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I am pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report.

Since its inception in 2007, the Friends of UTokyo, Inc. (FUTl) has been providing excellent opportunities to a large number of highly talented students from the US and Japan through FUTl's summer scholarships. These scholarships have undoubtedly made substantial impacts on the lives and career development of outstanding UTokyo students and alumni, as well as students of leading US universities in science, technology, arts, economics, the humanities, etc., as potential next-generation leaders in the world. I am pleased to report that the "Hsun Kwei & Aiko Takizawa Chou Scholarship" started in 2023, and "Hisashi Kobayashi Memorial Fellowship" was established in 2025. In addition, "FUTl Travel Grant", which supports young faculty members from UTokyo, started in 2024. Furthermore, we launched a fundraising campaign, "Celebrate UTokyo's 150th Anniversary with a Gift", to commemorate the University of Tokyo's 150th anniversary in 2027, in the fall of 2025.

The world is facing many serious problems, e.g., the rise of autocracy worldwide, brutal wars in Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Palestina, US/Israel-Iran, etc., increasing number of migrants, a widening gap between the wealthy and the poor, natural disasters induced by climate change, and pandemic diseases, etc. Therefore, the cultivation of the next-generation leaders, who are resilient and can find solutions to these issues, is evermore essential for us, which is exactly the mission of FUTl.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all those who have supported FUTl's mission to foster the global leaders of tomorrow and ask for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,
Iwao Ojima, President, FUTl



Scholarships and Travel Awards Presented to Date



Mid- to Long-Term Scholarships

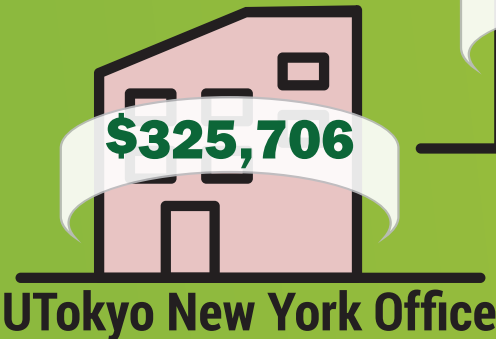
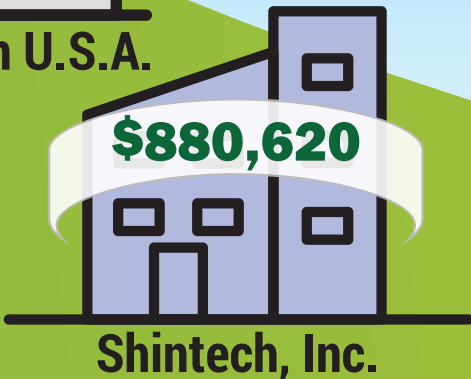
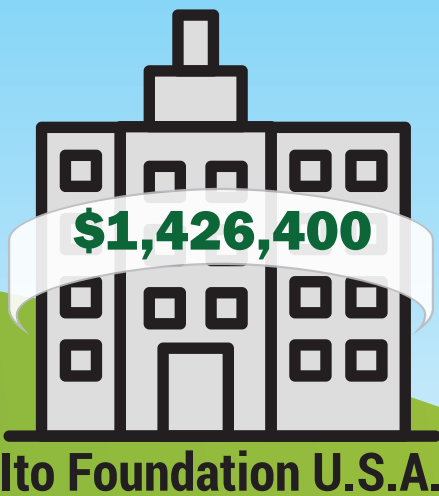


Short-Term Scholarships



Travel Awards

Funds Raised to Date



Total donations received to date

\$3,809,548



I. Overall Status

With the inauguration of the second Trump administration, there were initial concerns that US student visa restrictions might significantly affect study abroad applicants. Fortunately, as US universities proactively encouraged prospective students to obtain their visas early, no material disruptions occurred. Based on subsequent developments, we do not anticipate major visa-related obstacles going forward.

