



GSE Bootcamp



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01 OUTLINE | コース概要



Objective

Held in conjunction with Global Startup Expo 2026 (GSE 2026), this program is designed for startups pursuing international expansion, as well as researchers and academics aspiring to launch startups. It aims to help participants develop a global business mindset and acquire the foundational knowledge and practical skills needed to engage effectively with international stakeholders, including investors.

1	Develop customer and talent-acquisition strategies for overseas expansion
2	Refine English pitches and pitch decks
3	Sector-specific one-on-one mentoring

Location

Osaka, near Umeda Station (planned)

Primary Audience

Target Participants	Japan-based startups, including researcher-founded startups
Stage	All stages
Milestone Category	ALL
Sectors	Deep tech (biotech/healthcare, quantum, fusion energy, space, AI/advanced robotics, semiconductors/communications, etc.)
Notes	Applicants need not be GSE exhibitors or speakers



02 PROGRAM STRUCTURE | プログラム構成 – 全体像

*Program content and format are subject to change.

*English will be used throughout the program.



1 Bootcamp



September 24 (Thu) – September 26 (Sat) Online
September 28 (Mon) – October 5 (Mon) In person

Lectures, workshops, and one-on-one mentoring will help participants build a clear vision for overseas expansion and learn practical approaches to networking with international investors and prospective customers.

Immediately before GSE, advisors will provide pitch feedback to refine participants' English pitches.

2

Participation in Global Startup Expo 2026 (GSE 2026)



October 5 (Mon) – October 7 (Wed)

Participants will exhibit at booths, take part in pitch events, and network with domestic and international investors and other ecosystem stakeholders at GSE.

By attending GSE-related side events, participants will build networks for future international expansion and deepen their understanding of overseas markets.

1 Bootcamp

During the 10-day Bootcamp, participants strengthen pitching and business-meeting skills for building relationships with international stakeholders. By aligning the program with GSE, participants can connect with overseas ecosystem leaders visiting Japan during the same period.

Capacity Up to 30 participants

Schedule September 24 – 26, 2026 (online)
September 28 – October 5, 2026 (in person)

Overview

Held in conjunction with Global Startup Expo 2026 (GSE 2026) in Osaka from October 5 to 7, this course provides lectures and workshops for startups and entrepreneurs pursuing international expansion, particularly into the U.S. market. The course aims to strengthen participants' global business mindset and practical skills.

- Lectures on customer discovery/acquisition, strategic fundraising, and talent acquisition
- Refinement of elevator pitches and pitch decks
- Mock Demo Day
- One-on-one mentoring



