



December 16, 2025

We are now calling for participants in the EBA Minamata Fieldwork program for the year 2026: **July 30 - Aug 6 (8 days)**. During the one-week program, participants will be given a special opportunity to enjoy hands-on experience while observing and examining the local issues at the site of the Minamata area, to join minds and hands in groups, and to articulate on the issues by making use of the collected data and observations in the field.

*\*Please note that the fieldwork may be rescheduled due to unexpected events.*

## About this EBA Fieldwork Program

**Minamata city** is located in Kyushu island, the southern part of Japan. The city is known for Minamata disease, caused by mercury pollution from a chemical factory in the 1950s. It is the first disease caused by food chain contamination due to environmental pollution.

The Minamata Fieldwork 2026 program includes workshops and fieldwork-related activities. The basic method of the Evidence-Based Approach will be introduced to the participants before going to the field. They will then visit various related facilities, such as the factory, workplaces of the victims, museums, and academic institutions, for a deeper investigation of the issues faced by the local community and the evolution of the city since the Minamata Disease incident. Through intensive observations and interactions with local residents, participants will have the opportunity to combine and compare the different perspectives from diverse stakeholders in Minamata, from the government, academics, the private sector, Minamata Disease survivors, younger generations, etc.

Based on the evidence collected, participants, divided into several groups, will come up with their findings and propose their solutions. Each group includes both Japanese and non-Japanese participants. Participants will receive a certificate from the EBA Project upon completion of the program.

## Language Requirement

- All lectures will be provided in English. English skills are required; participants should be at least able to carry on conversations in English.
- For Keio students (慶應生),
  - Japanese language conversation skill is also required (水俣市で日本語を使い、現地の方々とのコミュニケーションをサポートしていただきます。)





## Online Course Requirement: “Introduction to Evidence-Based Approach Course”

As indicated in the schedule below, participants must take the online common Course (real-time sessions and on-demand lectures) prior to the fieldwork. Completion of the course is required to participate in the fieldwork.

## Target and Capacity

This program is for both undergraduate and graduate students. The expected number of recruited students is about :

- SOI Asia, EBA Project partner universities- 14 students
- Keio University - 4 students

*\*If many applicants apply for participation, screening (online interview) will be conducted in February 2026.*

## Schedule (Tentative) July 30 - Aug 6

March-April	Online Course “ <i>Introduction to Evidence-Based Approach</i> ” (real-time sessions, on-demand lectures, and project-based learning)
July	Online fieldwork introduction sessions
30 July	Arrive at Tokyo / Welcome session
31 July-1 Aug	Pre-workshop in Tokyo
2-4 Aug	Move to Minamata and conduct fieldwork in Minamata City
05 Aug	Final presentation at Minamata city/ Move to Tokyo
06 Aug	Depart from Japan
End of Aug	Online public presentation

## Credit Earning for Keio students (慶應生の単位について):

Keio participants will be able to earn 2 credits in the Fall Semester 2025.

Course name: 国内フィールドワーク AもしくはB (FIELDWORK IN JAPAN A or B) (SFC). More details will be provided later.

## Completion of the program

Participants will be considered to have completed the program when they participate in all online sessions, fieldwork activities, and a public presentation. Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate from the EBA Project.





## How to apply

- **For EBA Partner Universities**

Contact the EBA Project Local Coordinator at your University **before January 31, 2026**. See their information here: <https://eba.soi.asia/#contact>

\*Please note that EBA does not accept applications from individual students without the acknowledgment of their school.

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- **For Keio University Students ONLY (慶應生)**

Please fill out the following Registration Google form by **February 25, 2026**.

Google Form URL: <https://forms.gle/Zs85bYc2UQPKSE3i8> or via QR code

This QR code is for Keio students ONLY →



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## Costs and Support

The EBA project will bear the cost of accommodation during the stay in Japan, international airfares, and domestic transportation within Japan (except for the transportation expenses between the airport and the workshop venue/hotel).

**Please note that travel insurance and daily expenses (such as food, etc...) are NOT included.**

\*\*We will collect a Participation Fee of approximately **30,000 Japanese yen** to cover food expenses in Minamata.

