

Global Bootcamp in Kansai



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01 OUTLINE | コース概要

About the J-StarX Global Bootcamp Series

The J-StarX Global Bootcamp Series is a domestic bootcamp program held in four locations across Japan: Miyagi, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Fukuoka. Through programs in each region, it aims to strengthen the mindset and skills of Japanese startups and entrepreneurs seeking to expand globally. By partnering with universities in each region, the program is designed to reach a broader range of entrepreneurs and aspiring student entrepreneurs.

Partner Universities and Locations (in chronological order)

Domestic Bootcamps:

- Kansai: Kyoto University, Kyoto City, Kyoto (November; off-campus venue)
- Kanto: Institute of Science Tokyo, Minato-ku, Tokyo (November; on campus)
- Tohoku: Tohoku University, Sendai City, Miyagi (November; on campus)
- Kyushu: Kyushu University, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka (December; off-campus venue)

* You may apply to any bootcamp regardless of your place of residence or affiliation.

* Approximately 20–30 participants are expected at each location.

* Each person may apply to the J-StarX Bootcamp Series only once. You may indicate a second choice when applying. Please see the relevant section of the application form.

Overseas Program:

- Berkeley, USA (mid-February 2027)

* Approximately 20–30 participants will be selected from among the participants in the four domestic bootcamps.



01 OUTLINE | コース概要



Purpose

A program designed to help Japanese startups compete globally by fostering a born-global mindset and developing the skills needed for international expansion.

1	Developing a born-global mindset for international expansion
2	Refining an English-language pitch
3	Acquiring practical knowledge for doing business overseas

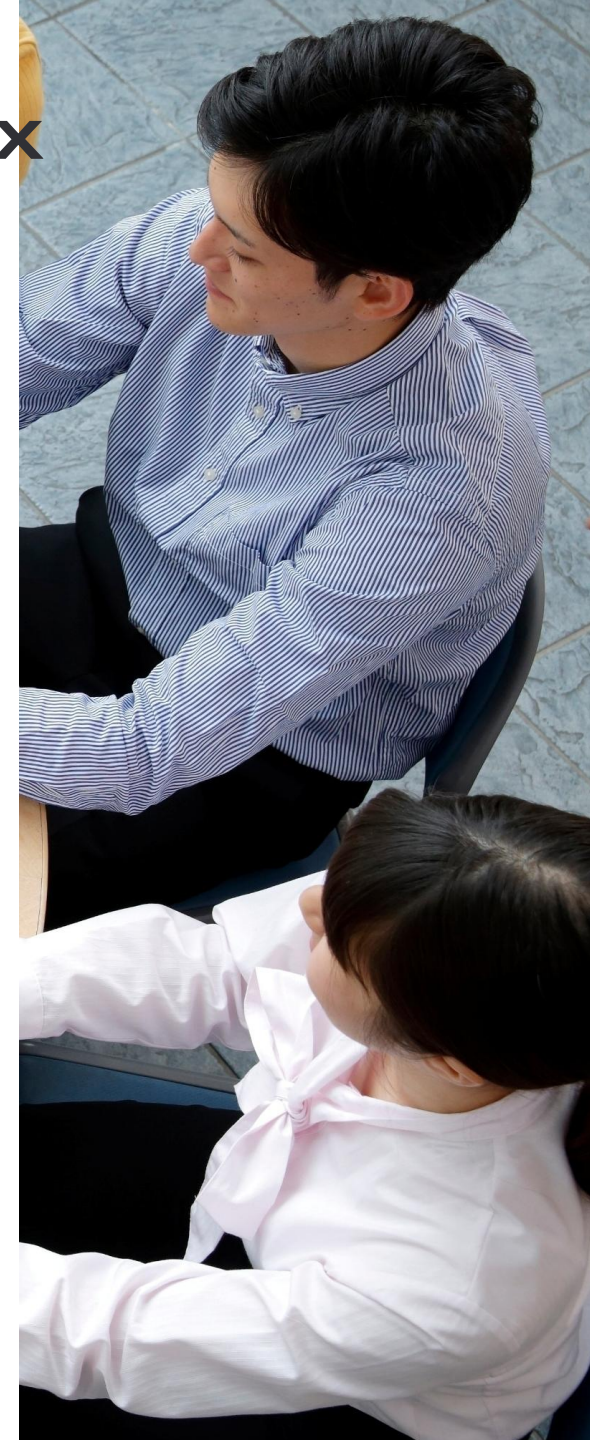
Locations

Bootcamp: Kyoto City, Kyoto
(implemented in collaboration with : Kyoto University)
Overseas Program (selected participants only): Berkeley, USA