Thanks to the continued generosity of donors of the Ito Foundation U.S.A.–FUTI Scholarship and the Hsun Kwei & Aiko Takizawa Chou Scholarship, and to the many UTokyo alumni who support the FUTI Scholarship, our scholarship programs have been operating without interruption. The support from Shintech Inc., the US subsidiary of Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd., which had continued for 17 years since 2009, concluded in 2025. At the same time, the Hisashi Kobayashi Memorial Scholarship, centered on a bequest from the late FUTI President and Princeton University Professor Emeritus Hisashi Kobayashi, is now fully in place and will begin full-scale operations in FY2026.

The weak yen and US inflation have continued to make studying abroad from Japan increasingly expensive. On a positive note, both public and private scholarship opportunities for Japanese students going abroad have been growing, and FUTI is increasingly aware of a more competitive landscape. Our distinctive focus areas such as support for past graduates appear to be gaining popularity. Overall, the volume and caliber of applicants remain strong, and the process is proceeding as expected, with funding serving as the primary limiting factor.

Applicants for scholarships to US universities from Japan are primarily UTokyo students, with some from other universities. A significant number of applicants are students who completed their undergraduate degrees elsewhere and are currently enrolled in UTokyo graduate programs.

II. Scholarships for Mid- to Long-Term Studies

As a rebound from the pandemic, FY2024 saw a record 38 applications. FY2025 came in second at 34 applications, plus an additional two described below, which is above average for non-pandemic years. Applications from students seeking non-degree exchange study of one to two semesters accounted for exactly half (19) in FY2024, but returned closer to the average at 12 (plus the additional two) in FY2025. The majority of these exchange students participate through USTEP (University-wide Student Exchange Program), whereby UTokyo conducts an internal selection process for exchange partnerships with affiliated universities. Historically, FUTI's scholarship support under USTEP was limited to UTokyo students going to US universities. However, at UTokyo's request, FY2025 marked a pilot expansion of this support to the reciprocal direction: US students coming to UTokyo through USTEP. In response, FUTI received two scholarship applications from University of Illinois students, the "additional two" mentioned above, and one of the two was selected for support. Among the 34 applicants noted above, one student from the University of Tsukuba pursuing a master's degree in the



US was also supported, as in FY2024.

Following the selection process, 11 students (plus one from the USTEP reciprocal pilot) were awarded scholarships out of the 34+2 applicants. The competition among past UTokyo graduates who are either employed or continuing graduate studies abroad was the most intense of any category in FY2025, with 4 selected out of 12 applicants.

Among the 11 recipients, just over 20% specialized in international relations, consistent with the applicant pool, while the remaining were split roughly equally between the humanities/social sciences and the natural sciences/engineering. The 11 recipients will study at the following institutions: Harvard University (two students), and one student each at American University, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, MIT, Parsons School of Design, Stanford University, UCLA, the University of Michigan, and the University of Washington.

III. Scholarships for Short-Term Studies

Eleven UTokyo students applied for FUTI Scholarships for short-term study abroad programs of three months or less at US universities, of which five were selected. The recipients will study at Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Princeton University, Stanford University, and the University of Illinois.

The majority of scholarship applications from US universities going to UTokyo are for short-term programs. Of the 55 total applicants to FUTI, including 40 for the science-focused UTRIP (University of Tokyo Research Internship Program), the effective number of FUTI candidates was 23, calculated as $8 + (55 - 40) = 23$, since UTokyo's internal UTRIP selection process is highly competitive and all but eight of the 40 UTRIP applicants were eliminated early. Of those eight UTRIP finalists, two ultimately passed both UTokyo's and FUTI's selection criteria and received FUTI Scholarships. At the Kashiwa campus, UTSIP (University of Tokyo Summer Internship Program in Kashiwa) runs a comparable program. Three students were selected there, and together with one additional recipient, a total of six Scholarships were awarded. The six recipients are enrolled at UCLA (two students), Brown University, Caltech, Columbia University, and Rice University (one each).

Aside from the sharp increase in UTRIP-related FUTI applicants, which increased to 40 compared to the previous year, the short-term scholarship program otherwise followed roughly the same pattern as before.

There remains concern about how the Trump administration's policies may affect US universities and the global economy, and in turn FUTI's activities. In these challenging times, supporting talented young people has become more important than ever. FUTI extends its deepest gratitude to all donors and reaffirms its commitment to making effective use of every contribution in support of UTokyo's continued globalization and the growth of its students.

