



# ERASMUS mobility to Japan Pr. Christophe LAMBERT - April-2026



NB: The NEWS is largely inspired of the ERASMUS Activity report drafted by Pr. LAMBERT.

## Pr. Christophe LAMBERT

- \* Head of POLYTECH International Relations ----- POLYTECH - Technological Inst. of USMB
- \* Deputy Director of POLYTECH institute
- \* Senior Lecturer in English

## Polytech: Network of academic public Engineering schools

*Polytech is the largest network of public university engineering schools in France. Network founded in 2003 with the objective of enhancing the visibility of its member schools at both the national and international levels. It brings together 16 engineering schools and several associated institutions, collectively educating approximately 10% of all engineering graduates each year in France. As integral parts of major French universities, these schools enable students to benefit from both the distinctive "Grande École" culture and the extensive research facilities, academic resources, and student life offered by the university environment. The network offers more than 100 specializations across 12 major scientific and technological fields, including:*

- Water, Environment, and Civil Engineering*
- Computer Science, Data Science, and Networks*
- Materials Science and Mechanical Engineering*
- Health, Biotechnology, and Food Engineering*

*Through its broad disciplinary coverage and strong links with research laboratories and industry, the Polytech Network plays a major role in the training of highly qualified engineers capable of addressing the technological, environmental, and societal challenges of the future.*



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This mission to Japan forms part of the ongoing development of international partnerships between **Polytech Annecy-Chambéry**, the **University Savoie Mont Blanc - FRANCE**, and their Japanese partner institutions, including Kagawa, Kumamoto, Mie Prefectural, Hyogo Prefectural, Tokyo and Okayama Universities.

## Okayama University – Erasmus+ (13–17 April 2026)



The week spent at Okayama University as part of an Erasmus+ KA171 mobility programme constituted the core of this mission. The visit was organized by Dr. Bernard CHENEVIER and Ms. Emi SAITO international project Officer, who provided a carefully planned and **comprehensive programme** that progressively explored international relations from multiple perspectives.



From the very first day, the visit to the **Discovery Program for Global Learners (DPGL)** provided valuable insight into Okayama University's approach to welcoming and integrating international students. This undergraduate



programme, which combines courses taught in English with Japanese language learning, is supported by highly effective initiatives such as the **L-Café**. Both informal and well-organized, this space fosters meaningful linguistic and cultural interactions between Japanese and international students. It is undoubtedly one of the cornerstones of the university's internationalization strategy. The following days allowed for further discussions with the international affairs division, as well as with several academic leaders, including Professor SUZUKI (Vice President in charge of international relations) and Professor ISHIDA, Humanities and Social Sciences, training to Educational Leadership.

The meeting with the President of the University, President NASU, highlighted Okayama University's strong commitment to international outreach and its ambitious vision for global engagement. It also underscored the University's dedication to sustainable development and its active contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These priorities closely align with the strategic themes pursued at **Polytech Annecy-Chambéry**.

The week also provided Pr. LAMBERT with an opportunity to explore Okayama University's international master's programmes, particularly the i-ELST programme, which combines courses taught



in English with laboratory-based research. This programme shares several interesting similarities with the Research Diploma (DU Recherche) of USMB and could provide a valuable foundation for the development of future student mobility initiatives



A particularly interesting aspect of the visit concerned the students accommodations. The student residences are well-organized and offer both single rooms and shared apartments. Some accommodations are designed to promote diversity, with Japanese and international



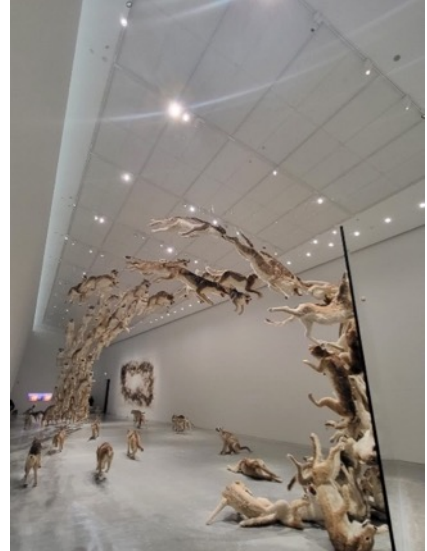
students living together, which is a valuable tool for integration. The facilities are comprehensive, including common living areas and appropriate amenities. The immediate surroundings are also favorable, with accessible shops and facilities for cycling. The whole area offers excellent conditions for student mobility.



The concluding meeting of the last ERASMUS day, made it possible to establish an operational framework for hosting Polytech students undertaking internships at Okayama University, based on research topics proposed by the University's laboratories. This is a significant step forward, with concrete prospects for implementation in the near future. The laboratories of the University Savoie Mont Blanc (USMB), and Polytech in particular, are also eager to rapidly increase the number of Oka-Dai \* students they may host in return.

\* **Oka-Dai**: portemanteau word pour **Oka...yama Dai...gaku** - Universities in Japan are frequently called using their "portemanteau word"

Beyond the institutional aspects, the week was distinguished by the quality of the exchanges, the diversity of the



people met, and the warm welcome received throughout the visit. It provided valuable insight into the organization and strategic priorities of a Japanese university with a strong international orientation, while also opening up promising opportunities to further strengthen the existing collaboration. In particular with USMB - Polytech.