Primary Audience

Target Participants	Aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs seeking to expand overseas who have not yet raised external funding Must be at least 18 years old as of April 1, 2026 (high school students are not eligible)
Stage	Pre-launch, seed, or early stage
Milestone Category	Explorer
Sectors	No specific sector restrictions; a broad range of outstanding technologies and business ideas are welcome
Notes	• Applicants should be considering U.S. market expansion or fundraising. • Participants in the overseas program will be selected from the four domestic bootcamps.

* For detailed eligibility requirements, including requirements for overseas travel, please see "04 | Eligibility and Application Requirements."



02 PROGRAM STRUCTURE | プログラム構成 – 全体像

- * Program content and format are subject to change.
- * All sessions will be conducted in English.



1 Bootcamp



5-Day Bootcamp (approximately 20–30 participants)

- An intensive program of approximately five days, with some sessions offered in hybrid format, to strengthen startup fundamentals through lectures, mentoring, and pitch practice.
- Through expert guidance and access to relevant networks, the domestic bootcamp will prepare participants for global expansion.
- Participants for the subsequent overseas program will be selected from among those wishing to participate.

2 Overseas Program (USA)



Sessions, Mentoring, and Networking (approximately 20–30 participants)

- Applicants who have participated in a domestic bootcamp and wish to join the overseas program will undergo a selection process.
- Participants will spend approximately two weeks in Berkeley, USA, experiencing a leading startup ecosystem and developing a global mindset.
- Interaction with investors and entrepreneurs, together with practical lectures, will strengthen global perspectives and business growth capabilities.

* Eligible participants: approximately 20–30 people selected from the four domestic bootcamps (selection required for the overseas program).

1 Bootcamp

A five-day bootcamp featuring lectures and workshops to strengthen business validation and knowledge of overseas expansion. Participants in the overseas program in the United States will be selected from among those who wish to apply.

Capacity Approximately 20–30 participants

Dates November 4 (Wed) to November 8 (Sun), 2026

Overview

- Workshops covering startup fundamentals, including go-to-market strategy, fundraising, and pitch practice
- Examples of lectures and workshops:
 - Startup product strategy and customer discovery, including for deep-tech ventures
 - Approaches to business growth with global markets in mind
 - Elevator pitch workshop
- * Language: English
- * Some sessions are planned to be held in a hybrid format, both in person and online.
- * Program content is subject to change.
- * Selected applicants will receive further details on the schedule.

2 Overseas Program (USA)

An approximately two-week in-person program in Berkeley, USA. Through lectures on business growth and fundraising for the U.S. market, workshops including pitch practice, visits to companies and innovation hubs, and networking, participants will gain practical knowledge and broaden their perspective for global expansion.

Capacity Approximately 20–30 participants (selected applicants only)

Dates Mid-February 2027 (Berkeley, USA)

Overview

- Lectures and workshops covering startup fundamentals, pitching, fundraising, go-to-market strategy, and related topics
- Mentoring by SkyDeck advisors and mentors
- Visits to innovation hubs in the Bay Area ecosystem, interaction with companies and partners, and networking

* Approximately 20–30 participants will be selected from the four domestic bootcamps.

* Language: English



Berkeley SkyDeck

HP : [Berkeley SKYDECK](https://www.skydeck.org/)

