

International Education Lab Presents

Future Pathways & Learning Forum

Exploring “International Education” as an Option for Secondary
Education in Japan

March 21, 2026
Tokyo, Japan

About International Education Lab

International Education Lab (IEL) is an independent education think tank based in Japan, dedicated to research, dialogue, and knowledge-sharing around international and future-oriented education. IEL serves as a neutral platform that brings together schools, educators, families, and students to explore diverse educational pathways. The forum is designed to foster understanding and informed discussion, rather than to promote any specific institution or educational model.

Event Overview

The Future Pathways & Learning Forum is an open forum for students considering lower secondary education, their families, and education professionals. The event offers an opportunity to learn about international education within Japan, focusing not only on language learning but also on educational approaches that cultivate inquiry, creativity, critical thinking, and student agency. Rather than presenting international education as a pathway reserved for a small or early-starting group, the forum introduces it as one of several viable options that can be considered at different stages of a student's educational journey.

Purpose of the Forum

International education is often perceived as something that must begin in early childhood, or as an option only for students who have studied English intensively from a young age. As a result, families may feel that starting international education at the secondary level is "too late" or that the threshold is too high. This forum aims to gently address and clarify these concerns. Through real examples and student work, the forum seeks to show that international education is not limited to early starters, that motivated students can begin later and still succeed, and that language proficiency is only one part of a broader educational framework.

Student Poster Sessions

A central feature of the forum is the student-led poster sessions, featuring students from public, private, and international schools. By engaging directly with student presentations, participants will be able to see what students actually learn in international education settings, how they organize ideas, communicate, and reflect on their learning, and how learning outcomes differ from exam-centered models. For student presenters, the sessions also provide a meaningful opportunity to present their work to an unfamiliar audience.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Time: 10:00–16:00 (Venue access from 9:00–17:00)

Venue: Conference Square M+, Mitsubishi Building 10F, 2-5-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Expected Participating Schools: Approximately 10 schools

Participants: Families with preschool, elementary, and lower secondary students; education professionals

Registration: Advance online registration / Walk-ins welcome

Forms of Participation

Schools are invited to participate in ways that align with their capacity and interests. Student poster presentations are strongly encouraged but not required. Optional student workshops may be offered to provide hands-on learning experiences. Schools may also participate through informal consultation booths. Participation is flexible, and schools may choose one or more forms of involvement.

Position of the Forum

The Future Pathways & Learning Forum is intended as a shared space for exploration and dialogue. It is not designed as a recruitment fair or a competitive showcase. By bringing together diverse schools, students, and families, the forum aims to provide a clearer and more realistic understanding of international education as one possible pathway within Japan's broader educational landscape.