

## Voices of TP Graduates

### NGUYEN TRUNG HIEU

#### From the Hanoi TP

Completed undergraduate degree in March 2015 and master's degree in March 2017

Through the TP, I have transferred from Hanoi University of Science and Technology to NUT, then finished both the Bachelor's course and the Master's course. In Hanoi University of Science and Technology, besides normal Mechanical Engineering and Japanese classes, I could attend several special events such as intensive lectures from Japanese professors and cultural exchange meetings with Japanese students. Thanks to these events, I got used to the new environment quickly after transferring to NUT. In Japan, besides the study and research, I had the opportunity to join various Intercultural exchange events with both local people and international students, such as international conferences, native cultural introduction, and new students support. It helped me to improve not only my expertise but also my Japanese, English and social skills, and I could enjoy my student life to the fullest. After graduating, I started working for a global Japanese company. The knowledge and experience from the TP gave me a huge advantage in my work carrier because I can work seamlessly in both domestic and international working environment. I always appreciate that the TP has given me everything I need to study and work in Japan.



### GONZALEZ RODRIGUEZ JONATHAN

#### From the Nuevo León TP

Completed undergraduate degree in March 2015 and master's degree in March 2017

Through this program, I learned not only about Japanese technology and culture but also constantly found opportunities to question my own values, broaden my worldview, and experienced personal growth as both an engineer and a person. Currently, I am engaged in overseas infrastructure projects, and thanks to the experience interacting with multinational students at this university, it has been very helpful to my daily life and work. This has made me truly appreciate the value of this program. I still maintain deep connections with my old classmates, and we are working together to contribute to the formation of future overseas projects. Also, I feel that I have gained a strong determination that allows me to say, "I am not afraid to embrace the unknown".



#### Edited and published by



Nagaoka University of Technology

# Twinning Program

# Twinning Program

- 1 Twinning Program (TP) is an international collaborative education program jointly administered by 2 universities located in different countries. In these programs, the first half of a student's undergraduate education is conducted in a university in their native country; the latter half is completed in an overseas university.
- 2 The TP of Nagaoka University of Technology (NUT) aim to nurture the development of engineers in leadership positions with Japanese language ability, and focus on young people from regions that are hubs of Japan's *monozukuri* culture—the art, science, and craft of the unique Japanese approach to craftsmanship and manufacturing—within the increasing globalization of Japanese industry.

## Background

NUT has participated in a TP with Malaysia since 1993 as a member of the Japanese University Consortium. In 2003, NUT inaugurated its first independent TP with Hanoi University of Science and Technology in Vietnam, which was the first TP among national universities. Thereafter, NUT has established TPs in various parts of the world. As of April 2026, NUT is engaged in active TPs with 7 universities and institutions from 5 different countries. NUT currently accepts many TP students every year into all courses in the undergraduate programs.\*

\* Mechanical Engineering  
Electrical, Electronics and Information Engineering  
Information and Management Systems Engineering  
Materials Science and Bioengineering  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