Roster of Short-Term Scholarship Recipients, 2025



* All information listed below are based on data collected at the time of application.



Samuel Degen

University of California, Los Angeles, Sophomore
Physics

University of Tokyo
Research Internship Program



Lanxuan Gao

University of Tokyo, Senior
Faculty of Science, Department of Physics

Harvard University
Summer School



Seigo Hayami

University of Tokyo, Junior
Mechano-Informatics, Engineering

Stanford University
Summer International Honors Program



Wakana Inumaru

University of Tokyo
Medicine

Johns Hopkins University
Clinical Electives



Timea Jarosova

University of California, Los Angeles, Sophomore
Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics

University of Tokyo
Summer Internship Program in Kashiwa



Reia Lee

Brown University, Freshman
Applied Mathematics - Biology

University of Tokyo
Summer Internship Program in Kashiwa



* All information listed below are based on data collected at the time of application.



Miruna Neacsu

California Institute of Technology, Sophomore
Physics

University of Tokyo
Summer Internship Program in Kashiwa



Atsuko Price

Rice University, Sophomore
Physics

University of Tokyo
Research Internship Program



Zackary Rackauckas

Columbia University, Master 1st year
Department of Computer Science, Computer Science Thesis

University of Tokyo
Minematsu Lab



Haruki Sugimoto

University of Tokyo, Senior
Department of Arts and Sciences, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Princeton University
Visiting Student Research Program



Yuta Yamabata

University of Tokyo, Master 1st year
Mechanical Engineering

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
KIMLAB

Roster of Mid- to Long-Term Scholarship Recipients, 2025-2026



* All information listed below are based on data collected at the time of application.



Vladyslav Dobrokhlib

University of Tokyo
Graduate School of Public Policy

Harvard University



Rikuto Fushio

University of Tokyo, Sophomore
Applied Physics

Harvard University
Visiting Undergraduate Research Fellow



Shusuke Ito

University of Tokyo, Master 2nd year
Chemical System Engineering

University of Michigan
PhD Materials Science and Engineering



Hayato Iwami

University of Tokyo, Sophomore
Mechano-Informatics

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
School of Engineering



Moe Kaku

University of Tokyo, Master 1st year
Graduate School of Public Policy International Program

University of California, Los Angeles
Luskin School of Public Affairs



Daisuke Kamikura

University of Tokyo, 2016
Pharmaceutical Science

Stanford University
Master of Business Administration



* All information listed below are based on data collected at the time of application.



Satoshi Koiso

University of Tokyo, 2016
Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences

University of Washington
The Comparative Health Outcomes, Policy, and Economics (CHOICE) Institute
PhD in Health Economics & Outcomes Research



Natsuko Matsukawa

Tsukuba University, Senior
Department of Social and International Studies,
International Development

American University
School of International Service
2024/MA in International Development (MAID)



Helena Narisu

University of Tokyo, PEAK Japan in East Asia

Columbia University
School of International and Public Affairs
Master of International Affairs



Kaori Ogawa

University of Tokyo, 2022
Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics

Parsons School of Design
MFA Design and Technology



Humza Qazi

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Junior
Journalism

University of Tokyo
University-wide Student Exchange Program



Takamoto Shimizu

University of Tokyo, Sophomore
College of Arts and Sciences, International Relations

Johns Hopkins University
Krieger School of Arts and Sciences



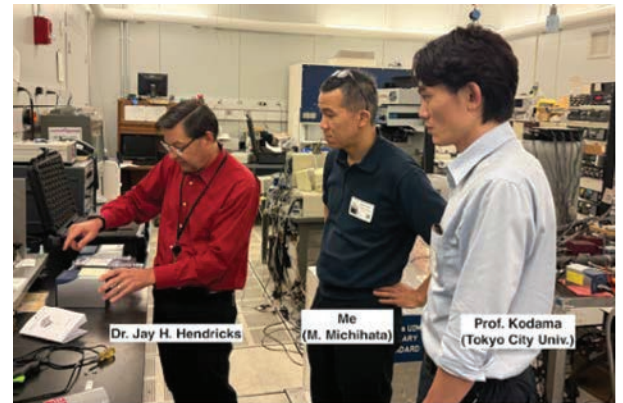
Applications for this award are accepted throughout the year, and non-tenured, early-stage scholars at the University of Tokyo are encouraged to apply and to spread the word of this award. Priority is given to US visits, but non-US trips will also be considered depending on the volume of applicants.

