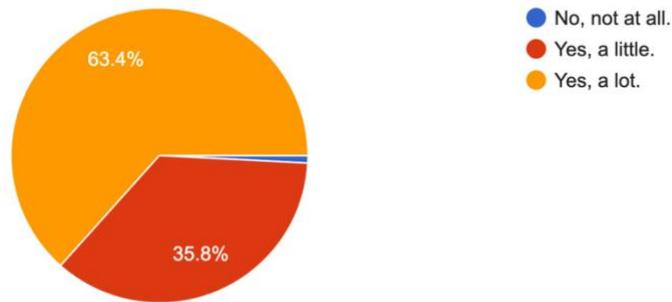
The student feedback is summarized below, and a complete list of the students’ comments can be found in the appendix.

What did you think of each of these?



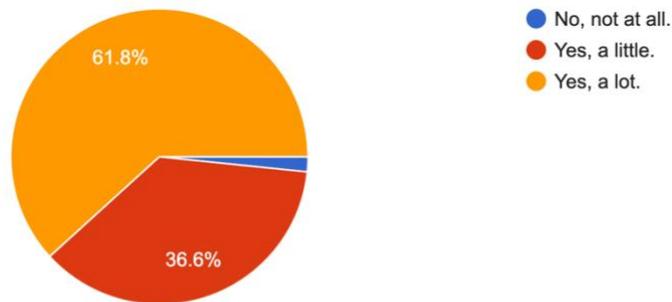
Did researching your topic teach you about academic English?

123 responses



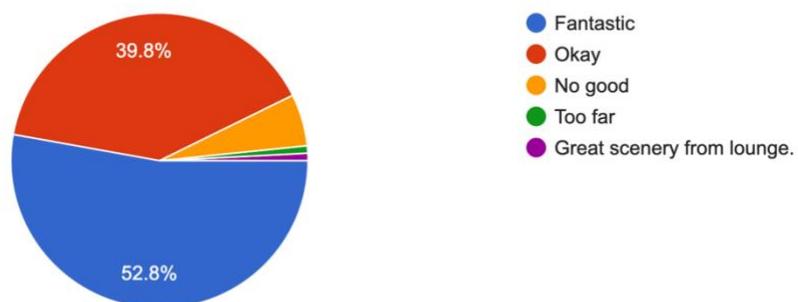
Did giving a poster presentation challenge your English level?

123 responses



How was the venue? (統合研究拠点コンベンションホール)?

123 responses



value, and plans are already underway to enhance next year's event. Our thanks go to all the staff and students who were involved.

Appendix 1.

What was the best thing about the conference?

conversation with audience

Greeting to many students I've never met

Communicating with many people from different faculty

It was that I was able to have an active conversation with others in English.

I met a lot of new friends

I could heard many kind of things.

topics of other faculties were interesting.

The opportunity of having conversation in English with the people whom I did not know.

poster session

It's that we were able to talk with students from different faculties.

We can interact with people who join ACE class

Communicating with others

Being able to talk with many people who belong to different faculty.

Be able to discuss people from various faculty

Speaking a lot in front of audience

Talking about academic things in English in front of many people

Presenter's attitude

Talk with a lot students.

I can learn some new point of views from other presentations

conversarion with plesenters and listeners.

Chili peepers

To discuss with other student was.

To give my presentation

I can hear other students' presentations and see good poster design

Giving kindness comments to my presentation

poster presentation

I enjoyed a lot because I could corporate with my friends. It was the best thing.

hearing others presentation

Taking with people who I have never talked with.

Being asked questions I could not expect

I can communicate with students who are belong to other faculties.

poster presentation

Presentation

I could learn various kinds of topics or issues

I could interact with many people through conversation, and got new and inspiring perspectives.

The poster presenting

Being able to interact with students from other faculties

interactions with people in other faculties

get feedback

There was enough time to talk with listener.

Talking with other people about my thesis project. Hearing their opinions

I got a lot of stimulation from others.

listen to some presentations made by other faculties students.

To listen to other people's presentation so carefully and to use speaking English many times

Discussing various academic themes with people in academic English.

To answer the question is difficult, but valuable experiment.

Being able to interact with people from other departments.

Interacting with other faculty people is a valuable experience for me.

I was happy to communicate with many people about many kinds of topics.

Free choosing the presenter

The audience was so warm and interactive that I could discuss deeply and get interesting ideas.