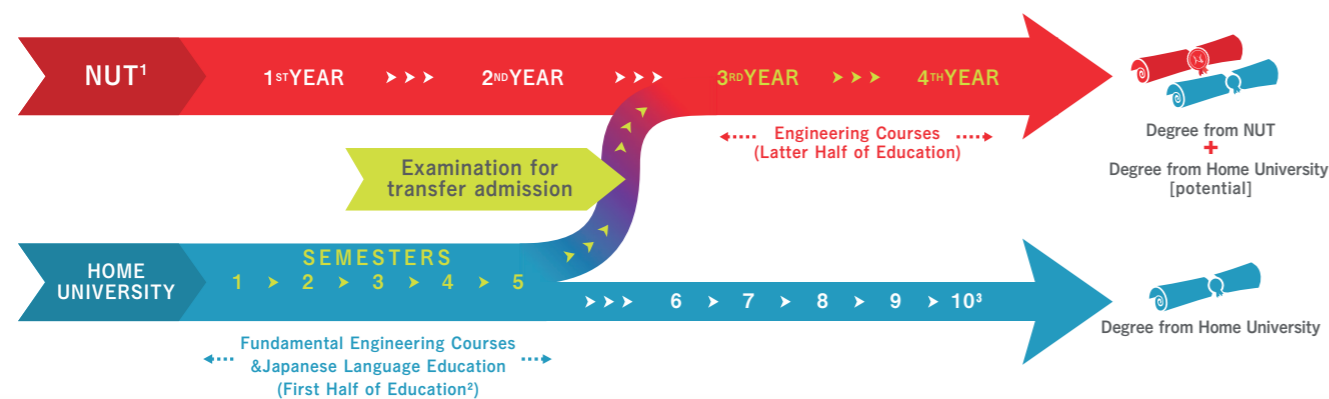
## Basic Framework

Under each TP, the first half of undergraduate education is conducted at each student's home university by local teaching staff for 2.5 (or 3) years, with an emphasis on Japanese language education and fundamental engineering education. Subsequently, the latter half of education takes place for 2 years in a Japanese university focusing on advanced engineering education. Students who have completed Japanese language and fundamental engineering courses are screened (using the transfer admission

## Characteristics

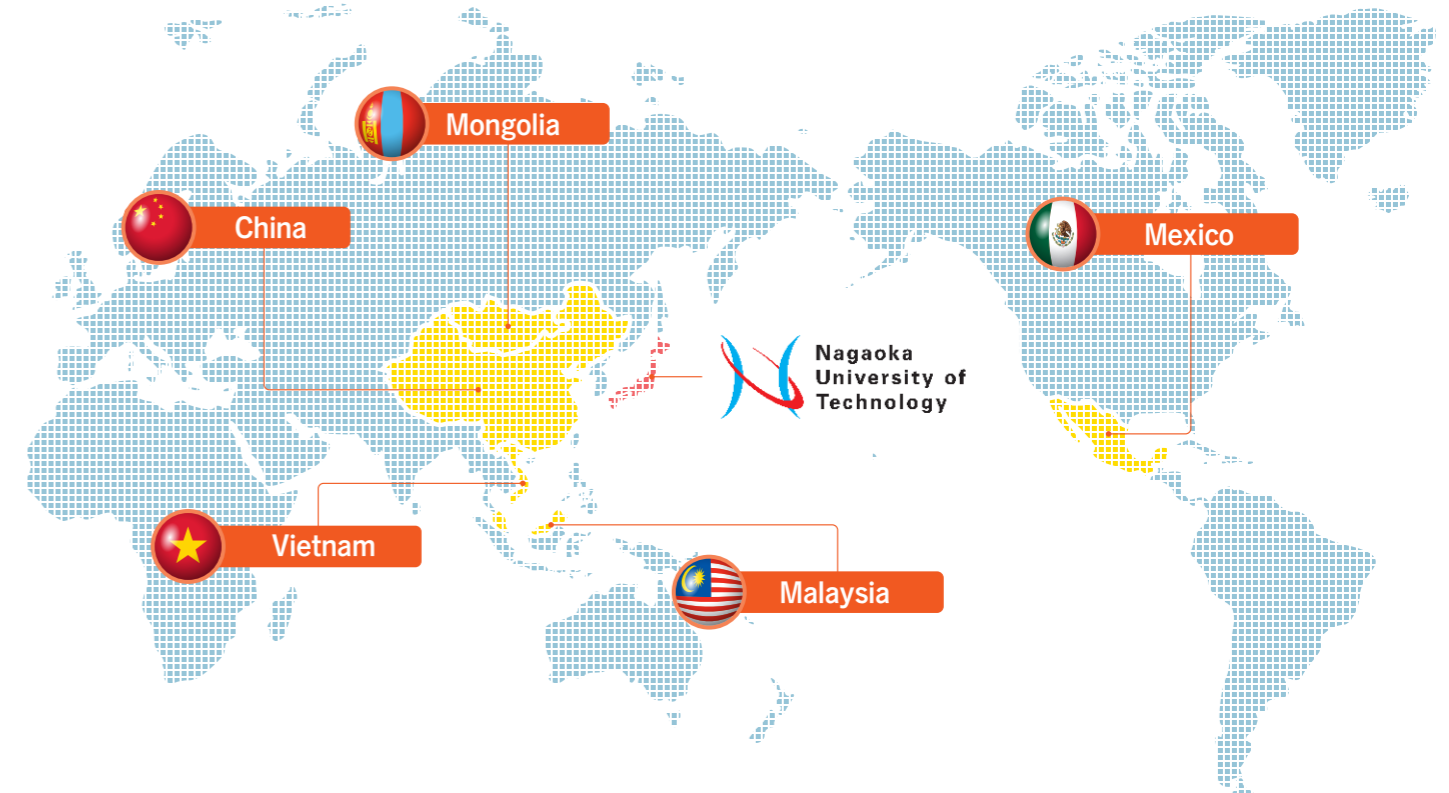
- 1 TPs have a clear objective of nurturing engineers with an understanding of Japanese language and *monozukuri* culture
- 2 The programs enable a shorter period of overseas study (and an alleviation of financial burden) as the first half of education is conducted in their home university
- 3 With the capability to continuously monitor each student's performance in the first half of education, NUT is able to select exceptional students who are suitable for the program
- 4 The programs effectively use a system involving student transfers in their 3rd year of study (a characteristic of NUT)
- 5 The dispatch of teaching assistants (TAs) to partner universities as part of their practical internship training (a characteristic of NUT) during the first half of education provides mutual benefits to both parties
- 6 The programs are not reliant on transient financial support, but are independently sustainable

