

Cultivating global competence through FL education in Japan

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The Japanese government has launched numerous initiatives to encourage universities to cultivate *gurobaru jinzai*: globally competent graduates. “Global competence” has become a buzzword in university curricula, but there is a lack of clarity around what educators should be striving to foster in learners, and little measurable progress has been made.

This session reports ongoing research to investigate the specific nature and challenges of global competence in Japan. I will present data collected in Japan from FL learners, FL teachers, researchers and global professionals. My aim is to map out what a Japan-specific framework for global competence might look like, and shed light on how university FL educators can effectively cultivate global competence in their students.

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