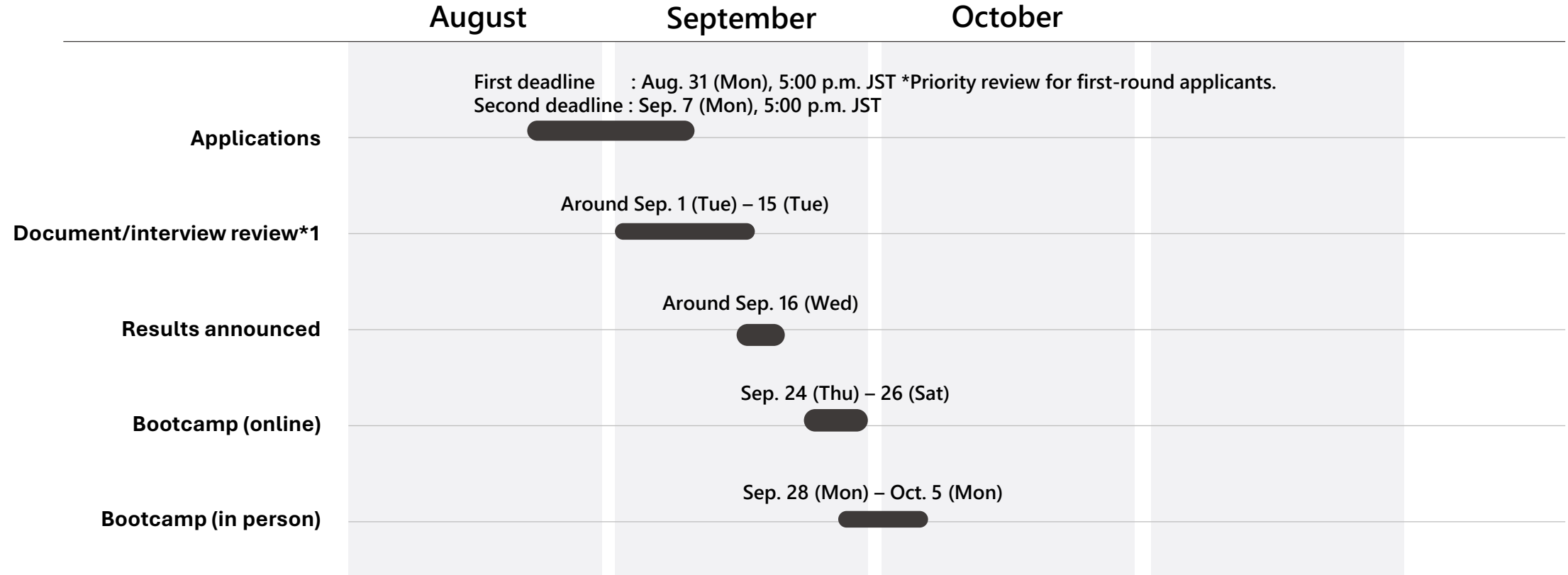
Berkeley SkyDeck

HP : [Berkeley SKYDECK](https://www.berkeley-skydeck.com/)

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.

03 SCHEDULE | スケジュール



*1 Interviews will be conducted as needed. Details will be announced later.

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



★Examples of mentors affiliated with Berkeley SkyDeck

 A.K. Pradeep Founder/CEO MachineVantage	 Aaron Anderson Principal Impact VC	 Abby Kearns Executive Director Adnan	 Abhishek Gupta Director of Product KeepTruckin	 Abhishek Tripathi Director of Missions Operations, Space Sciences Lab University of California, Berkeley
 Alberto Acito Managing Director INNOVIT - Italian Innovation Hub	 Alberto Sangiovanni-Vincentelli Chair, Faculty Advisor Group EECS Professor, Co-founder, Cadence and Synopsys.	 Alen Malaki Startup Advisor	 Alessandra Balduini Professor of Medicine Universita di Pavia	 Aleksander Kuczek Lecturer AGH University of Sciences and Technology
 Adam Rich Senior Consultant Chameleon Collective	 Adnan Asar Founder, CEO EngineTech.io	 Adrian Whitford Founder BioMed Strategy Partners	 Alan Chambless Advisor/Consultant	 Alec Randall Advisor Function Ventures

Capacity

- Up to 30 participants

PRIMARY AUDIENCE

Target Participants	Japan-based startups, including researcher-founded startups
Stage	All stages
Milestone Category	ALL
Sectors	Deep tech (biotech/healthcare, quantum, fusion energy, space, AI/advanced robotics, semiconductors/communications, etc.)
Notes	Applicants need not be GSE exhibitors or speakers

Application Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a C-level executive or the person responsible for overseas business at a Japan-based startup. There are no nationality restrictions, provided that the applicant is affiliated with an eligible Japanese startup.
- Have sufficient English proficiency to attend lectures, prepare and present proposals, and conduct business meetings in English.
- Be available to participate in the entire program.
- 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 provide the equipment, internet connection, and other necessary environment required to participate in program services, including online mentoring.

*This project is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and JETRO. Participants will be asked to complete follow-up surveys and participate in interviews conducted during and after the program.