Poster presentations were.

enjoy other students poster

Meeting with an exchange student from China who made a wonderful presentation about usage of Japanese ward.

I was glad to talk with people who talk for the first time.

Acquiring knowledge

New findings through the discussion with audiences

My studying English motivation is enhanced.

The temperature was comfortable.

Talking with other participants was very fun

I can speak in English more than daily lives and learn a lot of things!

the opportunity of discussion and interaction

I can talk with other class students, and share opinion.

Talking with students from various faculties was very interesting! I was glad that some students were interested in my research topic.

I can see a lot interesting posters.

It's good to hear various opinions.

The best thing was that I saw a lot of creative posters.

Having the conversation with listeners was the best point of it. I can get more new information from them and make my thought deep one.

I think to know about things in many fields.

debating with listeners, that was fun!!

I made new friends through the my presentation.

Being asked a question was.

Listening others presentations was very fun.

There are many interesting topics in this conferences, so it was very significant time.

Listeners say "It is interesting!"

Talking with professors about films.

I can communicate with many people in English about own topic, and understand each other.

I could get so many feedbacks

I can know the new SDGs problem and get knowledge.

Through my presentation, I could get the opinion about the Japanese government with Japanese youth.

I can communicate with listeners.

beautiful place

Stidents from all facilties come and gather in a conference so we can listen to their presentaions and interact with them.

Every presenter has answered my question perfectly, and that's the best thing.

communicating with other faculties students.

I think that conversation with people who I haven't talked with is good point.

I can learn a lot of new thing through the conference. Some of them are very helpful for my daily life. And I'm interested in new academic areas.

I did not have a opportunity to do presentation in English, so it affects my English level positively.

Listening to other peoples great presentation.

I thought that communicating with many people was the best. Especially talking with exchange student was interesting.

I could talk with a lot of people and make some friends.

It was being able to communicate with various people.

Many students chose interesting topics.

Having great discussion about my topic with my audiences.

I was able to get the knowledge of many varieties of academic subjects.

Conversion with students from other faculty was really exciting for me!!

speaking in front of everyone

Conducting presentation, and communicating with peers who are students, was very fun. I like to do it annually

I can discuss about various topics with many students.

I could communicate with a lot of people and try to use academic English.

I could listen to presentation by my friends who are in other class.

the opportunity to do a presentation

To meet native speakers.

I could learn about a few issues from presentations.

I could communicate with various kinds of faculties

free move

I could know a lot of new things on various fields by listening to other students presentations. I experienced Q&A conversation. It was hard, but I could get new perspectives from audience.

The best thing for me was that I could learn a lot from everyone's presentations and discussion with them. It was the great opportunity.

I really enjoyed talking with people who first met, so free talking time after I made short presentations was the best for me.

Listening to other's poster presentation.

talking with people I have not met before is interesting.

Being able to listen to the presentation of various faculties.

By having a poster session, I think my academic skills have improved a lot. Organising my presentation to make sure that everyone understands my research and also talking about various topics with other people by English were both very valuable experience for me.

What would you like to change about the conference in the future?

Opening time is early.

The distance of this conference place

No.

Not so much

time to start

Nothing, its was really fun!!

Research myself instead of quoting

I was satisfied with today's conference.

prepare of presentation should begin earlier.

it's no need to change

The time is a little bit too long so I will set the time 30minutes for each sections

make conversion time more longer.

poster

Nothing.

The place(Port liner is very expensive)

The distance is long.

Floor should not be separated. My legs are dieing.

we want to more model

Nothing

No idea. It is perfect!

Nothing, perfect.

Nothing

No

I don't think so, conference was great!!

More time to speak together.

Nothing.

I'm glad the venue would be a little bit closer to the university.

place

comment paper by listener

Fine as it is

It is better to held this conference near Kobe university.

extend the place. presebtation space was too clouded and hard to hear.

The place is so far from my house so I want to change the place where is near with University.

I am satisfied.

I think there is no points to change. Good!

i would like to invite more people.

I would like to take each space wider so that presenters and audience can see the posters or each other.

It would be good to invite some exchange student.

It is more convenient to open conference in Rokko.

I need more time to listen to and have the presentation.

Preparing time should be longer.

I wanted to see more poster presentations . Taking a video of each presenters and share them may be helpful.