examination) by NUT or another consortium university. Students who pass the examination are allowed to continue their studies in Japan. Students who complete the curricula of the TP are eligible to earn a bachelor's degree from the Japanese university and the home university. Students who do not qualify to study in Japan will continue to receive their undergraduate education and obtain a degree from their home university.



- 1 Students in the Hanoi TP and the Malaysia TP can be transfer to any of the stipulated member universities of the Japanese University Consortium.
- 2 For the Malaysia TP and the Zhengzhou TP, the duration of the first half of education is 3 years (6 terms).
- 3 The number of terms at the home universities depends on each university.
- 4 Students in the Zhengzhou TP transfer in September.

## World Map of TP



Country	Name of home university or institution	Year of Inauguration	System <sup>1</sup>	Admitting department at NUT
Vietnam <sup>2</sup>	Hanoi University of Technology	2003	Consortium <sup>3</sup>	Mechanical Engineering
	Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology	2006	Independent	Electrical, Electronics and Information Engineering Information and Management Systems Engineering
Malaysia	Malaysia Twinning Program	2005 <sup>4</sup>	Consortium <sup>5</sup>	Mechanical Engineering Electrical, Electronics and Information Engineering
China	Zhengzhou University	2006	Independent	Materials Science and Bioengineering
Mexico	Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León	2007	Independent	Civil and Environmental Engineering
	Universidad de Monterrey	2007	Independent	Mechanical Engineering Information and Management Systems Engineering
Mongolia	Mongolian University of Science and Technology	2014	Consortium/ Independent <sup>6</sup>	Mechanical Engineering Civil and Environmental Engineering

1 "Independent" refers to a program conducted between one home university/institution and one host (receiving) university.  
"Consortium" refers to a program conducted between one home university/institution and multiple host universities within a consortium.  
2 TP with Danang University of Science and Technology was implemented from FY2006 to FY2024.  
3 The member universities of the Japanese University Consortium with Hanoi TP are as follows: Nagaoka University of Technology, Gunma University, Gifu University, Mie University, University of Fukui, and Ibaraki University (as of April 1, 2026).  
4 In this table, the FY2005 which became a program for TP students to transfer to the 3rd year of a Japanese university is regarded as the inauguration year of the Malaysia TP.  
5 The member universities of the Japanese University Consortium with Malaysia TP are as follows: Shibaura Institute of Technology, Muroran Institute of Technology, Nagaoka University of Technology, Saitama University, Toyohashi University of Technology, University of Hyogo, Ehime University, Yamaguchi University, Tokyo University of Technology, Tokyo Denki University, Tokyo University of Science, Meiji University, Tokai University, Ritsumeikan University, Okayama University of Science, Kindai University, Takushoku University, Kagawa University, Chukyo University, and Toyo University (as of April 1, 2026).  
6 The member universities of the Japanese University Consortium for Higher Engineering Education Development Project Mongolia TP are as follows: Nagaoka University of Technology, Kitami Institute of Technology, Toyohashi University of Technology, Nagoya Institute of Technology, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Kyushu University, Kumamoto University, Yamaguchi University, and Wakayama University (acceptance of new students ended in 2003). NUT started accepting the students into the Independent Program at Mongolian side in 2023.