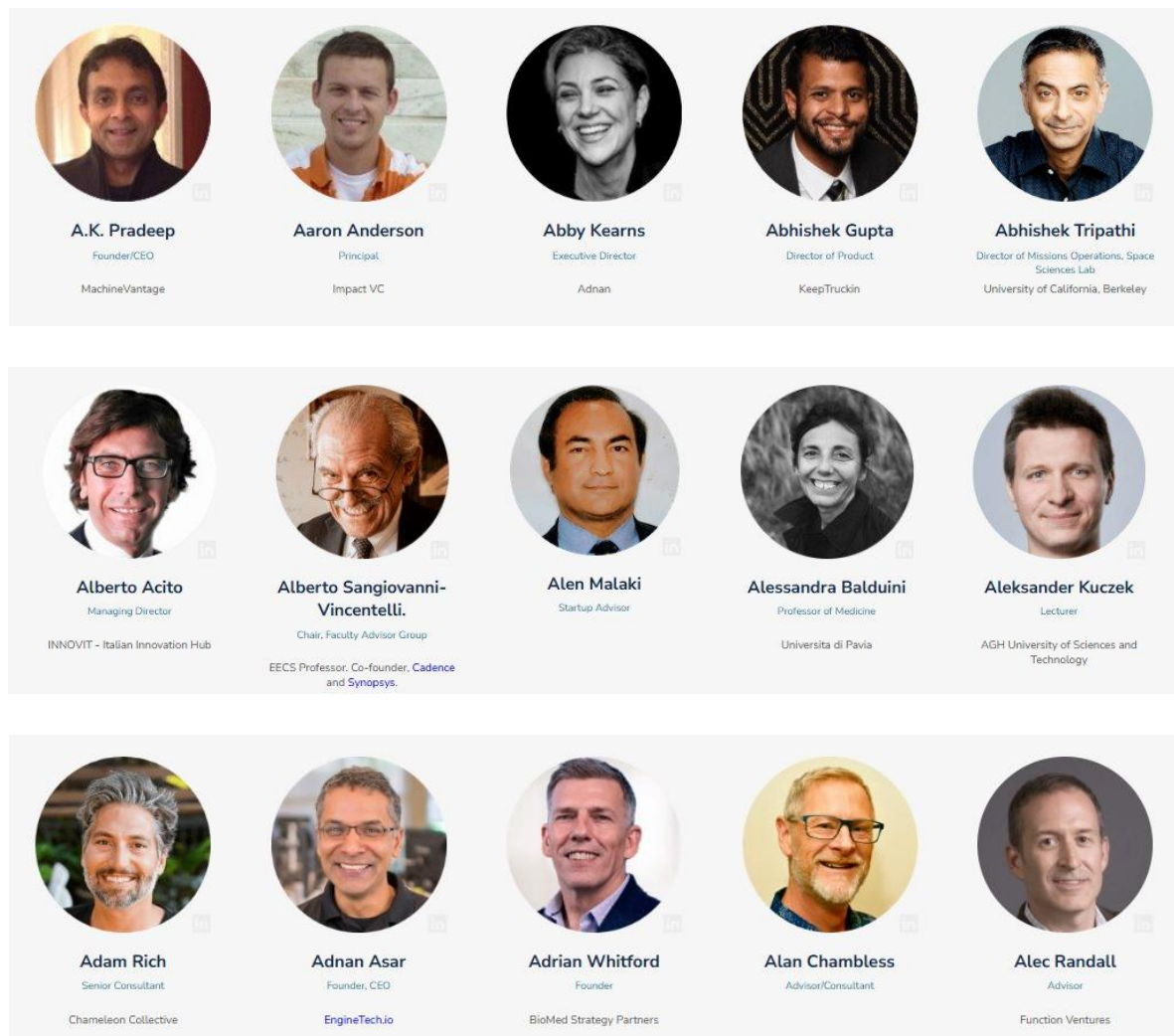
Berkeley SkyDeck is one of the world's leading university-affiliated startup accelerators, founded at the University of California, Berkeley.

SkyDeck's mission is to develop and foster entrepreneurial ecosystems both locally and globally. As the University of California's global startup accelerator and incubator, SkyDeck supports startups seeking to bring science- and technology-driven expertise and ideas to new markets.

02 PROGRAM STRUCTURE | プログラム構成 – 支援機関の紹介



★Examples of mentors working with Berkeley SkyDeck



03 SCHEDULE | スケジュール



*1 Interviews may be conducted if necessary.

Capacity

- Domestic Bootcamp: approximately 20–30 participants
- Overseas Program: approximately 20–30 participants will be selected from the four domestic bootcamps

Primary Audience

Target Participants	Aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs seeking global expansion who have not yet raised external funding.
Stage	Pre-launch, seed, or early stage
Milestone Category	Explorer
Sectors	No specific sector restrictions; a broad range of outstanding technologies and business ideas are welcome
Notes	• Applicants should be considering U.S. market expansion or fundraising. • Participants in the overseas program will be selected from the four bootcamps.

