

## Global COE Health Sciences English Communication Programs

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*Global Center of Excellence Scientific English Program*

Since October 2007, the University of Shizuoka Global Center of Excellence for Innovation in Health Sciences has been providing two Health Sciences English Communication Programs: the Scientific English Program, based at the University of Shizuoka; and the Shizuoka Health Sciences English Program (SHEP), based at The Ohio State University.

The Scientific English Program based at the University of Shizuoka offers PhD science students training in essential practical skills required for successful communication in scientific contexts. In 2007, the program offered two courses: Oral Communication, which covers the kinds of interactive social situations that researchers face when visiting overseas universities, laboratories, and conferences; and Academic Writing, which covers the drafting and editing of scientific articles, e-mails, and resumes. Both courses were taken by about 20 students, and received very positive evaluations from them. The instructor noted considerable improvement both in students' fluency and confidence when speaking, and in their clarity and precision when writing. Beginning in April 2008, Academic Presentations will also be offered, which will cover the development and delivery of presentations and conference question and answer sessions.

After PhD students have received training in practical scientific English in Japan, they may opt to participate in the Shizuoka Health Sciences English Program (SHEP) based at The Ohio State University. The task-based curriculum of this intensive program builds on students' presentation, discussion, and debate skills. In addition to the English courses, students also have the opportunity to meet and discuss their research with health science professors and graduate students at OSU. In the 2007 academic year, the program was held over 3 weeks in December. Participating students reported a very positive experience, with many reporting improvements in their listening skills, as well as in their fluency and confidence. Others reported a heightened appreciation for the importance of English in international scientific exchange. In the 2008 academic year, the program will be expanded to 6 weeks during the summer. (337 words)