## Intensive Courses

Intensive courses in fundamental engineering are conducted by faculty members of NUT and other consortium universities for all TPs associated with NUT. These courses provide TP students the opportunity to study engineering subjects in Japanese in the first half of education. The intensive courses are highly effective in motivating the TP students for studying in Japan. A part of these intensive courses is conducted using web conference system.

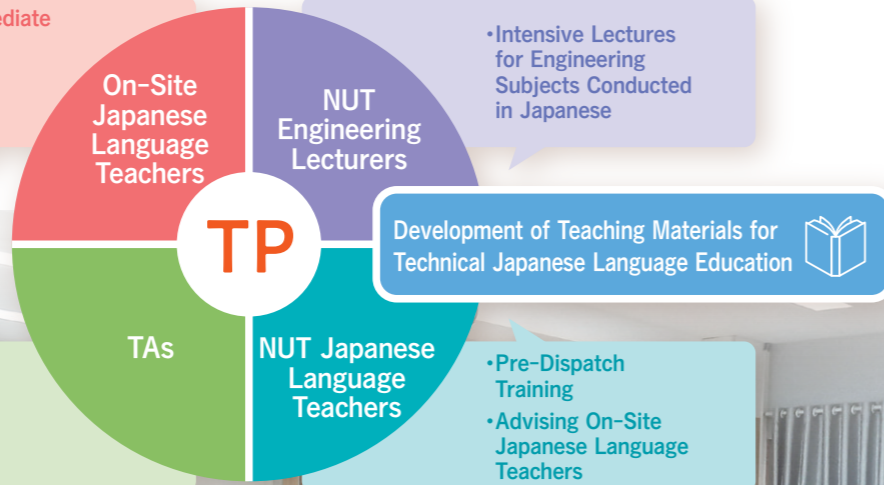


## Technical Japanese Language Education

In the Hanoi TP and the Monterrey TP, Japanese students at NUT are dispatched to the partner universities for overseas practical training, where they fulfill TA roles in the first half of education. The TAs are involved in technical Japanese language education and conduct lectures on the fundamentals of specialized subjects, as the on-site Japanese language teachers lack expertise in these topics. In addition, NUT Japanese language teachers and engineering lectures have collaborated to develop teaching materials for technical Japanese language education.



- Beginner and Intermediate Japanese Language Education
- Technical Japanese Language Education



## Summer Intensive Programs

During the first half of undergraduate education, NUT offers the Summer Intensive Programs for TPs excluding the Malaysia one. These about two-week programs allow participants to experience the academic and living environment of NUT, and focus on Japanese language classes, specialized classes, as well as laboratory experiences. NUT provides sufficient orientation for enrollment and motivates participants to study in Japan.