Application Requirements

Program participants must meet all of the following requirements:

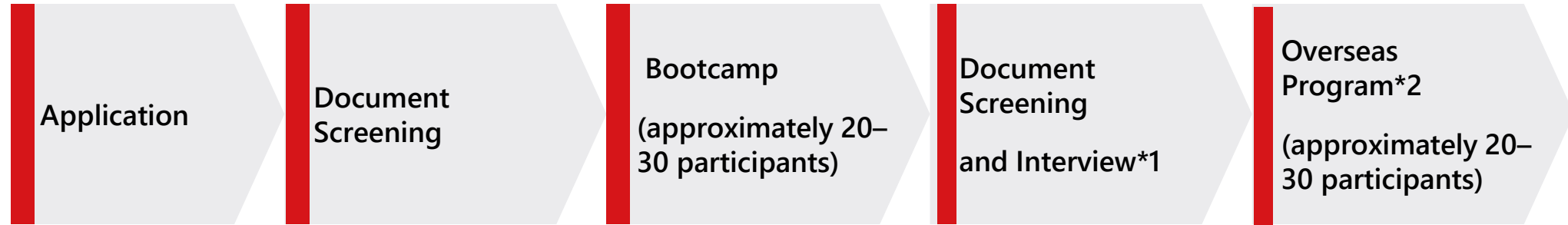
- Be at least 18 years old as of April 1, 2026 (high school students are not eligible).
- Be able to participate in the full program schedule.
- Be a pre- or post-launch entrepreneur, whether a working professional or student, or a CXO-level executive or head of overseas business at a Japanese startup based in Japan, regardless of nationality. Applicants must not have raised external funding.
- English-language proposal materials and English proficiency sufficient for business meetings are recommended.
- A prototype that can be presented to potential partners is recommended.
- **Have responded to interviews, surveys, and other follow-up requests during and after any previous programs in which the applicant participated, and agree to cooperate with all future follow-up requests.**
- Be able to prepare the equipment and environment required to participate in program services such as online mentoring.
- This program is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and JETRO. Follow-up surveys and interviews will be conducted as needed throughout the program.

Costs borne by participants

- Except for eligible participants as described under “Expenses Arranged and Covered Directly by JETRO”
- Local transportation, meals, communications, visa fees, overseas travel insurance, and other expenses incurred abroad
- All other expenses not listed under “Expenses Covered by JETRO”

Cost Coverage by JETRO (In-kind Payment)

- Program fees for mentoring, workshops, events, and other activities during the domestic bootcamp and overseas program
- For eligible participants only: domestic transportation to the domestic bootcamp, including airfare or bullet train / limited express fares, and accommodation
- For eligible participants only: airfare and accommodation for one participant during the overseas program
- All of the above will be arranged directly by JETRO. No cash payment will be made to participants.
- For domestic residents who live in areas requiring transportation and accommodation arrangements to attend the domestic bootcamp, JETRO will determine eligibility based on the participant’s current address and will arrange and cover eligible expenses. Details will be provided separately.
- For the overseas program, if participants use the flights and hotel designated by JETRO, JETRO will make the arrangements and participants will not bear the airfare or accommodation costs.
- Cancellation fees will apply if flights or hotels arranged by JETRO are canceled.
- Participants may arrange alternative flights or hotels at their own expense. Please review the program location and schedule carefully and make your own arrangements.



*1 Online interviews will be conducted only for selected applicants. Dates will be communicated separately.

*2 Approximately 20–30 participants will be selected from the four domestic bootcamps.

Selection Criteria

- Participation must be considered meaningful in light of the applicant's participation in other JETRO programs, application details, and objectives and status of overseas expansion. See the next page for details.
- The applicant must be supportable by the mentors and JETRO.
- Participation in the program should be expected to contribute to scale-up.
- The business should be technology-driven and offer novelty or competitive advantage in its product, technology, or service idea.
- The value proposition should be clear.
- The business model should demonstrate strong profitability and potential for sustainable growth.
- The applicant should have traction demonstrating market demand.
- The team should be suitable for overseas expansion.
- The approach and conditions for collaboration with partners should be clear.

Selection Criteria : Appropriate Course Selection

■ Approach to Program Selection

For each program, one of the selection criteria is ensuring that participating companies choose the appropriate course based on their business stage and objectives, so that they can achieve maximum results. Since the challenges and needs related to overseas expansion vary from company to company, we recommend selecting a course by working backward from “what your company wants to achieve right now.” Examples of Primary Participation Objectives

- Validating Product-Market Fit (PMF) in Overseas Markets
- Refining Go-to-Market Strategies
- Gaining initial traction
- Building an overseas network

Participating in multiple programs without a clear objective can lead to a dispersion of time and resources. To make the most effective use of “time”—the most critical resource for startups—please ensure you understand the purpose of the program before applying.

