

To All UGAS Students

Subject: Updates on “Research Ability Improvement Seminars” – Revised Conditions for Research Exchange Seminars & Call for Proposals

As previously announced via email on April 10, 2025, and outlined in the syllabus, Iwate UGAS has offered the “**Research Ability Improvement Seminars**” (elective course, 1 credit – applicable to students enrolled from April 2021 onward) as part of the curriculum since the 2022 academic year.

We are writing to inform you of recent changes to the conditions for conducting **Research Exchange Seminars**, which are one of the four types of seminars under this course.

There are 4 types of Seminars:

1. **Seminar planned by the Faculty** (Online)
2. **Seminar planned by the University** (Face-to-Face, Online, or Hybrid)
3. **Student Proposal Seminar** (Online)
4. **Research Exchange Seminar** (Now available Face-to-Face or Online)

Update on Research Exchange Seminars:

Previously, Research Exchange Seminars (Type 4) were required to be held online and include participation from all UGAS constituent universities (Hirosaki, Iwate, Yamagata, and Fukushima). However, based on feedback from students and faculty expressing a desire for in-person interaction and concerns about the difficulty of gathering participants from all universities, we have revised the conditions of the **Research Exchange Seminar (4)** as follows:

Key Changes:

- **Implementation method:** In addition to online, **face-to-face seminars are now permitted.**
- **Participation:** The requirement for participation from **all constituent universities has been removed.** Seminars may now be held with participants from **one/or more universities.**

These changes allow, for example, students from the same university to meet in person to present and discuss their research. We encourage students interested in academic exchange to consider organizing a Research Exchange Seminar under the new guidelines.

Important Notes on Course Credit:

- As before, **you cannot count** other UGAS courses (e.g., *Science Communication Camp*, *Special Seminar on Agriculture*, *Advanced Seminars in XX*, *Communication for International Conferences*) as a part of the Research Exchange Seminar.
- Seminars attended **exclusively by students from the same laboratory** will not be recognized as Research Exchange Seminars.

Submission and evaluation of report:

- Submit the report in the prescribed manner within 2 weeks after attending each seminar.
 - When you have finished submitting a report for 7 sessions (totaling 700 minutes or more), please submit the course list.
- * At least 3 of the 7 sessions are required to attend the Seminar planned by the Faculty.
- Grade evaluation will be judged comprehensively based on the content of the submitted report, the number of lectures, and the number of hours, etc.

For Contact: UGAS Office: rendai2@iwate-u.ac.jp

Call for applications for Research Ability Improvement Seminars (Research Exchange Seminars)

Research Exchange Seminars is an online or face-to-face seminar that brings together students from the UGAS member universities who are engaged in research activities in similar fields of specialization but have few opportunities to interact with each other and exchange their research topics.

Students who wish to have this seminar must ask one UGAS-qualified faculty member to serve as a faculty cooperators (see below) and obtain approval from him/her before conducting the seminar. The seminar will be moderated and facilitated by the UGAS students.

Flow of conducting Research Exchange Seminars

Students who wish to hold seminars are asked to appoint a faculty member with a qualification from UGAS as a Faculty cooperators.



Students who propose seminars will meet with the Faculty cooperators and must submit their research fields, schedule, language, etc. at least one month in advance.

Contact the UGAS office (submission of the attached proposal).



Posted on UGAS's website and notified all UGAS students by e-mail of the Seminar information.



In the case of an online seminar: UGAS notifies applicants of the URL.



Implementation of seminars (All sessions are led by students. Collaborating faculty members advise as necessary)

*After the implementation, Faculty cooperators will send the list of participants to the UGAS office.

Contact: UGAS Office <rendai2@iwate-u.ac.jp>

Research Ability Improvement Seminars (Research exchange seminar) Proposal Form

Item	Field to be filled in
Date of submission	June 6, 2025 (Fri)
Suggested student name (Student ID number) Affiliated Union Course / Assigned University / Contact address	★★★★(U1234567) Iwate University / ○○@iwate-u.ac.jp
Co-sponsored student (assigned university) Number of students proposed	○○○○ (Iwate University), ◇◇◇◇ (Iwate University) A total of (2) including representatives
Collaborating Faculty (Affiliation / Position)*	□□□□ (Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, XX University)
Title of seminar	○○ student research exchange meeting
Main target students	○○UGAS students majoring in ○○ studies, especially those in the constituent universities ○○ Master's and undergraduate students, as well as faculty members, who are interested in the field of ○○
Preferred course schedule (number of hours) Location (room or online) Language used * In principle, 9:00-17:00 on weekdays *1 month or later from the submission of the project	July 28, 2025 (Mon) 15:00-17:00 (2 hours) (In the case of face-to-face meetings) Information on the location of the event is provided. Languages Used Combined Japanese and English
Number of students expected to take the course (more than 10 people)	Iwate University: 10 or more students, including doctoral students and master's students Total (10) or more expected to participate
Other Contacting UGAS, matters for consultation, etc.	would like some advice on how to conduct the seminar

* A Faculty cooperator is an UGAS-qualified faculty member who will watch the seminar, check the progress of the seminar, and evaluate the student reports.

Conditions for student proposal seminars

1. The proposal must be submitted one month prior to the scheduled date.
2. The seminar must be research exchange program to improve the research capabilities of the UGAS students.
3. The proposal must be a joint proposal by two or more the UGAS students.
4. All proposing students must present their own research (Except for the audience).
5. At least 10 participants including faculty members and master course students must be expected to attend.
6. All UGAS students will be allowed to participate in the seminar. However, credit will not be granted for attending alone.
7. The seminar must be planned to last at least 100 minutes, including the question-and-answer period.
8. The seminar must be moderated and facilitated by the UGAS students.
9. Participants and presentations must be given by students from 2 or more laboratories.