The FUTI Travel Award for Early-stage Scholars was established in December 2023 and has awarded two recipients in the 2024-2025 cycle: Masaaki Miki who is an Assistant Professor of General Systems Studies at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at The University of Tokyo, and Masaki Michihata who is an Associate Professor at the Department of Precision Engineering at The University of Tokyo.



In May, 2025, Assistant Professor Masaaki Miki attended the International Conference and Doctoral Summer School, “Geometric Aspects of Architecture and Mechanical Engineering,” at the Institute of Mathematics, University of Granada (IMAG) and delivered an invited lecture entitled “Variable Projection (VarPro) Method and Form-finding of Tension-compression Mixed Shells,” along with a poster session where he engaged with peers on shell form-finding and geometry processing, with an emphasis on integrating discrete differential geometry into architectural design. In addition to the conference, he established connections with researchers from KAUST (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology), Cambridge, ETH Zurich, and other European institutions.

In June, 2025, Prof. Masaki Michihata visited the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) at the national metrology institute of the United States near Washington D.C. The visit provided a rare and valuable opportunity for him to observe and learn about the most advanced measurement technologies currently in development. Prof. Michihata engaged in discussions with several researchers and engineers. He received a detailed explanation from the team leader, Dr. Jay H. Hendricks, about the latest developments in pressure metrology including highly accurate manometers and piston gauges, and a new pressure standard under development known as the fixed length optical cavity (FLOC). He also was introduced to NIST’s capabilities in refractive index measurement using optical frequency combs, as well as their calibration systems for large-scale laser-based distance measurement devices. Furthermore, he observed their high-precision coordinate measuring machines (CMMs), micro-CMMs, and a newly developed ultra-precise caliper system. In addition, he participated in the Manufacturing Science and Engineering Conference (MSEC) held in Greenville, South Carolina, where he delivered a presentation in the session entitled, “Advances in System-level Modeling and Analysis in Manufacturing Towards Sustainability.” His talk entitled “Concept of Error Compensation for Non-orthogonality in Two-Axis Displacement Measurement System Utilizing Single Grating Scale and Littrow Configuration,” drew several questions from the audience and discussions continued after the presentation where he had the opportunity to become acquainted with professors from other institutions. Although it was his first time participating in MSEC, he found it to be an excellent opportunity to build connections with researchers at universities around the world as well as in the U.S. After the conference, he visited the University of Florida in Gainesville to visit laboratories in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He engaged with several professors and had stimulating discussions about potential collaborations.



The FUTI Travel Award is open to non-tenured, early-stage scholars at the University of Tokyo. Undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible. Eligible fields include Natural Science: e.g., Medical, Biology, Public Health, Engineering, Chemistry, Physics, Data Science, Information and technology. STEM-eligible Social Science subjects (broadly defined): e.g., Quantitative Political Science, Economics, and Quantitative Approach to Public Policy are also included. This award provides support for a short-term stay of less than 30 days for attending an international conference of small size (no more than about 300 participants where conference participants stay and have meals together in a small venue) and to conduct a side visit to colleagues at academic institutions.

* This article is based on the reports submitted by the applicants. For details of the program and recipients’ reports, visit friendsofutokyo.org/futitravelaward



The objectives of the FUTI Lectures Series is to provide UTokyo alumni and others with an opportunity to explore, challenge and debate salient issues with visiting UTokyo scholars and distinguished alumni in an informal setting. The events generally take place online or in a mid-Manhattan location.

Lecture Theme	Lecturer and Affiliation*	Date
<i>Challenges faced by Japanese Economy: Population aging, Low birthrate, Fiscal sustainability, and Geopolitical Risk</i>	Takatoshi Ito Columbia University	January 24, 2025
<i>Careers and Internships at International Agencies (UN, World Bank, etc.)</i>	Yukio Tanaka World Bank Shinichi Hirao United Nations (UNODA)	June 8, 2025

Our thanks to alumni organizations including Satsuki-kai America, Chicago Akamon-kai, New York Ichō-kai and FUTI Alumni Association for their support for the lecture series.

