



Career Development Collaboration with Spain's Bergé Group Providing opportunities for overseas experience through practical training

On Monday, November 10, 2008, President Takehiko Sugiyama met with Bergé Group President Jaime Gorbeña on the Hitotsubashi University campus to sign a memorandum on a career assistance collaboration.

Bergé headquartered in Madrid, is Spain's second largest privately-owned company specializing in international auto trading, logistics, solar energy, financing, and port services..

This signing marked the start of a long-term joint arrangement under which university students are sent to Bergé as part of the school's short-term study-abroad program. Participating students stay in Spain for five weeks, during which time they undergo corporate training at Bergé. Thrusted into a different culture, students soon overcome their difficulties, cooperating with their hosts on the tasks at hand. The experience teaches students how to realize their true potential in any kind of environment, not just overseas.

The Spanish government has praised this program vision for its contributions to friendship and increased exchanges between the two countries.



Bergé Group President Jaime Gorbeña meets with Hitotsubashi University President Takehiko Sugiyama





From Language Study to Overseas Corporate Experience, Students Can Now Become Gradually Immersed in Other Cultures



Michio Watanabe Manager, Student Exchange Division, Department of Academic Affairs

In this day and age, a global perspective is essential also in university education. In response to the needs of such an age, Hitotsubashi University not only accepts foreign exchange students but is strongly committed to sending students abroad. Now that the program for sending students to Bergé is officially a part of the overseas exchange system, the student exchange program as a whole has been further enhanced, enabling students from freshmen through seniors to deepen their understanding through progressive experience with other cultures.

The program first of all offers a course to students of all years on overseas study and international educational exchange (2 credits). Students in years one to four can study English in the USA for four weeks (2 credits), and

can take part in a short-term study abroad program, aimed at international understanding and intercultural experience and understanding, for four weeks in Australia or China (2 credits), while students can spend their second, third, or fourth year in a year-long overseas exchange program. This short-term practical training at Bergé, lasting five weeks (2 credits), provides intercultural experience in a global business context. By participating in a domestic internship in Japan, students can really compare and understand differences in business cultures.

To complete our study-abroad program lineup, we are now developing a new short-term program called International Volunteer Project, open to all students at Hitotsubashi.

Gaining Confidence to Perform in a Different and Unfamiliar Environment



Jin Abe Associate Professor; Director, Advising and Counseling Office for International Students, Center for Student Exchange

Spain is considered an ideal choice as a destination for the short-term overseas practical training program because of the contrast between Japanese and Spanish cultures. Spain's corporate culture is dynamic and flexible, a chaotic milieu out of which creative ideas are generated. This point alone is vastly different from the culture of conventional Japanese companies.

Following a trial run in 2007, four students went to Bergé in 2008 on internships, with six more taking up the challenge in the spring of 2009. Plunging right into the Spanish culture, in which things move forward through flexibly and chaos at times, the energy that comes from interpersonal interactions, students are able

to gain confidence in their ability to perform in an unfamiliar and different environment.

Students go through an intense screening process conducted in English by three faculty members. During group interviews and activities, the faculty members look not only for English proficiency but also try to make sure the individuals have a sense of balance that enables them to think on their feet, and are mature enough to not get caught up in the feelings of the moment. In other words, the short-term study abroad has already begun with the interview process and orientation. We have four to five sessions before the students leave for their destination. We want to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to take on the challenge.

Participating in Bergé corporate training program

Location	Madrid, Spain
Cost borne by individual	Approximately 250,000 yen
Term	Mid February to Mid March (5weeks) See http://cse.hit-u.ac.jp/ryugaku/ for more details.
Recommended qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English communication ability (reference scores: TOEFL 550 (PBT), 79 (iBT), TOEIC 730, IELTS 6.5) Prior overseas experience such as short-term training abroad, overseas language study, etc., with demonstrated ability to perform away from home country Priority given to those with Spanish language ability (DELE intermediate level or above)
Program capacity	5 to 6 persons (final decision made by host company)