05 COST-BEARING | 費用負担



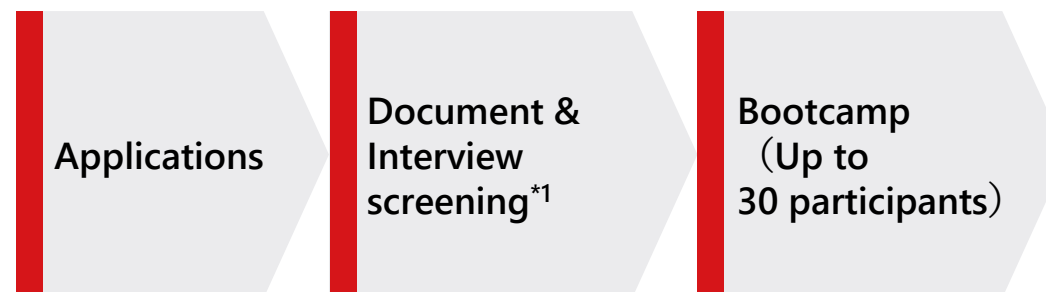
Costs borne by participants

- Transportation, accommodation, meals, communications, and other incidental expenses
- All other costs not listed under "Costs Covered by JETRO"

Cost Coverage by JETRO (In-kind Payment)

- Program fees for mentoring, workshops, events, etc.
- Admission pass to Global Startup Expo 2026 (GSE 2026)

*JETRO will arrange these items directly; no funds will be paid to participants.



*1 Interviews will be conducted as needed. Details will be announced later.

Selection Criteria

- Participation is considered meaningful based on the applicant's involvement in other JETRO programs, application details, and overseas expansion objectives/status. *See the next page for details.
- The mentors and JETRO are able to provide effective support
- Participation is expected to contribute to scale-up
- The business is technology-driven, with novel and competitive products, technologies, or service ideas
- The value proposition is clear
- The business model is profitable and capable of sustainable growth
- There is traction demonstrating market demand
- The team is structured appropriately for overseas expansion
- Methods and conditions for collaboration with partners are 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: Aug. 31, 2026 (Mon), 5:00 p.m. JST
Second deadline: Sep. 7, 2026 (Mon), 5:00 p.m. JST

■ Important Notes Regarding Applications

- Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- Due to high traffic immediately before the deadline, you may be unable to submit your application, so please apply well in advance.
- You cannot make any corrections or replacements to the pitch content after submission.

■ Application Process

- You must also submit pitch deck separately (see the following pages for details on format and submission methods).
- Applications will be reviewed and applicants notified of the selection result.
- Interviews will be conducted as needed in addition to document screening.
- Please note that we cannot respond to any inquiries regarding the selection results.

Points to Consider When Creating an English Pitch Deck

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

■ Key Considerations for Creating an English Pitch Deck

- Please create your materials to include the information listed in the right-hand column.
- No cover page is required; please limit the document to a maximum of 6 pages.
- As a general rule, create the file in PowerPoint and convert it to PDF format
(The deck file size must be 3MB or less)
- Please name the file "**Course Name_Company Name_Your Name.pdf**"
(Please enter your own name in the "Name" field)
- Please submit your application by either the first deadline of August 31, 2026 (Mon) at 5:00 p.m. JST or the second deadline of September 7, 2026 (Mon) at 5:00 p.m. JST.
*Priority will be given to applications submitted by the first-round deadline.

■ Content to be included in the English pitch deck

Please include the following four mandatory items regarding your prototype on the slides. Also, please write your name in the upper-left corner of the first page

1. Social issue to be addressed and proposed solution
2. Overview and technology of the prototype (using photos, diagrams, and text)
3. Business expansion strategy
4. Key Selling Points and Strengths of the Prototype

*Please prepare your materials in **English**.

*There are no restrictions on slide design or format.

1. Program-related cost support is generally limited to up to two participants per company.(accompanying participants at the company's own expense is allowed).
2. If necessary, mentors and JETRO staff may accompany participants to meetings with prospective business partners, customers, or other meeting counterparts. We also ask for your cooperation in reporting outcomes and providing progress updates after returning to Japan.
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. 12

Disclaimer (Japanese)

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

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations will not be accepted for any reason once the consent form has been submitted. Any cancellation or change fees incurred must be borne by the participating company or team.

09 CONTACT | お問い合わせ



Course	J-StarX GSE Bootcamp
Organizer	JETRO Startup Division
Contact	Inoue, Ota, Taguchi and Sakoda
Inquiry	Please click here to make an inquiry