* Affiliation is as of the date of event

FUTI Alumni Association



I am Yuki Haba, President of the FUTI Alumni Association (FAA). I am currently a Leon Levy Scholar in Neuroscience at Columbia University's Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. Established in the spring of 2019, the FAA is the alumni organization for recipients of the FUTI scholarship program, which has supported nearly 200 scholars since 2010. The association was created to foster a broad and enduring network across generations and academic disciplines.

One of the key accomplishments of the FAA in 2025 was the continued collaboration with FUTI's event team to co-host a series of online lectures on issues of global importance. On January 24, we welcomed Takatoshi Ito of Columbia University for a lecture entitled, "Challenges Faced by the Japanese Economy: Population Aging, Low Birthrate, Fiscal Sustainability, and Geopolitical Risk." Held just days after the U.S. presidential inauguration, the event sparked an especially lively discussion on the future of Japan's economy in an increasingly uncertain global environment. On June 8, we co-hosted a panel on "Careers and Internships at International Organizations (UN, World Bank, etc.)" featuring Yukio Tanaka and other professionals from the World Bank and the United Nations. One particularly striking statistic presented during the session was that, among the 5,010 interns hired by the United Nations in 2022–2023, 773 were from China, 192 from India, and only 41 from Japan. This prompted a thoughtful discussion about how Japanese students can increase their presence in international institutions.

These events brought together current FUTI scholars, alumni, and members of FUTI's Board of Directors and Advisory Committee. They provided valuable opportunities for participants from diverse backgrounds to exchange ideas on international economics, public policy, and global development. For me, 2025 was a year in which the FAA's role as an intellectual and professional community became even stronger.

The FAA's activities are made possible by the generous support of FUTI's Board of Directors, Advisory Committee, event team, and the many scholars and alumni who actively participate in our programs. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of them. Looking ahead, the FUTI Alumni Association plans to continue holding gatherings and networking events in person while also organizing online events in collaboration with other groups within FUTI. We warmly welcome your ideas and suggestions as we work to further strengthen our alumni network, and look forward to another productive year ahead.



In the 2024/2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025), FUTI received approximately \$500,000 in total donations. Since the 2012/2013 fiscal year, annual donations have steadily grown from around \$100,000 to consistently exceeding \$300,000 by 2022/2023. This increase is largely due to several significant contributions. Revenue jumped this fiscal year due to a special donation from the family of our former FUTI president, Prof. Hisashi Kobayashi, to establish the Hisashi Kobayashi Fellowship Program.

Over the past years, beginning in 2009/2010, FUTI has benefited from trust distribution donations from Shintech. In 2015/2016, we began receiving support from the Ito Foundation USA. More recently, in 2022/2023, we launched a new scholarship program, funded by a generous donation to the University of Tokyo New York Office from Hsun-Kwei and Aiko Takizawa Chou. Dr. Chou, an "angel investor" from Shanghai, China, earned his doctorate in engineering from the University of Tokyo Graduate School and has successfully founded multiple semiconductor-related companies in the United States.

While the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily slowed international academic exchange and study abroad programs, activity in these areas has now rebounded. Over the last few years, we have been providing scholarships and grants of approximately \$300,000 annually. The trust distribution from Shintech and donations by UTokyo alumni primarily supported short-term summer study abroad programs, while the Ito Foundation U.S.A.-FUTI Scholarship and the Hsun-Kwei and Aiko Takizawa Chou Scholarship provided financial assistance to current students and alumni of the University of Tokyo who are pursuing mid to long-term study (one semester or more) in the United States.

