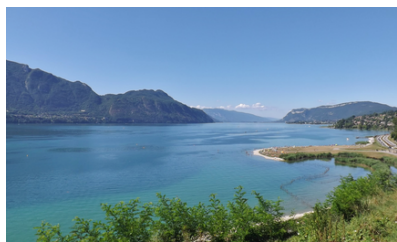


Focus on a powerful common dynamics between Université Savoie-Mont-Blanc (USMB France) and Okayama University



Université Savoie Mont-Blanc is a comprehensive university hosting 15 000 students + 1 500 faculties and staff and located at the heart of the beautiful French Alps mountain range, on the shore of the largest lake in France: Lac du Bourget (<https://www.univ-smb.fr/>). Similar figures hold for Okayama University.



A common dynamics has surged over the past 3 years between both institutions. Relying on the continued efforts of the URA Division of Okayama University and the extensive attention and engagement of the USMB, both have quickly become mutual strategic partners in their international research and higher education development. The links experience constant strengthening and exhibit a remarkable diversity in the collaborations as they include international research projects, mobilities of staff and students and participation in major science oriented events. **More**

Most of joint achievements are supported by ERASMUS of the European Union or National (Japanese or French) funding Agencies. Over the 2022 - 2024 past years more than 20 inbounds (to Okayama) and 15 outbound ERASMUS-KA-171 mobility grants were allocated to master students, faculties and staff. The students undertake a 6-month program focusing on lectures, training to research and earning 30 ECTS credits upon completion.

The ERASMUS fields of knowledge are currently based on Environmental and High-Technologies studies. Joint ERASMUS events such as the [ERASMUS-Day](#) are typically organised once every 2 years. This type of event is a specialty of Okayama University and is organized in Hybrid mode (on site and ZOOM). This gives opportunities of talks from around the world from ERASMUS partners.



Left -ERASMUS Delegation of USMB at the ERASMUS-Day event - Okayama- April-2023

Right - Visio Address from the EU Delegation in Tokyo



A range of joint research projects are now underway -

BLOOMING: supported by the EXPLORATION FRANCE program of the French Embassy in Tokyo. BLOOMING aims at developing new porous materials able to adsorb virus in contaminated waters. From the adsorption characteristics and concentration of virus at the surface, it is possible to assess virus contamination levels in the waste waters - Working with small solid samples facilitates considerably the contamination test usually performed from liquid solutions. The project includes Okayama University, USMB and the Abiolab association from the Normec group (<https://normecabiolab.com/>) and ENSIP from Poitiers University - A specific [BLOOMING talk](#) will be given at USMB / Abiolab in next October.

In summer 2024, the **IPON-NO** project was implemented at Okayama University. It is a research program supported by a JSPS Summer grant and screened by CNRS in France. It is focused on advanced virus investigations of waste waters. The quality of waters on earth is a major world-wide sanitary concern and one of the 17 SDGs promoted by UNESCO (# 6: Clean water and Sanitation). SDGs were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012- Okayama University is strongly committed in SDGs related issues.

Other joint proposals are currently being submitted to JSPS, French Embassy, ERASMUS programs and will keep on strengthening the strategic collaborations.