I want you to provide lunch for us.

I think we need more room, someones room are cramped

Nothing

I would like to speak more about my topic.

I think that more conversation between speaker and listeners are more needed.

Nothing.

The day, not in Saturday

set the time to talk free with who meet for the first time.

I would not like to change anything.

I want to the ability to make many questions.

I wanted to do this conference in Kobe University.

I felt that I want wider corridors.

Nothing

There is a difference of popularity between 1st floor and 2nd floor, so we should get rid of it

I want to change the place of conference to be convenient.

Make an aicebreak.

I want to resarch interesting things unrelated to SDGs.

The starting time is a little early for me.

nothing

The place is a little far from school and our house.

The place is a little far from school.

I have no idea, This conference was so good to know many social problems and technical advances.

The first floor was croweded and hard to listen presentation, so I would make more space.

I liked the venue, the number of student was good too.

Nothing.

I would like to be more easier to talk to others.

Not in particular.

Noting

The time to wait for free presenters is too long.

The first floor was too small. So, we need bigger space.

I was a little confused because the schedules on the website and the handbook are not the same.

communication skill

Nothing

Floors are crowded and sometimes it is hard to hear presentations.

I would like to listen the presentations for longer time.

It was difficult to distinguish whether or not I can join in a presentation, so I want to introduce something which tells us the presentation finished.

especially nothing

I want to speak English more fluently.

I want to speak more fluently

nothing

I prefer use magnets for pins. It took time to remove and attach the poster. I want you to make another prize like poster visual prize. This prize are given to the student who make most good poster from the point of design.

I would like you to share students' posters as well as abstracts. There are many interesting posters but I do not have enough time to see all of those posters.

I have no opinion about this.

Please keep the distance of the presenters between each other more.

Some students talked like they are reading a script, or some of them were even looking at a script while presenting. I wanted them to have a more conversation-like presentation than audiences just listening to the presenter.

Please leave a comment and/or question if you have one.

No.

How many people took part in?

I love Tim

I had a good time ! I developed academic skills very much.Thank you !

I enjoyed it so much

I really love the conference !! I can communicate with someone I don't know,that's so interesting

I had fun!

Thank you !

I'm tired of presenting a lot!

I was so excited

Very good opportunity!

It enhances my English communication skills very much!

Thank you for good opportunities!!

Thank you for good opportunity!!

nothing

thank you for preparering this excellent conference. I enjoyed a lot.

I could interact a lot of students and gain many wonderful knowledge or ideas. It was very interesting and exciting for me!

It was very excited!! I can enjoy today's conference.

It was a very good opportunity to improve my English skills.

It was so intrasting event!

This was a good experience.

ACE class was very fun! I hope similar classes are hold in other grades too.

Nothing

Thank all teachers for the fun students conference. I enjoyed a lot and wanted to research on my topic more.

Thank you for your supporting.

I can improve my English and my thought with enjoying!

As a whole, it was very fun!! I'm glad to having had this course

I really enjoyed today's conference. Thank you for having this special opportunity.
It was a nice time to talk with students from other faculties. They have various kinds of topics and view points.
It's a very fantastic time!!
The experience today will improve my English skills in the future. Thank you!
Thank you for good situation to communicate with other faculty members!!
I had a fantastic experience overall. Thank you for having us in the conference.
Throughout this class I feel that my English skills has been improved a lot. I want make some oppotunity of communicating with other people in English in the future.
I enjoyed the presentation! This is the first time which I talked about the academic topic with friends. This is good experience.
I had a really good experience, thank you so much. I will keep working hard.
Thank you for having the conference!!
Thanks for interesting classes.
Today's conference became a far better experience than I had expected. Thanks you for handling a great event.
Thank you for this special experience!!
Thank you for this good opportunity. I think I was able to improve my English.
I belive that conference needs two days. It is too short to listen to everyone. Of course, I understand that we do not need to see everybody, but it was too short.
I feel satisfied:)
I experienced very good time!
I had wonderful experience. Students should try it if they are interested in English.
Thank you for giving us this opportunity.
ACE conference was really fun. I have few time to see students belonging in other faculties, so this conference was a precious opportunity to interact with students who have various interests, and especially in English.
Thank you for this oppportunity.
At first, I was worried about doing presentations in English, but when I tried, it turned out to be a very good experience. Thank you very much for your preparations.