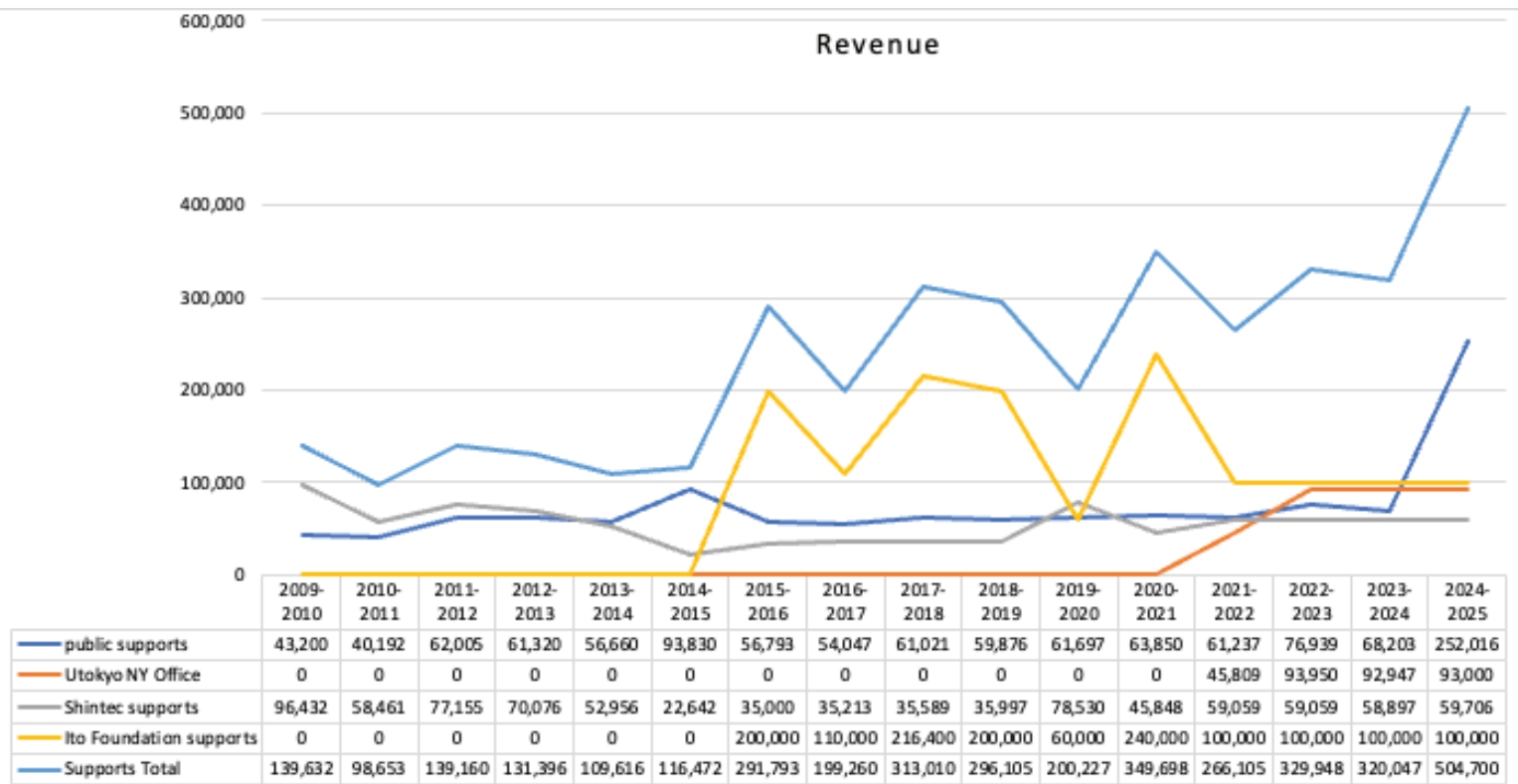
In earlier years, the number of individual donors from the general public fluctuated between 60 and 70. However, in recent years, this number has declined to approximately 40, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited opportunities for in-person interaction. In 2027, the University of Tokyo will celebrate its 150th anniversary. In anticipation of this important milestone, Friends of UTokyo (FUTI) is running a special campaign to expand support from individual donors. We aim to engage a broader base of contributors who share our vision for supporting the next generation of global leaders. We are very pleased to announce a significant recent increase in donors.

FUTI has made significant progress over the years, developing a variety of impactful programs. We are proud to see our scholarship recipients pursuing their studies with dedication and excellence. We are very happy to report that some have even earned prestigious international awards as a direct result of their study abroad experiences, and that their research has already been published in many journals, including Nature. It is our privilege to contribute to enhancing the University of Tokyo's reputation within an increasingly competitive global academic landscape.