■ We Recommend Consulting Before Applying

The JETRO Startup Team offers consultations to help you select the most suitable course based on your business stage and strategic direction.

- If you have been accepted into another acceleration program this fiscal year or those unsure about which course to choose In any of these cases, please feel free to consult with us before applying.

MILESTONE TYPE	PARTICIPATION OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED CONDITIONS
Explorer (Exploration)	Validating direction and understanding the market at the idea stage	Not yet at the MVP stage, but interested in expanding overseas
Validator (Validation)	Market validation and user interviews at the PoC/MVP stage	Product in place; hypothesis validation stage
Scaler (Growth)	Acquiring customers and investors; executing international expansion	Product has reached a certain level of maturity; plans for international expansion
Connector (Specialization)	Focus on collaboration with investors and partners	Purpose-Specific (Fundraising, Partnerships, etc.)

Application Form

First deadline: Oct. 4 (Sun), 2026, 11:59 p.m. JST
Second deadline: Oct. 9 (Fri), 2026, 12:00 noon JST

*** Applications submitted by the first deadline will be reviewed on a priority basis.**

■ Important Notes on Applying

- Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances.
 - Heavy traffic immediately before the deadline may prevent submission. Please apply well in advance.
 - Pitch materials cannot be revised or replaced after submission.
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■ Application Process

- An English-language pitch deck must be submitted separately. See the following pages for format and submission instructions.
- Applications will be reviewed and applicants will be notified of the selection results.
- The pre-travel selection process will include both document screening and an online interview.
- Please note that we cannot respond to inquiries regarding selection results.
- Domestic program participants will need to submit a consent form. Applicants selected for overseas travel will need to submit a pledge and a copy of the passport page containing their photograph. Please prepare these documents. Further details will be provided to selected participants.

Guidelines for Preparing the English Pitch Deck

Please note that if the following guidelines are not followed, your submission may be excluded from consideration.

■ Pitch Deck Preparation Requirements

- Include the information listed in the section at right.
- Do not include a cover page. The deck must be no more than six pages.
- Prepare the file in PowerPoint whenever possible, convert it to PDF, and submit the PDF. **The file size must not exceed 3 MB.**
- Name the file "**CourseName_CompanyName_YourName.pdf**."
- Final submission deadline: **October 9 (Fri), 2026, 12:00 noon JST**

* Submissions after the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances.

■ Required Content for the English Pitch Deck

- Include the following four required items concerning your prototype. Add your name in the upper-left corner of the first page.
 - The social issue you aim to address and your proposed solution.
 - An overview of the prototype or business idea and its technology, using photos, diagrams, and text
 - Business growth strategy
 - Key selling points and strengths of the prototype or business idea
- * The materials must be prepared in English.
* There are no restrictions on slide design.
* Prepare the file in PowerPoint whenever possible and convert it to PDF.

* If you cannot upload the pitch deck through the application form, please submit it to the email address below.

Use the subject line "Bootcamp in Kansai_Pitch Deck Submission_Your Name," and include your name in the body of the email.

* Submissions after the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Submission address: J-StarX@jetro.go.jp
JETRO Startup Division Inoue, Taguchi and Ota

1. Program-related cost support is generally limited to up to one participant per company.
2. If necessary, mentors and JETRO staff may accompany participants to meetings with prospective local partners. Participants are also asked to cooperate with post-program outcome and progress follow-up.
3. Please note that, after passing the selection process for this program, information about your company may be shared externally to introduce JETRO projects or report program outcomes. (All content to be shared will be reviewed in advance.)
4. The applicant's participation in this program must be deemed appropriate and meaningful, taking into account their participation status in other JETRO programs, application details, and the purpose and current status of their overseas expansion. *See p. 14.

Disclaimer (Japanese)

Please read [J-StarX Terms of Use and Disclaimer](#) carefully before applying.

Cancellation Policy

Under no circumstances will cancellations be accepted after travel dates have been finalized.

If JETRO incurs any cancellation or change fees related to flights, accommodations, or other arrangements, such fees must be borne by the participant or the participant's company.

09 CONTACT | お問い合わせ



Course J-StarX Global Bootcamp in Kansai

Organizer JETRO Startup Division

Contact Inoue, Taguchi and Ota

Inquiry [Please click here to make an inquiry](#)