ROBOCON Project Visit



Presentation in Japanese

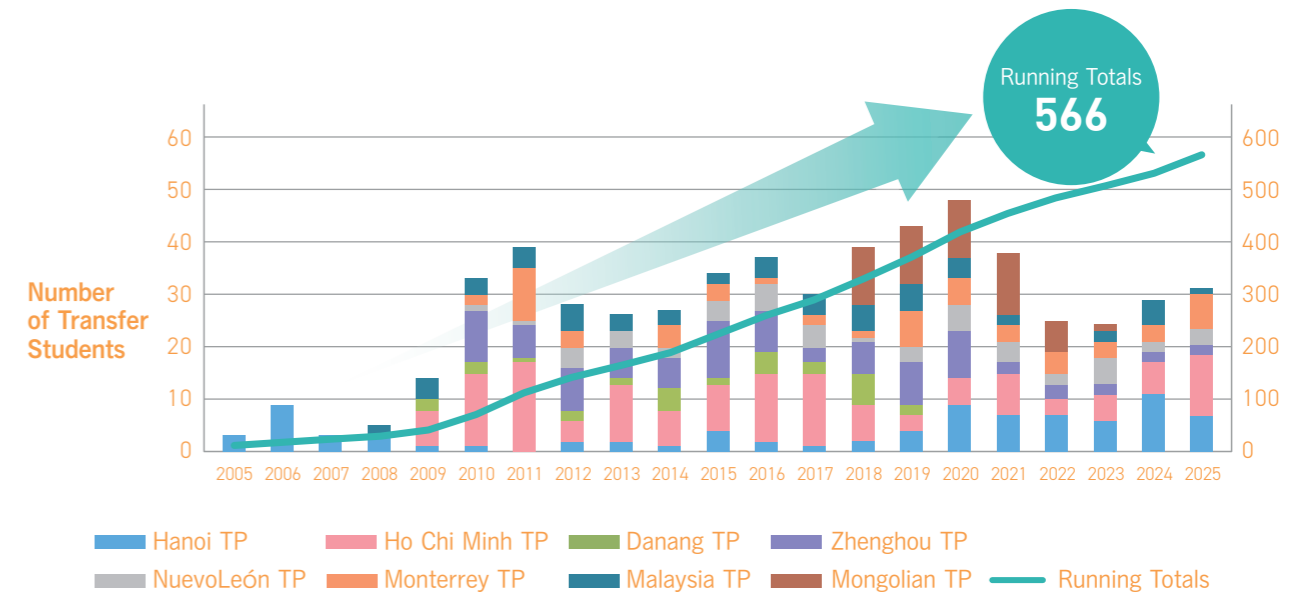


Commemorative Photo with Host Families

## Achievements

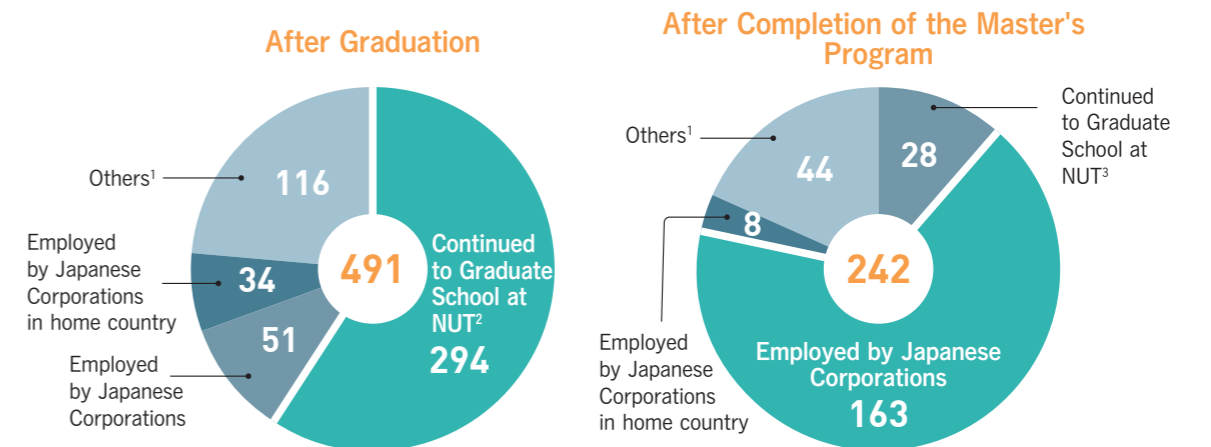


### Number of Students Transferred to the 3rd Year of Undergraduate Program at NUT



### Career Paths of TP students

As of January 2026



<sup>1</sup> Returnees, including those who were employed or entered higher education in their home country, and those who entered other graduate schools other than NUT.

<sup>2</sup> Including 4 students (2 from the Hanoi TP, 2 from the Nuevo León TP) who continued to study in master's program at NUT thereafter.

<sup>3</sup> Including 1 student from Danang TP who continued to study in doctoral program at NUT thereafter.

### Employment Opportunities for TP Graduates in Japan

Renesas Electronics Corporation, Fujita Corporation, Suzuki Motor Corporation, FPT Japan Holdings Co., Ltd., Micron Memory Japan, K.K., NIPPON SEIKI CO., LTD., Ad-Sol Nissin Corporation etc.