We remain deeply grateful to all our donors whose generosity has empowered so many outstanding students to succeed on the international stage. We sincerely ask for your continued support as we move forward.



Trends in Contributions to FUTi, 2009-2025 (In US Dollar)





FRIENDS OF UTOKYO, INC.

Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2025

Assets

Current Assets:

Cash	\$	263,994
Cash - restricted		20,292
Interest receivable		4,314
Short-term investment securities		124,997
Total current assets		413,597

Long-term investment securities		577,977
Total assets	\$	991,574

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Scholarships and grants payable	\$	238,850
Other current liabilities		7,793
Total liabilities		246,643

Net Assets:

Without donor restrictions		724,639
With donor restrictions		20,292
Total net assets		744,931
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	991,574

Note: Figures are taken from the reviewed financial statement for the year ended June 30, 2025.



FRIENDS OF UTOKYO, INC.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Year ended June 30, 2025

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support and other revenues:			
Contributions - general public	\$ 336,852	\$ 108,164	\$ 445,016
Contributions - trust distributions	59,706	-	59,706
Interest and dividend income	26,902	-	26,902
Investment income	5,120	-	5,120
Net assets released from restrictions	143,349	(143,349)	-
Total support and other revenues	571,929	(35,185)	536,744
Expenses:			
Program services			
Scholarship and grants	281,784	-	281,784
Program expenses	2,072	-	2,072
Supporting services			
Management and general	27,782	-	27,782
Total expenses	311,638	-	311,638
Increase (decrease) in net assets	260,291	(35,185)	225,106
Net assets, beginning of year	464,348	55,477	519,825
Net assets, end of year	\$ 724,639	\$ 20,292	\$ 744,931

Note: Figures are taken from the reviewed financial statement for the year ended June 30, 2025.



Friends of UTokyo gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the gifts from our donors which help to support FUTI’s scholarship programs and the other many activities to further the globalization and future development of The University of Tokyo in the U.S., Japan and in the world.

FY 2024-25 total: \$509,558

Benefactor (\$15,000 or more)

Dr. & Mrs. Hisashi & Masae Kobayashi \$200,000	Ito Foundation U.S.A. \$100,000	UTokyo New York Office \$93,000	Shintech, Inc. \$59,706*
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Donor (\$1,000-\$14,999)

Iwao Ojima \$6,000	Shigenori & Sumie Matsushita \$2,500	Takeshi Komoto \$1,000
Krishen & Geeta Mehta \$5,000	Tetsu Fujisaki \$2,500	Shunpei Yamazaki \$1,000
Junji Takegami \$5,000	Masako Osako \$2,500	Tohru Asami \$1,000
Masaaki Yamada \$5,000	Akira Kimura \$2,000	Shinya Wako \$1,000
Motoatsu & Nobuko Sakurai \$3,500	Ko-Yung Tung \$1,000	2 Anonymous
Yuichiro & Chika Kuwama \$3,000	Koichi Hamada & Carolyn Beaudin \$1,000	

Supporting Member (\$500-\$999)

Shigenari Oketani \$609	Shunichiro Kishioka \$500
Yoshida Youichi \$500	3 Anonymous
Takaki Sakai \$500	

Friends (\$250-\$499)

Erika White \$250
1 Anonymous

Donations under \$250

Jotaro Hamada \$120
Yasuhide Watanabe \$100
Approx. 25 Anonymous

Names only (in alphabetical order)

Yasutomo Uemura	Miwako Hosoda
Keiko Nagata	Hitomi Mokuno
Yuki Haba	Ryo Ikesu
Fumito Ichinose	

*Dividend income from a \$5 million trust fund created for the benefit of FUTI



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 Postdoctoral Researcher, Columbia University*

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 Head of Corporate Bond Group,
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Koichi Sato
Ex Officio
President, San Francisco Akamon-kai

Yukio Tanaka
Ex Officio
President, Greater Washington DC Area U-Tokyo Alumni Network

Katsuyuki Yamaguchi
Ex Officio
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Shigenori Matsushita
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